



# 75<sup>th</sup> RPCH CELEBRATES PARK FOREST ANNIVERSARY



## VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST

# 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The Village of Park Forest is marking a momentous occasion this year as it celebrates its 75th anniversary. Founded in 1949 as a pioneering planned community, Park Forest has evolved into a vibrant and diverse suburb, while retaining its strong sense of community and commitment to innovation.

From its inception, Park Forest was designed to be a model for modern living, with an emphasis on green spaces, affordable housing, and accessible amenities. The village's unique architectural heritage, featuring mid-century modern homes and distinctive community buildings, reflects its forward-thinking origins.

Over the past 75 years, Park Forest has weathered challenges and embraced opportunities, emerging as a resilient and welcoming community. The village's rich history is interwoven with stories of community activism, cultural vibrancy, and environmental stewardship.

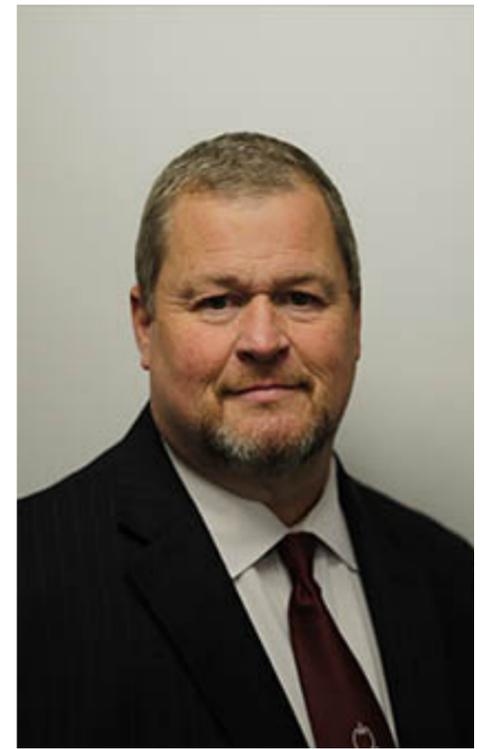
As Park Forest embarks on its next 75 years, it remains committed to its core values of community, innovation, and sustainability. The village's future is bright, with ongoing initiatives focused on economic development, environmental protection, and enhancing the quality of life for all residents.

### Park Forest: 75 Years of Progress and Promise

- Founded: 1949
- Population: Approximately 22,000
- Notable Features:
  - Mid-century modern architecture
  - Abundant green spaces and parks
  - Diverse community programs and events
  - Thriving arts and culture scene
  - Commitment to sustainability



## VILLAGE MANAGER TOM MICK SET TO RETIRE IN JUNE OF 2025



The Village of Park Forest is sharing news of an upcoming transition in leadership. After three decades of dedicated service, Village Manager Tom Mick will be retiring in June 2025.

**Continued on page 4**

## MAYOR JOSEPH WOODS MESSAGE



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# Welcome!

## TO PARK FOREST

### Mission Statement

The Department of Recreation, Parks & Community Health operates under the philosophy that its facilities are available to all residents of Park Forest for a reasonable cost, and its programs and services are available to everyone, regardless of one's ability to pay, their ethnic background, or orientation. In its interactions, the department will treat all peoples with dignity and respect.

The department's mission is to enhance the quality of life for all peoples and to advance the use and enjoyment of parks, recreation and environmental conservation under the guiding values of community health & wellness, sustainability and social equity.

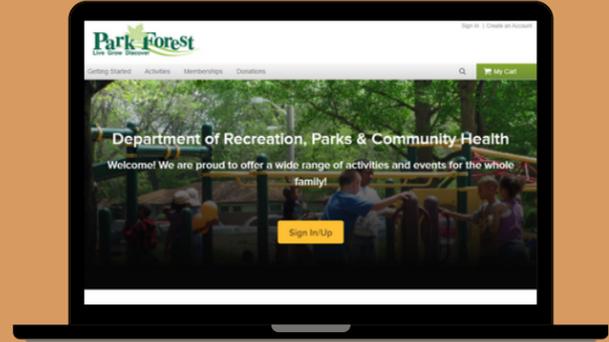
### Vision Statement

The Department of Recreation, Parks & Community Health will be a nationally recognized provider of exceptional, community driven experiences in parks and recreation with special regard to community health, social equity, fiscal and environmental sustainability.

## Online Registration

1. Visit: [apm.activecommunities.com/vopf](http://apm.activecommunities.com/vopf)
2. Select: Sign-in/Up
3. Search: Your favorite activity
4. Enroll, Pay, and Enjoy!

If you have any questions please call 708.748.2005



**Recreation, Parks & Community Health**  
**350 Victory Dr. Park Forest, IL 60466**  
**708.748.2005**  
**[www.villageofparkforest.com](http://www.villageofparkforest.com)**  
**[facebook.com/pfrecandparks](https://facebook.com/pfrecandparks)**

**Office Hours:**  
Monday 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

<b>Phone Numbers:</b>	<b>Tennis &amp; Health Club</b> 708.481.6060 290 Westwood Dr.
<b>Aqua Center</b> 708.503.7729 30 N. Orchard Dr.	<b>Thorn Creek Nature Center</b> 708.747.6320 247 Monee Rd.
<b>Freedom Hall</b> 708.747.0580 410 Lakewood Blvd.	<b>Village Hall</b> 708.748.1112 350 Victory Dr.

### Recreation, Parks & Community Health Administrative Staff - 708.748.2005

Kevin Adams - Director	Ext. 5650
Margaret Lewis - Assistant Director	Ext. 5663
Adina McCollough - Recreation Supervisor	Ext. 5649
Kellen Thornton - Recreation Supervisor	Ext. 5693
Teresa Brown - Administrative Assistant	Ext. 5651
Margarita Guzman - Administrative Assistant	Ext. 5652
Mary Boone - Office Technician	Ext. 5646
Todd Cann - Arborist/Crew Chief	Ext. 6251
Victor Blackful - Cultural Arts Manager	Ext. 6231
Chris Tudor - Tennis Club Manager	Ext. 6262

### Recreation & Parks Advisory Board

Cristina Lazard, Chair  
Karyn DeCuir  
Janis Marcotte  
TamAlita Randle  
Bethsheba Robinson  
Denise Smith  
Trustee Maya Hardy, Board Liaison  
Kevin Adams Staff Liaison



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## Recreation, Parks & Community Health Department

# COME MEET OUR STAFF

Recreation, Parks & Community Health offers an array of programs unmatched by most communities its size. Among the amenities are picnic areas, Park Forest Aqua Center, 15 playground areas, a skateboard park, dog park, an indoor Tennis and Health Club, 20 park sites, and three miles of hiking trails in the Thorn Creek Nature Preserve & Nature Center. That's in addition to a 45-acre wetland restoration project and the preservation of nearly 12,000 trees on public lands throughout the Village.

Enjoy nationally renowned performances in music, dance and theater at Freedom Hall, Nathan Manilow Theatre. During the summer, grab a blanket, pack a snack and position yourself in the Park Forest Downtown Village Green (Cunningham and Main Streets) for Main Street Nights.

The Recreation, Parks & Community Health brochure is published digitally two times a year (Winter/Spring and Summer/Fall) and available to all Park Forest residences and surrounding communities. Brochures are available at the Recreation, Parks & Community Health Department. Current programs and classes are listed on our website at [www.villageofparkforest.com](http://www.villageofparkforest.com).

The Department of Recreation, Parks & Community Health office is located in the Village Hall at 350 Victory Dr. Park Forest, IL. Hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday. 708.748.2005 or [www.villageofparkforest.com](http://www.villageofparkforest.com).





# Park Forest News

# VILLAGE MANAGER

## ***TOM MICK TO RETIRE AFTER A LONG CAREER AS THE VILLAGE MANAGER OF PARK FOREST***

Park Forest, IL – After three decades of dedicated service to the Village of Park Forest and the broader field of local government, Village Manager Tom Mick has announced his retirement effective June 2025.

Mick's leadership has been characterized by a profound dedication to public service, fostering a culture of collaboration, professionalism, and integrity within the Village. His tenure has seen numerous accomplishments, including the revitalization of downtown Park Forest, the implementation of sustainable infrastructure projects, and the expansion of community programs and services.

Known for his meticulous attention to detail and encyclopedic knowledge of local government, Mick has served as a mentor and role model to countless individuals within the Village and beyond. His ability to navigate complex challenges with grace and composure has earned him widespread admiration.

"Tom has an uncanny ability to make even the most stressful situations seem manageable," remarked Kevin Adams, Director of Recreation, Parks & Community Health. "His calm demeanor and steady hand have been invaluable to the Village."

As Mick prepares to embark on this new chapter, the Village acknowledges the significant impact he has made and the void his departure will create. The search for a successor who can fill his considerable shoes will begin in the coming months.

In the words of Maya Angelou, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Tom Mick's legacy will undoubtedly live on through the positive impact he has had on the Village and its people.

The Village of Park Forest extends its deepest gratitude to Tom Mick for his years of exemplary service and wishes him all the best in his retirement.



In a recent effort to highlight the many ways Tom contributes to our team, colleagues were invited to share their thoughts. The responses paint a picture of a dedicated professional and a cherished friend.



***TOM MICK, VILLAGE MANAGER, VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST***

- "Tom's ability to break down complex problems into manageable steps is truly impressive. He also has a knack for making everyone feel welcome and included." - Teresa Brown
- "I enjoy going to regional meetings with Tom and watching people from all the other towns turn to Tom and look for guidance. Tom loves Park Forest and his enthusiasm for the Village is Contagious" - Tracy Natyshok
- "Tom Mick's leadership and support have always been amazing to myself and staff. Tom has showed support and shared professional advice that has made my job and life easier. Though Tom is the Village Manager, I see him as a friend as well. We have discussed everything from family to fishing to food and I appreciate that about him." - Victor B.
- "Tom is persistent on finding solutions for resident and employee concerns, he always make time to talk to you. Tom's awesome sense of humor, being Irish, his obvious love and appreciation for his family, and his correct alliance and appreciation for the Chicago White Sox (ignore this year) and Chicago Bears." - Marcy
- "Tom has the mentality of a band with his staff, "One Sound, One Band" and Tom is very personable." - Evelyn R.
- "Tom always has the best interest of the Village included in his decision making. Tom is always on the lookout for the next great restaurant!" - Andrew B.
- "Tom is approachable in both areas of his life." - Carrie M.
- "I really admire Tom for being a humble and approachable manager who leads by example. He gets things done without seeking spotlight. Just Friday, I saw him outside picking up litter in the downtown area! Tom's also got a great sense of humor, making even the busiest days feel more enjoyable. He's always good for a laugh when you need it!" - Code Lady
- "I have appreciated that Tom is very open to new ideas. Sure, you have to give a strong reason for making a change, but Tom will listen to the new idea and is open to making that change if he agrees with your reasons. Tom enjoys what he does. Whatever he is doing at that time. He just enjoys life, with all its ups and downs." - Mark Pries

These are just a few examples of the many positive remarks shared about Tom. It's clear that his presence enriches our workplace both professionally and personally. We're grateful to have him as part of our team!

*continued page 14....*

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Mayor Joseph Woods

“ . . . We have learned to be citizens of the world, members of the human community.”  
-Franklin Delano Roosevelt

The Village of Park Forest was incorporated 75 years ago. In effect, boundaries were established, officials were elected, a code of ordinances was created. In essence, we’ve become much more than what’s meant by the legal definition of a “village.” We’ve become a community!

“Community” has its root in Latin words that mean joining together. The word came to express the notion of people joining together in service to one another. And THAT, indeed, is what Park Forest has become.

Probably nothing better illustrates the communal nature of our Village as does our Department of Recreation, Parks & Community Health. While most communities are served by a park district that is a separate tax-collecting body, the founders of Park Forest decided recreational services, park facilities, etc., should be a major component of the local government itself. That’s one of the many ways in which Park Forest is different from many of our neighboring municipalities.

The uniqueness of Park Forest is even more illustrated in the health services that are provided by the Village. For many years, Park Forest had its own health department, found virtually nowhere else but in major large cities. The former health department, with its Nurses Plus component, provided services to expecting and new mothers, to senior citizens, and to many who were lacking in health insurance. A few years ago, as many of the local hospitals created community health programs, the Village’s services were reduced because of less demand and they now are joined together with recreation and parks to guide our community health.

Another example of genuine community is found in the Park Forest Aqua Center, a major element of the recreational services in our Village. Many people don’t know it, but the Aqua Center was created by a group of our residents who came together; many donated money for its creation, others volunteered time and/or engaged in much of the physical labor required to bring it about. Eventually, the Village assumed ownership and it has been a part of our municipal services ever since.

And then there’s a place we call Freedom! Though a municipal facility, Freedom Hall was created by citizen donations and some grant funds to pay tribute to our nation’s bicentennial in 1975. In addition to the arts programs offered as part of the Freedom Hall Series, the building serves as a center for meetings and other gatherings. Among the rooms at Freedom Hall is the King Room, which came about through efforts by many of our town’s

original African-American residents. It is at this very hall that the late U.S. Congressman John Lewis called Park Forest, “a beloved community.”

