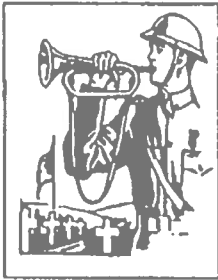


HISTORY OF
THE
VILLAGE OF FOREST VIEW



The Village of Forest View was founded and incorporated in memory of those who joined and participated in our country's cause during the World War I.

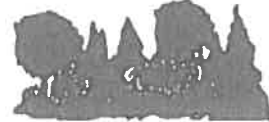
It is the only known Village in the United States of America originally governed exclusively by ex-servicemen.

The painstakingly handwritten minutes, the first ever taken in the Village of Forest View are still excellently preserved seventy-five years later as the Village moves forward towards celebrating its Diamond anniversary.

Attorney Joseph Nosek called all ex-servicemen residing within the limits of what is now Forest View to a meeting on September 5, 1924 to discuss the incorporation of the territory. On December 10, 1924 an election was held for incorporation with the final tally being 46 in favor of incorporation and none against.

All the original village officials were ex-servicemen of World War I. Village President Joseph Nosek, Village Clerk Thomas Logan, and Trustees Alvert Charvat, Harry Fisher, William Kadlec, James Matuska, James Rychly and Stanley Wadulak were elected unanimously on January 6, 1925.

The name of Forest View was chosen for our little village because of the lovely view of the beautiful flowering bushes and prairie flowers in the forest preserve just west of the newly incorporated territory.



Despite the residents' concern for the village, Forest View did not develop as fast as was anticipated by its founders. Only 57 voters resided within the village and the number did not begin to grow substantially until after World War II.

During the prohibition era Al Capone was known to conduct some of his illegal business ventures in the village.



Shortly thereafter, the depression struck, halting the village's development. Its citizens were unable to pay taxes or special assessments. The village officials worked without compensation and policemen received their pay from whatever fines they could collect. Even the street lights were shut off for a long period of time to relieve the village of further expense.

The depression brought with it some good things, too. The Stickney/Forest View Library was born in the middle of the depression as part of the Works Progress Administration. The library was transferred from building to building until it found its permanent home on November 14, 1954 when the Stickney/Forest View Library District was formed with voter approval.



World War II brought an end to the depression and employment rose sharply. Women went to work in the defense plants, and almost every house had a star in the window as husbands, fathers, and sons went off to war. Most empty land supported victory gardens including the land that Amoco Oil now occupies. Everyone helped each other and the village not only survived the turmoil but eventually began to prosper.

In 1949 Commonwealth Edison began constructing their generating plant on Ridgeland Avenue. The greatest portion of the plant was located in Forest View and because of the property taxes it paid, Commonwealth Edison was often referred to as Forest View's godfather. In 1953 additional industrial development gave extra financial independence to Forest View and it soon earned the nickname, "Cinderella Village". The village was finally able to improve and begin to grow.

The village grew from approximately 50 houses before the war to its present capacity of 266 homes. In 1974 only a few vacant lots remained in the residential section of Forest View. Today only two vacant residential parcels remain.


The first business establishment in Forest View was a road house located at 4505 South Harlem, operated by James Rychly, a village trustee who became mayor in 1925 and remained in that post until 1933. When Rychly's road house opened, Harlem Avenue was only a dirt road which ended at the Santa Fe



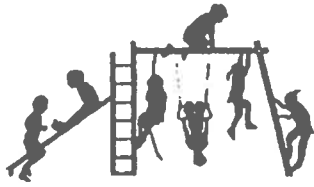
Railroad. It wasn't until late 1932 that the state received permission to pave Harlem Avenue.

A small grocery store was built at 4507 South Home Avenue and was operated by the Kimont family. The store began as a little one room building serving the needs of the village people but the Garska family later bought the store, improving and enlarging it. Today the store is gone and an apartment house stands in its place.

The Susmilch family operated a coal yard on the 4600 block of Grove Avenue at the railroad tracks. The house is still standing and one of the sons, Elmer Susmilch, served as mayor of Forest View from 1941-43.

Forest View is indeed a village of public service. The prior Village Hall, built in 1951 housed the clerk's office, Board room, kitchen, liquor bar and hall where the villagers held private parties. St. Pius X Catholic Church conducted Sunday services in the hall until the church moved to its present location on 43rd Street. The first meeting of the Home School PTA was held March 14, 1956 in the Village Hall.  The current Village Hall which was constructed in 1979 still houses the clerk's office, Board room, kitchen and a hall that residents may use for private parties. The Forest View Police Department and Park District also have offices in the building. The fire station is located next door to the Village Hall.

A well equipped fire and police department serves the village. A staff of full-time and paid-on-call firefighters stand-by ready to battle any fire and the police department is staffed by both full-time and auxiliary police officers keeping a watchful eye on the community.

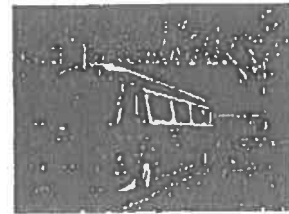


Just south of 46th Street across from the Village Hall is a beautiful playground and park for Forest View residents and visitors. The park is situated on a block and a half by one block piece of land which was set aside by former Village President Frank Luznicky who had the foresight to know that the children of Forest View would need a place to play.

The park began development in 1956 after village residents approved a \$25,000 bond issue. In 1960 former Village President John K. Witzeman dedicated it as the Forest View Village Park. The park was fully developed by 1964 at a total cost to the village taxpayers of approximately \$250,000. Presently, the park is equipped with tennis, volleyball and basketball courts, a baseball diamond, a children's play section, jogging track and hilled seating area.

Two of the most active organizations in the village are the Forest View Women's Club and the Golden Panthers Seniors' Club. The Women's Club donated the first playground equipment for the Forest View Village Park. Both the Golden Panthers and Women's Club organize a variety of activities for their members.

The residents of Forest View enjoy many benefits not received in other towns, small or large. Since 1949 garbage has been picked up at no extra cost to the villagers. The Pace Bus Company's Oak Park line provides everyone in Forest View transportation within one block of their home.



At one time, Forest View and its neighbor, the Village of Stickney, shared three modern public elementary schools and St. Pius X parochial school. Haley School first opened its door in September 1923, a year before Forest View was incorporated.

As both villages continued to grow, Haley became overcrowded, consequently Home School was built and opened March 3, 1952. Eventually even Haley and Home Schools were not sufficient to serve the booming communities, so Edison School was opened on February 20, 1956. Since then the median age of the population has grown and demand for classroom space diminished. As a result both Haley School and St. Pius X have closed their doors.

Over the years Forest View has grown through the hearts, will and hard work of its residents into a village of approximately 743 residents. From a place of road houses, small grocery stores and a coal yard, Forest View has become a modern town with all the conveniences of a nearby big city, yet retains all the beauty and friendliness of a small town.

The people who have lived and grown up in Forest View and many others who have moved away feel proud to have taken part in helping make Forest View a dream come true to its founders.