

THE SPIRIT

Preserving the life of America's unique community

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Park Forest
Historical
Society

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SIX INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

The 2013 Honorees

JAMES AND MARLENE H. GALLAGHER

Shortly after their marriage in 1955, James and Marlene Gallagher moved to Park Forest where they quickly became involved in the life of the Village. For 28 years, until his untimely death in 1983, James Gallagher, a brilliant research chemist, served on the original Freedom Hall Citizens Commission helping develop the Village's cultural arts center; a project which gained the Village its second All-America City award.

As President of the Park Forest Civil War Round Table he made numerous presentations of unusual artifacts of the period to schoolchildren. His efforts for the community extended to his work for Park Forest Scenic 10 Road Race, organizing the monitoring of the event with the help of the local CB (Citizens Band) Radio Club.

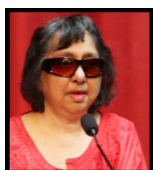
Early in their marriage, the Gallagher's promised each other that someday they would photograph the world. Before that could be accomplished, the couple put down roots, working and raising three children – Brian, Patricia and Sean.

After her husband's death in 1983, Marlene stayed true to their enduring pledge. With Jim in her heart, if not by her side, she carried his dreams from Africa to Antarctica, from Scandinavian fjords to the headwaters of the Amazon, from ruins to skyscrapers, seeing the beauty of the world through her lens. She brought those visions back to Park Forest.

Her presentation for her Masters of Fine Arts at Governors State University was titled "Woman Alone," and illustrated their struggles and triumphs, as well as her own. Generous with her time, she became involved with the Illinois Theater Center and the Chicago Heights Drama Group, was curator of the Tall Grass Art Gallery, worked with the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra and the Union Street Gallery. Her photographs of the world were often displayed at local galleries and schools. Not limiting herself to the arts, she also became an outstanding business woman, operating Tattler's Tavern in Park Forest before her death last year.



Brian Gallagher



Nominated
by

JOHN JOYCE

At the age of 28, John Joyce was named the Director of Recreation and Parks for the Village of Park Forest in September of 1973. For the next four decades, until his retirement last year, his tireless efforts shaped the recreational face of the community he loves.

From helping forge the 22-mile Old Plank Trail Path to creating the Central Park Wetlands project, John led the way in developing the leisure amenities of Park Forest. His list of accomplishments and awards are numerous and include the management of Freedom of both the Park Forest Tennis and Health Club and the Aqua Center, and partnering with other agencies to convert a 1,000 acre plot of land into the Thorn Creek Nature Center, as well as administering 15 playground areas, a skateboard park and a dog park, 20 park sites and the upkeep of nearly 12,000 trees on public land throughout the Village.

John and his wife Robin raised their children, Sarah and Eric, while living in Park Forest. And if you ask him, he insists while people might say tHall, the only municipally-operated cultural arts center in the south suburbs, the operation hey worked for him, he will insist he actually worked for them and for Park Forest.



John Joyce



Nominated by
Village Manager

(Continued on other side)

Honoring the Hall of Fame Class of 2013

ALICIA RODMAN McCRAY

Alicia McCray is the embodiment of the term “public citizen.”

During the 40 years she has lived in Park with her husband Robert and son Erik, she has championed better education, fair housing, improved health programs and the arts, all of which touch the lives of thousands who benefitted from her passionate work and wise counsel.



Nominated by

Because of Park Forest’s early commitment to a planned integration initiative, she was moved to support fair housing. Her accomplishments include training from the Justice Department’s Community Mediation Service, President of the South Suburban Housing Center, where she took a lead role in its test program to ensure fair housing, Commissioner and Vice-Chairman of the Housing Authority of Cook County, board member and President in 2003 of the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra and served a four-year term as Village Trustee.



Alicia Rodman McCray

Currently, she is on the board of the Friends of the Park Forest Health Department, on the national board of the YWCA of the USA, President of the Board of School District 162, and oversees the Metropolitan Institute for Leadership in Education program at Governors State University, which focuses on the needs of public schools and their boards.

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WILLIAM M. TILLEY

A truck driver by profession and a dedicated volunteer by choice, William M. Tilley joined the Volunteer or Paid-On-Call Division of the Park Forest Fire Department in October 1973 at the age of 23, and, in one capacity or another, has been steadfast in his efforts to serve the needs of the Village.

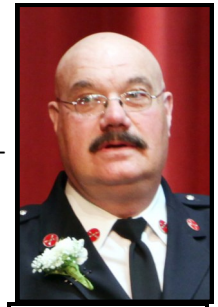


Nominated by
Fire Captain

Rising through the ranks from a firefighter to his current position as Captain of the Division – the highest position obtainable in the Division – Captain Tilley has responded to everything from scraped knees to large fires throughout the south suburbs. Over the last 40 years his efforts have been an integral part of virtually every parade of community-wide event in which he has helped shape.

