

This Guide to Lake Forest Mayors was prepared by the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society in cooperation with City staff. In connection with this guide, I oversaw a project with the Lake Forest High School Honor Society to conduct interviews with the living Mayors. Since the interviews were conducted, Mayor Morrison Waud has passed away. He will be missed. Excerpt of the interviews are included in this guide. The full transcripts of the interviews are in the archives of the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society and can be seen by contacting the museum curator.

The pictures enclosed are those displayed in the City Council Chamber. Thanks to Elizabeth Hedsund, the Historical Society's Curator, for acquiring and organizing the photographs of each Mayor. Thanks are also due Monica Wertz, Publications Director at Lake Forest High School, for creating the layout, and to the High School for making their facilities available for this project.

Finally, thanks to all the living Mayors who participated in the interviews. It was a wonderful learning experience for the high school students to see civic duty in action. We are blessed to have dedicated citizens that come forth to guide our City. As Frank Farwell said in the closing remarks of his interview, "We are lucky to live here!"

For additional information on the Mayors of Lake Forest or comments on this guide, contact the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society at 361 East Westminster, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045, 847-234-5253.

Harold M. Morrison
Board Member, Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society
February 2008

The Mayors of Lake Forest

Lake Forest was incorporated as a city in 1861. The first ordinance stated "Be it ordained by the common council of the city of Lake Forest that no person elected to the office of Alderman of said city shall receive any salary for his services as Alderman."

This guide is a list of the mayors of Lake Forest with some facts about the life and times of each one. Portraits of each of these mayors line the walls of the council chamber at City Hall, and these pictures were copied for this booklet. To distinguish the living Mayors versus those that have died, a title, "Mayor" was placed in front of the living mayors' interviews.



Harvey M. Thompson 1861-1865, 1867-1868

- Born in 1821 in New York
- Trustee of Lake Forest Association and Lake Forest College
- Post office established in Lake Forest in 1859
- Chicago alderman (1870-1871)
- Public elementary school built in 1861
- Residence 660 North Sheridan Road



William Sage Johnston 1865-1866

- Born March 13, 1791 in Middletown, Connecticut
- Johnston said, "Lake Forest people are close-fisted and wanting in public enterprise. If it had not been for my persistent and untiring efforts we never would have had any parks."
- Died January 15, 1869 in Lake Forest



David J. Lake 1866-1867

- Born February 22, 1823 in Mount Morris, New York

- Early Trustee (1856) of the Lake Forest Association and Lake Forest College
- Director and cashier of Manufacturer's National Bank of Chicago
- Third Ward created in the territory west of the railway in 1866
- Residence, "Forest Lawn," 644 East Deerpath Road
- Elder, First Presbyterian Church



Sylvester Lind 1868-1870, 1874-1877, 1878-1879, 1881-1884

- Born November 22, 1808 in Tarves, Scotland
- Real estate magnate and banker in Chicago
- Trustee of Lake Forest Association
- First trustee of Lind University which later became Lake Forest College
- Lake Forest received a charter school district in 1869
- Lake Forest Cemetery opened 1882
- City seal and motto, "Natura et Scientia Amore," adopted
- Residence, "Roadside," 550 East Deerpath Road
- Died February 6, 1892, buried in Lake Forest Cemetery



Samuel Ezra Barnum 1870-1871, 1873-1874, 1879-1881

- Born July 19, 1828 in Utica, New York
- Commissioner of Streets and Bridges in 1873
- Chicago businessman at Barnum Brothers, Toys and Fancy Goods
- Residence, "Barnum House," 797 North Sheridan Road
- Died June 1900, buried in Lake Forest Cemetery



John V. Farwell 1871-1872

- Born July 29, 1825 near Cambell, New York
- Owner of J.V. Farwell Co., a Chicago dry goods company, and called the "Merchant Prince"
- Instrumental in the building of the first YMCA in Chicago in 1857-1858 with Dwight Moody
- Appointed Indian Commissioner by President Grant in 1869
- Elder, First Presbyterian Church for over 30 years
- In 1873 said, "Lake Forest – beauty is certainly reached. There is probably no place in the United States which combines within itself such a culmination of landscape beauty as has [been] obtained here."
- Residence, "Farwell House," 888 and 920 E. Deerpath
- Died August 20, 1908 in Lake Forest, buried in Lake Forest Cemetery