There’s much more I can share with you about the community services provided through the Department of Recreation, Parks & Community Health—our recent refurbishing of Somonauk Park, new park equipment at Central Park, replaced walking pathways in numerous areas, and seal-coated pathways in other areas are prime examples—but space for this message is limited. And besides, I’d much rather you learn all that by reading this brochure and then participating directly in the many wonderful “community” activities that your Village provides . . . our quality of life!

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Woods,  
Mayor / Village President



### PARKWAY TREE COST SHARE PARKWAY PLANTING PROGRAM

**COST: \$150 PER TREE**  
CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST

**VILLAGE FORESTER**  
TODD CANN 708.481.4088  
350 VICTORY DRIVE,  
PARK FOREST, IL

The Recreation, Parks & Community Health Department offers a tree cost share program to plant trees in residential parkways. This can be for trees removed due to disease or hazardous condition or simply if one would like a tree in the parkway. Below is a list of suggested trees but the Village will consider almost any selection a resident might have. Trees that may not be planted include weedy species such as Silver

Maple and Siberian Elm or anything not suited to parkway or suburban conditions. Species selection and planting locations are dependent on parkway size and the location of utilities.

The program is very simple. A residents share to purchase a tree is \$150.00. The village and the resident will agree on a tree species, the Village will purchase and plant the tree and ask that the resident assume the watering of the tree for the first few years of establishment. The Village will assume the long term care for the tree.

Stop by Recreation, Parks & Community Health Department at Village Hall to discuss the program and purchase your new parkway tree.

## MEMORIAL TREES AND BENCHES

The Recreation, Parks & Community Health Department offers a memorial program through which groups, organizations or individuals may purchase trees or benches for any park. Memorial trees or benches for public parks are the perfect way to commemorate individuals, organizations or special family events.

The fee is \$175 for each memorial tree and \$700 per park bench. Each donor will receive a certificate of recognition for his or her gift and memorial trees will be listed for permanent recognition on a plaque at Village Hall. Please contact the Recreation, Parks & Community Health Department at 708.748.2005 for more information.



### AQUA CENTER LIKELY CLOSED FOR 2025 SEASON



Dear Valued Aqua Center Members,

As the 2024 Aqua Season comes to a close, we want to thank you for your years of dedication to the Aqua Center.

The Village also wants to address some of the “rumors” that are swirling around our beloved facility. As many of you are aware, the 2024 season was a challenging one for the facility. Recent inspections have revealed the need for significant repairs to our pools. These repairs are essential to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all our members.

At this time, the Village is actively assessing the scope of the repairs and associated costs. While assessing the needs of the facility, the Village is also exploring ways to add features that will expand the services and excitement the Aqua Center offers. Unfortunately, until we have a clearer picture, we cannot definitively confirm whether the Aqua Center will be able to open for the 2025 season.

We understand that this news may cause concern and disappointment. Please know that the Village is committed to exploring all options and will keep you informed every step of the way.

We appreciate your understanding and continued support during this time.

Sincerely,

**Kevin Adams, Director**  
Recreation, Parks and Community Health  
Department  
Village of Park Forest

# NATHAN MANILOW THEATRE at FREEDOM HALL

## 2024-25 SEASON



**SHINING STAR  
TRIBUTE TO EARTH, WIND & FIRE**  
Saturday, Oct 12 - 7:30 pm  
Adults \$52 | Senior \$47 | Group \$45  
One of the best-selling bands of all time whose music spans jazz, R&B, soul, funk, disco, pop, Latin, and Afro-pop.



**MULBERRY STREET  
TRIBUTE TO BILLY JOEL**  
Saturday, Nov 16 - 7:30 pm  
Adults \$35 | Senior \$32 | Group \$30  
A compilation of many popular hits and deep cuts that bring fans to their feet.



**SLAVE - R&B LEGENDS**  
Saturday, Nov 23 - 7:30 pm  
Sunday, Nov 24 - 3:00 pm  
Adults \$65 | Senior \$60 | Group \$58  
Ohio-based funk band popular in the late 1970s and early 1980s featuring the hits - SLIDE and Watching You.



**MASTERS OF SOUL**  
Saturday, Dec 14 - 7:30 pm  
Sunday, Dec 15 - 3:00 pm  
Adults \$52 | Senior \$47 | Group \$45  
A celebration of the legendary songs and performers that define Motown and roots of soul music.



**LISA ROCK - PRESENTS  
A CARPENTERS' CHRISTMAS**  
Tuesday, Dec 17 - 11:00 am  
Adults \$42 | Senior \$38 | Group \$36  
A matinee showcasing the music from The Carpenters' cherished holiday concert albums and Christmas variety shows.



**SIMONE GREEN  
MLK SOULFUL JOURNEY**  
Monday, Jan 20 - 3:00 pm  
Adults \$35 | Senior \$32 | Group \$30  
A talented R&B and Soul musician from Chicago inspired by artists like Mary J. Blige, Etta James, and Aretha Franklin.



**CANDLELIGHT JAZZ  
TRIBUTE TO LUTHER VANDROSS**  
Saturday, Feb 15 - 7:30 pm  
Adults \$65 | Senior \$60 | Group \$58  
Join Peter Jordan for a candlelit Jazz tribute to the life of the great soul and R&B singer Luther Vandross.



**DEACON BLUES  
TRIBUTE TO STEELY DAN**  
Saturday, Mar 1 - 7:30 pm  
Adults \$42 | Senior \$38 | Group \$36  
11 Chicago-based musicians who share a passion for the Becker/Fagen duo in this tribute band



**AL HUDSON & ONE WAY**  
Saturday, Mar 15 - 7:30pm  
Adults \$65 | Senior \$60 | Group \$58  
An American R&B and funk band popular in the late 1970s, and throughout most of the 1980s, led by singer Al Hudson.



**LATANYA HUGHES  
CHICAGO'S QUEEN OF R&B**  
Saturday, Mar 29 - 7:30 pm  
Adults \$35 | Senior \$32 | Group \$30  
She is a powerhouse with high energy when it comes to singing and is known as Chicago's Queen of R&B.



**512: THE SELENA EXPERIENCE**  
Saturday, Apr 5 - 7:30 pm  
Adults \$52 | Senior \$47 | Group \$45  
A mind-blowing experience by one of the best Selena tribute bands and the closest you can get to live a Selena concert.



**70s SWEETHEART TRIBUTE**  
Tuesday, Apr 8 - 11:00 am  
Adults \$35 | Senior \$32 | Group \$30  
Maureen Christine sings classics by great female vocalists Karen Carpenter, Barbra Streisand, Toni Tennille, Helen Reddy and Olivia Newton John.



**BETTER TOGETHER  
CELEBRATION OF STEVIE WONDER**  
Saturday, Apr 19 - 7:30 pm  
Adults \$52 | Senior \$47 | Group \$45  
A 75th birthday celebration of the musical legend and one of the most creative singer/songwriters of the 20th century.

410 LAKEWOOD BLVD, PARK FOREST, IL 60466  
708.747.0580 | FREEDOMHALL.ORG



## FREEDOM HALL CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PARK FOREST

Discover the ideal setting for small group meetings at the Martin Luther King Jr. Meeting Room. With its carpeted floors and tranquil ambiance, this space offers privacy and professionalism, perfect for planning groups, board meetings, and executive sessions. Connected to the Johnson Room and service kitchen via a short hallway, the King Room doubles as a discussion group center and catering space for larger events. Included tables and chairs make it convenient for gatherings of up to 20-25 people in theater-style or table arrangements.

4-hour rental for max occupancy of 25 people includes use of restrooms, coat room, 8" tables and chairs, kitchen and includes FH building attendant.  
Resident Fee: \$150  
Non-Resident Fee: \$180



## FACILITY RENTALS

### JOHNSON ROOM

Elevate your meeting or event by renting the Ralph G. Johnson Meeting Room. With its carpeted floors and equipped screen, this versatile space accommodates medium to large group activities seamlessly. Enjoy abundant natural light and stunning views of the adjacent 88-acre Central Park, along with convenient parking access. The spacious room exudes sophistication, ideal for all-day business conferences, seminars, instructional programs, and social gatherings. With included tables and chairs, the Johnson Room comfortably accommodates up to 65 people in theater-style or table arrangements, with easy access to the service kitchen.

4-hour rental for max occupancy of 65 people includes use of restrooms, coat room, podium, projection screen, 8" tables and chairs, use of kitchen and includes FH building attendant.  
Resident Fee: \$250  
Non-Resident Fee: \$300



### KING MEETING ROOM

Discover the ideal setting for small group meetings at the Martin Luther King Jr. Meeting Room. With its carpeted floors and tranquil ambiance, this space offers privacy and professionalism, perfect for planning groups, board meetings, and executive sessions. Connected to the Johnson Room and service kitchen via a short hallway, the King Room doubles as a discussion group center and catering space for larger events. Included tables and chairs make it convenient for gatherings of up to 20-25 people in theater-style or table arrangements.

4-hour rental for max occupancy of 25 people includes use of restrooms, coat room, 8" tables and chairs, kitchen and includes FH building attendant.  
Resident Fee: \$150  
Non-Resident Fee: \$180



### NATHAN MANILOW THEATRE



Experience the 287-seat Nathan Manilow Theater at Freedom Hall, equipped with state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems, velour drapery, and a 12-foot projection screen. Ideal for theater groups, recitals, corporate meetings, or speaking events, our intimate theater offers a backstage area and greenroom for performers. Wheelchair accessible seating, a stunning 2-story glass-windowed lobby, and free adjacent parking enhance the guest experience.

For event inquiries and detail rental prices, please contact Shelley at [ssrasser@vopf.com](mailto:ssrasser@vopf.com) or call 708.747.0580.

**(Virtual) Cooking Class with Kristyn Slick: NYE Eve Cooking Celebration**

**Monday, December 30, 2024 | 6:30 p.m. | Zoom | Registration required!**

– In this class, we will prepare dishes that embody the spirit of the season—think luxurious, lucky, and downright delicious! Kristyn will be cooking alongside you, sharing instructions, tips and tricks throughout class. This program will be presented live on Zoom. Send an email to kaitlyn.keller@pfpl.org (Subject: NYE Cooking) to reserve your space and receive program access information. **For more info, visit [www.pfpl.org](http://www.pfpl.org).**

**(Virtual) Cooking Class with Kristyn Slick: Vegan Comfort Food**

**Wednesday, January 15, 2025 | 6:30 p.m. | Zoom | Registration required!**

– Warm up your winter with hearty and delicious vegan comfort foods. This class will explore plant-based alternatives that are both comforting and satisfying, showing you how to create rich flavors and textures without any animal products. Kristyn will be cooking alongside you, sharing instructions, tips and tricks throughout class. This program will be presented live on Zoom. Send an email to kaitlyn.keller@pfpl.org (Subject: Vegan Comfort Food) to reserve your space and receive program access information. **For more info, visit [www.pfpl.org](http://www.pfpl.org).**

**(Virtual) Cooking Class with Kristyn Slick: Chocolate Lovers Workshop**

**Wednesday, February 12, 2025 | 6:30 p.m. | Zoom | Registration required!**

– Just in time for Valentine’s Day, indulge in the rich, luxurious world of chocolate. Learn the techniques for tempering chocolate, making ganache, and crafting chocolate desserts that will enchant your special someone. Kristyn will be cooking alongside you, sharing instructions, tips and tricks throughout class. This program will be presented live on Zoom. Send an email to kaitlyn.keller@pfpl.org (Subject: Chocolate Lovers) to reserve your space and receive program access information. **For more info, visit [www.pfpl.org](http://www.pfpl.org).**

**Film Festival presented by Governors State University Saturday, February 1, 2025 | 2:00 p.m. | Registration required!**

– Chicago Southland International Film Festival Presented by Governors State University will sponsor a screening event in partnership with and located at the Park Forest Library. The screening will feature short films from the existing GovState Student Film Showcase program scheduled for October 29, 2024, at GSU. The program will include 50-90 minutes of films followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers. **For more info, visit [www.pfpl.org](http://www.pfpl.org).**



**PARK FOREST PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
 400 Lakewood Blvd, Park Forest, IL 60466  
 708.748.3731  
 parkforestpl@gmail.com  
 Visit our website: **[www.pfpl.org](http://www.pfpl.org)**  
 Open: Mon-Thur : 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
 Fri-Sat : 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Sunday : Closed

**Illinois Libraries Presents @ PFPL**

The following events will be available through Zoom on the designated time/date. To register for events and/or get more information, please check our website at [www.pfpl.org](http://www.pfpl.org)!

- **December 20-22** - Experience Little Women: The Musical (2022) (Recording)
- **January 9 | 7 p.m.** - Chicago Pizza - Past, Present & Future with Steve Dolinsky
- **January 23 | 7 p.m.** - Love and Laughs with Michelle Buteau
- **February 4 | 7 p.m.** - An Evening with James McBride
- **March 4 | 7 p.m.** - Exploring Space with Coralie Adam
- **March 21-23** - Documentary Screening: 9to5: The Story of a Movement (Recording)
- **April 10 | 7 p.m.** - The Art of Foraging with Alexis Nikole Nelson
- **May 3 | 2 p.m.** - Art and Adventures with Author/Illustrator Dan Santat (Youth Program)
- **May 13 | 7 p.m.** - Poverty: A Discussion with Matthew Desmond

ILP is committed to inclusion and accessibility. To request accommodations, please email: [illinoislibrariespresent@gmail.com](mailto:illinoislibrariespresent@gmail.com)

This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present (ILP), a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).