Captain Tilley is active in the Fire Department’s training, improving the skills of less experienced members of the department as an instructor in both equipment operation and driving. His knowledge has made him a valued addition to the Prairie State College’s Fire Science program, where he is an instructor, sharing his experiences with the next generation of firefighters.

Balancing a full-time job with his devoted volunteer work is easy, he says. It’s just a matter of serving your community in a job you love to do.



William M. Tilley

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PARK FOREST NURSES CLUB

Begun in 1950 as a social club for nurses in the area, the Park Forest Nurses Club soon became the leading community health care provider in the south suburbs.

At first its services ranged from setting up first-aid stations at public events to the teaching of first-aid, home nursing and baby care to Girl Scouts to the distribution of 12,000 doses of polio vaccine and tetanus inoculations.

The Nurses Club grew quickly and soon established a Loan Closet that provided everything from hospital beds and wheelchairs to crutches, walkers and canes to Park Forest residents for free-will donations.

Their monthly meetings evolved from discussions with doctors and nurses to a yearly Continuing Education Seminar open to all nurses in the Chicago area in an effort to keep nurses informed of new developments in the profession.

Since 1957, the Club has awarded 251 nursing scholarships totaling \$158,885. These fund raising efforts ranged from cookie and candy sales to earnings from the seminars.

Because of dwindling attendance, the Club disbanded in 2012, but not before endowing a \$50,000 nursing scholarship program through Prairie State College., leaving a lasting legacy of service to the community.



PFHS Board
Nomination

Therese
Goodrich,



Ruth Henkel and June Masek of the

Hollymatic History: From Hamburgers to Helicopters

Join us for the next Park Forest Historical Society program, "The History of Hollymatic Corporation" presented by Bob Chura, Bobby "The Burger" Chura, as seen on Chicago Tonight, WTTW. The program will be held Sunday June 23, 2013 at 2:30 p.m., in the Park Forest Village Hall Board Meeting Room, 350 Victory Drive, Park Forest, IL 60466. This program is free and open to the public. Information on the program is with Jane Nicoll at 708-481-4252. To read more about the work of the Park Forest Historical Society, and to connect via email, visit parkforesthistor.org.

Our Next Program

2:30 p.m

Sunday, June 23

Mr. Chura will talk about the history of Hollymatic, which had its factory at the corner of North Street and Orchard Drive in Park Forest for more than 20 years. Today, the building remains much as it looked in 1982.

Mr. Chura is the great-grandson of Harry Holly, who founded Hollymatic in 1937, after operating a hamburger restaurant in Calumet City and Harry's Hamburger shop on the South Side of Chicago in the 1930s. Mr. Holly patented his steel patty-making machine which

made hamburgers quickly and uniform in size. In 1936, steel models of the unit were made, and the company, first called, Holly Machine Devices, Inc. was later changed to Hollymatic Corporation. The device revolutionized the restaurant and fast food industries, and was adopted by MacDonald's, Burger King, and many butcher shops and restaurants. The company moved to Park Forest in 1962 and remained through 1982, with Harry, his three sons and others running the plant.

At one time Mr. Holly purchased a helicopter and built a large landing area, which the Village later purchased, prompting the dedication of the Park Forest Heliport in the 1960s. The site is where the Ludemann Center stands today. Hollymatic later produced the paper used to separate hamburgers, a Mixer Grinder Model 100 launched in 1968, and established a Research and Development Facility in Boca Raton, Florida. Hollymatic was sold to two Hollymatic Dealers and in 1982 moved to its current location in Countryside, IL. Though the company is no longer in family hands, Mr. Chura is an account executive at Berkel Midwest, which rebuilds, repairs and sells his great-grandfather's invention which has had many patented improvements and additions to the product line over the years.

Proud of his family connection, Mr. Chura will tell us more about the invention and development of the company under the Holly and Chura management. We may even get a look at one of the machines with a demonstration of how it forms hamburgers.

We are a Blue Star Museum.

From Memorial Day through Labor Day, we are offering free tours to active duty service families as members of the NEA Blue Star Museums initiative. We are proud to offer this service to our military families

Park Forest Plaza and Holiday Theatre. Print by Annabelle Gould, 1966. 11" x 14"

This vibrant print depicting one of the most treasured memories of growing up in Park Forest is from an original watercolor originally donated to the Village of Park Forest by Sue Gould, the daughter of artist Annabelle Gould.

Price \$15. Shipping and handling is \$6.

This print is available at the Museum for purchase or through the Society website.

The Village has allowed us to make the print.