Amzi Benedict 1877-1878, 1884-1885

- Born September 14, 1826 in Verona, New York
- Original member of Lake Forest Association and trustee of Lind University which later became Lake Forest College
- President Rutherford B. Hayes visited Lake Forest in 1878
- Lake Forest Association dissolved in 1878
- Lake Forest set aside land for St. Mary's Cemetery
- Chicago businessman at Field, Benedict & Co.
- Elder and Clerk of Session for 36 years of the First Presbyterian Church
- Residence, "Benedict House," 1010 East Deerpath Road



Joseph B. Durand 1886-1888

- Born May 1, 1838
- Elected mayor because he promised to keep cows out of people's yards
- Older brother of later Mayor Calvin Durand, Jr. Son of Calvin Durand, Sr.
- Residence, 660 North Sheridan Road
- Died July 2, 1917, buried in Lake Forest Cemetery



Moses Lewis Scudder 1888-1889

- Born February 3, 1843 in Charleston, Massachusetts
- Married Clarina Williams in Lake Forest on June 17, 1873
- Wife was niece of former mayor William S. Johnston
- Part of group that started Alcott School in 1888
- Died October 29, 1917 in Huntington, New York



Walter Cranston Larned 1889-1891

- Born November 3, 1850 in Chicago
- Graduate of Harvard, Harvard Law School, and Columbia Law School

- Art critic, editor and author of a book on Rembrandt
- Trustee of Lake Forest College
- In 1887, organized Lake Forest Art Institute which led to the Durand Art Institute in 1892
- Residence, "Blair Lodge" on Mayflower Road, later the Schweppe Estate
- Died June 19, 1914 in Chicago



Calvin Durand Jr. 1891-1895

- Born May 7, 1840 in Clintonville, New York
- Enlisted in Chicago Board of Trade Battery in the Civil War in 1862, captured near Atlanta in 1864
- Prisoner of war in Andersonville, Charleston, Florence and Libby prisons
- 1895 ordinance: "No person shall swim or bathe at any hour of the day between sunrise and sunset in Lake Michigan, in a state of nudity within one mile of that part of the shore of said Lake which is within the corporate limits of the City of Lake Forest."
- A cedar block road was laid
- Telephone service came to Lake Forest in 1895
- In 1895, the first police officer, James Gordon, appointed
- Residence, "Merrie Meade," 600 Mayflower Road
- Died October 31, 1911 in Lake Forest, buried in Lake Forest Cemetery



Edward F. Gorton 1895-1902

- Born May 6, 1854 in Ashtabula, Ohio
- Central School renamed Gorton School in his honor in 1905
- Prominent lawyer

- Established North School for primary grades
- Electricity and gas service brought to Lake Forest
- Electric railway began service to Waukegan and railway station on Western Avenue built
- Removal of sand, clay and other material from beach prohibited by City Council resolution, except at Forest Park Beach
- Alice Home Hospital erected on the Lake Forest College campus in 1898
- City Hall built with a public library on the second floor
- Fire Department established at City Hall
- Died March 10, 1929 while on a trip to Italy; buried in Lake Forest Cemetery



Mark Morton 1902-1903

- Born November 22, 1858 in Omaha, Nebraska
- Father was Secretary of Agriculture under President Cleveland
- Helped settle a teamsters' strike in Chicago
- Charter member of Winter Club and the Deerpath Municipal Golf Course
- Severe epidemic of Scarlet Fever caused Lake Forest to be quarantined and all schools and public places closed
- Residence, the Morton Estate on Woodland Road (demolished)
- Died June 24, 1951



