



THE SPIRIT

Preserving the life of America's unique community

A publication
of the
Park Forest
Historical
Society

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Society Receives Federal Grant for Documenting Park Forest History

Project to Cover Museum and Archive Collections Held by Historical Society

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) recently announced nearly \$30,000,000 in grants to museums across the nation. Park Forest Historical Society is receiving one of the 244 Awards. We will be receiving \$22,701 through the Museums for America Collections Stewardship grant program for a two-year project to begin entering collections into a



PastPerfect Collection Maintenance Database, improving intellectual and legal control and making them more accessible to residents, visitors to the museum, authors, scholars, students, and publishers.

The project will cover collections held by the Society in the 1950s Park Forest House Museum, located at 141 Forest Blvd, and in the Park Forest Local History Collection and Archive, maintained at 227 Monee Road, co-owned by the Library. Some of the Local History Collection is held at the Park Forest Public Library, 400 Lakewood Blvd.

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FORMER VILLAGE MANAGER TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL MEETING OF SOCIETY

Former Park Forest Village Manager John Perry will discuss his book "Blueprint for Building Community" at the annual meeting of the Park Forest Historical Society, at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, September 29 in the Board Room of Village Hall.

Perry, who served as Park Forest manager from 1981 to 1989 and later held a similar position in Woodridge, uses his experience in both communities both as a guide for professional administrators and a look back at his work in both suburbs.



John Perry

The book was written to encourage the next generation of city managers to pursue the challenge of building communities that involve elected officials, employees and citizens in common effort. After his talk, Perry will sign copies of the book, which will be on sale at the event for the special price of \$10.

At the annual meeting, current members of the Park Forest Historical Society can vote on the nomination of two new members, Shanti Thayil and Matt Wenzel to the Board replacing Jerry Shnay and Suzie Brown, who are retiring from the Board.

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Grant monies provided by IMLS will purchase the PastPerfect Museum Software, add-ons, training CD-ROMS, online training, training manuals and support for two years. Grant monies will also purchase a computer to store the database on, a printer-scanner-copier (our only printer was purchased in 1998!), paper and ink. Jane Nicoll, Archivist will be paid for 8 hours per week. In the cost-share, she will donate four hours (on paper) per week--probably many more.

The project officially begins October 1, 2013.

The only money outlay the Society is committed to in the grant is a \$115 membership in American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), which will earn a discount on the PastPerfect Software. We may need to spend some additional funds purchasing the computer, and subscribing to anti-virus and cloud back-up services. Keep these new expenses in mind when we call on you for annual fund contributions this fall.

The collections are not all ready to be entered into a collection database, so part of the archivist and volunteer hours will be spent preparing both collections for entry and continuing to list and accession collection backlogs. An exciting feature of PastPerfect is the ability to attach object photos or scans of important documents to the record. PastPerfect also generates collection letters and paperwork, which has been difficult to generate and keep up with.

Anyone interested in working with our Archivist on this project should contact Jane Nicoll at 708-481-4252 for more information. Ideally, we will be looking for people who can volunteer for 4 hour shifts each week. Watch our website and newsletters for more detailed job descriptions for these positions. Some of the work is already described on our website.

This will be an exciting and challenging year for the Society. We hope to have much better intellectual control of the collection by October 2015, but the work of documenting the collections will continue after the grant period ends.

"This project was made possible in part by the Institute for Museum and Library Services Grant MA-30-13-0121-13"

In our Museum Shop! Also available online via PayPal!

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. The original print is on display at the Museum.



Last fiscal year we were able to meet the Village of Park Forest's Matching Challenge Grant of \$5000 by **March, instead of by June.** My extreme thanks to our Volunteers, our Partners, our Members, our Annual Fund donors, Rich East Class Reunion visitors, school age visitors, as well as to our Corporate Sponsors. A very special thank you to St. Mary's Catholic Church and their staff who make us feel so welcome, and to The Park Forest Public Library Board for supporting the Archive collection, and our efforts to publicize it. **You ALL make the Park Forest Historical Society a continued success. YOU are helping save Park Forest history!**

**From the
President**

This year, the Village has offered us a second \$5000 Matching Challenge Grant—once again, an opportunity to **double all contributions** you make. Membership dues, sponsorships, donations, Museum admissions, purchases and Annual Fund contributions will all count toward our \$5000 match. The Village supports the Society in many ways. On behalf of the PFHS Board of Directors, thank you Mayor John Ostenburg, Village Manager Tom Mick, and each Village Board Trustee, for this much appreciated, and very necessary opportunity.

