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SMALL TOWN CHARM
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Rory E. Hoskins

Good Bye and Good Riddance to 2020

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

For all of us, it has been a very challenging year. As we look forward to better days, including vaccinations, I want to take a few minutes to reflect and to say **THANK YOU FOREST PARK.**

As a community, we have:

- Sacrificed and adjusted to the new public health practices that are required as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- Learned to wear masks, to keep our distance, and to wash our hands more often.
- Adjusted to E-Learning with help from staff at our Howard Mohr Community Center. Many thanks to Karen D., and her staff.
- Learned to conduct and participate in large meetings using forums such as Zoom and Facebook Live. Many thanks to Vanessa M., Tanzla Davis-R., and all our departments.

We came together as a community and supported our local businesses, neighbors and our food pantry. Despite a summer that involved some anxiety we have much to look forward to in 2021. Our business community remained connected. Our Chamber of Commerce made sure that Madison Street and the Roosevelt Corridor remained attractive, and our faith community continued to provide important services which included food giveaways.

I look forward to the completion of additional improvement projects in 2021 that include plans for our sewer, bridge, a green parking lot constructed directly across from Village Hall, and the installation of a pedestrian path along Van Buren connecting to the Prairie Path.

These improvements are possible due to aggressive pursuit of grant opportunities and careful budget management. We should celebrate our future plans, and extend thanks to John D., Steve G., Letitia O., and to our public works and finance staff.

Finally, as 2020 winds down, let us celebrate that as our veteran leaders may be in various stages of planning to “retire”, residents can be assured that the Village of Forest Park has a bench of leaders who are prepared to continue moving our community forward. Many thanks Tim G.

On behalf of the Village Council of Forest Park and its employees, it is my privilege to wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

I cannot be more proud during these unforeseen circumstances to serve as your Mayor.

Very truly yours,

Rory Hoskins