### Tall Grass Arts Association

367 Artist Walk, Park Forest, IL 60466

708.748.3377

Visit our website: [www.tallgrassarts.org](http://www.tallgrassarts.org)

Open: Tue-Sat : 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Monday: Closed

Sunday : Closed

**Join our weekly classes year-round, starting at the beginning of each month, or enroll in our select sessional classes/workshops.**

*\*Missed classes are Non-refundable unless arranged ahead of time with office admin.*

#### Most-Preferred \* Monthly Tuition:

The tuition amount may vary based on the number of classes scheduled for that month, taking into account any holidays.

#### **Open Studio**

**Monday's | 9:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. | Adult Class**

**| Registration required!**

– At-your-own-pace open work time alongside artistic peers under the supervision of long-time mixed-media artist and Tall Grass member Maureen Cribbs. Bring your own Projects. **For more info, visit [www.tallgrassarts.org](http://www.tallgrassarts.org) or call 708.748.3377**

#### **Elements of Art**

**Wednesday's | 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. | Adult &**

**Young Adult Class | Registration required!**

– Exploration through drawing mixed media. Foundations of Art. Developing your intuitive skills. 18 and up. **For more info, visit [www.tallgrassarts.org](http://www.tallgrassarts.org) or call 708.748.3377**

#### **Glass Mosaic**

**Thursday's | 3:30 p.m.- 5:30 p.m. | Adult Class**

**| Registration required!**

– Choose from several patterns or create your own design. A supply list will be provided. Students are encouraged to bring old jewelry, beads, stones and any other found objects to make their project more elaborate. Great class for students 18 and up. No experience needed. **For more info, visit [www.tallgrassarts.org](http://www.tallgrassarts.org) or call 708.748.3377**

#### **Young Artists**

**Saturday's | 9:00 a.m.- 10:30 a.m. |**

**Kids/Young Adult Class | Registration required!**

– Beginning and advanced students explore drawing, painting and other media, including pencil, charcoal, pen & ink, pastel, lino-print, acrylic, watercolor, oil pastel, collage, clay and other sculpture materials. Some art history is presented. Learn to use your imagination! **For more info, visit [www.tallgrassarts.org](http://www.tallgrassarts.org) or call 708.748.3377**

**Rent our Art Gallery or Art School for your next event. We have hosted:**

- **Weddings**
- **Retirement Parties**
- **Birthday Parties**
- **Event Receptions**
- **Company Meetings**
- **Kids Birthday Parties (Art School Side)**

**Contact us at 708.748.3377 for more information**

#### Weekly Tuition:

- Open Studio = \$15 Per Class
- Elements of Art = \$10 per Class
- Glass Mosaic = \$15 Per Class
- Young Artists = \$10 Per Class



#### **How to Register:**

**Mail completed registration form with payment to:** Tall Grass Arts Association, ATT: Art School, 367 Artists Walk, Park Forest, IL 60466

**Call and register by phone:** 708.748.3377

**Register Online:** [tallgrassarts.org](http://tallgrassarts.org)

Stop by the Gallery: Tuesday-Saturday, between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.



## THORN CREEK NATURE CENTER

247 Monee Road, Park Forest, IL 60466

708.747.6320

[thorn\\_creek@att.net](mailto:thorn_creek@att.net)

Visit our website: [tcwoods.org](http://tcwoods.org)

Open Fridays, noon to 4 p.m.

Trails open daily year-round, sunrise to sunset

Trails are natural surface across uneven terrain



**Registration is required for programs. Call or email the nature center the Monday before the program.**

Thorn Creek Nature Preserve is a natural area of over 1000 acres jointly owned by University Park, Park Forest and the Forest Preserve District of Will County. A Management Commission was formed in the 1970's, made up of the landowners plus Friends of Thorn Creek Woods, the citizens group responsible in large part for preservation of these woods. Together they manage this large dry mesic oak hickory forest dominated by 150-year old white and red oak trees with a rich understory of native shrubs, rare plants and spring wildflowers.

## DECEMBER 2024

### SOILS HIKE

Is all soil created equal? Come and see, smell and hear for the parts of soil. Learn how soil supports every form of life in the woods. On the hike, we will observe real samples of Thorn Creek Woods soil. Participants should be prepared to walk more than 1 mile outdoors on natural surface trails across uneven terrain. Program is sponsored by Thorn Creek Audubon Society.

**Sunday, December 8, 1-3 p.m.**

**Free. Ages 12-adult. Registration required by December 2.**

### WINTER SURVIVAL

Come learn about the winter survival tactics of mammals, reptiles, and amphibians that call Thorn Creek home. We will explore different types of hibernation. After the hike participants will create a pine cone creature to take home. This program is sponsored by Thorn Creek Audubon Society.

Participants should be prepared to walk more than 1 mile outdoors on natural surface trails across uneven terrain. **Sunday, December 15, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. All ages. Free. Registration required by December 9.**

## JANUARY 2025

### BEGINNING BIRDING FOR KIDS

Impress your friends this spring with your birding smarts, binocular savvy and your very own life list of birds you have seen. Come get an early start with this popular hobby – bird watching. Learn key shapes, markings, habits and songs for our most common local birds with crafts, activities, sounds and hikes. Price includes your own field guide to birds. Sponsored by the Thorn Creek Audubon

Society. This program will be held indoors in an accessible facility. For the hikes, participants should be able to walk 1 mile outdoors on natural surface trails across uneven and possibly wet/muddy terrain. 4 weekly sessions, **Sundays, January 19 through February 9, 1-3:30 p.m. Ages 7-12, \$25 prepaid for full 4 sessions. Registration and payment by January 6.**

## FEBRUARY 2025

### HOO EATS WHOM

On a hike, learn about the different owls in Thorn Creek Woods and their unique role in the woodland web of life. Then dissect an owl pellet to examine just “hoo” this forest predator preys upon. Our web of life program is sponsored by Thorn Creek Audubon Society.

Participants should be able to walk 2 miles outdoors on natural surface trails across uneven terrain. Trails can be wet, muddy, icy and snow covered. Part of program held in an accessible facility. **Saturday, February 22, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Free. All ages. Registration required by February 17.**

## MARCH 2025

### SPRING CLEAN UP & TRAIL WORKDAY AT THORN CREEK WOODS

Shake the winter blahs and come help in the annual spring cleaning. There will be indoor and outdoor work preparing for spring. Come help build or repair boardwalks and maintain the trails throughout the preserve. Or come weed and nurture our Prairie Sampler and butterfly garden. Bring a lunch and gloves and dress for the weather.

Refreshments will be provided. Part of this program will be held indoors in an accessible facility.

Outdoor work is on natural surface trails across uneven terrain. **Sunday, March 30, Noon-4 p.m. Free! All ages: children younger than 15 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required by March 17.**

## APRIL 2025

### CENTRAL PARK WETLANDS WALK

We'll explore the Central Park Wetlands, a haven for amphibians, dragonflies, damselflies, birds and soil critters. Learn the names of some water loving plants and animals and enjoy a craft and game. Sponsored by the Thorn Creek Audubon Society. Participants should be able to walk 1 mile outdoors on paved paths and boardwalks. **Sunday, April 13, 10:30-12:30 p.m. Wetlands Discovery Center, 30 N. Orchard Drive, Park Forest, located on the west end of the bathhouse. Free! All Ages. Registration required with Thorn Creek Nature Center by April 7: 708.747.6320.**



### APRIL 2025 CONT...

#### PRAIRIE SAMPLER AND TRAIL WORKDAY

Get down and dirty at our Thorn Creek workday. Help repair boardwalks, maintain trails, or weed and nurture our Prairie Sampler and butterfly gardens. Bring gloves, favorite tools and dress for the weather. Trail work is on natural surface trails across uneven terrain. Trails can be wet, muddy and slippery. **Saturday, April 19, 1-3 p.m. Ages 12 - adult, children under 15 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required by April 14.**

#### EARTH DAY AT THORN CREEK: WOODLAND WILDFLOWERS

A family program to celebrate the spring wildflowers, called ephemerals, that thrive in shady Thorn Creek Woods. Lots of fun for everyone including a wildflower photo display, exhibits, games, crafts, refreshments, and an Earth Day Raffle. Join us for a hike at 2 p.m. to discover which species are in bloom, learn their names and examine their physical appearance. Program is sponsored by Jim Marzuki Fund for Public Programming. Guided hike on natural surface trails across uneven terrain. **Sunday, April 27, 1-3 p.m. Free. All ages. Registration required by April 21.**

### MAY 2025

#### PRAIRIE SAMPLER AND TRAIL WORKDAY

Get down and dirty at our Thorn Creek Workday. Help repair boardwalks, maintain trails, or weed and nurture our Prairie Sampler and butterfly garden. Bring gloves, favorite tools and dress for the weather. Trail work is on natural surface trails across uneven terrain. **Sunday, May 4, 1-3 p.m. Free! Ages 12 - adult, children under 15 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required by April 28.**

### BIRD HIKE

Let's watch for our year-round resident birds and look for birds arriving to spend the summer here. Find out about the extraordinary migration patterns of birds. We'll have some binoculars, field guides and identifiers available. If you have your own bring them along. Sponsored by Thorn Creek Audubon Society. Participants should be able to walk 2 miles outdoors on natural surface trails across uneven terrain. **Sunday, May 18, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Free. All ages. Registration required by May 12.**

### JUNE 2025

#### WOMEN OF THE WOODS: A NATURE RETREAT

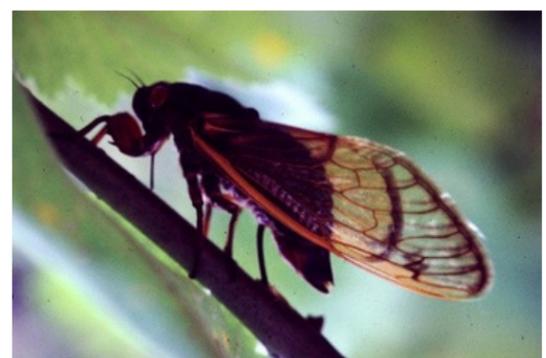
Celebrate the beauty of the spring woodland in this program for women and girls. Rely on your senses as we hike the preserve to hear the returning birds, feel the warming sun, see the tree leaves opening, smell the wildflowers blooming and much more! Join us to renew yourself with the new season. Participants will enjoy a 3-mile hike on natural surface trails across uneven terrain. **Sunday, June 1, 9:30-noon. Adult women and girls 12 years old and up; \$5 per person. Registration required by May 26.**

#### PRAIRIE SAMPLER AND TRAIL WORKDAY

Get down and dirty at our Thorn Creek Workday. Help repair boardwalks, maintain trails, or weed and nurture our Prairie Sampler and butterfly garden. Bring gloves, favorite tools and dress for the weather. Trail work is on natural surface trails across uneven terrain. **Sunday, June 8, 1-3 p.m. Free! Ages 12 - adult, children under 15 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required by June 2.**

### INSECTS AROUND FOR KIDS

Join us to observe the wide variety of these fascinating creatures. Discover what makes an insect unique. Explore the differences between insects, spiders, and other kinds of arthropods. On a hike we'll search for insect habitats. Sponsored by Thorn Creek Audubon Society. Participants should be prepared to walk a 1 mile outdoors on natural surface trails across uneven terrain. **Sunday, June 29, 1-3 p.m. Free. Ages 6-12. Registration by June 23.**



#### THORN CREEK NATURE CENTER

247 Monee Road, Park Forest, IL 60466

708.747.6320

[thorn\\_creek@att.net](mailto:thorn_creek@att.net)

Visit our website: [tcwoods.org](http://tcwoods.org)

Open Fridays, noon to 4 p.m.

