



THE SPIRIT

Preserving the life of America's unique community

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Park Forest
Historical
Society

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Warren Brown as Mark Twain.

"CATCH THE TWAIN" AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL MAY 19, 2024, 2:30 p.m.

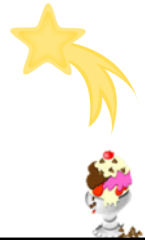
Join the Park Forest Historical Society for our annual Ice Cream Social on May 19, 2024, 2:30 p.m. in Park Forest Village Hall Board Meeting Room. Former Park Forest resident, Warren Brown, will perform his "Catch the Twain" impersonation of Mark Twain. He puts on an incredible performance.

The event is a "Thank you" to members, friends, and especially to our Star Volunteers who all keep PFHS going.

Free and open to the public.

For information, call Jane Nicoll, PFHS President, 708-481-4252.

Come thank our volunteers for their time spent Saving YOUR History!



Six Inducted Into Hall of Fame

Six current and former Park Forest residents who made significant and long-lasting contributions to the community through the years were inducted into the Park Forest Hall of Fame April 14, 2024. Inductees are:

SAM BEBER

GREGORY C. RANDALL

VERNICE JOHNSON-WARREN

BETSY WILLIAMS

JANETEE RODRIGUEZ WOOD

WARREN J. WOOD

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL AND THANK YOU!

Board Officers

Chris Janota, President

Jane Nicoll, Vice Pres., Archivist

Kerrington Adams, Treas.

Judith McGee, Secretary

Directors

Safiyyah Al Amin

Marla Dillard-Lemons

Michael Gans

Ray Myles

Debbie Page

Warren Wood

Interested in helping preserve Park Forest History? We are looking for volunteers to show the museum, and to work in the Archive. Contact Jane Nicoll, 708-481-4252, or via email on the website, parkforesthistor.org.

Jane Nicoll and Kerrington Adams, now GSU Library Archivist, served on a steering committee for regional archives in 2018-2019 with other history leaders putting on a conference in May 2019, "History at Risk in the Region South of Chicago." Area repositories were invited to participate for talks on national and local risks, caring for collections, creating a regional archive and other forms of cooperation, outreach and advocacy, and brief workshops on collection care and disaster planning. A May 2020 conference was being planned when COVID-19 hit.

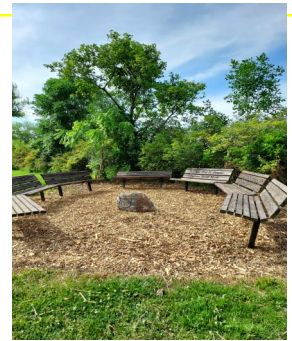
Professors at Governors State have now received a grant to meet with the same area repositories to discuss what is needed to help them continue and strengthen their work. The original History at Risk committee members have met with the Southland History Collective and will be participating in the community forum to be held on Monday April 29, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Hall of Honors at GSU.

In My Own Little Corner By Jane Nicoll



The AVC Memorial in Park Forest was the subject of an informative article by J. K. Miller in the March 20, 2024 issue of [Southland Voice](#) newspaper.

The American Veterans Committee was a national veterans group formed in 1943. “They were the first national organization that fully integrated at the national level. Members were not required to have combat experience and they didn’t have to be men.”



The memorial stone surrounded by inscribed benches is in the south end of Winnebago Park, to the north of Rehoboth Ministries building. The memorial was placed there by the late Jerry Knight, a former resident of Park Forest who was in charge of the last AVC office which was in Park Forest. The stone reads, “ AVC MEMORIAL FORUM, WELCOME, GATHER INSPIRE EACH OTHER, OVERCOMEGLOBAL POVERTY, GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTER. DISCOVER POWER IN CITIZEN ACTIVISM, IN UNIVERSAL VALUES, IN HISTORY, IN TRANSFERRING LEADERSHIP, DISCUSS DEBATE READ WRITE TALK. Names inscribed on the benches include Jerry and Eleanor Knight, Henry X. Ditech and Anthony Scariano, all members of the Park Forest Hall of Fame.

A few years ago citizens called attention to the fact that the memorial was not being tended to and had become overgrown with weeds. Those eradicating the weeds also destroyed many large-leaf hostas planted outside the ring of benches. Daffodils have survived on the east side.

If you have never seen the AVC Memorial, it is well worth a walk through Winnebago Park to appreciate it.

PARK FOREST HAS A MUSEUM!

Visit This Summer with Family and Friends!

**75th Anniversary of Park Forest Displays **

Learn about Park Forest History, and the era when Park Forest was started.

Step back into the 1950s with us! See toys, clothes, furniture, books, records, dolls, dishes and appliances. Photographs, scrapbooks and sales brochures from the Park Forest Local History Collection and Archive are on display. See Aquacenter Badges, and photos of the old Aquacenter. Park Forest move-ins began in late August 1948. Incorporation was February 1949.

Open Wednesday & Saturday 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.;

or for small groups by appointment

Adults \$5; Ages 12 & under free with paying adult.

Group tours by appointment. Special group rates may apply.

[Become a volunteer to help with tours or at the Society's Archive Office.](#)

Contact Jane Nicoll, Director/Archivist, 708-481-42524, or via email at parkforesthistor.org.

