It has been a great year in Franklin Park and I hope everyone had a healthy and happy holiday season. I was privileged to participate in several events throughout the season that demonstrated the power of volunteerism.

It was my honor to be joined by my sons as we served dinner to 200 naval recruits from Great Lakes Training Command. Our American Legion Post 974 hosted the Thanksgiving feast in partnership with Post 159. After dinner, the recruits were able to make phone calls to their families. Volunteers from throughout the community joined me at this event which gave us a chance to thank these young men and women for their service.

I joined the Franklin Park Manila Lions Club to serve a holiday meal to our seniors and other community members. I am proud to see volunteers from all ages and walks of life coming together to give their time and energy to make the holidays brighter for all.

I visited Enger School to read a story about construction and gave five lucky students the same reflective backpacks worn by our Franklin Park water meter readers.

Knowing how volunteerism strengthens a community, as well as how generous and compassionate our citizens are, I am declaring 2019 A YEAR OF GIVING in Franklin Park!

Throughout 2019, we will be encouraging and challenging organizations and individuals to expand their volunteer opportunities and to find ways to partner together so that we may meet even more needs.

We will be highlighting these activities in our newsletter and on social media. We will also make it the subject of our annual “Mayor for a Day” essay contest.

I encourage everyone to share your time through volunteering. You will learn that there is no gift greater than the one of giving to others! Please share your ideas, activities and photos with us by emailing to villagenews@vofp.com.
Welcome 2019!

Recently we asked our talented art students at Hester School to paint a festive holiday scene on a snow blade. Their beautiful work of art was on display at the Village’s Winterfest.

On behalf of Mayor Pedersen, the Village Board and staff, we wish everyone a happy, healthy and joyous New Year in Franklin Park.

Meeting on the Franklin Avenue Improvement Project - January 23

The Village will host a public information meeting regarding the Franklin Avenue Improvement Project, which will explore improvements along Franklin Avenue from Runge Street to east of Mannheim Road. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 23, from 4 - 6 PM at the Centre at North Park, located at 10040 Addison Avenue. This meeting will continue the conversation from an initial public meeting held in June 2018. Members of the community will be able to view design concepts and learn more about the proposed improvements and construction plans. This is the final opportunity for the public to provide written feedback on the project.

The Franklin Avenue Improvement Project will improve infrastructure, access and safety and reduce congestion along this important industrial corridor.

Neighborhood Watch Meeting – January 24

The next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be held on Thursday, January 24 at 6:30 PM at the Franklin Park Police Station.

Did you know that over 80% of calls made to 9-1-1 come from mobile phones? But when you dial 9-1-1 from a mobile phone, call takers have very little information to help you – only your phone number and a very general sense of your location. When seconds count, this could be a problem.

At the meeting, there will be a presentation on the new Smart 911 App which provides call takers and first responders with critical information needed in an emergency including your address, medical information, home information, description of pets and vehicles, and emergency contacts.

Please plan to join us for this informative session. The Village’s Director of Public Safety will be available to answer your questions.

Chamber by O’Hare Offers College Scholarships

The Chamber by O’Hare is accepting applications for its annual scholarship program. The program is open to all Franklin Park, Schiller Park, and River Grove residents.

Two $1,500 scholarships will be awarded to a full-time student accepted at an accredited college, university, or community college. A third $1,500 scholarship will be awarded to a full-time current or incoming Triton College student pursuing a degree in an engineering technology/manufacturing-related academic area. This year the Chamber is offering a fourth $1,500 scholarship in partnership with Digital Realty, a member of Franklin Park’s business community. This scholarship is for a full-time student pursuing a technology related program at an accredited college, university, or community college.

Completed applications and all required information are due by February 8, 2019. You can request information and applications by emailing info@chamberbyohare.org or patzinga@triton.edu. Remember to include a contact phone number with your email.

American Legion Hosts Veterans Event – January 13

The American Legion Post 974 will host a stand down to support homeless veterans on Sunday, January 13 from 11 AM to 3 PM at their facility at 9757 West Pacific. A hot meal will be served and toiletries, clothing, food and blankets will be distributed to anyone in need. The VA will be onsite to provide counseling and housing assistance. Anyone interested in donating or volunteering should call 847-560-0459.

Leyden Family Services Available at Village Hall

Leyden Family Services will be at Village Hall to help residents apply for government assistance programs from 9 to 11:30 AM on the following Wednesdays: January 9 and 30, February 13 and 27 and March 13 and 27. They can also help you make sense of your medical bills, provide prescription assistance and assist you in applying for license plate discounts and free train and bus passes. Before visiting, see the document checklist at vofp.com.