Trails open daily year-round, sunrise to sunset

Trails are natural surface across uneven terrain



# PARK FOREST

Recreation, Parks & Community Health

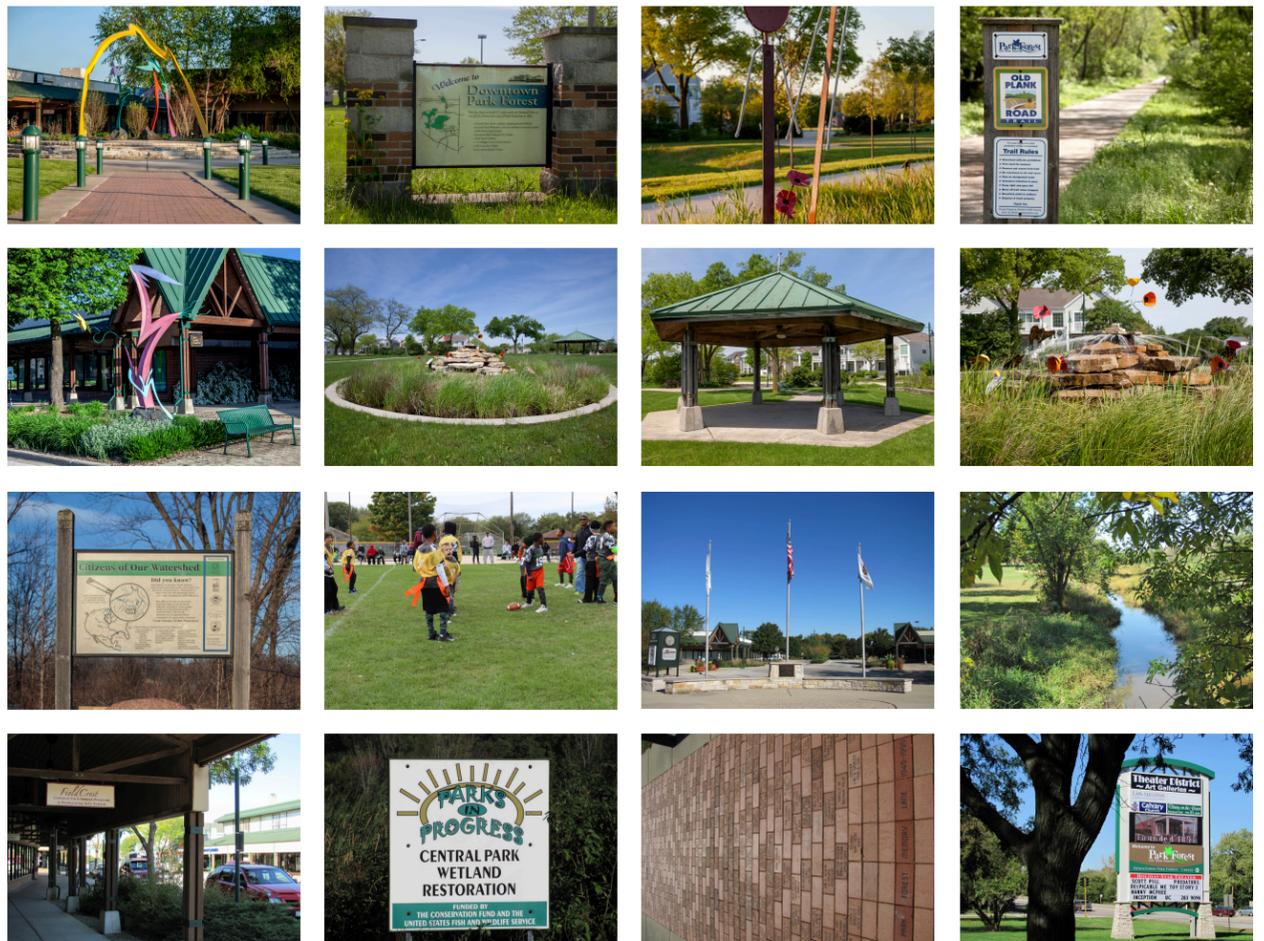


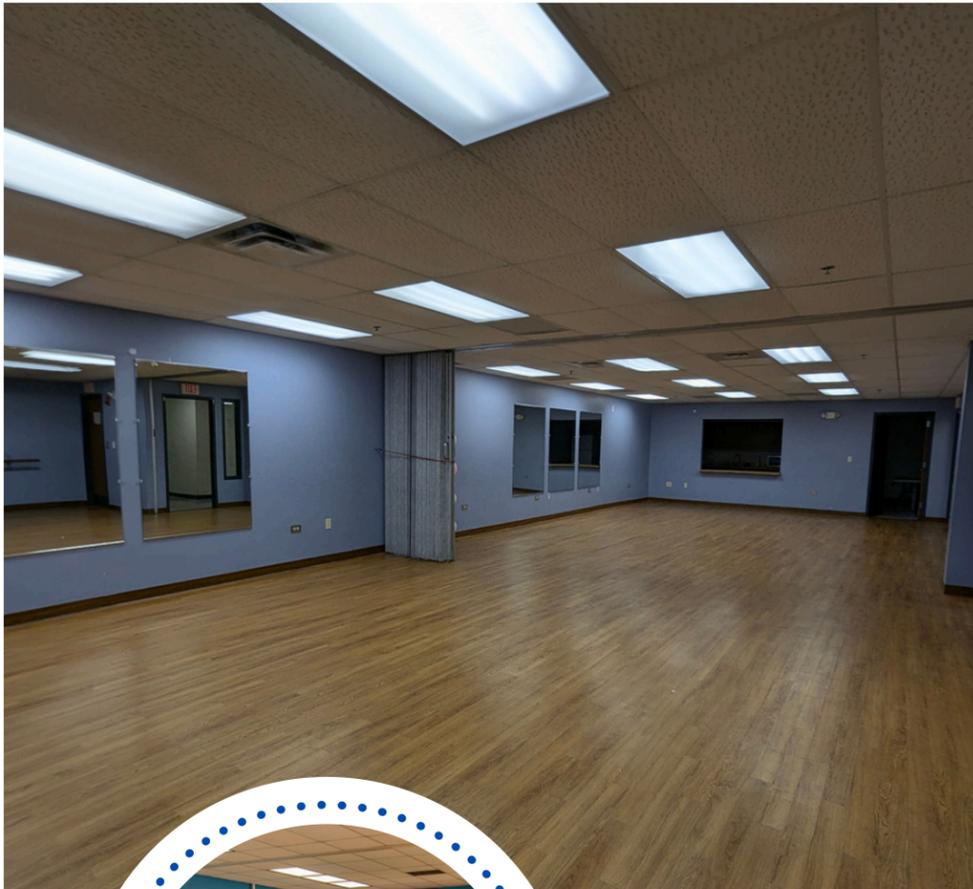
REMEMBERING  
75 YEARS OF  
PARK FOREST



## Park Forest Timeline

- 1949** - Park Forest officially becomes a Village.  
Dennis O’Harrow was elected the first Village President.
- 1950** - Park Forest had a population of nearly 5,000.  
Trinity Lutheran Church have its first services on Christmas Eve.  
David Wilson becomes Park Forest first Chief of Police.  
John Tower becomes Park Forest first Fire Marshall.
- 1951** - Boys Baseball founded in Park Forest.  
The Village’s first grade school, Lakewood, is dedicated.
- 1953** - Rich Township High School opens its doors.  
Park Forest Homesteaders Association wins first place in the July 4, 1953 parade.  
Trustee Ruth Skaggs was the first woman elected to office in the village.
- 1954** - Park Forest wins All-America City Award.  
The Park Forest Aqua Center opened.
- 1955** - The Park Forest Public Library opened.
- 1959** - The first African American family moves to Park Forest.  
The 10th Anniversary of Park Forest.
- 1960** - A Fire Department Training Site was designed and constructed.
- 1962** - Park Forest held the first Art Fair with 200 featured artists.
- 1965** - The first girls softball games was held in Park Forest.
- 1975** - Park Forest broke ground on the two-story Freedom Hall.
- 1977** - Park Forest started hosting the Park Forest Scenic 10-Mile Run each Labor Day.
- 1989** - The Park Forest Historical Society established the Park Forest Hall of Fame.
- 1995** - Village Hall Moved into the two-story building at 350 Victory Drive.
- 2000** - Park Forest received the prestigious Burnham Award for an innovative Downtown.
- 2001** - The Victory Center for independent living, opened its doors.
- 2007** - Park Forest named one of America’s Most Livable Suburbs by Forbes Magazine.
- 2014** - Park Forest ranked third in the nation in affordable housing by Business Insider.
- 2023** - Park Forest Public Library opened its drive-up window in the back of the library.
- 2024** - The Village of Park Forest celebrates its 75th Anniversary.





## RECREATION, PARKS & COMMUNITY HEALTH FACILITY RENTALS

PLEASE CALL 708.748.2005  
FOR MORE INFORMATION

### RENT AFFORDABLE RECREATION ROOMS!

350 Victory Dr., Park Forest

Looking for a space to host your next event or activity?  
Look no further! We offer a variety of rooms for rent, perfect for  
everything from birthday parties to sports practices.

#### Room Options:

- Gymnasium: \$55/hour
- Lower Level Rec Room: \$55/hour
- Gymnasium & Rec Room Combo: \$90/hour
- Multi-Purpose Room (Lower Level of Village Hall): \$60/hour

#### Amenities:

- Spacious and well-maintained rooms
- Convenient locations
- Free parking!
- Affordable rates

#### Requirements:

- \$100 refundable deposit due at reservation
- Valid State ID or Driver's License
- Completed facility usage application and signed permit
- Must be 21 years or older to rent

#### To Reserve:

Visit: Village Hall, 350 Victory Drive, Park Forest, IL  
Call: 708.748.2005 for more information.

Don't wait! Rooms are rented on a first-come, first-served basis.

### New Rates Effective January 1st!

Room rental rates will be updated  
on January 1st. Secure your  
reservation at the current low rates  
before the new year!



The beautiful Village Green in Downtown Park Forest is the perfect location for your outdoor needs. Whether it's saying "I DO" to the love of your life or hosting an outdoor concert, the Village Green is meant for you. Featuring a stage, walkway and small gazebo, the Village Green has a scenic prairie garden backdrop and is closely located to the Dining on the Green banquet hall which can serve as the perfect indoor complement to your outdoor event. Contact the Recreation, Parks & Community Health Department at 708.748.2005 to schedule your outdoor event today!



# PARK FOREST BARK DISTRICT

218TH ST. & WILDWOOD DR.  
PARK FOREST, IL 60466

Welcome to Park Forest Bark District, a place where humans and their canine companions can go to run, relax and socialize with other dogs.

The Park Forest Bark District is 3.5 acres, divided into two sections (small/large dogs), with 4 foot high fencing. The park features benches, drinking fountains, bags, waste receptacles and shade for yourself and your dog to utilize. A yearly membership may be purchased at Park Forest Recreation, Parks & Community Health Department.

350 Victory Drive  
Park Forest, IL 60466  
708.748.2005



## Membership Information

Hours are from Dawn to Dusk  
Annual permit (12 months)  
\$30/Park Forest Resident  
\$40/Non-Resident  
Replacement cards are \$10 if you lose or damage your card.

## Required Vaccinations:

- Bordetella
- Distemper
- Hepatitis
- Leptospirosis
- Para Influenza
- Parvo
- Rabies



The Bark District Park is restricted to members only. In order to obtain a membership a veterinarian issued record of immunizations must be submitted with membership application. Immunizations must be kept current and a copy submitted to the Recreation, Parks & Community Health Department.



## Paradise in Somonauk Park

Welcome to our little slice of heaven! We are so thankful you decided to choose to rent with us. Cozy pavilion situated in beautiful Park Forest area. Bring the family and enjoy your day with lots to do.

Seasonal spacious pavilion, with 8 picnic tables, two small grills, electrical outlets, kitchen and restrooms. You can also enjoy Somonauk's nature adventure park, all abilities playground, kayaking and fishing docks.

Enjoy the greenery provided and BBQ area to keep you relaxed and feeling like your at home backyard. Outdoor fire pit available. Situated in a residential area surrounded by nature.

Groups of 199 or less - \$20 per hour  
Groups of 200 or more - \$50 per hour (Additional fees may apply)

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need anything at all!

### LOCATION & ADDRESS

Somonauk St. & Sangamon St., Park Forest, IL 60466  
708.748.2005  
recinfo@vopf.com | www.villageofparkforest.com



## Family Fun at Central Park

Located on Lakewood Boulevard, just steps from some of Park Forest's most popular attractions like the Park Forest Public Library, Park Forest Aqua Center, and Freedom Hall, Central Park is a favorite among those looking for an easily found outdoor space capable of accommodating large or small groups.

### Central Park Pavilions

\*Groups over 99 people require renting both East and West Pavilions.

East Pavilion w/ Kitchen / 99 or less - \$20 per hour  
West Pavilion / Groups of 99 or less - \$15 per hour

\*Groups of 100-199 / East & West Pavilion together - \$35 per hour

\*Groups of 200 or more - \$50 per hour (additional fees may apply)

### LOCATION & ADDRESS

Lakewood Blvd., Park Forest, IL 60466  
708.748.2005  
recinfo@vopf.com | www.villageofparkforest.com



## Small Adventures at Logan Park

Located on North Street, just west of Orchard Drive, Logan Park Pavilion is not far off the beaten path, with a touch more privacy and less traffic than Central Park but not as tucked away as Somonauk Park.

Logan Park includes the following:

- Electrical outlets
- Four picnic tables
- One pavilion
- One small grill
- Public washroom building located just a few feet from the pavilion

Groups of 40 or less - \$10 per hour

Make your outing at Logan Park all the more special by bringing bikes, roller blades, or walking shoes, and take advantage of the renowned Old Plank Road Trail which intersects the center of Logan Park.

### LOCATION & ADDRESS

North St. & Orchard Dr., Park Forest, IL 60466  
708.748.2005  
recinfo@vopf.com | www.villageofparkforest.com

# BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

## ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS DEPARTMENT FUNCTION:

The Boards and Commissions of the Village provide feedback to the Village Board to help facilitate the decision and policy-making function of the Board. Park Forest residents volunteer to staff fifteen permanent commissions and several additional ad hoc commissions.

