

The Village of

Forest View

1924 – 2024

The Village of Forest View celebrates centennial

The Village of Forest View is having quite a year to mark their Centennial.

At the State of The Village address earlier in the year, not only was there a huge display of the village's history in pictures and artifacts, but life-long resident, John Marbes, gave a presentation on the early beginnings of Forest View which was welcomed by all.

Former Village of Stickney Police Chief, Mike Holub was welcomed by Marbes to talk about his memories of Forest View.

Many hadn't heard the history and got a unique look into the first century courtesy of the countless hours of research by Marbes, and Village Clerk Laura McGuffey, who is also a life-long resident.

Not only did Marbes and McGuffey research for a slide presentation, they gathered documents, pictures, badges, past milestone decorations, uniforms, and awards that lined the walls of the Art Treckler Room upstairs in Village Hall for all to see over a two week period.

100 years ago, Joseph W. Nosek organized the few scattered inhabitants to form a village.

Nosek envisioned it as being a haven for U.S. servicemen from World War I, the 'Great War' that had ended in 1918.

The Village of Forest View was founded on December 10, 1924.

46 inhabitants voted unanimously to establish their local government.

John Edward Nosek was the President of the Board of Trustees. Village Trustees were Harry E. Fisher, James Rychly, William Kadlec, James Matuska, Albert Charvot, and Stanley Wadulak.

Thomas W. Logan was the Village Clerk, and Joseph W. Nosek, Police Magistrate.

Its Charter stated that the first officers and trustees were all said to be recent war veterans.

The State of Illinois certified its Incorporation the following month.

After the legal filings were done, Joe Nosek relinquished his position as Police Magistrate, and hired William Dillon, who claimed to be a war veteran.

Economic development was slow to emerge, given the backdrop of organized crime and political corruption, furthered by prohibition.

Rampant violence escalated between competing gangs for control.

After a reform movement election in the city of Chicago, gang influence had to relocate outside Chicago. Cicero, Stickney, and Forest View became the base of vice operations, being gambling, political corruption, prostitution, and bootlegging.

Forest View was in dire need of infrastructure.

There weren't any paved roads at that point. Harlem Avenue wasn't extended south of the railroad tracks at 48th Street or paved until 1932.

There was no supply of city water, or sewer systems.

The new village needed business development.

Ralph Capone, brother of Al Capone, took residence in Forest View.

He enticed town officials with an offer to build a hotel for travelers, and a small social club for entertainment.

Cook County brought in truckloads of crushed stone, and Capone's crew directed it to improve access to their establishments.

By the next election, Capone had complete control of the town by getting his people elected into office.

Forest View started to be referred to as 'Caponeville'.



Violence between rival gangs began to spill over to regular citizens. The Capone-run Stockade featured gambling and illegal alcohol consumption on the first floor, and prostitution on the second. It became a 'playland' for Al Capone's thugs and gunmen.

Local residents realized that the small weekly stipends made by home brewing and distilling

weren't worth the social costs.

Nosek realized that he had made a mistake by allowing the Capone organization to gain a foothold in his town.

He ordered his Police Chief to permanently shut down the entire operation.

It later became clear that the Police Chief, William 'Porky' Dillon, wasn't a veteran as he claimed to

be. In reality, he was a recently paroled convict who had been working for the Capone crime organization all along.

Dillon's instruction to "clean them out" wasn't followed, and instead reported to Ralph Capone as a threat to their operations.

Capone's response was harsh.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2





Al Capone



Ralph Capone



Forest View's first village hall near 4500 S. Maple Ave.

Capt. Nosek was kidnapped and beaten. History has it that he explained it as follows: "And the day after I issued that order," he said, "I met Ralph Capone on the street and he told me he'd have me thrown into the drainage canal if I ever again uttered a word against his crowd. I thought he was joking, and I said if I went in the canal he'd go with me."

"At 4 the next morning two armed men called at my house and hauled me to our village hall. In the dim light of the dinky assembly

room, Capt. Nosek said, were seven foreigners. They told me they were going to kill me," he declared. "They beat me over the head with the butts of their guns, and though I was streaming with blood and dazed from pain, they kicked me over the floor. I'm not ashamed to admit that I got down on my knees and prayed that they let me keep my life."

The citizens were fed up. Within a year and a half, vigilantes from Chicago and Forest View conducted a surprise attack on

Capone's Stockade.

The following excerpt made national news in many major outlets:

VIGILANTES SET FIRE TO CAPONE'S BIG BOOZE JOINT The "Stockade," one of the booze and vice joints that flourish in Cook County, was destroyed by three automobile loads of torch-bearing vigilantes. This vice resort was run by "Scarface Al" Capone and his pal John Torrio. Three auto loads of Chicago and Forest View residents surrounded the hall, seized the lone watchman and set fire to the building.

(1926, June 3) The Daily Worker. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/sn84020097/1926-06-03/ed-1/>.