Fredrik Herman Gade 1903-1906, 1909-1910

- Born August 12, 1871 in Christiania, Norway where father was American Consul
- Practicing lawyer and Norwegian Consul in Chicago from 1905-1910

- Member of Deerfield and Shields Township High School board from 1907-1910
- Returned to Norway in 1910 to enter government diplomatic service
- Charter member of Winter Club
- Speed limit for automobiles was set at 8 miles an hour, turning corners at 4 miles an hour in 1903
- Residence 355 North Green Bay Road



David H. Jackson 1906-1909

- Born January 14, 1874 in Chicago
- City attorney from 1909-1911
- President of First National Bank in Lake Forest
- Lake Forest Day began in 1908 to raise money for the construction of a contagious hospital to supplement Alice Home Hospital
- Chairman of Republican County Central Committee, 1906-1908
- Atteridge Road South, including West Park, annexed
- As Justice of the Peace he swore in six Northwestern students as constables to assist in a raid on a Highwood tavern because of the sale of liquor and gambling there
- First president of North Shore Sanitary Association, formed to solve the problems of poor sanitation in Lake Forest
- Died January 5, 1952, buried in Lake Forest Cemetery



C. Frederic Childs 1910-1911

- Born November 22, 1875 in Brattleboro, Vermont
- Introduced first macadam pavements in Lake Forest

- Established business specializing in government securities
- Created first professional Lake Forest fire department
- Residence 737 North Sheridan Road
- Died March 14, 1955, buried in Lake Forest Cemetery



John T. Pirie, Sr. 1911-1914

- Born September 11, 1871 in Brooklyn, New York
- Chairman of the Board of Carson Pirie Scott, one of the nation's largest wholesale and retail businesses
- Vice President of Brookfield Zoo
- Residence 930 Rosemary Road
- Died February 25, 1940, buried in Lake Forest Cemetery



Leverett Thompson 1914-1915

- Born in 1870 in New York
- Wife changed all Avenues to Roads in 1915
- Many streets renamed, including Elm Tree Road (formerly Elm Street) and College Road (formerly Linden)
- Deerpath east of Sheridan straightened and the old extension became part of Westminster
- Residence 788 Woodland Road
- Died August 14, 1921 in Lake Forest



William Mather Lewis 1915-1917

- Born March 24, 1878 in Howell, Michigan
- Market Square, first planned shopping center in the United States, opened in 1917
- Principal of Whipple Academy in Jacksonville, Illinois
- Instructor at Lake Forest University
- Headmaster of Lake Forest Academy
- In 1915 there was a furor over Sunday movies. Lewis held a vote and 452 voted for Sunday movies, 495 voted against.
- President of George Washington University from 1923-1927
- Residence, 540 North Mayflower Road
- Died November 11, 1945



Keene H. Addington 1917-1919

- Born March 4, 1878 in Baltimore, Maryland
- A leader of the framing and enactment into law of the Federal Reserve banking system during Woodrow Wilson's presidency
- Organized Lake Forest War Emergency Union
- Residence 735 East Westminster
- Died October 19, 1922, buried in Lake Forest Cemetery



Henry A. Rumsey 1919-1925

- Born December 15, 1871 in Chicago
- After much controversy the mayor was given authority to purchase the Water Company
- The stone gate for Lake Forest Cemetery donated by Mrs. Finley Barrell
- In 1922 first parcel of land for Deerpath Municipal Golf course received
- During milk strike of 1919, milk was brought in from Highland Park
- Residence 900 East Illinois Road
- Died December 29, 1941 in Chicago



Farwell Winston 1925-1928

- Born April 11, 1891 in Lake Forest
- One of three Farwell family members to be mayor
- Area west of Skokie Highway and the Knollwood Club area were annexed
- Residence was "Fairlawn," 965 East Deerpath
- Died November 14, 1964, buried in Lake Forest Cemetery



Albert Blake Dick, Jr. 1928-1931

- Born February 11, 1894 in Chicago
- Chairman of the Board of A.B. Dick Company, developers of the mimeograph
- President of the Hospital Association of Lake Forest
- Instrumental in establishing Lake Forest Hospital
- Family home “Westmoreland” at Deerpath and Waukegan
- Died October 24, 1954, buried in Lake Forest Cemetery



