A Place to Live ... Questions and Answers about Park Forest South

New Community Enterprises

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PARK FOREST SOUTH

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1969 HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES
Will I be able to go to the church or temple of my choice in Park Forest South?

Yes. The First Baptist Church of Park Forest South is at Blackhawk and Exchange Avenue. In nearby Park Forest, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, the South Suburban Beth Israel Synagogue (Conservative), Congregation Beth Sholom (Reformed) and the Village Bible Church, all conduct regular services. The Park Forest Christian Church meets in Crete.

In addition, Park Forest South has an Inter Faith Council. It is an open and creative ministry of the residents in an effort to meet their own and their neighbor's needs as they occur.

One of the group's initial efforts has been to schedule separate services each Sunday for three congregations: An Ecumenical Protestant, an Episcopal, and St. Boniface Roman Catholic, at common times in the Hickory School in Park Forest South. A common Nursery facility is provided and operated by young people from the three Congregations which worship at Hickory School each Sunday morning and a common coffee hour is held for all worshipers following the 10:30 a.m. services.

A complete schedule of services is available from the Inter Faith Council which is housed in the Library on Western Avenue and Hickok Avenue.

What medical facilities are planned for Park Forest South?

Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center South, a 186 bed hospital, is planning construction in early 1975. The land for the hospital is being contributed by the developer. In keeping with the progressive thinking governing all planning in Park Forest South, a comprehensive health care delivery system will be available for all residents.

Medical offices have been established in Park Forest South by physicians on the faculty of Rush Medical College and Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center.

How is the town government of Park Forest South structured?

The town has become an incorporated village with an elected local government.

A village manager, a village president, and six trustees, many citizen commissions, the Police and Fire Departments form the core of Park Forest South's government. More than 75% of the registered voters can be expected to vote in local elections.

Does it look as though industry will invest in Park Forest South?

Yes, that is one of the brightest aspects of the New Town's situation. Governors Gateway Industrial Park, a 1,200 acre tract, is zoned for light to medium industry. Johnson and Johnson recently bought 75 acres for construction of a 400,000 square foot plant employing 300 people. Wilson Pharmaceutical, a subsidiary of American Can Company, as well as Monsanto, have opened plants. Many other firms have either bought and developed, or have optioned land in the park. The significance of Governors Gateway Industrial Park is that it insures a more favorable tax-rate for residential property owners and employment possibilities for Park Forest South residents.
We're nature lovers. Will Park Forest South retain much of the natural beauty it now has?

It will retain the greater part. Planning will see to that. In cooperation with the New Communities Division of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the State of Illinois, the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, the Will County government, the villages of Park Forest South and Park Forest are working with the developer—New Community Enterprises—to acquire and maintain approximately 1,000 wooded acres in Thorn Creek Woods. Seventy percent of the funds needed for that project will be provided by the Federal Government as a result of PFS's designation as a "new community."

Does that include Pine Lake?

It definitely does. This startlingly beautiful lake will remain a focal point of recreational activities such as boating, fishing, picnicking, and plain, old-fashioned lake-gazing. The lake has boats, a pier, and a pavilion, all of which will be given to the village by the developer for the use of all residents.

Is Governors State University in Park Forest South?

Yes, it is. Situated on 750 acres, 200 of which were contributed by the developer, this new institution is the first state supported degree granting higher educational facility in the entire south suburban area. GSU offers junior and senior year programs as well as a Master's degree. Its innovative curriculum is oriented toward community activity and service which, as the University grows to its projected 10,000 student enrollment, will have a significant impact on Park Forest South.

What is the status of sewer and water service?

Park Forest South Utilities Company provides water and sanitary sewage treatment facilities in the Village. The water is chlorinated and fluoridated and meets all water quality standards of the Environmental Protection Agency of the State of Illinois. The tertiary (three stage) sewage treatment facilities are the most modern in the state and are designed to be expanded to serve a community of 100,000 persons as well as meet the needs of Governors Gateway Industrial Park. These facilities, too, far exceed the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency, State of Illinois. Currently, a plan is in proposal to the Federal government by Governors State University, Park Forest South Utilities Company, and the Village for a water re-cycling program.

Will I be able to shop in Park Forest South?

Construction has begun for the first phase of Thornwood Mall Shopping Center off Exchange Avenue in Park Forest South. When completed this new enclosed mall of 125,000 square feet will become the major shopping center for Park Forest South. Plans include approximately 25 stores: fashion and clothing facilities, service shops, and a restaurant. The Mall's major tenant will be Jewel Food Stores, with many unique services and facilities including an Osco Drug Store. In addition, Park Forest Plaza, on Western Avenue, with such stores as Marshall Field...
& Company, Sears Roebuck & Company, and Goldblatt's is a nine minute automobile ride from Park Forest South. Lincoln Mall, on Cicero Avenue, a few minutes from Park Forest South, has such stores as: Carson Pirie Scott & Company, Montgomery Ward & Company, Wieboldt's, and J.C. Penney.

What is the status of mass transportation in Park Forest South?
In an age of growing energy shortages, the developers of Park Forest South have integrated mass transportation systems into the community's planning as much as possible. Several important steps have been initiated.

First, the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad has been persuaded to extend its commuter line from nearby Richton Park to Park Forest South where a new terminal will be constructed adjacent to the University and Governors Gateway Industrial Park. In an era of commuter cutbacks and service reductions this unprecedented plan, projected for 1975, is a great asset for the community.

The trip from Richton Park to Chicago's Loop is presently about 50 minutes via air conditioned electric commuter trains. About a dozen trains operate during the morning rush hour and as many as 16 make the run in late afternoon and evening. Com-S-Tran, the local bus company, provides commuter service to the Richton Park terminal as well as to Lincoln Mall, Park Forest Plaza, Governors State University, and Governors Gateway Industrial Park.

What does Park Forest South's endorsement by the Federal government's Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Department mean to me?
Park Forest South is one of the nation's largest federally endorsed new communities. Under Title VIII of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 the developer received a federal guarantee of $30,000,000 making it possible to obtain long-term financing for land acquisition and development. In terms of future growth, HUD has shown a willingness to help fund through supplemental grants a number of special programs and projects such as: Thorn Creek Woods, highway improvement, and hospital construction.

Who are the Developers of Park Forest South?
The new town of Park Forest South is being developed by New Community Enterprises, an organization of three well recognized groups each with experience in construction, financing, and development. They are:

The Manilow Organization, Inc., headed by Lewis Manilow, who was active for many years with his late father, Nathan, co-founder of one of the nation's earliest open space totally planned communities, Park Forest, Illinois.

Mid-America Improvement Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Illinois Central Industries, Inc.

United States Gypsum Urban Development Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of United States Gypsum Company.