



**MAYOR'S AND POLICE REPORTS TO THE COUNCIL AND
CITIZENS OF GREENCASTLE**
July 1, 2024

POLICE OPERATIONS, STRATEGIC PLANNING; TEAM ASSIGNMENTS: Following the passing of Police Chief Keith Russell leaving a vacancy in the department, team meetings have been held involving all personnel, Public Safety Chair Scott Reagan, and the Mayor. I have issued four pages of strategic planning and assignments. I sincerely appreciate the dedication of our personnel during these challenging times with limited staffing. Your dedication to duty is recognized by us and sincerely appreciated.

FIREWORKS PROHIBITION ORDINANCE REMINDER: A reminder to our citizens that consumer fireworks use is illegal in the Borough of Greencastle as legislatively ordained by Council last year.

DRY CONDITIONS / MONITORING FIRE HAZARDS: I'm in constant contact with G-A EMC John Alleman who consults with the fire chief on a regular basis as we monitor dry season conditions for a possible future fire ban. The Mayor may authorize for a seven day period then Council may ratify or close out the ban. No ban is in effect at this time; however, we closely monitor dry conditions, air quality, water supply volumes, and other factors. Ground and handheld sparking devices, novelties, and toy caps are permitted.

SEMINAR FOR EMS AND MUNICIPAL LEADERS: On June 25 I attended the seminar hosted by the Pa. Fire & Emergency Services Institute along with other elected leaders, municipal managers, EMS and fire officials from Franklin and Juniata Counties. This was an informative program that examined continued staffing issues and future planning concepts between emergency services and municipalities.

POLICE ACTIVITIES: Downtown foot patrols; PA Micromobility Fact Sheet for scooters, pedal cycles, e-bikes, and bicycles: Officers continue to respond to calls for assistance, often working alone at the present time as summer has arrived. Foot patrols have been assigned by the Mayor due to the number of pedestrians in the evenings downtown with a number of businesses staying open at night. Many people come here to shop and walk. We are grateful. The computer-generated police report will be highlighted during my oral presentation at the Council / public meeting.

As more and more battery-operated mobile devices are being purchased we alert our citizens and visitors regarding their use. Electric scooters, electric skateboards, and electric unicycles cannot be legally operated on public roadways. E-bikes with pedals are permitted. Motor scooters must be licensed with a licensed operator. E-bikes and bicycles must use proper lighting between sunset and sunrise and riders under 12 years old must wear a helmet.

RADAR SIGNS USAGE: You've been observing our three signs deployed along various streets in the borough to alert motorists of their speed and to slow down!

G-A Chamber SIDEWALK DAYS: This year's event is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, July 12 and 13. This event began in the late 1960s' and continues today. Note that Baltimore Street will remain open to traffic as vendors will be set up around Center Square, portions of N. Carlisle Street, the first blocks of South Carlisle Street, South Jefferson Street, and North Jefferson Street. Pedestrians are reminded to use marked crosswalks when visiting Sidewalk Days, 2024.



CITIZEN'S CONCERN REGARDING THE INTERSECTION OF N. ANTRIM WAY AND W. MADISON STREET EXTENDED: I forwarded information to the Borough Manager and Public Safety Chair to review this intersection at a future committee meeting.

FOOD PROCESSING RESIDUAL DRAFT LEGISLATION INTRODUCED: Information received from our PA State Representative, Paul Schemel...

Representatives Barb Gliem, Paul Friel and I have taken the summary of the statewide working group and drafted proposed legislation intended to address the appropriate regulation for the field spreading of food processing residuals (FPRs). [HB 2393](#) would regulate FPRs in classes under the state's existing Solid Waste Management Act, differentiating among FPRs with high concentrates of fats (like animal-based FPRs) from those with lower fats (like vegetable-based FPRs).

The bill applies appropriate standards for the time, place and manner for spreading FPRs and would require additional regulation on the operators/haulers carrying FPRs from production sites to fields. We believe that this legislation strikes the right balance between maintaining the viability

y of our agricultural industry while also protecting the interests of adjoining landowners.

HB 2393 was assigned to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, of which I am a member. I have spoken to the chairman of the committee about bringing the bill up for a vote, so it can then move to the full House for consideration. The bill was scheduled to run in the committee this past week.

At the ninth hour, the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and PennAg, both powerful lobby interests for the agriculture industry, worked behind the scenes to ensure that the bill would not run. Despite efforts to bring both groups on board

- and the assurances from them that they would work with us
- both groups have abandoned the effort and now fully oppose the proposed bill.

As a supporter of the agriculture community and of the Farm Bureau for the last 10 years, I was very disappointed in the unwillingness of both organizations to help come to a meaningful compromise. Without their support, I do not know how the bill can go any further at this time, since most legislators will not support an agriculture-related bill over the objections of the Farm Bureau.

Representatives Gleim, Friel and I are committed to continuing to work on this important matter, about which we have heard so much from our respective communities. I am hopeful that we will still be able to get this bill over the finish line; however, I don't want to candy-coat the significant obstacle that the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau has become.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN TRAIN IDLING REPORT:

I am honored to represent Greencastle working with our law enforcement personnel and partners daily, attend many public events, new business ribbon cuttings, and talk to our local merchants in the Greencastle, Franklin County, area. SHOP SMALL continues to be paramount in supporting our G-A businesses.

ACTIVE ITEMS:

- Downtown parking inventory, new systems, private owner partnerships and directional signage for parking
- Recommendation for "parking with arrow" signs downtown
- Downtown truck traffic (letter authorized to PennDot requesting local truck traffic on Baltimore Street) sent
- Crosswalk, E. Baltimore Street @ S. Ridge Avenue (letter sent to PennDot)
- Recruitment and Retention grant for newly hired police officer/s.

Mark Saturday, September 7, on your calendar for the Mayor's annual 9/11 walk of unity! This is the 4th of July week. Be sure and fly your flag.

Respectfully submitted, *Ben Thomas, Jr. Mayor*