



SHAKER HEIGHTS

Mayor's Report December 2021

Hello.

As the year winds down, I want to highlight the tremendous work of our Public Works Department. From overseeing the modernization of our sewers, to the repaving and plowing of streets, to maintaining our urban forest, and 500,000 stops by refuse collectors per year, their work is constant and critical to the functioning of the City.

This year alone, as part of our ongoing sewer modernization work, 16 miles of mainline sewers were cleaned. In addition, the Department has begun what will be our largest and most complex sewer upgrade project ever undertaken. It will take place near the intersection of Lynnfield and Lomond. With the help of a grant to cover 50% of the design cost, plans have been developed to significantly increase the sewer capacity in order to prevent overflows of the sanitary storm sewer, as well as replace water mains, and rehabilitate existing sewer lines. The project cost is expected to be \$6 million dollars. When complete, it will result in a significant improvement to stormwater management and will have a noticeable positive impact in the Lomond and Sussex neighborhoods.

As you know, the weather in Northeast Ohio takes a toll every year on our streets so maintaining them is a never-ending challenge. This year, a total of 17 miles of streets were resurfaced at a cost of \$4.2 million dollars. The good news: The total cost was offset by almost 50% through a \$2 million dollar grant.

Our urban forest was enhanced this year through successful grants totaling \$100,000, which helped bring the total number of trees planted to over 500, with more planned for 2022.

Recycling events held on weekends throughout the year diverted countless items from the landfill, and advanced the City's sustainability goals. This year, we recycled 3.5 tons

of household hazardous waste, 56 large bulk boxes of computers and electronics, and over 540 tires.

Even as construction work slows, Public Works crews are heading into one of their busiest seasons. As you can imagine, with 100 miles of roadway to clear, winter weather keeps the Department busier than ever.

In anticipation of snowy weather, I want to mention a few things about our plowing process. For starters, we adhere to Sensible Salting Practices, which limits the amount and placement of salt in order to minimize damage to roads and the environment. When combined with plowing, this is the most sustainable practice and ensures that the roads are safe for vehicles. As a reminder, our streets are plowed in order of priority: main streets first, then streets around the schools, and then side streets. As a result, it may take a little extra time for crews to clear your street after a major snowfall. For more information about our snow policies, including information about snow parking bans, please [visit the City's website](#).

On behalf of Council, and our residents and businesses, I want to express sincere thanks and gratitude to our Public Works employees. Although the pandemic has created challenges, they have continued to work in all seasons and in all conditions, and sometimes at all hours of the day and night, to ensure the City continues to function and be safe for all of us.

In closing, I hope that you and your family enjoy the holiday season and have found time to shop locally, gather with friends and family at our local restaurants, and simply enjoy this special time of the year. Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.