Albert D. Farwell 1931-1934

- Born May 28, 1888 in Lake Forest
- Library moved from City Hall to a new building in 1931
- Post Office building opened in 1932
- Died July 4, 1977, buried in Lake Forest Cemetery



Francis E. Manierre 1934-1937

- Born May 17, 1884 in Lake Forest
- Lake Forest High School opened as an arm of Deerfield-Shields Township High School
- Ordinance passed to make Eastern Standard Time official time of Lake Forest
- Breakwaters installed along lakeshore
- Due to outbreak of typhoid and other diseases, more stringent milk inspection laws enacted
- Important roads paved with harder surfaces
- Died September 7, 1974 in Lake Forest



Kent Chandler 1937-1940

- Born April 15, 1892 in Chicago
- Water pumping station constructed
- Lake Forest divided into specific districts for business, industry, and dwellings with size of lots and houses specified
- Died October 14, 1972, buried in Lake Forest Cemetery



Richard H. Mabbatt 1940-1943

- Born July 18, 1887 in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin
- Lake Forest Alderman for 6 years
- Lake Forest Hospital built and Alice Home Hospital was transformed into a dormitory for Lake Forest College
- Died March 3, 1984, buried in Lake Forest Cemetery



Charles F. Clarke 1943-1946

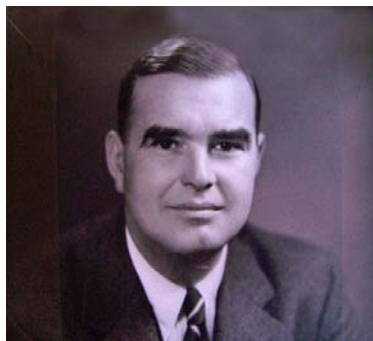
- Born September 9, 1893 in Chicago

- Lake Forest participated in many wartime activities such as USO and Victory gardens
- Worked on a plan to organize activities to eliminate bad behavior among youth of the town
- Started plans for a community center to be built near West Park, which were later abandoned
- Died December, 1971 in Lake Forest



Edward K. Welles 1946-1948

- Born November 7, 1898
- Promoted the idea of a community center in Lake Forest
- Residence 321 North Ahwahnee Road
- Died August 17, 1971, buried in Lake Forest Cemetery



John O. Giles 1948-1951

- Born February 27, 1906 in Minneapolis, Minnesota
- First Lake Forest Board of Education organized in 1949
- School District 115 formed and administration of Lake Forest High School transferred to Lake Forest



Walter Paul McBride 1951-1954

- Born January 12, 1900 in Lake Forest
- War memorial in Market Square erected
- Automatic gates installed at railroad crossings
- Subdivisions started to be built in Lake Forest
- Residence 1390 Lake Road
- Died July 15, 1975, buried in Lake Forest Cemetery



Elliot Donnelley 1954-1957

- Born February 28, 1903 in Chicago
- Deer Path School opened in 1955 and Sheridan School opened in 1957
- Founder of Chicago Youth Centers
- Life Trustee of Lake Forest College
- President of Illinois chapter of Nature Conservancy
- President of Lake County School Board
- Died December 29, 1976



Morrison Waud served 1957-1960

- Born May 23, 1910 in Oak Park
- Law partner of the firm Gardner, Carton and Douglas
- First mayor to introduce fluoridation into the Lake Forest water system
- Highly involved with the Police and Fire departments
- Annexed part of Vernon Township east of the Toll Road and south of Everett Road
- The Police Department began using radar
- The new Everett School opened in 1958
- Market Square renovated
- Died August 14, 2007



George R. Beach, Jr. 1960-1963

- Born May 23, 1903 in Lake Forest
- Cherokee School opened in 1962
- Died August 26, 1990, buried in Lake Forest Cemetery



