

## **Message from Mayor Missey - February 2023**

One of the questions I have received most often during my tenure as Village President tends to revolve around retail and commercial growth in Channahon: what's on the horizon, where it's going to go, how we're going to prepare for it, and so on.

A key factor in those conversations centers around our long term planning. Recently, we updated our 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan to provide further vision into long range goals and plans. It's easy to approve a plan that is a tangible and concrete immediate benefit. But, how did that "immediate benefit" happen?

Capital Improvement Plans are the undertakings that require patience and vision, because the benefits aren't as immediate as approving a plan for a new store. But, they are equally - maybe more - important; they are the big picture things that make Channahon a great place to live, and make businesses want to locate here. It's the long range plans, the big picture, the policies and decisions, the investment in our community, in infrastructure and utilities, and in improving services that ensures Channahon's vitality into the future, and allows us to continue to be a sought-after housing market, and to attract new retail/commercial partners.

It's the kind of plan that allows us to prioritize projects and budget accordingly. It's the kind of forward thinking and responsible investment and spending that has allowed us to lower the Village's tax rate more than 15% over the past seven years while continuing to invest in long term goals.

With our eye on the big picture and Channahon's future, thoughtful tax base diversification, deliberate planning, careful investment and more have allowed us to increase our services to residents while simultaneously decreasing our tax rate. In 2023, the Village of Channahon is poised to bring further economic development to our area. Starbucks, Dairy Queen and Tractor Supply Company will break ground in the spring, and Caseys will open their new, expanded facility.

On the commercial/industrial side, the Village of Channahon continues to hold the position that industrial uses should not spread west of I-55 or north of U.S. Route 6. The exception to this would be redevelopment in areas that are already occupied by older industrial uses, such as the two Penske re-developments underway along the west frontage road, north of U.S. Route 6.

The most notable area for future industrial development is the area located west of McClinden Road, in the region already occupied by industrial uses - otherwise known as the Brisbin Road Interchange Area. The Village has already purchased a site that will be a wastewater treatment plant to serve those western areas of Channahon. Discussions are also underway with our counterparts in Minooka and Morris, who share that Brisbin Road Interchange boundary with us, to begin planning for what future transportation routes may look like in that area as it continues to develop.

Whenever I visit local classrooms, I always tell students that the most important part of my job as Mayor is to make sure that Channahon is a good place for them to grow up, and a good place for them to make their home as adults, too. That's the goal of our strategic planning. That's the future - and that's the big picture.

Best wishes,

Mayor Missey Moorman Schumacher