**Beautification Awards Committee** - The Beautification Award Committee evaluates and recognizes residents who take exceptional care of their property.

**Board of Fire and Police Commissioners** - tests, interviews, screens and creates new hire eligibility lists and promotion eligibility lists for vacancies in Fire and Police Departments.

The Board conducts disciplinary proceedings as may be necessary. Updates to their Rules and Regulations and the Police Promotional Manual will be made as needed.

**Cable Communications Commission** - records and broadcasts local programming on the access network. Provides policy direction to the administration of the cable franchise agreement. Provides policy input for franchise negotiations.

**Economic Development Advisory Group** - Assists the staff in developing an economic development plan for the Village and recommends policies to the Board of Trustees that will ensure the successful implementation of the plan.

**Environment Commission** - provides advice to the Mayor and Board of Trustees on matters pertaining to the enhancement, conservation and protection of the physical environment in the Village.

**Equal Employment Opportunity Review Board** - meets, as needed, to adjudicate complaints of local employment discrimination.

**Fair Housing Review Board** - meets, as needed, to adjudicate complaints of local housing discrimination.

**Housing Authority** - provides policy direction to the administration of housing programs designed for mid-low income residents of the Village.

**Human Relations** - provides policy direction to the administration of the Village's Fair Housing Ordinance, on a needed basis. Provides support to the Mediation Task Force, which mediates neighborhood disputes. Provides advice to Board of Trustees on diversity and human relations issues. Creates multi-cultural events and other programs, and assists with events that will encourage community engagement and increase awareness.

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board** - The Advisory Board's stated vision is "to provide opportunities for residents to cultivate an appreciation for nature, encourage healthy lifestyles and build community through recreation & parks." In fulfilling this vision, the R&P Advisory Board advises the Trustee Board on matters pertaining to parks and facilities.

**Planning and Zoning Commission** - develops the comprehensive plan and land use map for the Village, reviews all requests for land use changes, and makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees to ensure consistency with the plan and land use map. In 2017, the Planning and Zoning Commission assumed responsibility for all zoning appeals and making recommendations on major zoning variations.

**Senior Citizens Advisory Commission** - advises the Board of Trustees on matters pertaining to older adults in the Village.

**Veterans Commission** - The Veterans Commission studies matters pertaining to Veterans and makes presentations/recommendations to the Mayor and Board of Trustees as necessary.

This Commission assists in coordinating Veterans programming as may be deemed appropriate from time to time.

**Youth Commission** - advises the Board of Trustees on matters pertaining to the youth of the Village.

### Apply now to join a Board or Commission:

<https://www.villageofparkforest.com/forms.aspx?FID=83>



## VILLAGE MANAGER TOM MICK SET TO RETIRE IN JUNE OF 2025

**Colleagues continued thoughts on a dedicated professional and a cherished friend.**

- "Tom exemplified what it meant to be a leader in many regards. If there is one professional quality that impacted me the most, leadership is it. Tom's dedication to his family was always something I admired. In my conversations with him over the years and from looking from afar, I instituted a lot of what I observed in my own growth as a husband and a father." - Kevin Adams
- "Tom effectively guides and motivates staff thus fostering a positive team environment with those around him. Tom is a fair person who demonstrates impartiality, values honesty and make decisions based on transparency and respect." - Margaret Lewis
- "One professional quality I enjoy about Tom is his work ethic. First to arrive, last to leave, in attendance at every special event possible...he always put Park Forest first. Treating everyone like family is a personal quality I enjoy about Tom. Tom truly cares: always going the extra mile to be there for employees and provide support in good and bad times." - Traci Apt

## PHONE NUMBERS

<b>Aqua Center</b>	<b>708.503.7729</b>
30 N. Orchard	
<b>Building Department</b>	<b>708.503.7703</b>
350 Victory Drive	
<b>Police/Fire EMERGENCY</b>	<b>9-1-1</b>
<b>Police Non-emergency</b>	<b>708.748.4700</b>
200 Lakewood Blvd.	
<b>Fire Prevention Bureau</b>	<b>708.748.5605</b>
<b>Fire Chief</b>	<b>708.748.5606</b>
156 Indianwood Blvd.	
<b>Freedom Hall</b>	<b>708.747.0580</b>
410 Lakewood Blvd.	
<b>Health Department</b>	<b>708.748.1118</b>
350 Victory Drive	
<b>Jolly Trolley</b>	<b>708.748.4433</b>
<b>Library</b>	<b>708.748.3731</b>
400 Lakewood Blvd.	
<b>Parks Maintenance Garage</b>	<b>708.481.4088</b>
75 Park Street	
<b>Public Works Dept</b>	<b>708.503.7702</b>
350 Victory Drive	
<b>Recreation Center</b>	<b>708.748.2005</b>
215 Wilson St.	
<b>Recreation &amp; Parks Dept</b>	<b>708.748.2005</b>
350 Victory Drive	
<b>Tennis &amp; Health Club</b>	<b>708.481.6060</b>
Sauk Trail & Westwood Drive	
<b>Thorn Creek Nature Center</b>	<b>708.747.6320</b>
247 Monee Road	
<b>South Suburban Special Recreation (TDD)</b>	<b>815.806.0384 815.806.0389</b>
19910 80th Ave. Tinley Park IL 60487	
<b>Village Hall Offices</b>	<b>708.748.1112</b>
350 Victory Drive	
<b>Water Office</b>	<b>708.503.7700</b>
350 Victory Drive	

## RICH TOWNSHIP SHIRLEY GREEN SENIOR CENTER

297 LIBERTY DRIVE  
PARK FOREST, IL 60466  
708.748.5454  
WWW.RICHTOWNSHIP.ORG



### MAYOR

Joseph A. Woods

### VILLAGE TRUSTEES

Tiffani Graham  
Maya Hardy  
John V. Moore  
Theresa M. Settles  
Erin I. Slone  
Randall White

### VILLAGE CLERK

Sheila McGann

### VILLAGE MANAGER

Thomas Mick



**SOUTH SUBURBAN  
SPECIAL RECREATION  
ASSOCIATION**

19910 80th Ave  
Tinley Park, IL 60487  
Phone: 815.806.0384  
Fax: 815.806.0390  
711 (Illinois Relay System)  
www.sssra.org



Experience the delight of funnel cakes beyond the summer season with Gia's Treats' diverse and exquisite offerings, available year-round!

### Food Offerings

- Funnel Cakes- Plain or Loaded
- Funnel Cake Fries- Plain or Loaded
- Ice Cream Sundaes
- Nachos
- Chips and Cheese

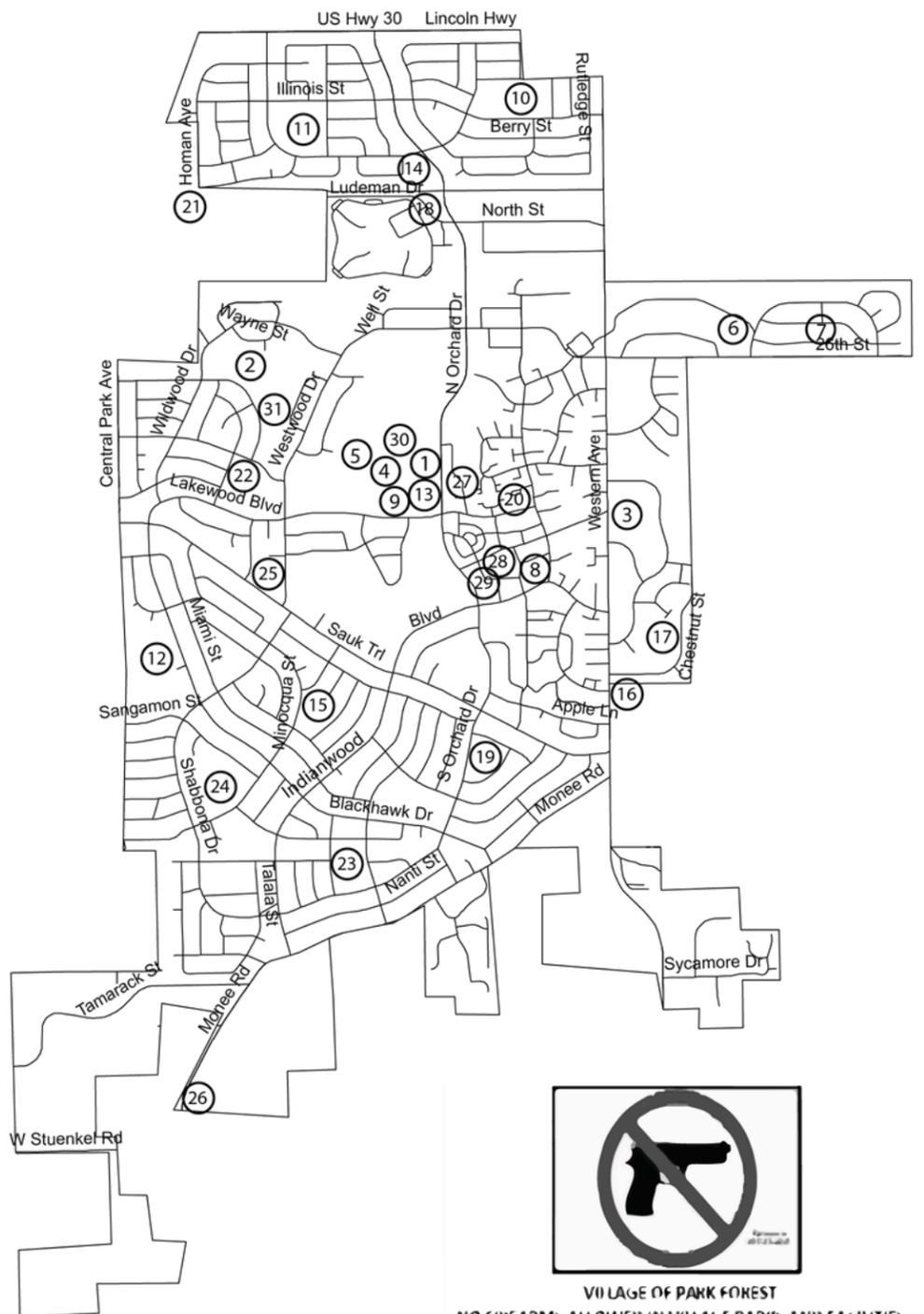
For more information, Email:  
giastreats3@gmail.com



## Parks/Facility Map

Aqua Center.....	1
Bark District (Dog Park).....	2
Cedar Park.....	3
Central Park*.....	4
Central Park Wetlands.....	5
Eastgate Park.....	6
Eastgate Tot Lot.....	7
Fire Department.....	8
Freedom Hall.....	9
Illinois Park School.....	10
Indiana Park School.....	11
Keokuk Park.....	12
Library.....	13
Logan Park*.....	14
Marquette Park.....	15
Memorial Park.....	16
Murphy Park.....	17
Old Plank Trail.....	18
Onarga Park.....	19
Police Department.....	20
Rail Fan Park.....	21
Recreation Center & Skate Park.....	22
Shabbona Park.....	23
Somonauk Park*.....	24
Tennis & Health Club.....	25
Thorn Creek Nature Center & Trails.....	26
Veterans Park.....	27
Village Green.....	28
Village Hall (Recreation & Parks).....	29
Wetlands Discovery Center.....	30
Winnebago Park.....	31

\*Parks with Pavilion



VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST  
NO FIREARMS ALLOWED IN VILLAGE PARKS AND FACILITIES

# Community Relations

## Winter/Spring Events



**Evelyn Randle,**  
**Community Relations Manager**  
350 Victory Drive  
Park Forest, IL 60466  
708.283.5621

**Look out for 2025:**

- Spring/Summer Calendar
- Fall/Winter Calendar
- Business Guide

### 1 JANUARY 2025

**Park Forest Oscar Awards** - Celebrate the shining stars of Park Forest at the annual Community Oscars! This prestigious event honors residents, organizations, and businesses who have made outstanding contributions to our town. Join us for an evening of inspiration and recognition as we acknowledge those who go above and beyond to make Park Forest a truly special place.

**Saturday, January 25th, 6-9 p.m.**



**Realtors Brunch** - Connect with fellow real estate professionals at our upcoming Realtors Brunch! Enjoy delicious food, lively conversation, and the opportunity to build valuable relationships within the industry. **Tuesday, March 25th**

### 2 FEBRUARY 2025

**Black Business Month**, Weekly activities/discounts/Give-a-away, **Saturday, February 1- Friday, February 28th.**

**Black History Month**



### 3 MARCH 2025

**Jazz, wine & Chocolate** - Escape the ordinary and immerse yourself in an evening of pure indulgence at our Jazz, Wine & Chocolate event. Savor the smooth sounds of live jazz while you sip on exquisite wines, perfectly paired with decadent chocolate creations. This is an experience designed to delight your palate and soothe your soul. **Friday, March 14th**

## 4 APRIL 2025

**Fair Housing Month** - Open Doors to Opportunity! This Fair Housing Month, join Park Forest in celebrating diversity and advocating for equal housing access for all. **Saturday, April 5th**

**Good Egg Award** - The Good Egg Awards are back! This annual tradition honors those individuals who exemplify the spirit of volunteerism and community service in Park Forest. Join us for an evening filled with inspiring stories, heartfelt tributes, and well-deserved recognition for the "good eggs" who make our town a brighter place. **Saturday, April 5th**

**Job Fair** - Jumpstart your career at the Park Forest Job Fair! Connect with local employers, explore exciting job opportunities, and gain valuable career advice. Whether you're a recent graduate, seasoned professional, or seeking a career change, this event is your gateway to new possibilities.

