



Park Forest

Live Grow Discover

Summer Preview

2025

Village of Park Forest
350 Victory Drive, Park Forest, IL

www.villageofparkforest.com

Recreation, Parks & Community Health

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.

Recreation, Parks & Community Health Administrative Staff - 708.748.2005

Kevin Adams - Director	Ext. 5650
Adina McCollough - Recreation Manager	Ext. 5649
Kellen Thornton - Recreation Supervisor	Ext. 5693
Celestra Warren - Recreation Supervisor	Ext. 5663
Teresa Brown - Administrative Assistant II	Ext. 5651
Margarita Guzman - Administrative Assistant I	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

Welcome!

TO PARK FOREST



Recreation, Parks & Community Health
350 Victory Dr. Park Forest, IL 60466
708.748.2005
www.villageofparkforest.com
facebook.com/pfrecandparks

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

Phone Numbers:

Aqua Center 708.503.7729 30 N. Orchard Dr.	Tennis & Health Club 708.481.6060 290 Westwood Dr.	Thorn Creek Nature Center 708.747.6320 247 Monee Rd.
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Freedom Hall
708.747.0580
410 Lakewood Blvd.

Village Hall
708.748.1112
350 Victory Dr.

Online Registration

1. Visit: 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

Advertise With Us



Teresa Brown, RPCH
708.748.2005
tlucas@vopf.com

HAPPY RETIREMENT TOM



May this new phase bring fulfillment, cherished moments, and endless relaxation your way.

Thank you **Tom Mick** for
27 years of service



WELCOME **JON KINDSETH** PARK FOREST VILLAGE MANAGER

In a major leadership transition, the Village of Park Forest has officially named Jon Kindseth as its next Village Manager, following a unanimous vote by the Board of Trustees during Monday night's meeting. Kindseth succeeds longtime Village Manager Tom Mick, whose 27 years of dedicated service will come to a close on June 20.

Kindseth brings with him over 15 years of experience in local government, most recently serving as Deputy City Manager in Decatur, Illinois. His career also includes leadership roles in Beach Park as Village Administrator and Highwood as Assistant to the City Manager. He holds a Master of Public Administration from Northern Illinois University and a Bachelor's degree from Illinois State University. The appointment marks the culmination of a nationwide recruitment process, managed by consulting firm MGT. Out of 62 original applicants, the candidate pool was narrowed to 11, then six semi-finalists, and ultimately two finalists. Kindseth rose to the top following a series of interviews with board members and department heads.

Kindseth addressed the community for the first time at a Monday's board meeting stating: "It really is an honor and a privilege to be able to serve the Village Board, the businesses, and the residents, who have been so well represented in the past. I hope to continue the great work the Village Board has done to carry Park Forest forward." He added, "I'm humbled by this opportunity to lead such a remarkable team that Mr. Mick has assembled. I've never encountered a more professional staff dedicated to their jobs."

Kindseth will officially stepped into his new role as Village Manager on June 23. Stay tuned for more updates as Park Forest enters this exciting new chapter of leadership.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

UPCOMING EVENTS

For **SUMMER**



JUN 28 HOUSE MUSIC

Park Forest Downtown (349 Main St), Sat, June 28, 1-10pm: Free house music festival (DJs, food, high energy). \$20 parking. Register to attend. Details/RSVP: 708.283.5621 / erandle@vopf.com.

JUL 12 BUS TOUR

Explore Park Forest with guided tours (10am-1pm & 2-5pm) on Saturday, July 12 at Village Hall (350 Victory Dr). See homes and discover community charm. RSVP: 708.283.5621 / erandle@vopf.com.

JUL 12 LINE DANCING & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Cool off with Rainbow Cone and family fun at the Ice Cream Social on the Green (349 Main St), Saturday, July 12, Noon-2pm. Details: 708.283.5621 / erandle@vopf.com.

JUL 19 SUNSET SOIREE

5th Annual Sunset Soiree: All-white outdoor dining (catered dinner & wine) with live band & DJ at Village Green (350 Victory Dr), Sat, July 19, 7-10pm. Cigar area for men. Register early - already half sold out! RSVP/Info: 708.283.5621 / erandle@vopf.com.

AUG 16 RIBS & BLUES FEST

Eat BBQ and groove to live blues music at the Park Forest Downtown Festival (349 Main St) on Saturday, August 16, 11am-6pm. Info: 708.283.5621 / erandle@vopf.com.

SEP 13 WINE & FOOD CRAWL

Foodie alert! Take a self-guided tour of Park Forest's top eats and sips on Saturday, September 13, 3-7pm. Begins at Village Hall (350 Victory Dr), ends Downtown (349 Main St). RSVP/Info: 708.283.5621 / erandle@vopf.com.

