



## **MAYOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF GREENCASTLE October 2, 2023**

**CUMBERLAND – FRANKLIN COUNTIES BOROUGH'S ASSOCIATION MEETING:**  
Greencastle hosted the tri-annual meeting last Tuesday, September 26 at B-Street 104. Council member Duane Kinzer and I attended and presented a program regarding the history of Greencastle. Several discussions were held including a report issued by the Pennsylvania Economy League entitled "IT'S NOT 1965 ANYMORE...STATE TAX LAWS FAIL TO MEET MUNICIPAL REVENUE NEEDS." I encourage all of Council to attend and support this and similar events on behalf of our citizens.

**TRICK OR TREAT:** Trick or treat will be held on Thursday evening, October 26, from 6:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. with rain date of Friday, October 27. Motorists, please use extreme caution as our most valuable resources will be on the streets of Greencastle.

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK:** Be sure to attend the Rescue Hose Company Fire Prevention Open House this coming Saturday, October 7, from 10:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. Lots of great information and programs will be presented. The HOCO (Hose Company) museum will be open and several medical helicopters are expected to be on display. The National Fire Protection Association's theme for 2023 is "Cooking safety starts with YOU! Pay attention to fire prevention." Fire Prevention Week continues through October 14. Members will be presenting several programs at our schools and in the G-A community. I encourage all to attend and see how this organization, organized in 1896, continues to serve our citizens 24/7 with a high call volume. One of the many calls last week was a working van fire in the first block of East Baltimore Street. While the fire was being extinguished, Greencastle PD closed the block and re-directed traffic. Such an incident is classified and requires a PennDot crash report by Greencastle PD.



RESPONSE LETTER FROM PENNDOT RE: S. ANTRIM WAY AND WILLIAMSPORT PIKE: It is disappointing that PennDot referred us to the Franklin County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for consideration when selecting projects for the upcoming TIP (Transportation Improvement Plan.) This is typically a 12-year plan. Contact has been made with the MPO. A representative from Greencastle should attend these MPO meetings when they occur to represent our needs. I would like an update regarding the Council's prior request to limit downtown truck traffic on Baltimore Street to local deliveries only and request tractor trailers remain on I-81 utilizing interchanges 3 and 10.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAPITAL EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENTS: I continue to work with Chief Phillippy, Emilee, and Ericka as a proposed Council Resolution will be forthcoming in November for submission of an LSA grant / s.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN TRAIN REPORT: Citizen Larry Pittman reports limited idle times in September. I will request engines pull further north this Winter if extended idling continues.

PA CIVIL WAR TRAILS HISTORIC MARKER: I worked with Emilee as we placed a temporary information sheet on the marker so citizens may read the important history of Civil War Soldier, Corporal William H. Rihl. Franklin County Visitor's Bureau is working to replace the original face of this marker located in the NW corner of Center Square.



SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER... Special congratulations to Grace United Church of Christ as you celebrate your 275<sup>th</sup> year in Greencastle. Special programs were held September 29. Also, congratulations to Praying Time Ministries on Railroad Street and to Dr. and Mrs. Steve and Amelia Kasinof as the Kasinof Family Fellowship Hall was dedicated at special ceremonies September 30. The Fellowship Hall is used to support congregational programs, student support, veterans' programs, and a large food distribution center. Mayoral citations were presented at both events. A special happy 100<sup>th</sup> birthday to World War II veteran George Dopp, Jr. of Greencastle. I enjoyed visiting Mr. Dopp last week and presented him with a Mayoral Citation for service to our Country and community.

I again state my thanks and appreciation to Greencastle's beautification committee volunteers for your hard work around Greencastle. You add to the colors of autumn as your plantings continue to flourish.

ACTIVE ITEMS:

- Downtown parking inventory, new systems, partnerships

*Respectfully submitted: Ben Thomas, Jr. Mayor*