

Mayor Steven L. Schag

ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

State of the City

February 2, 2026

Today I am pleased to communicate to you and the citizens of Shelby that the present state of the City is stable, secure, and fiscally sound.

This annual Report to Council affords me the opportunity to enumerate and celebrate with you a number of noteworthy accomplishments of last year, as well as preview goals and projects on the horizon for the year ahead.

As usual, I would like to begin my report with a notation of sincere appreciation to all the people across the City Workforce who choose to invest their valued time and varied talents in the ongoing collective effort of providing a full range of municipal services to the citizens of Shelby.

I would like to recognize and publicly thank the venerable members of this City Council, namely: Charles Roub, Derrin Roberts, Eric Cutlip, Nathan Martin, and Steven McLaughlin. I deeply appreciate your dedication, careful deliberations, and spirit of cooperation. With your legislative assistance we were able to efficiently process and pass 37 Ordinances and 42 Resolutions this past year.

Once again, it has been my pleasure to work with, Project Coordinator - Joe Gies, Director of Finance - Brian Crum, Deputy Director of Finance - Amber Cutlip, Director of Law - Gordon Eyster, Director of Public Utilities - John Ensman, Stacey Gunder & City Hall Staff Members, Dr. Ajay Chawla, Jennifer Frazier, Nicole Webster, and Sue Shenberger of our Health Department, and Economic Development Manager - Jessica Gribben.

I also want to gratefully acknowledge Police Chief Lance Combs and Fire Chief Mike Thompson for providing remarkable leadership in their respective Departments. As you know Chief Thompson retired as Chief in July of 2025. We wish Chief Thompson success and fulfillment in his new role as an educator at Pioneer. I look forward to working with our new Fire Chief, Sam Sauder.

Last year we celebrated a good number of accomplishments, some of which will continue to bear fruit in the year 2026. Over these next several minutes I would like to present a concise summary of 2025 and a brief preview of 2026.

- Last April the Whimsey Tulip Boutique opened its doors with an air of excitement at 39 East Main Street.
- Also, in April the Dollar Tree took up residence in the former Rite Aid store on Mansfield Avenue.
The month of May featured four special events in our city.
- We were delighted to host a memorable ribbon cutting event at the impressive facilities of Mickey's and Dunkin Donuts on Mansfield Avenue.
- The long-awaited demolition of the buildings at the corner of Main and Broadway began. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Richland County Land Bank and Troy & Monica Baker. This site is now ready for development.
- We celebrated with Amanda Mobley, her staff, and family as she moved into her beautifully renovated State Farm Office at 29 North Gamble Street.
- The city was all abuzz with the activities surrounding our very first "ShelBee Festival." I believe this event will continue to grow in the future.
- In June contractors were on site at the Buckeye Superstore property preparing for demolition and excavation activity connected with their huge expansion.
- Also in June, the Shelby Car Show proved to be a fun-filled event with over 100 cars on site.
- August saw Lottie & Lemon Boutique open for business in the company of family and friends at 35 East Main Street.
- Additionally in August, we partnered with the Richland County Commissioners to engage in a logjam removal project on the Black

Fork River from Shelby to State Route 13. Once again, we want to thank the Commissioners for their financial and mutual support for this project.

- Kelly's Nail Studio at 6 Water Street held a well-attended, celebratory ribbon cutting in late August.
- In November Nomad Coffee and Mama's Pizza paired up to offer breakfast and coffee items at their location on Mansfield Avenue.
- December was an unforgettable month for the entire City of Shelby as the beloved Shelby Whippets Football Team competed in the State Championship game in Akron, Ohio. The Team finished their historic season as The Division IV State Runner-Up.
- And we closed out the year with demolition activity on Mansfield Avenue. Mechanic's Bank removed the existing buildings in preparation for their banking relocation on that site.
- And it should be mentioned that the 2025 Christmas Season was brightened beyond measure by some spectacular additions in our Black Fork Commons Plaza. Many people took pictures with the 9-foot-tall Nutcrackers and reveled in the illumination of our grand 24-foot Christmas Tree. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Curry Family and Paul & Carolyn Armstrong for their generosity.

Looking ahead, 2026 holds the promise of continued municipal momentum:

And as we know, the need for housing is a big issue across the County. I am pleased to report that The Millstone Manufactured Home Community project is beginning to take shape in the Third Ward. Infrastructure is being put in place as we speak. Plans are to provide 48 homes with the inclusion of a nice walking path and playground. And we are also working with the Richland County Land Bank on the "Welcome Home Ohio Grant" which would provide some much-needed affordable housing in Shelby. We are also in conversation with a developer on a market rate project as well.

Industrial advancement is being led by the Hanline Group's \$45 million Capital Investment in our bustling Industrial Park. This phenomenal expansion is set to be in operation this month. They are hoping to add

some 30 jobs in connection with this new venture. We are so thankful for the Hanline Group's enormous investment in the City of Shelby!

Between The Shelby Foundation and the Milliron Family's kind generous real estate investments, we are witnessing a transformational change on West Main Street. This involves the revitalization of four historic Main Street structures. We are in active conversations with perspective tenants to fill those spaces as they come online toward the end of 2026.

The Shelby Community Improvement Corporation secured funding for a JobsOhio Vibrant Communities Planning Grant which will provide for the creation of an architectural rendering and build-out estimate for the Shaw Building which they own. They will continue to work this year to build out a capital stack to invest in this building.

Additional Main Street activity continues westward with the impressive investment of the Penwell Family in "The Hatchery on Main." This unique destination venue will provide event space and short-term lodging, which will contribute to the growing vibrancy of the downtown district.

Strategic demolition projects improved site readiness and corridor visibility along Mansfield Avenue. Work continues on the huge expansion of the Buckeye Superstore on Mansfield Avenue. They are set to take occupancy this year.

And we are very much looking forward to the development of the Mechanics Bank Building on the former sight of the LK Motel and Restaurant of years ago.

We are working with the Richland County Regional Planning Commission and the City of Mansfield to produce a Comprehensive Land Use Plan which will guide our development and decision-making for the future of Shelby.

Plans are in the making to develop four acres of city owned property into a beautiful plot of honeybee/pollinator habitat, thus keeping our Bee City USA recognition as an important part of our municipal identity.

As an AMERICA 250 OHIO COMMUNITY, we will be announcing some nice events to celebrate this milestone year with a “Shelby Flavor”. We want to thank the Marvin Memorial Library for spearheading this initiative.

We are collaborating with officials from the Great American Bicycle Adventure as we plan to host a portion of their tour in North Central Ohio this June. This huge event will bring hundreds of cyclists and families into the heart of our city.

In closing, may I remind you that 2026 will be a year like no other in our lifetimes. This year, as we participate in the nationwide celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, let us never lose sight of the fact that we, as twenty-first century patriots, are building on foundations that we did not put in place. May our public service this year be solely in the interest of the advancement of a City that is one of hope and opportunity for each and every citizen that calls this place home. We are indeed laboring for the generations that will follow in our footsteps.

God bless you. God bless the City of Shelby. And God bless The United States of America.