SEP 16 TACO TUESDAY

Free Tacos at Village Hall (350 Victory Dr) - Tuesday, September 16, Noon! Get them before they're gone. Info: 708.283.5621 / erandle@vopf.com.

SAVE THE DATE PARK FOREST OSCAR AWARDS

Celebrate community heroes at a glamorous recognition night! Friday, January 24, 2026, 6-9pm at Village Hall (350 Victory Dr). RSVP/Info: 708.283.5621 / erandle@vopf.com.



PARK FOREST PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUMMER EVENTS



Cookout Cuisine & Sauces w/Chef Susan Maddox

Live Summer Cookout Demo with Chef Susan Maddox: Sat, June 28, 1-2pm at the library. Registration required. Contact katherine.goosby@pfpl.org or visit pfpl.org.

Insect Petting Zoo

Insect Petting Zoo (U of I Extension):
Wed, July 9, 4:30-5:30pm at the library.
Touch and hold unusual bugs like beetles, roaches, millipedes, and see a tarantula. Registration required: sarah.weiner@pfpl.org or pfpl.org.

Improv Show

Enjoy a fun improv show by Classic Kryzzie (It's Improv Baby!) at the library, Saturday, July 26th, 1:30-2:30pm.
Register: katherine.goosby@pfpl.org or pfpl.org.

Summer Reading Finale w/ Science Heroes

Summer Reading Finale: Science Heroes present "Adventure of the Missing Color" (interactive science show) at the library, Friday, August 1, 12-1pm.
Registration required: nikki.coleman@pfpl.org or pfpl.org.

Park Forest Public Library
400 Lakewood Blvd
Park Forest, IL 60466
[\(708\) 748-3731](tel:(708)748-3731)

Health & Wellness w/Dr. Vaught

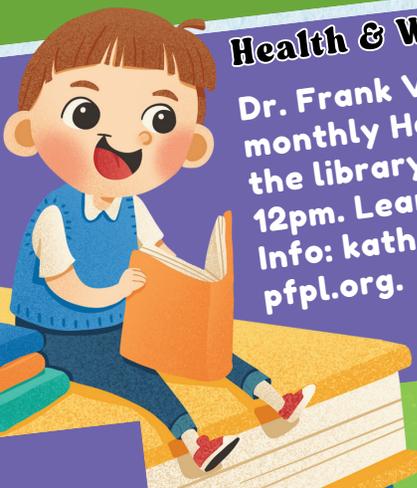
Dr. Frank Vaught presents his monthly Health & Wellness talk at the library, Tuesday, August 5, 11am-12pm. Learn tips for better health. Info: katherine.goosby@pfpl.org or pfpl.org.

Local Author Fair

Meet local south suburban authors at the library on Saturday, August 30, 11am-3pm. Discover new books and attend presentations. Info: sarah.weiner@pfpl.org or pfpl.org.

Library Card Sign-up Month

September 1- September 30
Stop by and sign up for a library card to take advantage of all that we have to offer here at the Park Forest Public Library!



www.pfpl.org

SOUNDTRACK OF THE SUMMER

Main Street Nights 2025

DOWNTOWN PARK FOREST, IL



9 FREE Weekly Concerts

WEDNESDAYS / JUNE 11 - AUGUST 6

6:30PM OPENING ACT | 7:30PM MAIN STAGE
VILLAGE GREEN (CUNNINGHAM & MAIN STREET)

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD TRUCKS, VENDORS, KIDDY RIDES, & FAMILY FUN!

Park Forest
Live Grow Discover



JUNE 11 PARK N RIDE

Park n Ride, featuring Joyce Hurley, is a Chicago-based band known for their outstanding performances of R&B and gospel music.

RESIDENT APPRECIATION DAY BBQ CELEBRATION

JUNE 18 MIDNIGHT SUN BAND

Established in 1976, The Midnight Sun is a Chicago music institution composed of elite funk, soul, and R&B musicians who have backed legendary artists such as The Isley Brothers, Aretha Franklin, Buddy Guy, and many more.

JUNE 25 MELODY ANGEL

Melody Angel, a powerhouse of "electric church music," electrifies global stages with soulful vocals and guitar brilliance. Her self-titled album and tour have captivated audiences worldwide, earning her comparisons to Jimi Hendrix and Prince.

JULY 4 CARLA PRATHER

Chicago legend Carla Prather is a singer, songwriter, vocal producer, teacher, and mentor with decades of experience, having shared the stage with icons like Roy Ayers, Common, and Erykah Badu.

