

## Park Forest History

### Where is it Found?

The Park Forest Historical Society founded in 1985, became an independent 501(c)(3) corporation in 1989. Its mission was to support the Local History Collection and Archive of the Park Forest Public Library, started by the Reference Staff in 1981. In January 2007, the Archive was moved to remote storage by the library. In January 2012, the Archive, our office and the digital lab moved into the Archive Office, 227 Monee Road, (inside St. Mary's Catholic Church) supported by the Park Forest Public Library and the Society.

The Local History Files, circulating copies of the Oral History transcripts, and scrapbooks moved to the Museum in 2016. The Archive Office has the photograph collection, and ca. 185 linear feet of documents, newspapers and some objects. Governors State University Library has the newspaper microfilm and has digitized documents.

At present, the Society is seeking a permanent home for the archival collection, office and the digital computer lab.

The Society runs the 1950s Park Forest House Museum and Archive Office at 227 Monee Road, where photos and documents are on display. For more information on our story, what our past and current programs are, and how you can help, visit

[www.parkforesthistory.org](http://www.parkforesthistory.org).

#### The mission of the society is:

To preserve, interpret, and celebrate the unique history, diversity and achievements of the Village of Park Forest, Illinois through exhibits, publications, and special programs;

To educate residents, students and visitors, in all aspects of the village history;

To promote and support historical research;

To encourage donations, and enlist volunteers for the Park Forest Local History Collection and Archive and the 1950s Park Forest House Museum;

To honor those who have contributed to our community over a long period of time.



PARK FOREST HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Collection Managers  
Mail to: 227 Monee Road  
Park Forest, IL 60466  
Archive Office: 227 Monee Road, Room 2,  
St. Mary's Catholic Church  
Park Forest, IL 60466

Phone: Archivist, Jane Nicoll, H: 708-481-4252  
Business Manager: Mike Gans, C: 708-305-3308  
Email: [parkforesthistory1@yahoo.com](mailto:parkforesthistory1@yahoo.com),

Park Forest Public Library, 400 Lakewood Blvd

Phone: 708-748-3731, ext. 24 Adult Services,

Governors State University, 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL Phone: 708-534-5000.  
Email: [pblobaum@govst.edu](mailto:pblobaum@govst.edu) [www.govst.edu](http://www.govst.edu)

## Park Forest Archive



Collections Available at

Park Forest Archive Office

227 Monee Road, Park Forest, IL

Park Forest Public Library

400 Lakewood Blvd, Park Forest, IL

Governors State University Library

1 University Parkway, University Park, IL

Preserving  
Park Forest's  
Unique History,  
Diversity and  
Achievements

## Park Forest Resources

## Park Forest Local History Collection And Archive

## Volunteer Opportunities

**\*\*Help us share and preserve our history\*\***

### Stored at 1950s Park Forest House Museum

**270 + subject files on Park Forest History**

Including, American Community Builders, Architecture, Airports, Arts, Biography, Integration, Maps, Organizations, Politics and Government, Shopping Centers, History by decades with highlights.

- **Circulating and Bound copies of 79+ Oral Histories, "OH! Park Forest" 1980-1981.**
- **ACB Scrapbooks**

### Housed at Governors State University (2015-)

- **Park Forest Reporter, PF Star, Southtown Star**  
on Microfilm. Reporter hardcopies in PFHS Archive.

### Stored at the Park Forest Public Library

- **Catalogued books on Park Forest and city planning, and on regional history, often marked, "Local History."**

PFPL Hours: Mon-Thurs 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fri-Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun Sept to May, 1 p.m.– 5 p.m.  
Check [www.pfpl.org](http://www.pfpl.org) for changes and email addresses.

**\*\*It is best to contact the Park Forest Historical Society Archivist before doing a research project to see where the best resources are. \*\***

Call Jane Nicoll, Archivist, at home: 708-481-4252.

**Learn more at [parkforesthstory.org](http://parkforesthstory.org).**

### Stored at the Park Forest Archive Office

**Open Fridays 10 a.m. to 12 Noon;**  
**and by appointment**

- **Duplicates and originals of some of the 270+ subject files**  
Including Integration and Shopping Center history.
- **Oral History project originals and photocopies**
- **Library of books on Park Forest and on archives**
- **Photographs, slides, negatives (6000+ images)**
- **Regional history files**
- **Videotapes, DVD's, Audiotapes, CD-ROM's** including oral histories, PFHS programs from 1985-, Cable productions.
- **Manuscript Collections**, Including papers of some Village Presidents.
- **Select Government documents**, including minutes of the first Village Board meetings
- **Scrapbook originals and copies**
- **Maps**
- **Newspapers**, hard copies. (Access may be limited by condition.)
- **Records and scrapbooks of some PF Organizations**
- **Yearbooks**, (Duplicates, Incomplete holdings)
- **Textiles (limited)** Nixon Girls felt circle skirt; flags, PF Lions.

### The Society Needs:

- **Volunteers to be trained as tour guides** for regular hours at the 1950s Park Forest House Museum, and to host tours by appointment.
- **Volunteers to be trained to help with the Archive Collection tasks, including:**
  - Photocopying, labeling and filing at the Archive Office.
  - Cataloging and listing archive and museum collections.
  - Transcribing or clean-typing oral history transcripts—including the 90+ WW II Veteran's Oral Histories.
  - Typing documents into Word and Excel programs.
  - Scanning photographs and documents.
  - Converting audio and video to digital files.
  - Documenting Park Forest Architecture.
- **Active Members!**

- **Volunteers with graphics, website maintenance, & fundraising talent.**
- **Help with programs, events, and publicity, including on Social Media.**
- **On Facebook and Google+: 1950s Park Forest House Museum; Park Forest Historical Society;**  
**On Twitter: @1950s museum & @parkforesthstory**

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