



# THE SPIRIT

Preserving the life of America's unique community

A publication of  
the  
Park Forest  
Historical  
Society

Vol. 12, No. 4

June 2017

## Nine Inducted Into Hall of Fame

Eight current and former Park Forest residents who made significant and long-lasting contributions to the community through the years and the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra were inducted into the Park Forest Hall of Fame April 23, 2017. This year's group of honorees includes:

- **Peg and Jack Donahue**, who contributed to education, the arts and local government, Junior Chamber of Commerce, internet education, Cable television and SCORE.
- **Carl and Peggy Glassford**, who were in Tall Grass Arts Association, League of Women Voters, local government and establishing Thorn Creek preserve and Old Plank Trail.
- **William "Bill" and Juanita Simpson** who founded Far South Suburban and Park Forest chapters of the NAACP, and passionately advocated against Integration Maintenance.
- **Herschel W. and Helen D. Ward**, who helped found Good Shepherd Protestant Church, Rich Township Food Pantry, and volunteered for numerous community groups.
- **Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra** which began in May 1955 as Park Forest Symphony Orchestra, changing its name in 1982.

For the past few years, our June newsletter has contained individual photos and biographies of each inductee. That version may be produced, but will only be made available on the website. Eventually, each year's inductees should appear in the Hall of Fame section of the website. For those not added yet, you may check "The Spirit" June issues in our website documents at [www.parkforesthistor.org](http://www.parkforesthistor.org).

## Ice Cream Social, June 25, 2017

Join the Park Forest Historical Society and the Matteson Historical Society for an Ice Cream Social on June 25, 2017, 2:30 p.m. in Park Forest Village Hall Board Meeting Room. The event is a "Thank You" to our members, friends, and especially to our Star Volunteers who all help keep both groups going.



**\*\*We ask that you call to let us know if you are coming so we have enough supplies on hand for the celebration. Call Jane Nicoll, PFHS President, 708-481-4252 or Lois Blume, MHS President, 708-748-7914.\*\***

**Please join us so we can thank YOU and so you can thank the volunteers who spend their time saving and sharing YOUR history.**



## Could You Help us by Posting to Social Media?

Like us on Facebook at "1950s Park Forest House Museum"  
and "Park Forest Historical Society." Like both, please.

Follow us on Twitter "@1950s Museum, @ parkforeststory"(note change in last one)  
and on Google+ as "Park Forest Historical Society" and "1950s Park Forest House Museum."



## **Visit the 1950s Park Forest House Museum This Summer with Family and Friends**

October 28, 2017 will mark the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the groundbreaking of Park Forest.

Step back that 70 years with a visit to the 1950s Park Forest House Museum, 227 Monee Road—open Wednesday and Saturday from 1-3:30 p.m.; or for small groups by appointment. Admission is \$5 for adults; ages 12 & under are free with an adult. A wonderful inter-generational experience, and stimulating for those with memory loss.

Located inside St. Mary's Catholic Church, it represents an original rental unit, 1948-1953. Park in the small lot with flagpole and knock on the classroom door next to the museum sign in the window.

Learn the history of the village and social and fashion trends in the first five years of occupancy. See toys, clothes, furniture, books, records, dolls, dishes and appliances. Photographs—including several telling the story of construction of the 3010 original rental units, scrapbooks, and sales brochures from the Archive are on display. The Local History File Cabinets with over 270 subject files, and the "OH! Park Forest" oral history transcripts are in the museum for you to read and research your questions; also available for research by appointment.

### **"Boomer Toys" Exhibit Being Considered**

Museum Director, Jane Nicoll is planning to mount an exhibit of Boomer Toys and dolls covering the years from 1950 through the early 1960s. She hopes to be able to begin adding toys, dolls and labels to the museum in June. The exhibit will include several 8 inch dolls which appeared in the Dolls of the 1950s exhibit, in addition to dolls who have remained in the museum since that exhibit. The museum already has many Boomer Toys on display, but we hope to borrow others from the public which would be on loan for the length of the exhibit. If you have not visited for a while, you may enjoy coming now to see how many metal vehicles we have, along with a Cooties game and more!

If you have a toy, game or doll that you would consider loaning to the museum for this exhibit, please email Jane via the website, or call her at 708-481-4252. We are especially looking for Duncan Yo-Yo's, board games in original boxes, card games in original boxes, early 1950s small toys, kids Western toys and holsters.

We need someone to come in and build something with our log cabin set and to rebuild the rental unit made from our Elgo Plastic Bricks. Maybe you could help Jane type up and mount labels?

Read below for other ways to help the Society. If this exhibit is a success, we will definitely need to guarantee we are open and may need double coverage.

### **Volunteer to help the Society**

**The Society needs more volunteers to keep the museum doors open. If you are interested in volunteering once every month or so, please contact Jane Nicoll, Museum Director, 708-481-4252.**

**Please contact Jane Nicoll if you would be interested in volunteering to help type letters, do social media posts, work in the Archive Office, or just help in general with Society tasks. We badly need a corresponding secretary to keep our mailing list up to date and to coordinate mailings. We also need a volunteer to call and schedule the museum docents/tour guides. Most of this is falling on the shoulders of one person. Historical Societies do shut down when not enough people become involved.**