NATHAN MANILOW THEATRE
at **FREEDOM HALL**

Freedom Hall

Presented by:
Victor Blackful

Contact:
www.freedomhall.org
708.747.0580

Location:
410 Lakewood Blvd
Park Forest, IL



**JULY
9**

**JOVAN
WATSON**

Chicago-based Javon Watson is a highly talented and creative musician/vocalist/performer known for his smooth singing style and ability to captivate diverse audiences, leaving them with a memorable experience.

**JULY
16**

**GOVSTATE
NIGHT**

A top Midwest live band since 1998, Maggie Speaks offers experienced and customizable musical entertainment for events across the US and globally, having performed with artists such as Earth Wind and Fire and .38 Special.

**JULY
23**

BERNIE GLIM

Blue Island-born Bernie John Glim has performed since getting his first guitar at twelve. A graduate of the American and Chicago Conservatories, his Chicago stage work includes Free Street, Pheasant Run, and Drury Lane Theatres.

**JULY
30**

**BLOOZE
BROTHERS**

For over three decades, Chicagoland's Blooze Brothers has been a top show band, honoring the music and spirit of the original Blues Brothers by fusing blues, soul, and rock into an energetic stage show enjoyed by thousands annually in Chicago and beyond.

**AUG
6**

**FREDDY
TAYLOR**

Chicago vocalist Fredi Taylor, a performer since childhood, is a dynamic local and national artist known for high-energy R&B shows with top musicians. Celebrating 25 years in music, her current project features Nu Source Band.

**AUG
13**

**MIDNIGHT SUN
BAND**

Established in 1976, The Midnight Sun is a Chicago music institution composed of elite funk, soul, and R&B musicians who have backed legendary artists such as The Isley Brothers, Aretha Franklin, Buddy Guy, and many more.



THORN CREEK NATURE CENTER

247 Monee Road, Park Forest, IL 60466
708-747-6320
thorn_creek@att.net | 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.

JUNE 2025



WOMEN OF THE WOODS: A NATURE RETREAT

Women & Girls Spring Woodland Hike: Sunday, June 1, 9:30am-noon. Explore the awakening woods (birds, sun, leaves, wildflowers) on a 3-mile natural trail. **\$5 per person. Register by May 26.**

PRAIRIE SAMPLER AND TRAIL WORKDAY

Thorn Creek Workday: Help with boardwalk repair, trail maintenance, and gardening (prairie/butterfly). Sun, June 8, 1-3pm. Bring gloves/tools, dress for weather. **Free! Ages 12+ (under 15 with adult). Register by June 2.**

INSECTS ABOUND FOR KIDS

Insect Hike (Ages 6-12): Learn about bugs & their homes with Thorn Creek Audubon. Sun, June 29, 1-3pm. 1-mile walk. **Free! Register by June 23.**

JULY 2025



FRIENDS OF THORN CREEK WOODS PICNIC

Join us for a fun-filled celebration of Thorn Creek Woods at Somonauk Nature Adventure Park (Somonauk St. & Sangamon St., Park Forest) on Sunday, July 20, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. We'll provide the main dishes; please bring a side or dessert to share. Explore Pond Life with our naturalists, get a closer look at aquatic plants and critters, and make your own dragonfly. **Free for all ages! Registration required by July 14.**

FIREFLIES NIGHT HIKE

Discover the magic of fireflies on a popular night hike with a naturalist. Learn why they flash and what it means. Saturday, July 26, 7:30-9:30 p.m. **Free! Ages 12-adult. Register by July 21.**

AUGUST 2025



NATURE CAMP FOR SENIORS: SOILS OF THORN CREEK WOODS

Calling ages 50+! Explore soils with activities, crafts, and a trail walk to see Thorn Creek Woods soil. Learn about soil formation and composition. **Lunch provided. Mon, Aug 4, 9am-1pm. \$10. Register by July 28.**

SOUNDS OF INSECTS NIGHT HIKE

Listen for the musical sounds of dusk insects on a 2-mile trail walk (uneven/wet terrain) with Thorn Creek Audubon Society. Learn to identify common species and why they "sing." Sunday, August 17, 7:30-9:30 p.m. **Free! Ages 12+. Register by August 11.**

FRIENDS OF THORN CREEK

Join Friends of Thorn Creek Woods and support the 1000-acre Thorn Creek Nature Preserve and its Nature Center. Formed in 1969, FRIENDS efforts ensured permanent protection for this unique open space enhancing Park Forest and the region. FRIENDS volunteers build & repair trails, create exhibits, monitor species, staff the nature center, lead programs, and raise funds for programs and improvements. Members enjoy a quarterly newsletter and sponsor Earth Day, the Summer Picnic and a Fall Annual meeting. Annual family membership is \$20 or \$50 for an organization; life membership is \$200. Membership renewals are May 1st of each year. **For more information: 708-747-6320; thorn_creek@att.net; tcwoods.org; P.O. Box 159, Richton Park, IL 60471. See website tcwoods.org.**

PARK FOREST NEWS

NEWS
YOU
CAN
USE

PROGRESS

Aqua Center

Aqua Center Closed for Exciting Renovations This Season

Park Forest, IL – Get ready for an even better aquatic experience! The Park Forest Aqua Center will be closed for the entirety of the 2025 season as we undertake significant renovations to enhance the facility for our community.

