



**MAYOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF
GREENCASTLE
November 4, 2024**

TRICK OR TREAT: My public safety thanks from last Thursday evening's "summer evening" event to Greencastle Police for your pro-active visibility during and after the event while still responding to incidents. Also, thanks to Antrim Township for setting up your large radar sign on E. Baltimore Street and the message board on W. Baltimore Street to slow both west and east bound traffic.

VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY: The annual event is next Monday, Nov. 11, at 11:00 A.M. in front of the Veteran's Memorial at Borough Hall. A local retired USA veteran is the guest speaker that will have a very important message to all attendees. Please plan on attending in support of our veterans and their families.

35 PA COUNTIES IN A DROUGHT WATCH: The PA Dept. of Environmental Protection issued a press release last Friday naming Franklin as one of 35 counties in a drought watch. October was the driest month in recorded history in PA. Brush and mountain fires were fought and extinguished last Friday in Franklin County. What can we voluntarily do? Open burning is not suggested. If you have a campfire, be sure to have a means of extinguishing the fire in close proximity. If windy conditions exist, campfires are not recommended. Water conservation may always be practiced, even without drought conditions. Limit washing vehicles, run dishwashers and washing machines with full loads. No need to water lawns as frost conditions have been experienced. Use buckets and rain gardens to capture rainwater for outside water use.

ATTENDANCE AT FRANKLIN CO. ASSN. OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS FALL CONFERENCE: I was a guest at this event on Sept. 12 held at New Franklin Fire Company. Discussed was a new law, Act 48 of 2024, giving Franklin County the authority to create a "demolition fund" with a fee placed on properties that are sold. Funds would be restricted for use to demolish dangerous properties. This semi-annual event offers excellent municipal networking and education in one evening.

POLICE OPERATIONS / ACTIVITIES: Thank you to our personnel for your continued public safety services to our citizens and visitors.

ACTIVE GRANT APPLICATIONS: Though we were not awarded a PA local shared account (gaming) grant, we will continue to research future grants. Staff are also working with the Manager regarding an existing grant to upgrade our public cameras at various intersections.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN TRAIN IDLING REPORT: Citizen Larry Pittman reports four events in September where the locomotives' engines were shut down while stationary.

THANK-YOU public works personnel for your many daily functions including leaf collection.

I am honored to represent Greencastle working with our law enforcement personnel and partners daily, attending many public events, budget and other committee meetings, new business ribbon cuttings, and talking to our local merchants in Greencastle. Welcome WEIS Market to Greencastle! Shop Small Saturday is November 30, 2024. I so enjoy our downtown and our town.

Please...enjoy the upcoming Heritage Christmas tree lighting; Thanksgiving; and all the Heritage Christmas programs.

MY DAY LAST FRIDAY...I typically go to Greencastle Police Headquarters mid-morning for my mayoral briefing. I noticed school students walking past the post office, north bound, so I waited for them near the Veteran's Monument and Memorial. As I introduced myself, I learned that the 8th graders from G-A Middle School were to view the Veteran's Memorial and were going to write letters to area veterans. I was honored to provide the students with a history of the memorial and how the municipal building played an important role in the past where military entry candidates would receive their physical exams.

An hour later, a 7th grade class entered the GPD Headquarters lobby from G-A Middle School. They were dropping off personally made thank-you cards to our personnel. They listened intently as I provided a GPD history lesson to the students. They asked so many wonderful questions. At the same time, GPD Officer Kevin Creager was at the G-A school campus providing a presentation to kindergarten students as part of an annual career presentation.

I am joining our Greencastle Police team in congratulating our new Chief, Jason Batistig. We look forward to a long, professional relationship in our mission for safety and service to the citizens and visitors of Greencastle, Pennsylvania.

Respectfully submitted, Ben Thomas, Jr. Mayor