



MAYOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF GREENCASTLE

January 5, 2026

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.

Community activities: Thoroughly enjoyed the Chamber of Commerce "Taste of the Town" events on December 6. Said farewell to RHCo. Historian and senior member Ray W. Mowen, Sr. following his passing. Visited and assisted during First Responders' Appreciation Day December 12 visiting the Franklin County Sheriff's Department and several fire / EMS organizations. Corning FCU personnel visited GPD and Rescue Hose Company. Read to three groups at the Highline Train Station open house Friday evening, December 12. Coached G-A faculty at a benefit basketball game in Waynesboro December 15. My coaching record is 0 – 1. Attended various committee meetings of council that including presenting a citation on December 19 to Patriot FCU for their wonderful donation to the Town Hall Plaza project. Enjoyed a wonderful holiday shopping and visiting Greencastle businesses.



NORFOLK SOUTHERN TRAIN IDLING: Citizen Larry Pittman advises Norfolk Southern trains were fairly quiet for the month of December. 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 documented truck

traffic flow over the holiday period. I'll receive a written report from our volunteers in the next several weeks. Meanwhile, good news regarding restricting oversize loads (on the agenda). We await a response from PennDot regarding additional I-81 directional signage at W. Baltimore Street and Antrim Way along with additional NB SR0011 signage in the area of S. Washington Street in Antrim Township.

SHOP SMALL JANUARY!: As I walked downtown this past Friday and Saturday and it was good to see many vehicles parked as shoppers enjoyed our supportive businesses as customers were enjoying retail stores and eateries. Therefore, I hereby declare "Shop Small January" in Greencastle. Support these local businesses that support us.

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, emergency services, and property maintenance with more and more absentee owners of real estate.

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*