



*MAYOR'S REPORT
TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF
GREENCASTLE
PRESENTED: May 2, 2022*

COMMUNITY EVENTS: National Volunteer Week was commemorated April 17-23, 2022. The Greencastle-Antrim Lions Club celebrated their 78th Charter night on April 14. I was pleased to attend this special meeting and celebration as the organization was formed in 1944.

Two Greencastle Troop 99 Scouts recently obtained the rank of Eagle Scout during ceremonies held on Sunday, April 24. Quentin Campbell completed an extensive project at the historic Highline Train Station with outdoor lighting, benches, and landscaping. John Paul Schemel completed a three-dimensional aerial sign and benches for the cross-country course. This is located adjacent to the primary school building off Leitersburg Street.

The Great American Clean up (Greencastle participation) was held this past Saturday in G-A as organized by Chamber of Commerce Director Debby Cunningham. Over two dozen volunteers collected dozens of bags of trash in G-A.

LICENSE PLATE READER FUNDING: The 2022 General Fund (Dr. 410) budget supports a \$20,000 expenditure for a License Plate Readers (LPR) system technology for the Greencastle Police Department. The system processes license plates for violations, stolen vehicles, wanted persons, vehicles wanted for child abductions, and many other pro-active law enforcement activities while scanning up to 1,500 vehicles per minute. The system enhances the ability to solve crimes and increase the safety and security of the community and the officers of the Greencastle Police Department. I am pleased to announce that Greencastle will receive a Foundation grant of \$10,000 to support the budgeted expenditure and request Council authorize Chief Phillippy proceed with the purchase of the LPR system.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN LOCOMOTIVES IDLING UPDATE: I continue to work directly with Congressman John Joyce (MD) and his staff. It appears that N/S may be experimenting with other alternatives though there has been no formal response from the most recent letter sent to N/S President and CEO. Citizen Larry Pittman reports less hours idling in the month of April, however, that does not mean our mitigation efforts will cease.

MAY AT G-A School District: May is an exciting time for school students as the end of school nears. Special activities are held, and final exams are scheduled. As we remember, being a Senior student is exciting and challenging for what is next. Be it finding employment, going on to college or vocational training, enlisting for military service, or supporting the family farm, I offer my heartfelt desire for each and every senior's success. Congratulations to Nathan Kirkwood for his appointment to the United States Naval Academy.

By: Ben Thomas, Jr. Mayor



As requested by Council at the April 25, 2022 workshop here is an overview and recommendations by the Mayor for the following:

YELLOW CURB LINES (NOT ENFORCEABLE): As discussed at the April 25, 2022 workshop of Council there are two locations where the curb lines are painted yellow which typically indicates “no parking,” however, the areas are not ordained in the Code of Ordinances. (See prior submitted photos)

LOCATION ONE: Unit (first) block; area of 23 West Baltimore Street. Borough Ordinance § 190-36 designates this block as a parking meter zone. It is my understanding that one parking meter was removed and the curb was painted yellow to create a loading zone. There is no such ordinance for this location, however, Ordinance § 190-24 states what is permissible for loading and unloading goods, wares, and merchandise.

RECOMMENDATION: I suggest a portion of the yellow curbing be removed and re-establish one parking meter space at this location which will leave adequate access into a private driveway and into north-bound Elm Lane (alley). By current ordinance, “Loading and unloading shall not be considered as parking.” An ordinance designating “no parking from the reinstated parking meter space to N. Elm Lane” with appropriate signage. The Borough should provide as much on street parking as possible downtown as zoning does not require off street parking for downtown businesses in the Community Commercial district. The subject business could utilize its driveway for loading / unloading purposes.

LOCATION TWO: S. Washington Street at Crowell Lane. This is another painted yellow curb that is not ordained no parking. Police receive parking complaints here, however, the area is not enforceable. I presume the Borough painted the curbing yellow due to the limited site distance pulling from Crowell Lane onto S. Washington Street. There are several options; (1) Ordain the current yellow curbed area “no parking.” (2) Remove the yellow paint and allow parking as there are several rental units in the area where parking is a premium. (3) Crowell Lane is one short block. Ordain “one way” west-bound from S. Washington Street and allow more parking on S. Washington Street

RECOMMENDATION: The Mayor recommends consideration of one way traffic movement, west bound, into Crowell Lane. I, however, desire to meet with property owners adjacent to Crowell Lane (three) for their input.