



## **MAYOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF GREENCASTLE April 6, 2026**

CONGRATULATIONS to the wonderful Greencastle community for the honor bestowed for three years in a row by Verstandig Media naming GREENCASTLE AS THE BEST COMMUNITY IN THE TRISTATE. The presentation was made Friday, March 27, at the Maryland Theater.

Community activities: On March 3, I attended the Franklin County Area Development Corporations 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Congratulations to FCADC Executive Director Mike Ross for his 40 years of service. I attended former Council member H. Duane Kinzer's funeral on Friday, March 6, next door at his home church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Greencastle. On Saturday, March 21, I attended Mercersburg (MMPW) Fire Company's Town Hall meeting as fire and EMS challenges were discussed including the lack of volunteers, career staff recruitment, budgetary challenges, and the costs of apparatus and operations. A special thanks to my friends at MMPW and Fire Chief Mark Sanders for organizing this very important planning topic that was also attended by Rescue Hose Company personnel. That afternoon, I recertified by CPR / AED training as instructed at and by Rescue Hose Company personnel. On March 26, I attended the ribbon cutting for U Financial Group's new office on Center Square. That afternoon, I joined PA Treasurer Stacy Garrity as she presented unclaimed properties check to Rescue Hose Company President Bill Hull and Treasurer Tom Bricker. On Sunday, March 29, I was honored to attend a special pastoral anniversary Ceremony at Praying Time Church along Railroad Street. On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, I met with the Mayors of Franklin County as we strategized our public safety needs in service to our respective communities. Later that morning, I met with GPD Chief Batistig and Administrator Faight as we review our Dr. 410 budget numbers monthly. We regularly meet for GPD ops and administrative briefings.

This past Saturday, I was honored to join Chief Jason Batistig as we through out the first pitches for opening ceremonies at the Greencastle Antrim Baseball / Softball Assn. festivities and yelled out those popular Spring words..."PLAY BALL!"

AMERICA (G-A) 250 COMMEMORATION: Plans continue and include a G-A Alumni Association band concert and pageant. Ringing of the bells across G-A on July 4 at 7:00 P.M. A time capsule, Chambersburg parade, April 18, at 1:00 P.M. Franklin County Liberty Bell on display in Greencastle the first week of August. WRGG with a weeklong guest program on the Morning Show regarding G-A history. A heritage walk sponsored by GAHS students and more.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN TRAIN IDLING: Citizen Larry Pittman documented three train idling events in March.

MAYOR'S TASK FORCE TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF DOWNTOWN PASS THRU TRUCK TRAFFIC TO AND FROM I-81 EXIT 5: Additional truck traffic reductions will only occur if PennDot authorizes large signage, as we have requested, at 11 and 16 and along I-81 in southern Franklin County. We still await PennDot's response to the Mayor's October 30, 2025 letter. Manager Emilee will send a second, friendly reminder letter later this week to the PennDot District Executive.

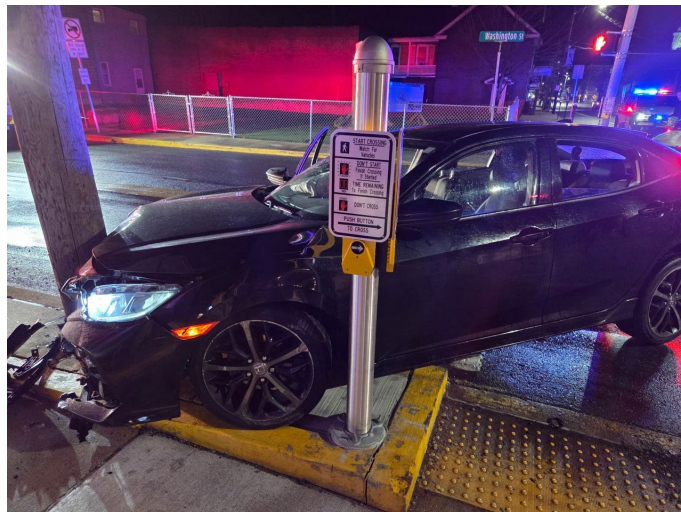
CONGRATULATIONS, to Shawn Hardy as she recently retired after over 41 years of service fairly and accurately reporting to our citizens at The Record Herald and The Echo Pilot.

This week, I will author Greencastle Police investigative commendations to three officers for their investigation and inter-agencies (plural) cooperation that culminated in the arrest of an individual for multiple burglaries and criminal attempts at America's longest running drug store, Carl's Drug Store, in Greencastle. My sincere congratulations to Officers Morrow, Knopp, and Brennan for their relentless skills and dedication.

Regional Greencastle area traffic impacts (today and in the future) by large housing plans near Williamsport Pike and Williamson Road in Antrim Township. I will discuss at future Council committee meetings.

Thank you to the Eshleman family for your 50 years serving the greater community as Mrs. Gibbles Candies and Restaurant.

March traffic crash after 3:00 A.M. at Baltimore and Washington Streets missing Borough's newly installed pedestrian post by inches. The driver was allegedly impaired.



By: *Ben Thomas, Jr. - Mayor*