



**MAYOR'S REPORT**  
TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF GREENCASTLE  
PRESENTED:01 February 2021

**SNOW EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION FOR DISASTER DECLARATION:** The Proclamation is attached and recommended in the event Greencastle needs additional resources and if a Pa. and Federal Declaration is authorized.

**PROCLAMATION IN SUPPORT OF OUR LOCALLY OWNED RESTAURANTS:** I've proclaimed the month of February as SUPPORT OUR LOCALLY OWNED MOM AND POP RESTAURANTS MONTH. These small businesses support the economic vitality of the greater Greencastle community by providing a vital service and jobs for our citizens. If financially able, let's support them as they've been affected the hardest by shut downs and State government restrictions.

**WELCOME NEWS BUSINESSES AND SUPPORT EXISTING ONES:** As I do nearly every month, I like to promote our small, local businesses. Blaise Alexander has opened their state-of-the-art vehicle collision center along N. Antrim Way. I'll soon be taking a tour of this beautiful facility with the General Manager. I've observed expansion of the United Enterprises Construction building (formerly Keystone Ford) on S. Antrim Way. For a mean steak, visit Branded Meats & Deli, also on S. Antrim Way. Another new small retail business will soon open in the 100 block of E. Baltimore Street beside "The Shop." These, and more, are very exciting as all businesses succeed with these free enterprise activities.

**POLICE SOFTWARE SYSTEM UPDATE:** I thank the Council from the December 7, 2020 meeting to reserve funding as further research was underway to possibly replace very challenging software currently in use. The Police Chief's recommendation, and I agree, is to stand down regarding software replacement in 2021. Several police departments have been researching a software purchase / support partnership to drive the costs down. That partnership, however, will not be recommended in 2021. Chief Phillippy awaits "upgrades" to the current "Commonwealth Network" system and will further review this year. As you know, I'd rather have our officers on the street instead of doing massive amounts of computer data entry, however, that is police work today. One officer recently had two days of back to back calls which placed a heavy responsibility on computer data entry and follow-up investigations which restricts the opportunity for pro-active police work.

**CHESAPEAKE BAY NEWS:** From the December, 2020 edition of the Chesapeake Bay Journal a map shows the watershed that includes all of central Pennsylvania, south central New York, all of Maryland, Eastern West Virginia, and central to northern Virginia for a total 4,480 square miles of land. An article included information where Pa. Dept. of Environmental Protection approved 43 requests for temporary suspension of regulations or permit conditions during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. DEP denied 200 other requests. These were primarily given to businesses that were shut down or operations reduced.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO TOM GREEN WITH HIS RECENT RETIREMENT:**

Congratulations to Greencastle resident Tom Green who recently retired after 46 dedicated years of public works employment in Greencastle and Antrim Township. I'm honored to have worked with Tom in both municipalities. His quiet, 24 hour a day dedication operating public water and sewer infrastructure is exemplary. I wish Tom and Wife, Betsy, well in their retirement.

**RECOMMENDING A DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROJECT THIS SPRING BY ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

Prior to COVID I recommended a Spring, 2020 downtown work project by the elected officials that President Steve Miller endorsed. Let's do it this Spring. My thoughts include power washing the Center Square benches and re-staining; freshening up bark in the four planters; planting flowers in these quadrants as long as there are volunteers to tend to them. As my past seed was planted, I'd love to see new ornamental street lamps around Center Square to replace those that were installed in 1988. This has been assigned to one of the Council committees.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR G-A WINTER SPORTS TEAMS:** Both the GAHS girls' and boys' basketball teams are having a very successful year. Though we're unable to attend the games please join me in wishing them well for the rest of their season. A special thanks to WRGG for being able to broadcast home games live.

**TREE CITY USA:** I was pleased to recently sign our renewal application to Tree City USA, a worthwhile program for the economic health of our community.

A special THANK-YOU to the hard working men and women that efficiently keep the safety and operations of this great community operating seven days a week.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Thomas, Jr.  
Mayor



***MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION  
January 31, 2021***

***SUPPORTING GREENCASTLE AREA LOCALLY OWNED  
RESTAURANTS  
DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY AND BEYOND***

WHEREAS, annual restaurant sales in the United States is \$899 billion at one million locations; and

WHEREAS, restaurants employ 15.6 million chefs, servers, and support staff, and

WHEREAS, restaurants and hospitality venues support local farmers and businesses while providing food and social activities to our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; I encourage those citizens who are financially able, to support our locally owned restaurants with our own "citizens' stimulus package" by eating in or taking out as these locations provide to our economic vitality and employ our local citizens.

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Ben Thomas, Jr. Mayor

**PROCLAMATION**  
**DECLARATION OF DISASTER WINTER EVENT EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, on or about January 31, February 1, and 2, 2021 Winter Storm Orlena has caused or threatens to cause injury, damage, and suffering to the persons and property of the Borough of Greencastle (Greencastle) and

WHEREAS, the winter storm may endanger the health, safety and welfare of a substantial number of persons residing in Greencastle, and threatens to create problems greater in scope than Greencastle may be able to resolve; and

WHEREAS, emergency management measures may be required to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected residents in Greencastle:

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the undersigned Mayor and President of Borough Council of Greencastle, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, (35 PA C.S., Section 7501), as amended, do hereby proclaim the existence of a disaster emergency in Greencastle.

FURTHER, we direct the Greencastle Emergency Management Coordinator, if necessary, to coordinate the activities of the emergency response, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, to aid in the restoration of essential public services, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency.

STILL FURTHER, we authorize officials of Greencastle to act as necessary to meet the current demands of this emergency, namely: by the employment of temporary workers, by the rental of equipment, by the purchase of supplies and materials, and by entering into such contracts and agreements for the performance of public work as may be required to meet the emergency, all without regard to those time-consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law, mandatory constitutional requirements excepted.

This Proclamation shall take effect immediately.

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Ben F. Thomas, Jr. Mayor

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Steve Miller, President of Council

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Borough Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_