



To members of Council and our Citizens...

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND NEW BUSINESS EXCITEMENT: New businesses have opened downtown and on South Antrim Way. Remodeling is occurring at several locations in the Borough for new businesses that will soon open. Here is an exciting photo from this past Saturday at a ribbon cutting on Center Square at the former Hostetter building in the NW corner of Center Square. I am honored to attend such events and the recent G-A Chamber of Commerce annual meeting held at Antrim Township Community Park.



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2020: October 4 thru 10 is the 95th year commemorating this week as first proclaimed by President Calvin Coolidge in 1925. This year's theme is "SERVE UP FIRE SAFETY IN THE KITCHEN" as most dwelling fires start from unattended cooking. With an abundance of precaution the Rescue Hose Company is unable to have their huge open house this year. Training continues and the Department does do drive by duties when birthdays are being celebrated. Remember...test your smoke detectors and change batteries annually by choosing a special day like the time change coming up in a few weeks, November 1st.

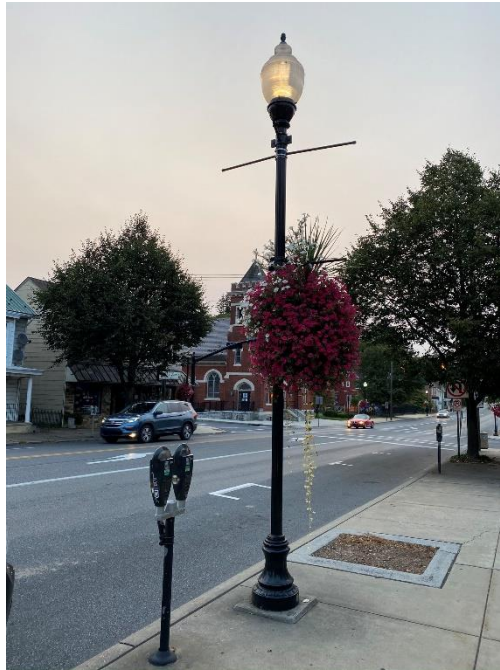


GASD FUTURE COMMUNITY PROJECTS: I am so excited regarding the cooperation of GASD's Superintendent, Dr. Lura Hanks and faculty as we continue planning to re-paint the Veterans' Branch insignias outside Borough Hall. The annual Veterans' Day Ceremony will be conducted here on 11 November at 11:00 A.M. In case of rain, the Ceremony will be canceled and a virtual program will be held on WRGG radio who will broadcast the program live. All are encouraged to attend.

FREE PARKING DOWNTOWN: Thank-you to Gano Paving for sponsoring the holiday season free parking downtown. Let me plant this seed...free parking will commence from Thanksgiving thru Christmas. I recommend the Council and Mayor sponsor free parking starting November 2nd to show our support for our downtown small businesses.

DOWNTOWN UPGRADES / HISTORY: In 1988 Greencastle worked with the Chamber of Commerce and mounted 16 street-lamp posts around Center Square. Each lamp post was donated by businesses and citizens. The Franklin County Vo-tech School (now the Career and Technology Center) worked with me and designed the four planters around Center Square that once adorned seasonal flowers and were tended to by quadrant businesses and Borough Public Works personnel. Now, many of the lights are no longer straight and the tops are not balanced. The sponsor signs are missing from several (dated 1989). The NW lamps are, or were previously, wired to the bank electrical system. I'm planting another seed to recommend the street lamp posts be upgraded with a more aesthetic looking lamp post similar to what our friends in Waynesboro have completed in their downtown. Their beautiful lamp posts adorn seasonal flowers that are tended to by citizen volunteers. With these larger lamps not as many would be needed around the Square as is presently mounted suggesting three in each quadrant for a total of 12. I wonder how many businesses and citizens would sponsor new lamp posts?

Here's a photo of one of Waynesboro's lamp posts sponsored by businesses and citizens.



MAYOR'S SPECIAL REPORTS TO THE ECHO PILOT: I am honored to author regular reports to our citizens and appreciate The Echo Pilot allowing me to do so. This week, I wrote about future personnel funding for Rescue Hose Company. I hope you are able to read my comments. In the near future I would like to write about the benefits of a single source trash hauler.

BEST WISHES TO LORRAINE HOHL: Lorraine...I wish you the very-best with your future endeavors. Being a municipal manager in a small community brings lots challenges, especially, when you wear so many hats in a days-time. Be strong and have confidence. Thank-you for your service.

My thoughts and prayers are for our President, First Lady, Pa. State Representative Paul Schemel, and all citizens during their recuperation from COVID-19.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Thomas, Jr.