

## MESSAGE FROM MAYOR MISSEY MOORMAN SCHUMACHER

November 19, 2018

It's hard to believe, but Thanksgiving is right around the corner. As 2018 comes to a close, the Village of Channahon is still hard at work on numerous projects. We continue to work with the consultant firm Houseal Lavigne & Associates on the creation of our updated Comprehensive Plan. The grant awarded to the Village by the Chicago Metropolitan Area Planning (CMAP) covers 85% of the cost of the plan. As always, we strongly encourage resident input; there are still plenty of opportunities to participate. Click the REIMAGINE logo on the Village website ([www.channahon.org](http://www.channahon.org)) for more information. At our recent community visioning workshop, residents confirmed that the issues most important to our community are also those on our front burner at the Village of Channahon.

I often think residents see projects after they happen, but aren't able to see the months, and sometimes years of planning that go into a project before anything visible happens. Residents aren't always aware of the many developer ideas to which we say NO, or see the concepts we are looking for ways to implement. So here's a brief look at just a few of the ways we are working as we move into the future.

**Bridge Street Bike Path:** This path will connect the I & M Canal trail through town to the existing bike paths near the Hunters Crossing area and include a new bridge over the canal for non-motorized traffic. This path will provide pedestrians and bike riders with greatly improved and safer travel capabilities. To date, the Village of Channahon has garnered \$1.5 million in grant money to move this project forward. Future bike path plans include a pedestrian bridge over the canal at Knapp St. and a bike path east of I-55 to help complete a total east to west trail system.

**Improved Cell Service:** The Village of Channahon is currently negotiating with a cell tower company to local a stealth tower (designed as a flag pole) adjacent to the Village Hall. Not only will this improve cell service with capacity for three providers, but will also generate land lease income to the Village.

**Tree Replacement Program:** The Emerald Ash Borer has devastated the ash tree population. The number of affected trees is staggering, and while the Village of Channahon Public Works Department continues to remove dead trees, we have also instituted a cost share program to help speed up the replacement process. We are currently looking at ways to utilize dollars provided by the industrial development east of I-55 to further increase the replacements without additional cost to residents.

**Traffic Signal at Rt. 6 & E. Frontage Road:** It is a long and often frustrating process to make improvements to roads that belong to the State of Illinois, but the Village of Channahon has done just that. The next piece is the traffic signal at Rt. 6 & E. Frontage Road. Final IDOT

approval of this project is in process. Pending their approval, this project is scheduled to begin construction in the spring of 2019, and is being paid for by commercial and industrial development, **not** the residents of the Village of Channahon.

**Farmers Market/Sustainable Local Sourcing:** The Village of Channahon applied for, presented, and continues to pursue funding sources to create and promote locally sourced food and goods. We are currently considering locations, intergovernmental partnerships, and enthusiastic entrepreneurs in moving these concepts forward.

As I indicated earlier, residents aren't always aware of the many developer ideas to which we say NO. We have, on numerous occasions, been approached by industrial developers to approve the construction of warehousing in areas not previously designated for industrial use, including the north side of Route 6, and next to the golf course. We have consistently and defiantly said NO to these proposals. As your mayor, I am committed to ensuring that we firmly stand our ground on this and continue to say NO.

Of course, not everything we do can be cost free to residents but we can and should always look to minimize negative costs and impacts. These are just a small sampling of the projects and ideas we're working on as we look for ways to save taxpayer money while improving our community.

As always, please reach out to me with any comments, questions or suggestions you may have. Together, we can make our wonderful community even better! Stay tuned for more messages from the Mayor!

Best wishes,

Mayor Missey Moorman Schumacher