

## **Message from the Mayor - Winter 2025**

As we welcome the new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the achievements of our community in 2024 and share the exciting initiatives we have planned for 2025. This is a time of continued growth and progress for the Village of Channahon, and I am filled with optimism about the work we will accomplish together in the months ahead.

### **Reflecting on 2024**

In 2024, the Village of Channahon reached significant milestones that strengthened our community and enhanced the quality of life for our residents. We were proud to be recognized for excellence in financial reporting for the 19th consecutive year, a testament to our commitment to transparency and fiscal responsibility. We worked collaboratively with regional partners to put plans into motion to improve local roads and infrastructure, ensuring safer and more efficient travel for residents and visitors alike.

Additionally, community events like *Arbor Day*, *Rock On Channahon* and *Channaholidays* brought us together to celebrate nature, creativity, and culture. These events not only provided opportunities for neighbors to connect but also highlighted the vibrant spirit and shared values that make our Village unique. 2024 also saw the formation of our Arts & Culture Commission, a 5-member commission aimed at promoting cultural and artistic programs that will enhance and enrich the quality of life in Channahon and the region.

### **Looking Forward to 2025**

This year will bring even more exciting developments, with several plans underway on new projects that will further enrich Channahon. We're committed to keeping traditions alive with beloved community events and expanding opportunities for civic engagement. Our plans for economic development will prioritize balancing growth with preserving the charm and character that makes Channahon special. This includes moving forward with our Town Center development, new residential developments, and the I&M Canal Gateway, which is set to break ground this spring. Our Arts & Culture Commission will have a key hand in incorporating several artistic elements into the new Canal Gateway, along with other exciting cultural and arts projects, policies, and programs in 2025.

We're also excited to unveil our refreshed logo and brand identity for the Village later this year. This initiative will modernize our image while staying true to our rich history and community values. The new branding will enhance how we present our Village to residents, businesses, and visitors alike, ensuring a cohesive and welcoming identity.

As always, I encourage you to stay involved in our vibrant community. Whether by attending upcoming meetings, participating in local events, or volunteering, your engagement makes Channahon a stronger and more connected place for all of us. Together, we are building a vibrant future for our Village, one that respects our history while embracing growth and

innovation. I am deeply grateful for your partnership in making Channahon a wonderful place to live, work, and thrive.

Thank you for your continued trust and involvement in our shared journey. Let's make 2025 a year to remember!

Best wishes,  
Mayor Missey Moorman Schumacher