Not only do the authorities not prosecute such action, but also make public statements that it was considered a great public service.

The Stock Market crash deepened the lack of economic development. Stagnation afflicted the entire nation and spread throughout the world. World War II took priority over all industrial production and civilian activities.

Citizens were subject to daily rationing restrictions. The battle for law and order took another decade to gain control.

The civilian economy was hampered until WW II ended.

After World War II, the industrial might of the U.S. returned to civilian needs

and the national mood was finally one of optimism.

Municipalities focused on expanding their economic development.

The resurgence of Forest View are attributable to 2 distinct actions: 1) annexation of the Clearing District south of the Canal, a vibrant transportation hub that served the nation's 2nd largest urban economy; and 2) construction of the Ridgeland Power Plant, creating area employment and adding significant tax revenue to a relatively small town population.

The ratio of a large industrial revenue stream with a small population the town earned it the nickname "Cinderella Village".

Economic expansion signaled a cascade of related growth possibilities.

Walter Baltis, a local developer, committed to fulfilling the huge demand for residential housing in the desirable Forest View suburb.

The Baltis brand was known for its quality construction at an affordable price.

The building surge began in 1953 and filled nearly every remaining lot in a period of several years.

This coincided with the baby boom, which led to infrastructure improvements such as modern electric, gas, city-supplied water utilities, storm & sanitary sewer systems,

roads, public transportation, garbage pickup services, schools, park & recreational facilities, local commerce, religious, social & support organizations.

Forest View quickly grew to be a desirable place to raise a family, and remains that to this day.

In 2024, there are just over 250 homes in Forest View with 792 residents.

In a general sense, boundaries are Harlem Avenue, Laramie, 45th Street and 51st Street.

Major Events and Milestones over the last 100 years include: 1949 Forest View celebrates its 25th Anniversary, 1954 Stickney- Forest View Library established, 1955 Forest View Fire Department started utilizing resident volunteers, 1960 first 17 miles of the Southwest Expressway were completed, 1974 Forest View celebrates its 50th Anniversary-Proclamation Rededicating the Village to veterans WW I to Viet Nam, 1978 construction of new Municipal Building and Police Station, 1982 ComEd Ridgeland Generating Station-Plant Retired from Service, 1990 Ridgeland Station Site Decommissioning complete, 1990 ComEd signs lease to an inter-modal container storage company, 2008 Dedication of new Fire Department facility, 2013 FEMA-Declared Flood Disaster hits Forest View.

Growing up in Forest

View since the age of 1-year old, Marbes has a story like others in his admiration for the village and its history.

"I grew up in Forest View from the age of 1-year old (1950's & 1960's) until I enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1970. It seemed almost every household was filled with kids. I can still recite every family name at every house on my street when I was growing up. There were plenty of activities for everyone. Kids had Little League, Scouts, school band/orchestra. The park had Summer programs. The moms on each block would host a weekly kaffeeklatsch. The Forest View Women's Club was a large and active group. Seniors had the Golden Panthers. Stickney Township had free clinics, senior luncheons, bingo and a myriad of citizen services.

"Each block was its own little world. We would play football or baseball in the street, having to be alert for an occasional car barreling down our 'field'. For a change of scenery, we would go to the park and meet kids from their 'other block worlds'. We all would find ways to make the park equipment even more dangerous to ourselves. Our parents knew we would be safe anywhere in town. We all had to follow the same rule, "Come home when the streetlights go on."



Stickney Township

Louis S. Viverito, Supervisor

Ettore "Hector" Cesario, Clerk

Amy March, Assessor

Dan Paluch, Highway Commissioner

Donna Galeher, Trustee

Louise Zelinski, Trustee

Diane Viverito, Trustee

Laura Kreil, Trustee

Congratulates
the Village of
Forest View for



FRANK J. AGUILAR
COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Congratulates
the Village of Forest View on
their 100 Year Anniversary

100 Year
ANNIVERSARY



Mayor's View

Forest View Mayor, Nancy Miller was born and raised in Forest View.

She lives two doors down from her childhood home.

Besides being elected Mayor, she served as a Village Trustee for six years, and was on the Planning & Zoning Committee from 1991 to 2014.

Miller is the first female Village President in Forest View.

"I'm very proud of that. We've had a few 'firsts' during my tenure; First Annual Oktoberfest complete with polka band, sauerkraut, sausage and potato pancakes. We now also have a Veterans Day celebration for all our Vets. For one of our four Centennial events, Laura McGuffey, our Village Clerk came up with the idea of our first Annual Pet Parade. It was a big hit so I'm hoping we have a second."

Miller is proud of things that have been done in the village since she was elected.

"The two biggest accomplishments and the two I really wanted to see during my tenure were the streets being paved and the establishment of an official website. This was accomplished. We also have been recognized as one of 3,577 cities in 2023 as 'Tree City USA' by the Arbor Day Foundation."

Miller said not a lot has changed over the years as far as the residential area of the village.