We understand that the Aqua Center is a beloved summer destination for many residents, and we appreciate your patience as we work to bring you an improved and revitalized space. These necessary upgrades will ensure the long-term safety, functionality, and enjoyment of the Aqua Center for years to come.

What to Expect:

While specific details of the renovations will be shared as the project progresses, you can anticipate improvements aimed at:

- **Enhancing safety and accessibility:** Ensuring the facility meets the latest safety standards and is accessible to all members of our community.
- **Modernizing infrastructure:** Upgrading essential systems to improve efficiency and reliability.
- **Improving the overall experience:** Potential enhancements to pool areas, deck space, and other amenities to make your visits even more enjoyable.

We know this closure will be disappointing for those looking forward to summer fun at the Aqua Center. However, we are confident that the end result will be well worth the wait – a modern, safe, and even more enjoyable aquatic facility for everyone in Park Forest.

Stay Informed:

We will be providing regular updates on the renovation progress through our website and social media channels. Please continue to check back for the latest news, including timelines and details about the exciting changes coming to the Aqua Center.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we invest in the future of this important community asset. We look forward to welcoming you back to a fantastic new Aqua Center in the 2026 season!

In the meantime, we encourage you to explore other recreational opportunities available in Park Forest, including our parks and trails.



RECREATION, PARKS & COMMUNITY HEALTH

PARK FOREST AQUA CENTER

30 N. ORCHARD DRIVE, PARK FOREST, IL 60466

WWW.PFAQUACENTER.COM

RECINFO@VOPF.COM

708.748.2005





TAEKWONDO

06/18-9/13 | **05 - 06**
WEDNESDAY'S | PM PM

Taekwondo: Korean unarmed self-defense and Olympic sport emphasizing mental discipline, self-respect, coordination, and control. Led by World Champion Master Ben Effiok. **Uniform (\$65) required. Belt testing twice yearly (\$50).**

\$120 per child | 708.748.2005

CAMPAPALOOZA Summer CAMP

June 16th - August 9th
9am - 4pm
Ages 6 - 13



Campaplooza offers a summer packed with classic outdoor camp games like frisbee, relays, tug-o-war, kickball, and more, led by enthusiastic staff. T-shirt included. Non-refundable. Register by July 11, 2025.

\$965 per child | Payment Plan Options available
708.748.2005



SPIKE VOLLEYBALL CAMP

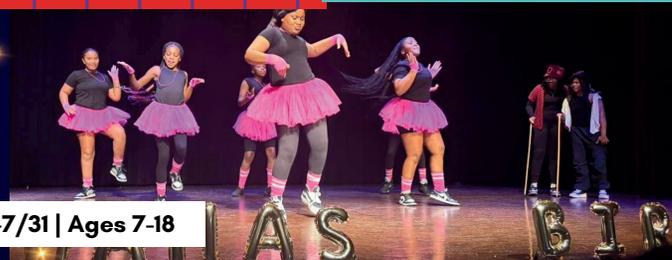
3rd-6th Grade
June 13th - July 19th
11AM-1PM
7th-12th Grade
June 13th - July 19th
9AM-11AM

Spike Volleyball is back! Experienced coaches from Park Forest and Mama's Birds will provide advanced skill training in serving, setting, passing, blocking, and more. Includes a t-shirt.

\$200 per child | Payment plans options available
708.748.2005

MAMA'S BIRDS PERFORMING ARTS CAMP

6/17-7/31 | Ages 7-18



Mama's Birds Performing Arts Summer Program (Ages 7-18): Singing, dancing, acting, songwriting, free recording/photos, finale showcase. Payment plans from \$35/week (+ \$10 fee, in-person registration). Limited spots - register now!

\$240 per child | 708.748.2005



Youth Summer Basketball Camp

Monday's
6/23-7/28
Wednesday's
6/25-7/30

FOR MORE INFO



SCAN HERE

Grind House Athletics Summer Basketball League: 6 weeks of instruction and games for grades Pre-K-8th. Learn dribbling, shooting, defense, and compete. Practices Wed, games Sun afternoon. Limited to 30 spots per grade block - sign up early!

\$125 per child | 708.748.2005



DONATE 



Youth Scholarship Fund

DONATE TODAY

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Invest in your community's future.

Help Us Help Youth

Donate to youth scholarship funds today and empower local kids to participate in enriching community programs.



