



MAYOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF GREENCASTLE December 2, 2024

What a week it has been in the Greencastle community! The holiday season has begun as Thanksgiving is in the rear-view mirror for 2024. Two nice rainfalls visited us prior to and during the annual tree lighting ceremony. I recorded an inch and a half of precipitation that was welcomed. I was delighted to see the large turn-out for the tree lighting November 22 even with the rain that was falling. What a great sound system that was utilized that evening. Thank you to Antrim Township, the G-A Chamber of Commerce, and Borough Council for this system. Thanks to the G-A Chamber of Commerce for your holiday efforts. By the next morning (Saturday) the skies had cleared up for the Christmas parade. Fire police were deployed for these events to re-direct thousands of motorists who had to bypass downtown. They also helped Greencastle Police direct traffic during the Thanksgiving morning turkey-trot. Fire police will be busy downtown during the G-A Chamber of Commerce Heritage Christmas during the next two Friday nights. Last Monday, we loaded up two vehicles for the annual "10 most wanted" food drive items sponsored by Greencastle Police and delivered to the Greencastle Food Pantry at the Presbyterian Church. Thank-you Ericka for again organizing this very important community event. THANK-YOU to Sunnyway Foods owners for opening their store to the food pantry on their last day of business after nearly 70 years in Greencastle. Later in the week was Black Friday followed by Small Business Saturday. It's great to see our downtown full of pedestrians enjoying our many shops and eateries in Greencastle.

BURN BAN: Franklin County lifted the burn ban last week. The Mayor's burn ban proclaimed on November 9 expired after seven days (in accordance with the Borough Code) when the County's ban took effect. The Council did not have to act on a continued burn ban.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN TRAIN IDLING REPORT: Citizen Larry Pittman reports zero events in November where the locomotives' engines were running and stationary during extended periods.

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. I attended the Shippensburg University Leadership Breakfast on September 12. Internship programs are available to Greencastle by graduate students. I met with the Mayors of Franklin County as we brainstorm common challenges in our boroughs. Chief Batistig led the Christmas parade the morning of November 25 after a very wet tree lighting ceremony the night before.

Enjoy the upcoming Heritage Christmas activities over the next two weeks and continue to shop small supporting our G-A businesses.

Respectfully submitted, Ben Thomas, Jr. Mayor