"Forest View has always been a 'hidden gem'. Our crime rate is low and we still have the lowest property taxes compared to surrounding communities. I'm not sure when it started but we still welcome Santa on Christmas Eve and let him ride through town on our fire truck passing out candy to all who come out to the curb to greet him. During the last few years residents have been taking pictures with Santa, making a nice remembrance for them and their children. In addition, we now have a direct line to the North Pole.

Kids can write a letter to Santa, drop it in a special mailbox in our village Hall and Santa will personally answer their letters. We have Christmas and Halloween home decorating contests awarding prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. We've stepped up the Village Newsletters to give them a more 'home-town' feeling including recipes, jokes, puzzles, pictures of past events from the Village and Park District and a coloring page that adults or children can color and bring to Village Hall to be displayed."

When asked how she would describe Forest View to someone that isn't aware of the village, Mayor Miller explained that it's a very small and safe community to live.

"If you don't know where it's at, you will mistake Forest View for being part of Stickney or Berwyn on the residential end. Across the expressway (I55) people assume that our Forest View area is Chicago. Back in the 1950's, we earned the title "Cinderella Village" and we are all still striving to keep that title associated with Forest View."



Mayor Nancy Miller

Save the date for the following resident only events:

- Forest View Centennial Bingo for residents only will take place on Friday, September 27, 2024 at Village Hall in the Art Treckler Room. Doors open at 6:00PM.
- Forest View's Centennial Festival in the Park will take place on Saturday, September 28, 2024. Residents are invited to join in on the live music, food, cake, games and fun! Additional activities will be provided by the Forest View Park District.
- The Forest View Centennial Dinner Dance will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2024 for residents only. Check the village website at www.forestview-il.org for more information.

VILLAGE OF STICKNEY

Jeff Walik-Mayor

Audrey McAdams-Village Clerk

Village Trustees:

Jim Hrejsa, Tim Kapolnek, Mitchell Milenkovic
Sam Savopoulos, Leandra Torres, Jeff White

Congratulates The Village of Forest View for 100 Years



Fun Run - Pet Walk



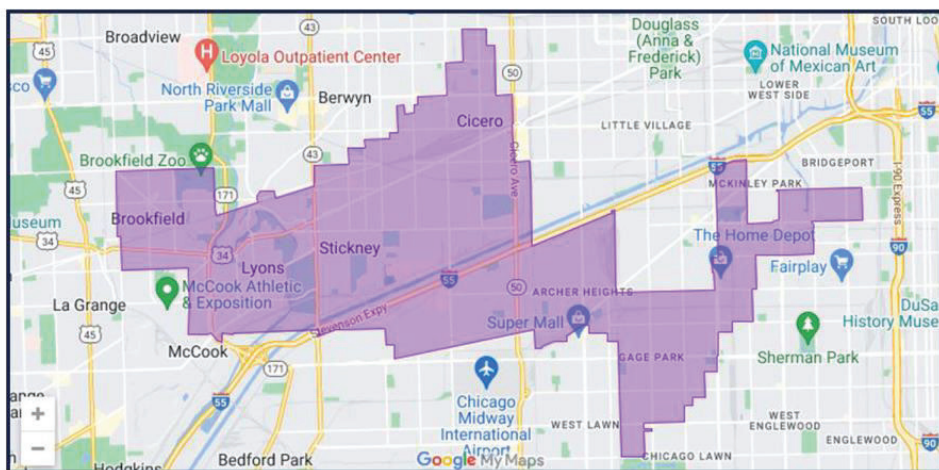
The Village of Forest View held a Fun Run-Pet Walk on Saturday, May 18, 2024. There were police and fire department vehicles, the Medinah Highlanders, Stickney Township vehicles, Toys For Tots, dogs of all sizes and Cinder, the Village of Forest View's Dalmatian. After the walk, there was a Block Party on 46th Street with snacks, water stations, Park District games and more!




Celebrating 100 years of the Village of Forest View

Javier Cervantes
State Senator | 1st District

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Our office serves as a liason between residents of Forest View and state agencies, and we are here to help!

- Senior license plate discounts
- Foster care/birth records
- Scholarships
- Medicaid and SNAP assistance
- Veterans assistance and more!

Address: 1836 W. 35th St, Chicago, IL 60609

Seniors and Families

- Apply for license plate discounts for seniors 65+
- Apply to become a foster or adoptive parent
- Apply for a home-based license
- Request birth records
- Apply for upcoming scholarships

Families and Veterans

- Apply for SNAP (food stamps) and medical assistance
- Apply for veterans benefits
- Apply for vehicle title and registration

Constituent Options

- Become an organ/tissue donor
- Apply for a Firearms Owner's Identification (FOID) Card
- Apply for unemployment insurance benefits
- Request an updated food pantry site location

Contact Us

DISTRICT OFFICE AT (773) 869-9050 AND SPRINGFIELD OFFICE AT (217) 782-9415