Benefits

-  Attracts and Retains Talent
-  Promotes Diversity and Inclusion
-  Strengthens Community Engagement

Why Donate?

-  To Make a Difference
-  Personal Growth and Fulfillment
-  Help Build a Stronger Community

 708.748.2005

 www.villageofparkforest.com

 recinfo@vopf.com

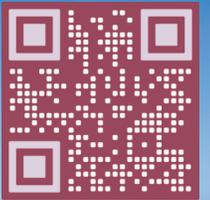
Explore Illinois

With **Park Forest**
Live Grow Discover



Adina McCollough
Recreation Manager
Trip Coordinator
Community Health Coordinator

 www.villageofparkforest.com
 708-748-2005



Trips



ENJOY YOUR TRIP WITH US

Join Park Forest for our upcoming Ravinia and Chicago Music Travel Series! Experience unforgettable live performances, downtown Chicago, and great company as we explore the best in music and culture. Don't miss your chance to travel, tune in, and turn up with us—reserve your spot today!



- **Time:** 4:00 PM – 11:00 PM
- **Fee:** \$85
- **Registration Deadline:** 1 Week Prior to Date
- **Location:** Ravinia Festival (Departs from Village Hall)
- **Transportation:** Motor coach transportation included



RAVINIA Series

**JUNE
14**

TAJ MAHAL AND KEB' MO'

Enjoy a soulful evening as blues greats Taj Mahal and Keb' Mo' perform their "Room On The Porch" tour – a deeply moving blend of roots and blues storytelling. Leave the driving to us and savor a relaxed, picnic-style Ravinia experience (Bring lawn chairs, blankets, refreshments).

THE ROOTS

Get ready for an electrifying night as The Roots bring their genre-bending blend of hip-hop, jazz, and R&B to the Ravinia stage. Known for their incredible live instrumentation, this GRAMMY-winning collective never disappoints (Bring lawn chairs, blankets, refreshments).

**JUNE
27**

**JULY
2**

NAS WITH CHICAGO PHILHARMONIC

A powerful collaboration you won't forget – Nas performs Illmatic alongside the Chicago Philharmonic, reimagining his classic debut album through orchestral grandeur. A must-see for hip-hop and music lovers alike. (Bring lawn chairs, blankets, refreshments).

EARTH, WIND & FIRE

Don't miss the legendary Earth, Wind & Fire performing hits like "September," "Let's Groove," and more! Their dynamic stage presence and iconic harmonies will have you dancing all night under the stars (Bring lawn chairs, blankets, refreshments).

**AUG
7**

\$40
PER TRIP

Park Forest
Live Grow Discover

Travel with
Park Forest

Get ready to experience the vibrant sounds of Chicago with our upcoming Travel Park Forest Series! We're bringing you the best of the city's iconic music festivals right to your doorstep. Join us for the soulful sounds of the **Chicago Blues Festival**, the uplifting energy of the **Chicago Gospel Festival**, the infectious rhythms of the **Chicago House Music Festival**, and the smooth melodies of the **Chicago Jazz Festival**. Register Today to be a part of these unforgettable musical journeys!

Chicago Blues Festival



June 7th, 3-10 pm

Chicago Gospel Festival



July 12th, 3-10 pm

Chicago House Music Festival



Aug 23rd 3-10 pm

Chicago Jazz Festival



Aug 30th, 3-10 pm

BOOK NOW: 708-748-2005





MJ: THE MUSICAL



Don't miss this Tony-winning tribute to Michael Jackson at the Nederlander Theatre! Includes lunch at State & Lake Tavern and luxury motorcoach transportation.

In partnership with Chicago Heights Park District.

Register by August 13, 2025

Trip is Non-Refundable

Call today to Register: 708-748-2005 or scan QR code

WWW.VILLAGEOFPARKFOREST.COM

SCAN ME



MORE

UPCOMING EVENTS

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

July

RECYCLE FEST - SATURDAY, JULY 26TH

Forest Blvd. & Lakewood Blvd.

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

708-503-9372

How it works: Box or bag separately and clearly label them

Items Collected: Electronics, Tv's (\$15 fee), microwaves (\$15 fee), computer monitors (\$10 fee), printers (\$3 fee), bikes, eyeglasses, housewares, clothing & shoes, trophies, toys/stuffed animals, styrofoam, American flags, prescription drugs, oral care products, latex paint (\$3 Qt, \$7 Gal, \$22 5 Gal fee), aerosol products (\$1 fee), highchairs (\$10 fee), propane 14 & 16 oz (\$4 fee), car seats & strollers (\$10 fee), smoke & CO2 detectors (\$1 fee).