**Saturday, April 12th**

### 6 JUNE 2025

**Resident Appreciation Month**

**LGBTQ** - Join us for a vibrant celebration of LGBTQ+ Pride! This event brings together the community for a day of fun, music, and fellowship. Expect a diverse crowd, delicious food, and a space where everyone feels welcome and celebrated. **Saturday, June 7th**

**Resident BBQ** - Sizzle into summer at the Park Forest Resident BBQ! This free event is a great opportunity to connect with your neighbors, enjoy live music, and experience the warmth of our community. We'll have games for the kids, tasty treats for everyone, and a chance to relax and enjoy the beautiful outdoors. **Wednesday, June 11th**

**Pioneers Brunch** - Journey back to simpler times at our Pioneer Brunch! Enjoy hearty, classic dishes in a cozy atmosphere that evokes the American West. **Saturday, June 14th**

**House Music Event** - Get ready to move! Our House Music event brings the beats, the vibes, and the energy for a night of non-stop dancing. **Saturday, June 28th**



### 5 MAY 2025

**Community Bus Tour** - Discover the hidden gems and unique charm of Park Forest on our Community Bus Tour! This guided tour will showcase local landmarks, historical sites, vibrant neighborhoods, and exciting developments happening in our town. It's a fantastic opportunity to learn more about Park Forest and connect with your community. **Saturday, May 3rd**



**Housing Fair & House Tour** - Join us for a day of exploration and discovery at the Park Forest Housing Fair & House Tour! This exciting event features:

- **Open Houses:** Tour a variety of homes for sale, from charming bungalows to spacious family residences.
- **Housing Fair:** Meet with local realtors, lenders, and community organizations to gather valuable information and resources.
- **Neighborhood Tours:** Discover the unique character and amenities of Park Forest's diverse neighborhoods.

**Saturday, May 17th**

# EVENTS

**Park Forest Buzzes with Activity**  
Park Forest, IL - The vibrant community of Park Forest continues to hum with activity, offering a wide array of events and initiatives that cater to residents of all ages.

RECREATION, PARKS & COMMUNITY HEALTH PRESENTS

**ONE NIGHT ONLY**  
An Evening of Soul  
*Sandy Redd*  
as Shug Avery  
*Scholarship*  
**FUNDRAISER**  
**APRIL 25, 2025**  
**7-9 PM**

**THE  
COLOR  
PURPLE**  
TRIBUTE

**\$85 VIP**  
**\$60 GENERAL**

**TURN APPLAUSE INTO OPPORTUNITIES!**  
**TICKET SALES SUPPORT RPCH PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIPS.**  
**DONATE TODAY!**

**CELEBRATING PARK FOREST 75 YEARS LIVE, GROW, DISCOVER.**

**410 Lakewood Blvd., Park Forest, IL**  
Experience an unforgettable evening of soul as Sandy Redd embodies the spirit of Shug Avery! Get ready for a mesmerizing performance filled with passion, power, and pure talent. Grab VIP tickets to get early admittance, Photo with Sandy Redd and enjoy refreshments for this electrifying event that will stir your soul and leave you wanting more. Don't miss out on this chance to witness the magic of Sandy Redd as Shug Avery! **Register Today at [freedomhall.org](http://freedomhall.org) or call 708-748-2005 for more information**

With numerous events and initiatives on the horizon, Park Forest residents can look forward to a vibrant and engaging future. The village continues to evolve and grow while maintaining its unique character and strong sense of community.

12.2024  
06.2025

## We love Park Forest!

We have a profound love for the Park Forest Community and the great outdoors. Park Forest has been a home to so many families for 75 years and we are so excited to share it with the world.

In addition to park pavilion rentals, Recreation, Parks & Community Health offers an array of programs unmatched by most communities its size. Among the amenities are 3 Pavilions, Park Forest Aqua Center, 15 playground areas, a skateboard park, dog park, an indoor Tennis and Health Club, 20 park sites, Rail Fan Park, 1.2 mile stretch of Old Plank Road Trail and three miles of hiking trails in the Thorn Creek Nature Preserve & Nature Center. That's in addition to a 45-acre wetland restoration project and the preservation of nearly 12,000 trees on public lands throughout the Village.

Don't forgot Park Pavilion rentals start the first week of February from May to mid October.

See you Soon!

## Where to Rent

Rent the pavilion at Village Hall Recreation, Parks & Community Health Department located at 350 Victory Drive, Park Forest, IL 60466.

Full payment and government ID is needed to receive a permit for a specified date and time. Permits are Rain or Shine. No refunds will be provided for No call/No shows.

## Contact Us

Village of Park Forest  
Recreation, Parks & Community Health  
350 Victory Drive, Park Forest, IL  
www.villageofparkforest.com  
recinfo@vopf.com  
708.748.2005

## Amenities & Activities

Discover the enchantment of Park Forest, IL. The beautiful parks of Park Forest brims with spectacular views and a level of comfort found only in the awe-inspiring Park Forest. A great place to enjoy events and amenities like:

- Family Reunions
- Play Dates with Family & Friends
- BBQ
- Birthday Parties
- Camps
- Business Gatherings
- Romantic Date Night
- Picnics
- Free Parking
- Volleyball & Bean Bag toss set-up

Pavilions can be rented between the hours of 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Beginning and ending time on permit must include your set-up and clean-up time.

Quiet hours after 8 p.m.

**2025**

# Resident Only

## PARK PERMIT 3-DAY ONLY PRE-SALE

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 3 9AM-7:30PM TO WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 5 9AM-4PM**

The Park Forest Recreation, Parks and Community Health Department will hold a Resident's Only Park Permit 3-Day Only Pre-sale on Monday, February 3, 2025 to Wednesday, February 5, 2025. The event is held to allow Residents a first come, first serve opportunity to secure their preferred Park Forest Park Pavilion at Central Park, Somonauk Park or Logan Park.

Starting Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 9am Park Permit rentals will be open to the public.

Please bring a State ID to verify residency.

Please note that individuals are restricted to one picnic date per person, one super cooker and one picnic kit during pre-sale dates. Full payment is due at time of reserving a permit. No phone orders.

708-748-2005      350 Victory Drive, Park Forest, IL

# Park Forest News

## Get Ready for Park Forest's Annual Easter Eggstravaganza Hunt!

Park Forest, IL - Mark your calendars for the highly anticipated Easter Eggstravaganza, returning to Park Forest on Saturday, April 12, 2025! This beloved community event promises a day filled with fun, laughter, and plenty of Easter cheer for the whole family.

The Eggstravaganza, organized by the Park Forest Recreation, Parks & Community Health Department, will kick off at 11 AM at Village Green, 349 Main Street. Children of all ages are invited to participate in a variety of exciting activities, including:

- **Easter Egg Hunts:** The highlight of the day, with age-specific hunts ensuring everyone has a chance to collect colorful eggs filled with treats.
- **Photos with the Easter Bunny:** Capture precious memories with the Easter Bunny himself!
- **Games & Activities:** From face painting to crafts, there will be plenty of entertainment to keep the kids engaged.

"The Easter Eggstravaganza is a wonderful tradition that brings our community together to celebrate the spirit of Easter," said Kevin Adams, Director of Park Forest Recreation, Parks & Community Health. "We look forward to welcoming families from across Park Forest and beyond for a day of festive fun."

Be sure to arrive early to secure your spot and don't forget your Easter baskets! The Easter Eggstravaganza is a free event, open to the public.



**EASTER  
EGGSTRAVAGANZA  
HUNT**

*Arts & Crafts* *Bunny Costume Contest*

*Photo with Bunny* **SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH** *Raffle Giveaway*

*Goodie Bags* **TIME 11 AM**

**VILLAGE GREEN**  
**349 MAIN ST, PARK FOREST, IL 60466**  
**AGES 0-13**

CELEBRATING  
PARK FOREST  
**75**  
YEARS  
LIVE. GROW. DISCOVER.

The poster features a central illustration of three grey bunnies sitting on a large, colorful striped Easter egg. The egg is decorated with butterflies and surrounded by smaller colorful eggs. The background is a bright yellow-green with stylized trees and flowers.



**BIG SALE** **SHOP NOW AND SAVE**

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WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARD, ZELLE, AND CASH APP

**Park Forest**  
Live Grow Discover

# Mother's Day

## BRUNCH

**\$60**

Saturday, May 3, 2025

### BRUNCH & LIVE BAND 11AM

DINING ON THE GREEN  
349 MAIN ST  
PARK FOREST, IL 60466

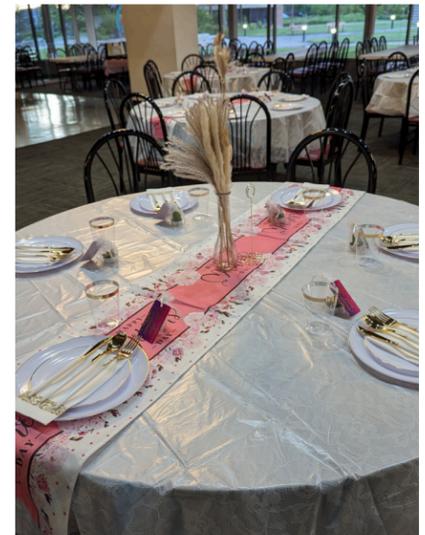
Celebrate Mom with a delectable brunch menu and performance by a local favorite band. Brunch will be served from 11am to 1pm. Show will be from 11am to 2pm. Enjoy fun games, raffles and a special Mother's Day gift. Limited spots available. Register today!

Program # 14201-02

Village of Park Forest-Recreation, Parks & Community Health  
350 Victory Drive, Park Forest, IL 60466  
708.748.2005

Show Mom how much you care with a day she'll truly cherish.

Our Mother's Day Brunch & Live Show at Dining on the Green has been a beloved tradition for the past three years, and this year promises to be even more special. Treat Mom to a delectable brunch buffet featuring fresh pastries, chicken & waffles, shrimp & grits and so much more. Then, delight in a captivating live performance. It's the perfect way to create lasting memories and celebrate the incredible woman who means the world to you.



**Paradise Desserts**  
A TASTE OF HEAVEN ON EARTH

Add Paradise to Your Life  
Call Now  
773.678-3248

@paradisedessertsllc Paradise Desserts, LLC

**Nika Tastee**

**NOW OPEN**

**Donnika Burden**  
217-615-6643  
[www.nikatastee.com](http://www.nikatastee.com)

Don't Miss Out! Our Mother's Day Brunch & Live Show is back, and seats are filling up fast! Treat Mom to a day of delicious food, captivating entertainment, and cherished memories at Dining on the Green.

Call 708.748.2005 to register today!

**Special Offer:** Reserve a table for 8 and receive a complimentary bottle of champagne and a personalized greeting for Mom!

**BREAKING  
NEWS**

# Park Forest News

**SPECIAL  
EDITION**

# PROGRAMS

*THE VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST RECREATION, PARKS & COMMUNITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT*



*PROVIDING DIVERSE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES*

The Village of Park Forest Recreation, Parks & Community Health Department recognizes the importance of providing accessible and engaging recreational programs for residents of all ages. We are committed to offering a wide variety of activities that promote physical and mental well-being, foster social connections, and enhance the overall quality of life in our community.

#### **Adult Programs:**

For adults seeking enriching experiences, we offer programs in music, dance, fitness, and opportunities for day trips and extended vacations. Additionally, Park Forest boasts an array of beautiful parks, including Somonauk Park, Central Park, Logan Park, Wetlands, Rail Fan Park, and a dedicated dog park, providing ample space for outdoor recreation and relaxation. The Tennis & Health Club and Freedom Hall Theater offer further options for leisure and entertainment.

#### **Youth Programs:**

The Village of Park Forest is equally dedicated to providing robust programming for our youth. Throughout the year, we offer opportunities for young residents to participate in sports such as basketball, volleyball, and tennis, as well as martial arts classes, performance arts, and engaging camps.

#### **Community Engagement and Program Expansion:**

We continuously strive to expand our program offerings and welcome community input. If you possess a skill or passion you would like to share by teaching a class or leading an activity, please reach out to our Recreation Supervisor, Kellen Thornton, at 708.748.2005. We are always seeking to collaborate with talented individuals who can contribute to the vibrancy of our recreational programming.

The Village of Park Forest Recreation, Parks & Community Health Department is dedicated to creating a fun and safe environment where residents of all ages can pursue their interests, develop new skills, and build lasting connections within the community.