In June 2013, rent for the 1950s Park Forest House Museum climbed to \$545 per month. This is the last year we will be offered the half rent deal on 141 Forest Blvd. We need to find a new home for the museum by May 2014. Finding a new home, moving, financing a new place, and setting it up the way we need it to look will take money.

Last year we increased our membership from 45 to 129. This year, my goal is to grow the membership to 210. I initiated a Corporate Membership and Sponsorship program. We now have 12 Corporate Members, 4 Corporate Sponsors, 3 Benefactors, and 5 Partners.

It is **imperative** we increase our membership and base of support.

PLEASE JOIN NOW. Urge your friends, no matter where they live, to Join the Society!

You will read in this newsletter about the IMLS Museums for America Grant we have just been awarded. None of that \$22,701 goes to Museum rent. Archivist Jane Nicoll applied for 5 grants in the spring of 2013. One we did not receive, for one we were put on an impossibly long waiting list, and two we are waiting to hear about. Only one of those, if we get it, would help with Museum expenses.

On the reverse side of this page you will find a list of those who have contributed to the Society. **Each of YOU, makes it possible for the Society to continue its Mission, which has several facets:**

-History Programs, free to the public, in September, November, February, and June like the history of Holymatic Corporation in Park Forest. Our next free program, Sunday, September 29, 2013, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Village Hall Board Room will be John Perry, former Village Manager, speaking on his book, Blueprint for Building Community. After the program, John will sign copies of his book, which will be for sale, at the special price of \$10 that day, while refreshments are served. The program will be preceded by our annual meeting and election of board members.

**** If you sign up for or renew your Membership at this September 29 meeting-only, we will offer a limited number of free gifts from our corporate members. Choices will include Tower Cleaners free cleaning coupons; Holiday Star Theatre Gift Certificates, Park Forest Auto Repair Service free oil change coupons.** For one lucky \$75 or higher Contributing Member, we will have one painting from Patricia Moore (a \$65 Value.) Thank you to our Corporate Members for providing these gifts.**

-The Archive Office in St. Mary's Catholic School, 227 Monee Road is now open Friday 10-12, or by appointment. Volunteers will be there many more hours this year. The Park Forest Public Library shares our rent. This year, they donated an air conditioner to help prolong the life of the collection (and our volunteers!). St. Mary's donated a computer, and the Spanish Community Center of Joliet donated used office furniture. Rent for the Archive Office at 227 Monee Road, is \$225 per month, with donations toward utilities and use of their copier.

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From the President

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Volunteers help with collection work, but more will be needed for the IMLS Grant.

- Our annual **Hall of Fame Induction**, held each spring, honors those who have contributed to our community over a long period of time. Besides the 141 individuals inducted to date, the Society has recognized Aunt Martha's, Tall Grass Arts Association and the Park Forest Nurses Club.

-1950s **Park Forest House Museum** remains open to the public, in spite of many challenges. In June 2011 our landlord required us to gradually increase our scheduled hours from two to ten per week. **We have successfully met this challenge, but need more volunteers.** In June 2011 our rent jumped from \$315 to \$534. **In June 2013, our lease jumped from \$534 to \$545 per month.** We are searching for a new museum location. Suggestions are welcome.

-**Park Forest History Curriculum** unit taught in 4th and 5th grades continues, with 355 students hearing Park Forest's unique story each year. We hope some volunteers will adapt this curriculum for use with Home School groups, which can be a source of income.

Help us meet our \$5,000 match by becoming, or by continuing to be a patron through your Membership, by becoming a Museum or Archive Benefactor, or by becoming a Partner or Corporate Sponsor. Remember to check our Museum and Online Store before the Holidays or special events.

Thank you,
Michael Gans, President
Park Forest Historical Society
Saving our History Since 1985

For more information on our mission and projects, visit our website at parkforesthistor.org. "Like " us on Facebook at "1950s Park Forest House Museum," & "Park Forest Historical Society"

STEP BACK INTO THE 1950S HALLOWEEN SEPTEMBER 14– NOVEMBER 2, 2013 AT THE 1950S HOUSE MUSEUM

The House Museum is decorated in vintage Halloween decorations including die-cuts and Halloween Gurley



candles with a few extra-special touches. Visit the Museum for a nostalgic look at Halloween in the 1950s.

The Museum is located at 141 Forest Blvd. and is open from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on both Wednesday and Saturday.

Don't miss our exhibits this year.



Look for our Museum Sign!

The Village of Park Forest has allowed us to post a sign for the museum under the Lincoln Highway Mural near Village Hall. Look for it and tell us what you think!