August

THE PARK FOREST SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMISSION'S INAUGURAL SENIOR PICNIC - THURSDAY, AUGUST 28TH

Village Green, 349 Main Street, Park Forest, IL

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

708-748-2005

Food, Fun, Games, Dancing, Live Entertainment

\$5 per person

Performances by Pearl "Cookie" Reid

Music by DJ Reed

PRESENTED BY: RECREATION, PARKS & COMMUNITY HEALTH

PARK FOREST NEWS

NEWS YOU CAN USE



SUBMISSION TYPES

- Press Releases: Formal announcements from organizations.
- Articles: Informative pieces about local topics or events (200-500 words).
- Event Listings: Details about upcoming events (date, time, location, brief description).

Photos: High-resolution images related to your submission.



HOW TO SUBMIT

Email your submissions to tlucas@vopf.com with the subject line "Newsletter Submission - Park Forest News".



REVIEW PROCESS

- All submissions will be reviewed by the newsletter editor.
- The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, length, and style.
- Due to space limitations, not all submissions can be guaranteed publication.



REQUIREMENTS

- Accuracy: All information must be accurate and verifiable.
 - Timeliness: Submit news and events well in advance of the newsletter's publication date (ideally by the 1st of the preceding month).
 - Clarity: Write in a clear, concise, and engaging style. Use proper grammar and spelling.
 - Contact Information: Include your name, organization (if applicable), and contact information (email and phone number).
 - Word Count: Unless otherwise specified, aim for 200-500 words for articles.
- Photos: Submit high-resolution photos in JPEG or PNG format whenever possible.

PARK FOREST NEWS SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Content Focus:

- Local News & Events: We prioritize news and events specifically relevant to Park Forest residents.
- This includes:
 - Village government updates
 - Park District programs and activities
 - School news and achievements
 - Local business openings or updates
 - Community events and festivals
 - Resident achievements and stories
 - Non-profit organization news and calls to action



UNACCEPTABLE CONTENT

The newsletter will not publish content that:

- Promotes violence or discrimination.
- Contains defamatory or libelous statements.
- Exhibits bias towards any political party or candidate.
- Is sexually suggestive or exploits, abuses, or endangers children.
- Infringes on any copyrights or trademarks.
- Is deemed inappropriate or offensive for a family audience.

WE ENCOURAGE ALL PARK FOREST RESIDENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER!

WWW.VILLAGEOFPARKFOREST.COM

708.748.2005

350 VICTORY DRIVE, PARK FOREST, IL 60466



July Recreation & Parks Month



Celebrate Recreation & Parks Month: Discover the Great Outdoors in Park Forest

July is National Recreation and Parks Month, and here in Park Forest, we're celebrating the spaces, programs, and people that bring our community to life through parks and recreation.

Recognized annually across the country, Recreation & Parks Month highlights the essential role parks and recreational services play in promoting health, wellness, community connection, and environmental stewardship. It's also a reminder to pause, step outside, and enjoy the natural and recreational treasures that surround us.

In Park Forest, our rich network of parks, trails, and open spaces offers something for everyone—from peaceful nature walks to active family play.

Why Parks Matter

Parks and Recreation services:

- Encourage healthy lifestyles through physical activity
- Provide safe spaces for children and families to play
- Support mental health by connecting people with nature
- Build stronger, more connected communities
- Help protect natural resources and promote sustainability



Explore Park Forest This July

There's no better time than now to rediscover the great outdoors right here in our backyard. This month, residents are encouraged to:

- 🌳 Walk or bike the Old Plank Road Trail – This scenic trail offers a peaceful route through the heart of town.
- 🏡 Visit your neighborhood park – With over 20 community parks, there's always a new playground, picnic spot, or open field to explore.
- 🏀 Get active at Central Park – Enjoy the playground, tennis courts, baseball fields, or just a relaxing stroll.
- 🌿 Take in nature at the Park Forest Wetlands – A hidden gem for birdwatching, photography, and learning about local ecosystems.
- 👨👩👧👦 Join a program or event – Check the Recreation & Parks Department calendar for upcoming family-friendly activities, classes, or community events.

Share Your Adventures

Throughout July, residents are encouraged to share how they're celebrating [#RecreationAndParksMonth](#) on social media. Tag the Village and show off your favorite Park Forest outdoor moments!

Let's Get Outside, Park Forest!

Whether you're biking, birdwatching, or playing on the swings, remember that every moment spent outdoors strengthens our bodies, lifts our spirits, and brings us closer as a community.

Celebrating Margaret Lewis: 14 Years of Dedicated Service to Park Forest



The Village of Park Forest proudly honors and celebrates Margaret Lewis as she embarks on a well-earned retirement after 14 remarkable years of service.

