



MAYOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF GREENCASTLE July 3, 2023

PSAB CONFERENCE: I attended the Pa. Borough's Association conference June 4 thru 7 in Hershey, attending some very informative seminars that also included legislative updates as follows: A House Bill would raise Civil Service threshold from 3 to 10 officers. Senate Bill would allow charging a fee for commercial right to know requests. A Senate Bill would permit municipal police to use radar and lidar. This passed two previous Senate sessions and stay in committee in the House. We also met with several of the new cabinet secretaries as appointed by Governor Shapiro. DCNR grants will be available for the future downtown open space project along E. Baltimore Street. There is a new office for outdoor recreation. I also spoke with Frank Pleva, a planner for Rettew Associates, that authored our current G-A Comprehensive Plan.

Chief Phillippy and I are researching a program entitled "Handle with Care – Supporting Children Exposed to Trauma." More will be announced about the program later this year.

CONGRESSMAN JOHN JOYCE VISIT: I was pleased to join Congressman Joyce (MD) last Wednesday as he visited various locations in Greencastle. While visiting Rescue Hose Company there was much discussion regarding Federal grants the Company has successfully received and additional Federal grant opportunities. The Congressman voiced his frustration with Norfolk Southern regarding our local idling situation and the devastating incident several months ago on the Ohio and Pennsylvania border. Larry Pittman reported the month of June was quiet with limited Norfolk Southern train idling.

DROUGHT FACTS: Despite recent rainfall, dry conditions prevail across Pennsylvania and the threat of wildfire remains high. This has prompted the Office of State Fire Commissioner and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to urge leaving the fireworks displays to the professionals. There have already been 1,400 wildfires reported statewide this year, compared to 1,036 in all of 2022. This year's wildfires have so far burned more than 8,500 acres, up from a total of 2,700 acres last year. Wildfires in Canada have been spewing toxic smoke over northern and eastern portions of the U. S. in recent weeks, blocking visibility and causing heightened air quality alerts. Visit [DCNR's website](#) for more information on wildfire danger, maps, forecasts and tips on reducing wildfire risks.

THE PENNSYLVANIA FIREWORKS LAW:

- Cannot be ignited or discharged on public or private property without express permission of the property owner.
- Cannot be directed at another person.
- Cannot be discharged from or directed at a building or vehicle.
- Cannot be discharged within 150 feet of a building or vehicle regardless of the building or vehicle owned by the user of the consumer fireworks.
- Cannot be discharged while the person is under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or another drug.

SIDEWALK DAYS: This coming Friday and Saturday is the 56th annual event. Thanks in advance to Greencastle Police and Rescue Hose Co. fire police for keeping the community safe.

RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA PURCHASED IN MARYLAND:

CHIEF JOHN PHILLIPPY: With the written announcement of John's retirement in six months, he goes to the top for dedication to the safety of our citizens and visitors as our Chief of Police and as a certified emergency medical technician. Thank you for your continued service until your retirement date.

A reminder to our motorists that warmer weather brings additional pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcycle riders to our town. Pedestrians have the right of way at crosswalks. Pedestrians should use our crosswalks and not cross mid-block between intersections. Please, support our local businesses and shop small.

ACTIVE ITEMS:

- PennDOT letter re: S. Antrim Way intersection with Williamsport Pike
- Local semi-truck traffic on Baltimore Street between I-81 and Antrim Way
- Researching grant opportunities for GPD capital replacement inventory
- Downtown parking inventory, new systems, partnerships

Submitted by: Ben Thomas, Jr. Mayor