In My Own Little Corner

By Jane Nicoll

We hope you will join us for our **September 29, 2013 Annual Meeting Program**. Our meeting and election of the 2013-2014 Board will be followed by a very special presentation. **John Perry, Village Manager from 1983-1989 will speak on his book, Blueprint for Building Community**. There will be a chance to buy signed copies at a special price of \$10 at this program. See our program flier for details.

Work is continuing in the Archive. This summer, three volunteers have worked on the Park Forest Reporter, looking for missing issues, articles and pages. We hope to fill in the blanks with copies of donated papers and articles, which still need to be listed. If you are interested in working on this project or any other, contact me at 708-481-4252.

Sadly, we did not receive the ISHRAB Grant we applied for in May, which would have purchased a new large format scanner to begin scanning the early Reporters, Park Forest News and The Park Forest View--all 11 x 17" format papers. Once again, we placed high on the list, but competition was fierce and the money to be awarded was 1/3 what it has been in the past. The scanner alone is \$3000, with a total budget of \$5000. Hearing that it was very well-written and that some of the reviewers were very enthusiastic about it comes as small consolation, but we will forge on with what we can do.

On a brighter note, St. Mary's Catholic Church donated a computer with updated software for a second computer workstation. I heard about office furniture being sold or donated by the Spanish Community Center in Joliet, and we received six nice file cabinets and some chairs, and a small table in return for a donation to the center. We have the chance of getting interns from Dominican University and GSU as the school year progresses. And the air-conditioner, paid for by a donation from the Park Forest Public Library, kept the collection much cooler and more well-preserved this summer, (and the workers, too).

We have received a second generous \$5000 Challenge Matching grant from the Village of Park Forest, which we hope you will all help us with through your memberships, donations to our annual fund, visits to the museum, and purchases from our Museum and Online stores.

You can read about our success at getting the IMLS Museums for America Grant on the first page. We are still waiting to hear about grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Illinois Humanities Council and National Endowment for the Humanities.

The need to find a new home for the museum before May 2014 weighs on us all.

It will be a challenging year. Please help us meet the challenges with your donations!

Thanks for all you have done. Thanks to our active volunteers for the work they have done this summer and throughout 2012-2013, which move us further along the path to better accessibility of the Archive Collections.

Membership Benefits

Your membership in the Park Forest Historical Society entitles you to one free tour of the House Museum and advance notice of all programs including the annual Park Forest Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

Your membership also supports Society efforts to inform the public of the history of Park Forest through the Local History Collection and Archive and the 1950s PF House Museum.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

\$50 Corporate Members

B & S Car Wash
14600 Dolton Road
Dolton, IL

Cabin 7 Radio; Chicago Southland.
(cabin7productions.info)

Dunagains Irish Pub
90 S. Orchard , Park Forest

Freedom Hall
Nathan Manilow Theatre
410 Lakewood, Park Forest

Park Forest 7-Eleven
425 Sauk Trail, Park Forest

**Thorn Creek
Nature Center**
247 Monee Rd., Park Forest

Trophies & Awards Plus
3344 Chicago Road
Steger, IL

**Vizion Marketing
(Last Minute Printing)**
301 Liberty Dr., Park Forest

Garden Club of Park Forest

Kiwanis Club of Park Forest

Valery Lanotte, Chicago

\$150 Corporate Sponsors

Hallett & Sons Movers
7535 W. 59th St.
Summit, IL

Holiday Star Theater
30 Main St., Park Forest

**Pangea Park Townhomes
Pangea Ventures, LLC**
3324 Western Ave.
Park Forest, IL

**Park Forest Auto Repair
& Service, Inc.**
86 S. Orchard, Park Forest

**State Farm Insurance
Mike Jordan**
306 Forest Blvd., Park Forest

\$225 Archive Benefactors

Rotary Club of Park Forest

Tower Cleaners
230 Forest Blvd. Park Forest

\$545 Museum Benefactors

**Central Park Apartments,
Museum location**
11 Fir, Park Forest

Andrew Brown (Kinzie Realty)
806 Greenwood
Evanston, IL

Park Forest Aqua Center

Historical Society Membership Drive

Our annual membership drive lasts from September 1, 2013 through the fall. Your new or renewed membership will help us meet the \$5000 Matching Challenge Grant from the Village of Park Forest. **Join Today!**

Memberships forms are available in this mailing, at the 1950s Park Forest House Museum, 141 Forest Blvd, Village Hall and Park Forest Public Library, or online at parkforesthistor.org.

Park Forest Historical Society offers individual and business membership/sponsorship.

Please become a member and "Help Save our History". For more information, contact Michael Gans, President, 708-305-3308, or visit parkforesthistor.org.