Margaret Lewis has been more than just a dedicated employee—she's been a steadfast pillar of the Park Forest community. Over the past decade and a half, Margaret has brought professionalism, warmth, and unwavering commitment to her role, making a lasting impact on both colleagues and residents alike.

From her first day on the job, Margaret's passion for community health was clear. Whether organizing community events, assisting residents with a caring heart, or mentoring new staff, her positive influence has reached every corner of Village life.

"Margaret has always gone above and beyond. Her work ethic, kindness, and deep love for Park Forest will not be forgotten," said a fellow staff member. "She leaves behind big shoes to fill, but her legacy will inspire future generations of public servants."

As we say farewell to Margaret in her official role, we celebrate her journey—and look forward to all the new adventures that retirement brings her way.

Thank you, Margaret, for 14 wonderful years of service. Park Forest is better because of you.

Congratulations and happy retirement!

Adina McCollough Named New Recreation Manager & Community Health Coordinator

The Village of Park Forest is thrilled to announce the promotion of Adina McCollough to the position of Recreation Manager & Community Health Coordinator, succeeding the beloved Margaret Lewis after her retirement.

Adina McCollough has been a rising star within the Park Forest community for over a decade. With 12 years of dedicated service, she has passionately led programs, coordinated memorable trips, and brought countless events to life—earning admiration and affection, especially among Park Forest's senior residents.

Her deep roots in the community and her dynamic leadership style make her the ideal choice to carry forward the legacy of excellence. "Adina brings a unique blend of creativity, compassion, and commitment to everything she does," said a Village official. "She understands our residents and their needs, and she delivers with heart."

Already a beloved figure in the community, Adina is known for her approachable nature, keen organizational skills, and her ability to turn any event into a meaningful experience.

As she steps into her new role, Park Forest is excited for what's to come under her leadership. **Congratulations to Adina McCollough**—your journey continues, and we can't wait to see where you lead us next!

PARK FOREST
Main Street Market

MAIN STREET MARKET UPCOMING EVENTS

Every Saturday from May to Oct. from
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Rain or shine.

MAY
03

Opening Day - Music

Come out for the Market's first day back, and see some returning vendors and new ones.

MAY
31

Watts & Roots: Energy and Gardening for a Greener Tomorrow

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus will provide energy efficiency outreach and the VOPF Environment Commission will be planting the MSM planters!

JUNE
07

Special Event: Ipass & Kids Safety I.D. - Live Music

Enjoy live music while you shop and pick up your new Ipass sticker and a Kids Safety I.D.

JULY
12

Special Event: Ipass Stickers

Pick up your new Ipass sticker while you shop local.

AUG.
2

Live Music

Enjoy live music while you shop.

AUG.
09

Chicago Grows Food Special Pop-up

Shop your Main Street Market vendors while you learn to grow your own food.

AUG.
16

Special Hours & Location: Ribs & Blues Fest on the Village Green, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Join the Village and the Main Street Market on the Village Green for Ribs & Blues Fest.

SEPT.
06

Live Music

Enjoy live music while you shop.

SEPT.
13

Alt. Location: Village Green, Wine & Food Crawl

Shop at the Main Street Market, then enjoy the Wine & Food Crawl (Must register for the crawl).

OCT.
04

Alt. Location: Somonauk Nature Adventure Park

Shop the Main Street Market vendors at Fall Fest.

OCT.
25

Last Day of the Market

It is the last day to take advantage of the Main Street Market before it closes for the season!

Call the Department of Recreation, Parks & Community Health at 708-748-2005 or email dgordon@vopf.com or amccollough@vopf.com with any questions, concerns, or comments.



4S Wellness Services is excited to introduce a unique, yearlong educational program designed to help older adults and their families navigate the complexities of aging with confidence. **Embracing Change: Navigating the Journey Beyond 65** is an immersive journey that addresses the essential aspects of healthy aging, providing the tools and knowledge to build a well-prepared, fulfilling future. This program is designed to provide proactive solutions and informed guidance, helping participants tackle complex subjects such as finances, healthcare, housing, legal matters, and end-of-life planning. By fostering open dialogue and equipping attendees with resources, we aim to empower older adults and their families to make thoughtful decisions about their future.

Embracing Change is offered in partnership with the **Village of Park Forest Community Health Department**. Together, we are committed to equipping our community with access to expert speakers, engaging workshops, and a supportive environment where learning, sharing, and planning thrive.

These sessions happen every 4th Tuesday of the month! The in-person networking begins at 10:00 a.m and the interactive sessions will begin at 10:30 a.m. and end at 12:30 p.m.. Lunch is included.

