**The History of the Village of Dixmoor, Illinois**

Dixmoor, Illinois is a small village in Cook County and Thornton Township about 17 miles south of downtown Chicago. The Village was first called "Specialville" because it was named after Charles Special, an early land developer from Chicago Heights, Illinois. Mr. Special became the first Village president in 1922. He owned 70 lots in the village and put up a vigilant fight against the cities of Harvey and Blue Island who both wanted to annex the area because of competition with industrial jobs in those communities. The Village of Specialville was incorporated on January 15, 1923.

The size of the village is 1.24 square miles with no lakes and a small portion of the community is intersected by the little Calumet River. Dixmoor has the unusual distinction of having thousands of people drive daily right over it because Interstate 57 passes over village streets. Despite this intrusion Dixmoor still exhibits important traces of the history of the region. Its eastern boundary parallels the Little Calumet River and the old Blue Island-Thorton Road. This is the path of the original Vincennes Trace that in the 1820s and 1830s reached from the small settlement of Chicago down to Vincennes in Indiana.

In 1907 the Grand Trunk Western railroad laid its first tracks through the Village of Dixmoor. From 1907 to 1926, an interurban from Chicago to Kankakee, the Chicago and Southern Traction Company ran alongside the Brand Trunk line through the Village. For the next forty years, Dixmoor was primarily a Caucasian community  which made up 98% of the Villagers with Italian, Polish, Irish and German ancestries.
In 1928 Charles Special died and in 1929 the Villagers petitioned the Secretary of the State to change the name of the Village to Dixmoor, possibly to recognize the proximity to Dixie Highway which ran straight through the western part of the Village. Pat Daley became the first elected President of Dixmoor in 1928.

After the Village was Incorporated, municipal services were provided to the then 944 Villagers in 1930.  There was sewers, street lights, electricity and water from Lake Michigan. Police and Fire departments were all volunteers. During the 1930s and 1940s much of the employment base was tied to the many industrial metal fabricating plants and factories in nearby Harvey, Illinois.

Integration in Dixmoor began in the early 1950s, primarily when the subdivision of "Forest Manor" was constructed east of Wood street consisting of 186 single family homes. The subdivision was built on the site of the former "Scouts Field" baseball diamond which moved north to 150th and Wood street in 1953. During this time period Mr. Joseph Mancuso was Mayor. Forest Manor opened in 1954 and created a new population profile for the Village that soared to 60% African American residency by 1960. The DYO (Dixmoor Youth Organization) was very popular in the 1960s which was organized and managed by Mr. Spires, a resident on Lawson Lane in Forest Manor.

The first public school was McKinley Grammar School, built in 1924. There was a small Catholic school built on the same site at 147th and Robey Ave in the early 1920s. McKinley school burned down in 1975 and the third school built on this site was and still is today the Rosa Parks Middle School which opened in 1982. Lincoln Grammar School was constructed in 1961 while Thorton Township High School in Harvey, Illinois serves the Village along with South Surburban College in South Holland.

The population of the Village soared to 3100 residents in 1960. The latest census in 2010 showed that there was 3934 residents in our community however, we believe this number is well into over 4000. The Village is continuing to move in a positive direction for over 8 decades. Dixmoor is a community where families share similar values and provide a foundation for children to become positive and productive citizens.

Dixmoor municipality is governed by a Village President, Six Trustee Board Members, and a Village Clerk along with other employees who make this Village a Success.