



## **MAYOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF GREENCASTLE**

***June 2, 2025***

**MAYOR'S COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:** I joined members of the Greencastle Police Department and Rescue Hose Company, along with our Emergency Management Coordinator for Norfolk Southern training at the Antrim Township intermodal center along Antrim Commons Drive. This hands on TRANSCAER education included transportation, community awareness, and emergency response covering a variety of topics for citizens and first responders safety. This was quite a training opportunity right in our own backyard that included a variety of N/S cars, locomotive, valves, and incident response and unified command information.

During the month of May I issued proclamations for National Emergency Medical Services Week with the theme, "WE CARE FOR EVERYONE." To our dedicated public works personnel, I issued a proclamation for our employees who focus on infrastructure, facilities, streets, and public services. We also commemorated National Police Week and National Police Memorial Day, May 15, honoring the 165 officers who died in 2024 in the line of duty.

The mayors of Franklin County presented a proclamation to the family of the late Mayor of Waynesboro, Richard (Dick) Starliper, who recently passed away. Mayor Starliper was in his 20<sup>th</sup> year as Mayor and had previously served on Borough Council. Thank you, Mayor Starliper, for your service to Country, Church, and Community.

On Sunday, May 18, I was humbled to join Officer Eric Kamoie as we were guests at Praying Time Ministries joining the congregation for a Sunday School Prayer Walk from the church along Railroad Street to Center Square and back. Thank-you, Pastor Pastor Latroy Fawlkes and congregation for praying for the elected officials, police personnel, and municipal employees.

Congratulations to ELM Shoes Active who celebrated a ribbon cutting on May 2 and for the beautiful repurposing of the historic Carl building at 6 E. Baltimore Street. Be sure to stop by and support our locally owned businesses downtown and throughout the G-A community.

I attended the May 26 Memorial Day program at Cedar Hill Cemetery. USA Lt. Colonel Barry Riley presented an appropriate message to those in attendance honoring the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Afterwards, I joined Colonel Riley here at the Borough Office in viewing our VETERANS' MEMORIAL where 120 Greencastle-Antrim citizens are named who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to this great Nation.

I attended the Franklin County Tax Bureau meetings on May 29 in Chambersburg. Upon receipt of the treasurer's resignation, Don Clapper, Guilford Township Supervisor, was appointed to fill the vacancy. The financial report shows that Greencastle's earned income tax collection income increased by 13.81% during the first four months of the year (thru April 30) compared to the 2024 period. The Tax Bureau collected \$339,851 for Greencastle during the stated period.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN TRAIN IDLING: Citizen Larry Pittman advises there was limited known train activity near the Jerome R. King Playground in May with two notable idling or air-drying brake noises.

AMERICAN LEGION SWM PLANS: To members of Council; It's time to approve our American Legion's land development and stormwater plan as these volunteers have done their due diligence to conform with our ordinances. In my review of the latest LDP, the project's impervious area has been reduced by 4,122 s/f. No off-site runoff is directed to the proposed SWM facility. A one-foot freeboard was designed along with 15+ feet around the SWM facility for maintenance access.

The design engineer has submitted a compromise to support the integrity of our SWM ordinance. Please approve this plan so the American Legion can have their improvements completed by Old Home Week.

Plans are coming along quite nicely for our triennial G-A Old Home Week scheduled August 2-9, 2025. Some 50 committees are very active as we are two months from this wonderful time here.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ben Thomas, Jr. -- Mayor*