Tuesday, June 24th
End-of-Life Planning, Hospice
Care Options & Legacy
Preparation

Tuesday, July 22nd
Finding Support: Resources and
Respite for Family Caregivers

Tuesday, August 26th
Making a Move: Preparing for
Relocation, & Exploring Senior
Living and Health Care Options

Tuesday, September 23rd
Estate Planning & Financial
Wellness for Retirement

You are invited to join us for the Embracing Change Interactive Info sessions!

Registration: \$10

Call 708. 748.2005
reserve your spot today!

Embracing Change Location:

Dining on the Green
349 Main Street
Park Forest, IL

If you are interested in being a guest panelist for any of the sessions, please contact Kendall Wright at

kwright@4swellnessservices.com



Distribution Dates

South Suburban Cook County Only!
No Chicago or Will County Residents

JULY 14-16	10 AM - 3 PM
JULY 22-24	10 AM - 3 PM
JULY 28-31	10 AM - 3 PM

Coupon distribution dates can change depending on coupon availability. Distribution is on a first come, first serve basis.

Must bring valid state ID and proof of income to receive coupons.

Distribution Location

Village Hall
350 Victory Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466

SENIOR COUPON DISTRIBUTION

ELIGIBLE SENIORS: 60 AND OVER

Park Forest Residents Only

Chicago Heights, Richton Park & Matteson
All other South Suburban Cook County

Must meet income eligibility guidelines

- Income guidelines are based on 185% of the federal poverty guidelines during the current fiscal year
- Participants can only enroll in program at 1 location and/or receive 1 booklet of checks



708.748.2005

www.villageofparkforest.com

recinfo@vopf.com

PHONE NUMBERS

Aqua Center 30 N. Orchard	(708)747-9490
Building Department 350 Victory Drive	(708)503-7703
Police/Fire EMERGENCY	9-1-1
Police Non-emergency 200 Lakewood Blvd.	(708)748-4700
Fire Prevention Bureau	(708)748-5605
Fire Chief 156 Indianwood Blvd.	(708)748-5606
Freedom Hall 410 Lakewood Blvd.	(708)747-0580
Health Department 350 Victory Drive	(708)748-1118
Jolly Trolley	(708)748-4433
Library 400 Lakewood Blvd.	(708)748-3731
Parks Maintenance Garage 75 Park Street	(708)481-4088
Public Works Dept 350 Victory Drive	(708)503-7702
Recreation Center 215 Wilson St.	(708)748-2005
Recreation & Parks Dept 350 Victory Drive	(708)748-2005
Tennis & Health Club Sauk Trail & Westwood Drive	(708)481-6060
Thorn Creek Nature Center 247 Monee Road	(708)747-6320
South Suburban Special Recreation (TDD) 19910 80th Ave. Tinley Park IL 60487	(815) 806-0384 (815) 806-0389
Village Hall Offices 350 Victory Drive	(708)748-1112
Water Office 350 Victory Drive	(708)503-7700



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
Jon Kindseth

**RICH TOWNSHIP SHIRLEY
GREEN SENIOR CENTER**
297 LIBERTY DRIVE
PARK FOREST, IL 60466
708.748.5454
WWW.RICHTOWNSHIP.ORG



**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



SOUNDTRACK OF THE SUMMER
Main Street Nights 2025
DOWNTOWN PARK FOREST, IL

9 FREE Weekly Concerts
WEDNESDAYS / JUNE 11 - AUGUST 6
6:30PM OPENING ACT | 7:30PM MAIN STAGE
VILLAGE GREEN (CUNNINGHAM & MAIN STREET)
MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD TRUCKS,
VENDORS, KIDDY RIDES, & FAMILY FUN!



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: 312-785-8822 or
Email: dgordon@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

2025

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February

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23	24	25	26	27	28	

March

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April

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May

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June

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29	30					

July

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August

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31						

September

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October

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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November

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30						

December

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Annual Planner

YEAR: _____

JANUARY

- 01. _____
- 02. _____
- 03. _____
- 04. _____
- 05. _____

FEBRUARY

- 01. _____
- 02. _____
- 03. _____
- 04. _____
- 05. _____

MARCH

- 01. _____
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- 05. _____

APRIL

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MAY

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JUNE

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- 05. _____

JULY

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AUGUST

- 01. _____
- 02. _____
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- 05. _____

SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

- 01. _____
- 02. _____
- 03. _____
- 04. _____
- 05. _____



coming soon FALL FEST



Join us for the highly anticipated Fall Fest!
Enjoy live music, a live DJ, food vendors, games, giveaways, and more
at Somonauk Park. Bring your friends and family for a day of fun!
Admission is free, and there's something for everyone to enjoy.



Save the Date

October 4, 2025

Somonauk Nature Adventure Park



11 a.m. - 3 pm.

708.748.2005

266 Somonauk Street, Park Forest, IL

