

Mayor Steven L. Schag

ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

State of the City

February 3, 2025

Please allow me to preface this Annual Report with a few words of recognition and appreciation. I would like to thank the members of Shelby City Council for their dedication, careful deliberations, and spirit of cooperation. The progress that was made in 2024, in large part, is due to a City Council that is skilled in creating and passing legislation that puts Shelby on the road to stability and success. I want to publicly thank Mr. Joe Gies, our Project Coordinator, Mr. Brian Crum, our Director of Finance, Ms. Amber Cutlip, our Deputy Director of Finance, Stacey Gunder & City Hall Staff Members, Mr. Gordon Eyster, our Law Director, Mr. John Ensman, our Director of Public Utilities, Mr. Jerry Marshall, our Park Superintendent, Dr. Chawla and Gillian Olsen, Lisa Kilgore and Sue Shenberger of our Health Department, and Ms. Jessica Gribben, our Economic Development Manager. I also want to express my appreciation to Chief Lance Combs and Chief Mike Thompson for providing steady and stellar leadership in their respective Departments. Both Departments faced and overcame most unusual and dangerous challenges in 2024. I do not have time to properly recognize all the men and women who make up the extraordinary team that serves the citizens of Shelby on a daily basis.

I am pleased to report to City Council that the City concluded the year 2024 on a note of strong positivity.

Last year we celebrated a good many accomplishments, some of which will actually bear full fruit in 2025. Please allow me to highlight some notable things that happened in the year 2024:

In January of 2024 Little Shops of Shelby held their Grand Re-Opening on East Main Street.

Later that month Avita Walk-In Clinic and Medical Offices opened their doors on 25 East Whitney Avenue. This impressive facility adds another layer of health care access available in our region.

In March the City Administration hosted another Business First Breakfast Event at the Kehoe Center.

Early spring saw Mickey Mart and Dunkin' Donuts begin to prepare for construction on Mansfield Avenue.

In June we held the dedication of The Kilgore Alley Way Mural.

Later that month we were delighted to see the return of the Shelby Downtown Car Show.

Late summer witnessed the Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening of Ignited Ministries on West Whitney Avenue.

A large crowd gathered for the grand reopening of Shelby's Louie Beach Skatepark in Veteran's Park. We want to thank Arcelor Mittal for their wonderful contribution to this amazing project.

In October, Park Village unveiled the huge interior renovation project of their entire residences.

In late fall Tesla Batteries were installed adjacent to our Solar Field in preparation for the implementation of a 10 MW Battery Energy Storage System.

Ms. Jessica Gribben guided our City in a significant update of our Strategic Plan, which will help steer us in our future strategies for growth.

We finished the year celebrating with The Shelby Health and Wellness Center upon the completion of their major interior renovations of their Main Street facility.

Looking ahead, 2025 promises to be a fruitful and event filled year.

We anticipate the Grand Opening of the Shelby Mickey Mart and Dunkin' Donuts on Mansfield Avenue. Doors could be opening for business in the next 4-8 weeks.

There is a huge expansion in the works for a major business in the Industrial Park. More details to follow.

The transformational project in our North East Quadrant of town is gaining traction. A regional developer is looking to put together a Modular Home living center that could hold a capacity of 48 affordable homes.

Additionally, the Shelby CIC is in the early planning stages for the redevelopment of the Shaw Building at Main and Gamble. The CIC was awarded Vibrant Community's Pre-planning Grant funding to begin in earnest creating a redevelopment plan for the building.

The Shelby CIC is walking alongside the City in continuing joint efforts of downtown revitalization, including planning for Phase III and the South Parklands expansion of the Black Fork Commons Park.

Buckeye Superstore on Mansfield Avenue has a large expansion project on the drawing board. We expect to see activity this spring or summer.

The East Main Street Subdivision Project is coming along nicely with the construction of 5 spacious and beautiful Duplexes.

Lloyd Rebar continues its phenomenal growth on Technology Parkway. Lloyd Rebar is a national leader in rebar fabrication technology. We are immensely proud of this "home grown business!"

The Shelby Foundation is making a major investment in some key properties on the Upper West Square of Shelby. We cannot thank the Foundation enough for leading the way in what transformative renovation looks like in a City our size!

We are looking for the arrival of some final components of our 10 Megawatt Battery Energy Storage System in the 1st quarter of this year. This system will amplify our renewable energy resource in Shelby.

As a Nationally recognized Bee City USA, we look forward to working with local organizers for our first ever Bee Festival on May 31st.

In conclusion, I look forward to a new year where we can see tangible and measurable outcomes of true community and economic development in Shelby. I am confident that by working together, we will overcome any challenges and realize our shared vision for a thriving Community.

May God bless you, and may God bless the City of Shelby, Ohio.