Michael Cudahy 1963-1966

- Born February 20, 1914
- Ice storm caused much damage in Lake Forest
- US Highway 41 relocated
- Dog leash law was passed
- Law for licensing and regulation of cats passed
- Died August 3, 1993 in Chicago



Willard K. Jaques 1966-1969

- Born March 12, 1912 in Chicago
- Employed in finance department of Blunt, Ellis and Simmons, stockbrokers
- Director and treasurer of Chicago Planetarium Society
- Active in National Foundation of the Planned Parenthood Association
- Died May 20, 2001 in Lake Forest



Mayor Bruce MacFarlane 1969-1970

- Born November 28, 1919 in Chicago
- Graduate of Princeton University
- Lake Forest Alderman, 1969
- Green Bay Road resurfaced
- Replaced two bridges, one on Mayflower Road



Mayor Kent Chandler 1970-1973

- Born January 10, 1920 in Chicago

- His great-grandfather, father, and some of his cousins had also served as mayor
- Organized a sewer system to reduce waste water in Lake Michigan
- Worked for the City for 31 years on zoning, planning, fire and police commissions
- Redrafted zoning and planning ordinances
- Gorton School became a community center after much campaigning by interested residents
- Cemetery and Gorton Community Center Commissions created
- Portion of Fort Sheridan annexed for roadway purposes



Mayor Aidan I. Mullett 1973-1975

- Born 1926 in Saratoga Springs, New York
- Graduate of Yale and the University of Denver (MBA)
- Partner at Price Waterhouse accounting and professional services firm
- Lake Forest Alderman for 6 years
- Introduced a tax on utility bills, which avoided an increase in property taxes
- City's first long range planning committee established
- Property development controls put in place



Mayor James Swarthout 1975-1978

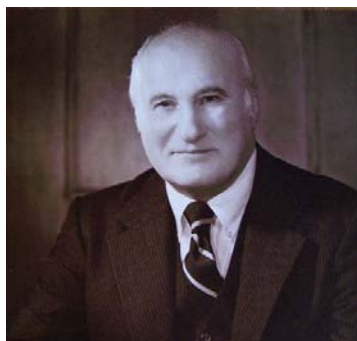
- Born February 1929 in Lake Forest
- Resolved \$8 million property law suit in City's favor
- Passed a referendum to build a Recreation Center
- Volunteer fireman
- Institution of 20-year long-range zoning plan (Official Comprehensive Plan of 1978)

- First audit committee for City finances
- After his time as mayor, he and Alderman John Anderson promoted the beach referendum



Mayor Frank Waldeck 1978-1981

- Born May 14, 1922 in Cleveland Ohio
- Before becoming mayor, he was a member of both the Plan Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals in Lake Forest
- Enabled the study of youth needs that later resulted in creating CROYA: The Committee Representing Our Young Adults.
- Initiated and passed the first residential historic preservation ordinance
- Passed the first tree ordinance, which requires permits to be granted to cut down large trees
- Sold former police and fire station, and it is now the South Gate Café
- New recreation building was completed
- Finalized provisions for the Chicago Bears facility at Lake Forest College
- Since his term he has volunteered with the Boards of the Lake Forest Symphony, the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society, Barat College, and the Affordable Housing Commission of Lake County.



Gerhard E. Seidel 1981-1984

- Born January 1, 1917 in Chicago
- Initiated annual tree-lighting ceremony
- Served on Schools, Parks, Recreation, and Public Safety committees
- First contested mayoral election in Lake Forest
- Most city departments realigned in 1982 including Police, Fire, City Maintenance, and Parks departments

- Senior Citizen Commission created
- Died February 25, 2004



Mayor Frank Farwell 1984-1987

- Born May, 1922 in Lake Forest
- The City oversaw financing to rebuild Lake Forest Beach
- CROYA launched
- The City acquired and maintained Ragdale, the 4th largest artist colony in the nation
- Lake Forest College trustee
- Shedd Aquarium and YMCA board member