# Community Health

## HEALTH SERVICES

### BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

2nd & 4th Thursday of each month  
11:30a.m.-12:30p.m. at Village Hall

### MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN CLOSET

Free to the community. All inventory is based on donated supply available at time of call – limited supply of incontinence products also (various sizes)

### COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

- Wellbeing checks on residents
- Food service health inspections (retail food, daycare and restaurants)
- Health monitoring of senior building residents
- Health information resource (diabetes, heart health and cancer)



### BLS HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS CPR CLASS

The BLS Healthcare Providers CPR class is intended for Healthcare Professionals who may require a completion card for their job, but anyone can register for the class. Topics include CPR and AED, Basic or Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support, Stroke training, and more.

Classes are taught by the Park Forest Fire Department.

**Park Forest Fire Department**  
**156 Indianwood Blvd**

**TIME**  
9 a.m.-12 p.m.

**DATES**  
SATURDAY

Jan. 18	14106-01
Mar. 15	14106-02
May. 17	24106-01
July 19	24106-03

**PRICE**  
\$65

Space is limited to 5 people. Register today!

### LINE DANCING

Get ready to groove with \*Dawn the Dancin' Deeva\*! Join our \*\*Beginners Line Dance\*\* class, where fitness meets fun in a high-energy, feel-good atmosphere. This moderately paced class is perfect for anyone looking to move their hips, legs, knees, and feet to the beat. Whether you're new to line dancing or just want to have a blast, you're welcome to dance at your own pace. With Dawn Avery leading the way, you're guaranteed to have a fantastic time while getting your workout in. Don't miss out—let's dance! Ages 18 & Over. Drop-in Fee Option: \$6 per class (Payable to the instructor)

Village of Park Forest,  
Lower Level Rooms 1 & 2  
**EVERY MONDAY EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS** 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**\$36 PER 6 WEEK SESSION**  
**\$6 DROP-IN PER CLASS**

- Dec 16 - Jan 27
- Feb 03 - Mar 17
- May 5 - June 16

### CARDIO DRUMMING, IBANG IWALK IDANCE

This workout is a 45-minute series. You can burn between 600-900 calories per hour, strengthen and sculpt muscles and drum your way to a leaner, slimmer you all while rocking out to great music. The class now incorporates high-intensity walking!

This class is great for all ages and levels. This is a no-contact program.

A drop-in fee is available for \$15 per class - payable to the instructor (cash only). Drop-in students must have their own equipment (65 cm exercise ball, bucket and drumsticks).

### All Ages

- **Feb 1-Mar 15** 10 a.m. 12706-02
- **May 3-Jun 14** 10 a.m. 12706-03

Village Hall, Lower Level Rooms

### MONTHLY HEALTH STOP

**Village Hall, Lower Level**  
**350 Victory Drive**  
**FREE**

Monthly a health topic will be discussed for health promotion and disease prevention.

- **Jan 21:** Strive for a healthy weight
- **Feb 18:** Be involved in your health care: Know your medicines
- **March 18:** Eat wisely
- **April 15:** Be physically active
- **May 20:** Sleep well
- **June 17:** Limit alcohol

Call 708.748.2005 for more information.

### VITALANT BLOOD DRIVE

**Village Hall Boardroom,**  
**350 Victory Drive**  
**Dec. 12, 2025, 10-3 p.m., Free**  
The Knights of Columbus - Nina Council #3602 is hosting a blood drive coordinated with Vitalant (formerly Life Source).

### EMBRACING CHANGE: YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS NOW

**Dining on the Green,**  
**349 Main Street, Park Forest**  
**FREE**

12 month, 2025 series designed to educate and empower older adults, families, care givers and senior care providers.

- **Mar 25:** Embracing change introduction & overview
- **Apr 22:** Embracing financial wellness in retirement
- **May 23:** Mental Health, wellness ad healthy aging
- **Jun 24:** End of life planning, advance directives & legacy
- **Jul 22:** Navigating aging services-Medicare, home health & home care
- **Aug 26:** Navigating housing services-downsizing & senior living options
- **Sep 23:** Elderly rights and advocacy: Protecting your loved ones
- **Oct 28:** End of life care: Hospice care & choices
- **Nov 25:** Family caregiver support services and resources
- **Dec 23:** Estate Planning-Legal and Financial

Call 708.748.2005 for more information.

**Beginning Blues Harmonica**

Discover the joy of playing the harmonica in this fun, beginner-friendly class! Learn essential harmonica techniques like playing clear single notes, tongue blocking, and jamming along to the classic 12-bar blues progression. We'll also dive into more advanced skills like bending notes and playing octaves. No prior musical experience needed—just bring a C diatonic harmonica, your enthusiasm for the blues, and a good pair of ears! Led by the talented Clement Bashir, this class will have you playing in no time. Private lessons are available upon request.

**Village Hall Lower Level,**

350 Victory Drive  
 Tuesday's 6-7 p.m. \$100 PP  
 8 Week Session

- Nov 19 - Jan 07 No Class 12/26
- Jan 14 - Mar 04
- Mar 11 - Apr 29
- May 06 - Jun 24

Call 708.748.2005 for more information or to register.

**The Inspired dance**

(InspireDANCE) program will fulfill the needs and desires of students with the passion and gift to dance but the limited ability in technical training. This dance program will provide a positive outlet for you to express yourself through movement and creative storytelling. If you love liturgical dancing then this is the class for you. This is a no contact program. Program is led by Charisma Dance Studio.

**Village Hall, Lower Level**

Saturday's

**Ages 6-12 \$45 pp**

11701-05 9 a.m. Feb 1- Mar 15  
 11701-07 9 a.m. May 3 - Jun 14

**Ages 13 & Up \$55 pp**

11701-06 11 a.m. Feb 1- Mar 15  
 11701-08 11 a.m. May 3 - Jun 14



**MAMA'S BIRD PERFORMING ARTS CAMP**

The Mama's Birds Performing Arts Youth Summer Program IS BACK!!! Providing singing, dancing, acting and song writing lessons, stage presence coaching, free studio recording, free photo shoots, image and bio development all led by experienced instructors who work in the industry! To top it all off... a BIG FINALE SHOWCASE. Payment plans available of only \$35 per week (one-time \$10 payment plan fee applicable)! Ages 7 to 18 and ONLY 25 SPOTS AVAILABLE...CLASSES FILL QUICKLY SO REGISTER TODAY.

\*Payment Plan: A \$35 deposit (per person) with the balance due by July 31, 2025. An additional non-refundable \$10 payment plan fee is due at registration. Online registration is not available for the payment plan option. Please register in-person at the Recreation & Parks Department to complete the payment plan paperwork.

**Village Hall Lower Level,**

350 Victory Drive  
**Jun 17 - Jul 31 \$100 PP**

**24008-01 Tues/Wed/Thurs**

10 a.m.-12:30 a.m. \$240 7-13

**24008-02 Tues/Wed/Thurs**

12:30 p.m.-3 p.m. \$240 14-18

**Park Forest Summer Camp!**

**CAMPALOOZA KIDS SUMMER CAMP**

**\$300 DEPOSIT**  
**Age 6-13**  
 26002-01

Start **JUNE 16, 2025** M-F  
 End **AUGUST 4, 2025** 9 AM - 4PM  
 Admission **\$965** Closed 6/19 & 7/4

**Activities**  
 ✓ STEM & Performing Arts  
 ✓ Sports & Fitness  
 ✓ Field Trips  
 ✓ Swimming  
 ✓ Lunch & Afternoon Snack

**RPCH Recreation Center**  
 215 Wilson St.  
 Park Forest, IL 60466  
 Door #21  
**Registration**  
 708.748.2005

**CELEBRATING 75 YEARS**

**More Information** [www.villageofparkforest.com](http://www.villageofparkforest.com)

**FIELDCREST**  
 DANCE • ACTING • MODELING • ETIQUETTE

Presents....

**HIP-HOP & BALLET**

**Village Hall Lower Level,**  
 350 Victory Drive  
**Staring spring of 2025**  
**April 2, 2025 to May 14, 2025**

**Class 1:** Ballet/Hip-Hop, Ages 3-5  
**Class 2:** Hip-Hop, Ages 6+

Call 708.748.2005 for more information or to register.

Adina  
McCollough

# Park Forest News

Kellen  
Thornton

## Celebrating 10 Years TEEN ZONE

### TEEN ZONE: 10 YEARS OF EMPOWERING YOUTH!

#### -Park Forest Celebrates a Decade of Empowering Youth: #TeenZone's 10th Anniversary!

#TeenZone is proudly celebrating ten years of empowering the youth of Park Forest with a history filled with transformative programs and meaningful experiences. What began at the Park Forest Public Library in 2013 has grown into a cornerstone of the community, fostering personal growth, education, and essential life skills. In 2014, with the assistance of the Park Forest Police Department, #TeenZone officially transitioned to Recreation, Parks, and Community Health, where it now operates from the Recreation Center inside Michelle Obama Middle School.

During its early years, the Park Forest Police Department played a crucial role in #TeenZone's success, particularly through violence prevention initiatives. Today, the program continues to evolve, offering a variety of activities that resonate with the teens.

#### Our Key Programs Have Included:

- Sports and Recreation: #TeenZone has a strong focus on sports, where teens can enjoy basketball, volleyball, dodgeball, and even video games for some friendly competition and fun.



- Teen Jobs Connection Program: Through this initiative, teens have helped local seniors with tasks such as snow shoveling, lawn care, and garden cleanup, teaching them responsibility and community service.
- Homework Help and STEM Programming: We offer academic support and hands-on technology learning to prepare teens for future challenges.
- Life Skills Classes: From healthy cooking to personal finance, these classes equip teens with skills for everyday life.
- College and Trade Tours: In partnership with Rich Township 227, we've led local college tours to Dawson Technical Institute and Prairie State College, as well as trade sessions with organizations like the Local Plumbers Union.
- HBCU College Tours: We've taken teens on inspiring tours to cities like Atlanta, New Orleans, and Jackson, Mississippi, where they stayed in Airbnb mansions to show them the opportunities available through hard work. We are excited to bring this tour back next year, with limited space available!
- Outdoor Adventures: Our overnight camping trips have helped teens build connections with nature, learn outdoor skills, and bond with one another.
- Special Events: Events like our annual trip to Fright Fest have been a highlight for participants, creating fun memories.

Our partnership with organizations like **4-H and Junior Achievement** have introduced entrepreneurship and cooking classes, including the Healthy Cooking Enrichment Program. We've hosted speaker series with local leaders and provided CPR training to ensure our teens are equipped with critical life-saving skills.

**The OAI Makers Class**, introduced during our summer program, was a huge success, allowing teens to explore their creativity and innovation. Our previous summer activities at the Park Forest Tennis and Health Club have also offered opportunities for physical activity and community building.

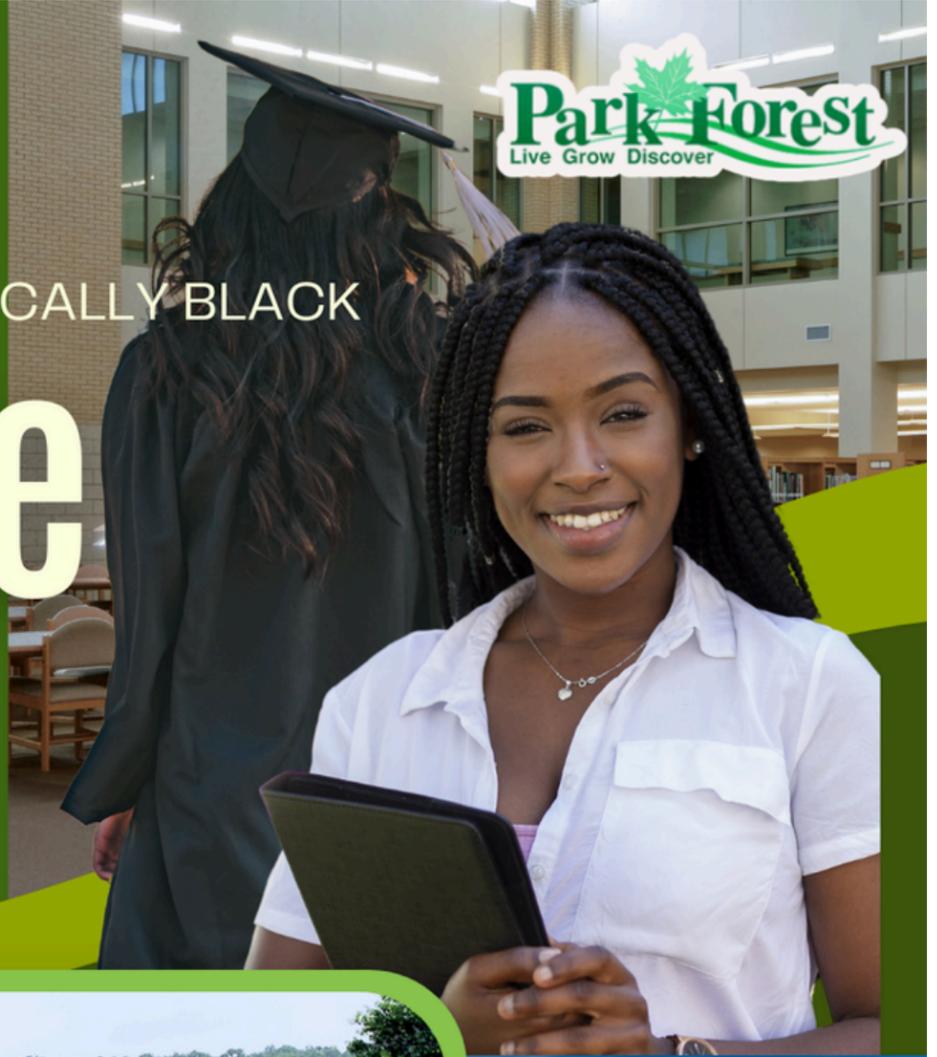
As we celebrate our 10th anniversary, we are excited to bring back many of these beloved programs while introducing new ones that will meet the evolving needs of our teens. Stay tuned for more announcements, and get ready for a year filled with growth, opportunities, and fun!



