



**Mayor's Report
January 2023**

Hello, and best wishes for the New Year.

2022 was a busy and productive year here in Shaker Heights and I'll be recapping last year's accomplishments in a *State of the City* address, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Shaker Heights.

It is scheduled for Thursday evening, January 26th, from 7 until 8:30 pm in the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Community Building.

I hope you will join us in person or you may live-stream the event.

I would like to thank the League in advance for organizing this event and generally promoting community engagement in local government.

As we start 2023, I would like to take this opportunity to talk about a few of the major projects we are working on in the year ahead.

First:

The pre-design phase of the restoration of Doan Brook at Horseshoe Lake Park is moving forward and scheduled to wrap up this spring.

I am pleased that nearly 850 people responded to an online preference survey last fall, and hundreds of you attended community engagement events, most recently at the Shaker Heights Public Library in early December.

At that event, many of you were able to visualize what a restored Doan Brook could look like in this parkland, with native plants, new trails, and stream crossings.

Expect an additional public engagement opportunity this spring, when the landscape architects, engineers and others working on this pre-design phase will present their recommendation.

In July, the project is scheduled to move into the detail design phase, which will last approximately another year. After that, the project goes to bid with construction expected to start in 2025.

Second:

I am happy to report that the City's 100% Renewable Electric Aggregation program is set to start in June. In mid-April, notices with details about the program will be sent to all eligible Shaker residents.

Through this program, the City has contracted to purchase its electric energy supply and renewable energy credits to meet the electricity needs of the City's 100% renewable electric aggregation customers.

This green electricity aggregation program is one of the most important things we can do, as a city, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Please watch your mail for more information coming soon or visit our website: shakeronline.com/electric-aggregation.

Third:

For at least the past 30 years, the city has periodically engaged a research firm to conduct a Community Attitude Survey, as a means of gathering input on Shaker Heights programs and services.

This year, the nationally known polling firm, ETC Institute, is sending 3,000 printed surveys to Shaker households, chosen using random sampling.

Perhaps you or a neighbor has received the survey this month.

If so, I urge you to complete the survey and return it. The results of this survey will help inform me and City Council regarding resident priorities.

Fourth:

The development of the Lee Road Action Plan continues. This plan will create a vision to comprehensively transform Lee Road south of Chagrin Boulevard into a Thriving, Vibrant and Transit-friendly commercial district.

Beginning last year, hundreds of residents attended public meetings and events to share their opinions and give input as the plan was developed.

City staff members are now working with our consultant team to finalize the plan for presentation to City Council in a public meeting this spring. So please stay tuned and consider attending or listening in.

I am very excited about Lee Road's potential and I appreciate all the residents who have engaged with this project.

Fifth:

Finally, construction is well underway on the second phase of the Van Aken District. RMS, the developer of the successful first phase, is building 228 apartment units in two towers on the north side of Farnsleigh Road. It is hard to miss the crane. And we'll be anxiously watching as construction progresses over the next two years.

So as you can tell, the year ahead will be very busy as City Council and I monitor and guide these projects and many others. As always, we welcome your feedback.

Thank you for your continued interest in all that is happening in Shaker Heights.