Marshall C. Strenger 1987-1990

- Born February 15, 1918
- Highly decorated World War II pilot
- Annexation of Lake Forest Academy and Conway Farms properties
- 911 system implemented
- Died December 27, 1994 in Lake Forest



Mayor Charles Clarke, Jr. 1990-1993

- Born March 3, 1929 in Chicago
- Son of Mayor Charles F. Clarke
- Attended Brown University and served in the Korean War
- Worked in real estate with the firm of Arthur Rubloff & Co., and later with Sudler & Co.
- Served on the Lake Forest Planning Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Caucus
- The City Council passed a ban on leaf burning
- The City Council created the Tax Increment Financing District for Waukegan-Everett-Conway area, which provided funds for the new train and fire stations
- Citywide recycling program began
- Rehabilitation of Market Square utility infrastructure began



Mayor Rhett Butler 1993-1996

- Born March 9, 1940 in Oak Park, Illinois
- Trustee of Lake Forest Symphony and Lake Forest College
- President of Lake Forest Graduate School of Management
- Served on the Plan Commission and as Third Ward Alderman
- Started 10 year road improvement, maintenance and infrastructure plan
- Completed historic restoration of City Hall and made it compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Settler's Square, focal point of west side business district, dedicated
- Purchased the Masonic Lodge as an interim City Hall, and then provided the Lodge to the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society
- Developed the West Number 2 Fire Station and the West train station
- Developed the City's park and recreation plan.

- Worked with Mettawa and Lincolnshire to create I-294 as Lake Forest's western border
- Passed the first municipal telecommunications act reflecting the transition from Analog to Digital technology
- Televised City Council meetings
- Co-chair of Fort Sheridan Army Base Closedown Commission



Mayor Cornelius (Ron) Waud 1996-1999

- Born December 2, 1940 in Chicago
- Served on the Plan Commission of the zoning board and as Alderman for several terms
- Creation of the Historic Preservation Commission, the Senior Resource Commission, and the Cultural Arts Commission
- Played a major role in the planning and purchasing of Melody Farms, Middle fork farms, and Everett Farm, and the Grove School property
- Initiated discussions on acquisition of Grove School and Fort Sheridan properties
- Elawa Farm project initiated
- Parks and Recreation departments reorganized
- \$5.6 million of sewer, roadway and bridge rehabilitation completed



Mayor Howard Kerr 1999-2002

- Born November 17, 1935 in Des Moines, Iowa
- Career naval officer retiring in 1981 with rank of captain
- Naval aide to Vice President and President Ford
- Served as Chairman of the City Plan Commission from 1988-1994 and on the City Council from 1994-1998

- Market Square 2000 restoration completed
- Grove Cultural Campus developed by City
- Senior cottages built on Conway Road north of Metra train station
- Comprehensive study of Route 60 corridor development undertaken
- Purchase of land for Municipal Services Center site expansion
- Renegotiated the Conway Farms plan and kept extra acres for future recreational use
- Organized and chaired a committee of regional mayors
- Changed the term of the mayor from three one-year terms to two two-year terms



Mayor John E. Preschlack 2002-2005

- Born May 30, 1933 in New York City
- Partner of Spencer Stuart, an executive recruitment consulting firm
- President and CEO of General Binding Corporation
- Served on the Plan Commission and City Council for 6 years
- Referendum approved to acquire land on Route 60 for public park land use
- New Building Scale Ordinance and Landscape Ordinance regulations approved
- Major study of storm and sanitary sewer improvements initiated; sales tax referendum passed to finance them
- Initiated comprehensive study of affordable housing need, alternatives and enabling measures
- Lake Forest residents passed the Home Rule Referendum



Mayor S. Michael Rummel 2005-present

- Born in Chicago
- President of Rummel Associates, an insurance brokerage firm
- Served as Finance Chair for three years
- Expansion of Route 41 to three lanes
- Furthered the Affordable Housing Trust
- Worked to improve the role of Lake Forest in environmentally friendly activities with his Green Initiative
- Lake Forest Day Centennial 2008