# 2025

SPRING SOUTHERN HISTORICALLY BLACK

# College Tour



## APRIL 18 TO APRIL 27, 2025

We are thrilled to announce our 2025 Spring Southern Historically Black College Tour, designed to empower ambitious individuals like you to achieve your academic goals. Visit top schools in Alabama, Atlanta, New Orleans and Mississippi. Don't wait. Enroll Today!

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- 8TH TO 12TH GRADE ✓
- TRAVEL & LODGING ✓
- BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROVIDED DAILY ✓
- ADDITIONAL ENTERTAINMENT & ACTIVITIES ✓
- 24 HOURS A DAY ADULT CHAPERONES ✓
- ONLY 25 SPOTS ✓

## \$300 DOWN

- PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE
- \$750 PER PERSON
- \$10 Payment Plan Fee

[WWW.VILLAGEOFPAKFOREST.COM](http://WWW.VILLAGEOFPAKFOREST.COM) | 708.748.2005



# PARK FOREST NEWS

PARK FOREST  
NEWS

# Park Forest News

SPECIAL  
EDITION

ISSUE WIS 2025      SPECIAL EDITION      DEC 2024 - JUN 2025

# SPORTS



## MEET JIMMIE BOWEN

Jimmie Bowen: A Decade of Dedication to Park Forest Youth Basketball

For over 10 years, Bowen has been a cornerstone of the Village of Park Forest's youth basketball programs. His unwavering dedication to coaching and mentoring young athletes has left an indelible mark on the community.

Bowen's passion for basketball is evident in every practice and game.

He instills in his players not only the fundamentals of the sport but also valuable life lessons such as teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship. His coaching style is characterized by a positive and encouraging approach, a focus on individual player development and constant communication with parents. He believes in fostering a love for the game while nurturing the potential of each child, regardless of their skill level.

Over the years, Bowen has witnessed countless young athletes grow and develop under his guidance. He takes immense pride in their accomplishments, both on and off the court. He measures success not solely by wins and losses but by the positive impact he has on the lives of his players.

Bowen's commitment to Park Forest's youth extends beyond the basketball court. He is a respected figure in the community, known for his integrity, kindness, and dedication to youth development. His influence on generations of young players has helped shape the character and values of the community.

The Village of Park Forest is fortunate to have Bowen as a dedicated coach and mentor. His contributions to youth basketball have enriched the lives of countless children and made a lasting impact on the community.





## The Grind House' Youth Basketball League

**Three Communities.  
One League.  
One Goal.**

The YBL is a recreational league for boys and girls in 1st-8th grades. Participants will learn the importance of teamwork and good sportsmanship as well as passing, shooting, ball-handling and defense.

The boys and girls will be assigned to a team that will play in competitive games with standings being updated weekly. Most games are played on Saturday mornings/afternoons.

All participants will receive a uniform. Basketball awards are distributed at season end. Registration deadline is November 15th. Register online or call 748.2005. For additional information visit, [villageofparkforest.com](http://villageofparkforest.com).

### 215 WILSON ST. DOOR 20

**\$125 PER CHILD**

**Mondays, 1st-2nd grade, 6p.m.**

11/18/24\*-3/22/25 #13036-01

**Wednesday, 3rd-4th grade, 6p.m.**

11/20/24\*-3/22/25 #13036-02

**Mondays, 5th-6th grade, 7:30p.m.**

11/18/24\*-3/22/25 #13036-03

**Wednesday, 7th-8th grade, 7:30 p.m.**

11/20/24\*-3/22/25 #13036-04

\* indicates mandatory draft day

### The Grind House' Spring

**Basketball Camp** is a 6-week basketball camp for grades Pre-K to Kindergarten, 1st-2nd and 3rd-4th. This instructional program will teach your young hoop star the basics of the sport including dribbling, shooting and defensive principles (advanced principles will be used for advanced players) and better prepare them for sport. Only 20 spots per time block for this program, so sign up early! Face masks are optional.

### Recreation Center, 215 Wilson St., Door 20

APR 14 - MAY 21 6 WKS Mon, Wed

13018-01 PRE-K-KG \$125 M 6-7

13018-02 1ST-2ND \$125 M 7-8

13018-03 3RD-4TH \$125 W 6-7

13018-04 5TH-6TH \$125 W 7-8



### Spike Volleyball Spring/Summer

**Camp** is a 6-week basic skills camp for Ages 11-18. This development camp will focus on serving, passing, setting, spiking, blocking, and digging. This volleyball camp will get you ready for advancement into our spring camp that will prepare you for the summer and fall league. Only 30 spots available. Sign up today to guarantee your spot. Contact 708.748.2005 for payment plan options.

### Recreation Center, 215 Wilson St., Door 20

#### Apr 4 - May 17

3rd-6th \$200 8 WKS  
13015-01 FRI 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

7th-12th \$200 8 WKS  
13015-02 FRI/SAT 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### Jun 13 - Jul 19

3rd-6th \$200 8 WKS  
23015-01 FRI 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

7th-12th \$200 8 WKS  
23015-02 FRI/SAT 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Taekwondo** is a Korean-style method of unarmed self-defense and sport. The Word Tae means leg (foot), Kwon means hand (or fist), and Do stands for the way of mental discipline to repel aggression. It is also an Olympic Sport. Taekwondo does not mean fighting, but it symbolizes the cultivation of a well-rounded character in its practitioners through self-respect, an indomitable spirit of discipline, coordination, and control.

The program is led by World Champion Master Ben Effiok.

Uniform is required at an additional fee of \$65, due first day of class to the instructor (One-time fee. Fee subject to change). Belt testing will take place twice per year. Cost is \$50 to test.

### Village of Park Forest, Lower Level Rooms 1 & 2, 350 Victory Drive

- FEB 03 - APR 21
- APR 28 - JUL 14

#### AGES 4+ \$120 12 Weeks

5-6 p.m. Monday's 23201-01  
6-7 p.m. Monday's 23201-02

# FLAG FOOTBALL

COMING TO PARK FOREST

## SPRING OF 2025

AGES: 5-10 YEARS OLD

708-748-2005

VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED

[www.villageofparkforest.com](http://www.villageofparkforest.com)



*TRIPS*

# Park Forest News

*SPECIAL  
EDITION*

*ISSUE: WIS 2025*

*TRAVEL WITH PARK FOREST*

*DEC 2024-JUN 2025*



## **CHART NEW TERRITORIES**

Discover uncharted worlds. Venture beyond the known, from oceans to peaks. Embrace exploration and start your journey today.



## **DISCOVER INNER STRENGTH**

Explore deeply to discover both new places and yourself. Overcome challenges to reveal hidden strengths and grow in resilience and confidence.



## **EMBRACE THE UNEXPECTED**

Embrace the unexpected on your journey. Every surprise encounter with wildlife, unplanned detour, or sudden change in weather adds thrill.



*PARK FOREST NEWS*

## Come Travel with Park Forest!

At Park Forest, we are thrilled to announce an array of upcoming day trips, weekend getaways, and exclusive international excursions.

Join us for unforgettable journeys to destinations near and far!

- Explore charming cities on our day trips
- Relax and recharge on weekend getaways
- Immerse yourself in new cultures on exclusive international excursions

Our travel program is designed with you in mind, offering unforgettable experiences to destinations near and far. Whether you're seeking a day of exploration in a nearby city, a relaxing weekend escape, or an immersive cultural journey abroad, we have something for everyone.

With Park Forest, the world is your oyster. From historic landmarks to breathtaking landscapes, there's something for everyone to discover.

We invite you to join us on these remarkable journeys, where you'll create memories to last a lifetime and forge new friendships along the way. To stay informed about upcoming trips and to secure your spot, we encourage you to visit our website at [www.villageofparkforest.com](http://www.villageofparkforest.com). There, you'll find trip updates, detailed itineraries, and an easy sign-up process.

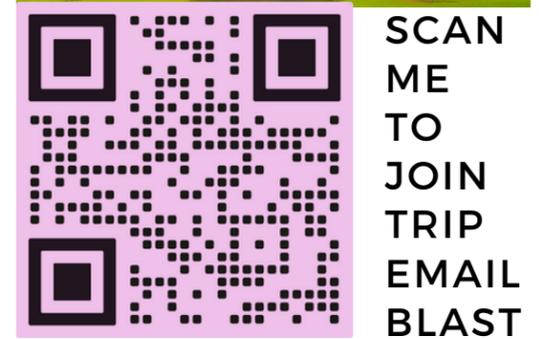
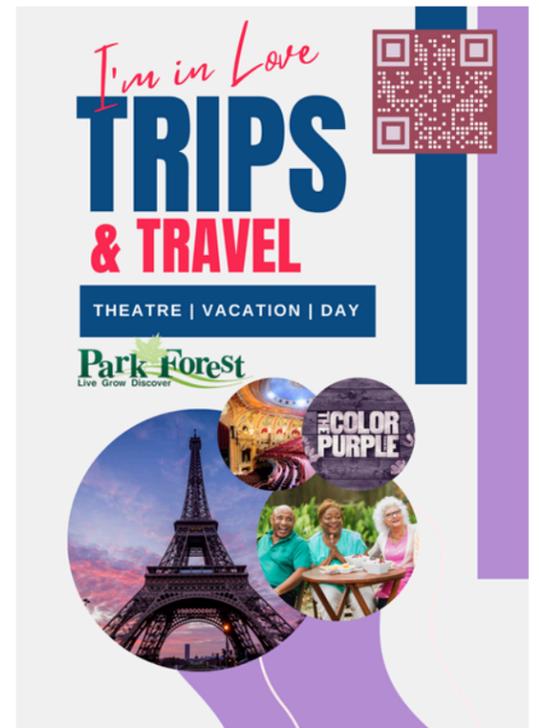
Additionally, we invite you to subscribe to our email blast to receive timely updates about upcoming trips as soon as they are available. Simply visit our website and sign up to stay in the loop about all things travel-related with Park Forest.

We look forward to welcoming you aboard and embarking on these exciting adventures together. If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Pack your bags and let's explore together. Adventure awaits with Park Forest!

Happy travels!

Adina McCollough,  
Trip Coordinator



# Panafest

Accra, Ghana  
July 23rd - August 3rd 2025



## Join Us for Our Second Journey of a Lifetime!

We're thrilled to invite you to be part of the Ghana Pilgrimage, Atonement, and Homecoming Experience Tour 2025—an unforgettable 10-day adventure where history, culture, and self-discovery come together. After the life-changing experiences of our first journey, we're returning for another powerful experience, and we want you to join us!

Explore the vibrant city of Accra, walk through historic sites like the W.E.B. Du Bois Center, and pay tribute to our ancestors at Salaga and Elmina Castle. You'll participate in a traditional African naming ceremony and experience the incredible Emancipation Durbar. This tour is designed to deepen your connection to African history and culture while creating memories that will last a lifetime.

### What's Included:

- Round-trip flights to Ghana
- Visa fees
- Round-trip transportation from Park Forest to O'Hare International Airport
- Comfortable accommodations at 4/3-star hotels
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- All guided tours and entry fees

### Important Registration Details:

- Please provide your full name as it appears on your passport, along with a copy of your passport.
- Insurance is strongly encouraged and must be purchased at the time of registration, as there are no refunds.
- **Registration Deadline: May 30th**

### Fees:

- **Deposit** **\$500**
- **Double Occupancy** **\$5,200**
- **Single Occupancy** **\$6,000**
- **Allianz Travel Insurance** **\$500**

Secure your spot today and get ready for a life-changing experience on this incredible journey!



Advertise  
With  
Us



Teresa Brown, RPCH  
708.748.2005  
tlucas@vopf.com



# Main Street Market

## Accepting Applications

Grow your business at the Main Street Market! We're seeking talented vendors offering unique products, delicious food, and handcrafted goods for the 2025 season.

Applications available starting mid-March.

Benefits of joining:

- Exposure to a large, engaged audience
- Prime location in the heart of Park Forest
- Supportive community of vendors

Call for more information: 708-748-2005 or Email: mlewis@vopf.com



2025 MAY-OCTOBER

152 MAIN ST, PARK FOREST  
(NEXT DOOR TO DOLLAR GENERAL)



IN SEARCH OF:

- PRODUCE FARMERS
- FRESH FLOWER VENDORS
- HANDMADE ITEMS
- FOOD VENDORS

