



**MAYOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF
GREENCASTLE**
January 2, 2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

POLICE PERSONNEL RETIREMENTS AND STRATEGIC PLANNING: *THANK-YOU Officer Jim Bradley and Chief John Phillippy for a combined nearly 100 years of law enforcement service. Jim retired on December 31. Chief is on the job until the end of the day, January 6, 2024. We are grateful for their dedication to our citizens. What does it mean to be a police officer and the changes observed over the past 42 years. The Mayor's strategic / succession planning comments... Next Monday, January 9, 2024, is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. Let us humbly thank the men and women in law enforcement and their families for the many services rendered 365 days a year.*

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AND SHOP SMALL: I am always pleased to visit downtown and observe parking spaces nearly filled. This was especially true over the Christmas season as the Borough again offered free parking in November and December. This past week seemed to also be busy, and I hope for a continued busy downtown in January as we continue to support our local merchants. Thanks to our merchants, volunteers, and the Chamber of Commerce for the wonderful Heritage Christmas events.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE OFFICERS OF THE RESCUE HOSE COMPANY. Cheryl Mowen will continue to lead as President in 2024 along with Fire Chief Kevin Barnes.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN TRAIN IDLING REPORT: Larry Pittman has issued his monthly report. It appears train visits are less than last year at this time though trains continued to idle during the warm December. I am hopeful that N/S is looking at other locations for their trains to set and idle as I am communicating with a new representative of N/S.

I am honored to represent Greencastle and attend many public events in the Greencastle area.

ACTIVE ITEMS:

- Downtown parking inventory, new systems, private owner partnerships
- Downtown truck traffic (letter authorized to PennDot)

Respectfully submitted, *Ben Thomas, Jr. Mayor*

