



MAYOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF GREENCASTLE December 1, 2025

First, congratulations to our newly elected members of Council for the 2026 year with your continued or future service to our citizens and visitors to this beautiful community. A special THANK-YOU to member of Council, Mike Stenger, for your service. Mike and family...you do so much for this community and on behalf of the citizens, we are so grateful. On Veteran's Day, November 11, the VFW post hosted an appropriate ceremony here at Borough Hall. I observed our two food pantries in town who continue to serve those who are less fortunate. A wonderful Thanksgiving meal was furnished by the G-A Food Pantry and Praying Time Ministries. A special thanks to Greencastle Police, DOT Foods, and Larry Faight for your blessings of food. A beautiful Christmas tree lighting ceremony was held with a capacity crowd, Friday evening, 21 December, as grand marshal Holland Doyle used the magic wand to light the tree. A special thank-you to electrician elf Bob Wolfe for helping make the magic happen. A large Christmas parade stepped off 22 December for 90 minutes with lots of candy strewn about Baltimore, S. Carlisle Streets, and Center Square.

Community activities: On December 6, I was invited to Mrs. Coker's third grade class as they had presented letters to me with their community concerns. Their topics included concerns regarding tobacco use, littering, the need for more trees, and to people to smile more.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN TRAIN IDLING: Citizen Larry Pittman advises Norfolk Southern trains were fairly quiet for the month of November. Nothing new regarding N/S selling off to Union Pacific Railroad.

MAYOR'S TASK FORCE TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF DOWNTOWN PASS THRU TRUCK TRAFFIC TO AND FROM I-81 EXIT 5: High School students are now monitoring and documenting pass thru tractor trailers in downtown Greencastle. One tractor trailer scraped the rotary traffic island and tree the afternoon of the tree lighting while making a U-turn around Center Square. Greencastle Police were able to locate the truck and driver with citations issued.

AMERICAN LEGION PARKING LOT EXPANSION: I was pleased to observe work beginning today for the approved parking lot addition.

Greencastle shined this past Friday and Saturday as local merchants enjoyed "Black (green) Friday" and "Shop Small Saturday." As I walked the streets downtown, I spoke with folks from North Carolina, West Virginia, Maryland, Greencastle, PA and Greencastle, Indiana! During this holiday season, support our local merchants by shopping local as these men and women support our community.

Repeat comments. SUGGESTION TO COUNCIL IN 2026: At the Franklin County Municipal Breakfast, Antrim Township announced they have some 1,500 additional building lots on the books, primarily accessing Williamsport Pike and Williamson Road, both with limited access. The Inch & Company website is advertising some 198 apartments “in Greencastle” that will intersect with E. Baltimore Street east of Spring Grove Avenue. Most of the planned residential development will be high density as water and sewer service will serve these communities. This has a greater impact on our roads, schools, and emergency services.

Page 1 of 2:

- Council members, we must work with Antrim Township and the Franklin County Planning Commission to update our 15-year-old regional Comprehensive Plan and, at the very least, update our future transportation planning that we could do “in house.” Without the support of Franklin County Planning Commission, and our Franklin County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), we cannot get future projects on PennDot’s “12-year plan.” The most recent plan was adopted by the MPO in 2024. We need a seat at the table for our future transportation needs.

By: *Ben Thomas, Jr. – Mayor*

Page 2 of 2