



## **MAYOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF GREENCASTLE May 31, 2026**

During the month of May, we commemorated our EMS Week and personnel with a Proclamation presentation. Our Greencastle Police personnel were recognized with unit citations for their investigative efforts, including the Carl's Drug Store burglaries and criminal attempts.

Following a Thursday evening, Friday morning emergency medical services incident that turned into a serious police situation, professional judgement was expedited by a Greencastle police officer to assure the safety of first responders and the public. As Mayor, I am grateful for the seasoned professionalism displayed by law enforcement and EMS providers during the incident in Greencastle.

2026 PA STATE ASSN. OF BOROUGH'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE: I am currently attending this conference as many excellent seminars will be conducted to benefit Pennsylvania local governments. I submitted two Resolutions on behalf of the Cumberland-Franklin Boroughs' Assn. that the PSAB Policy Steering Committee will bring to the floor for an affirmative vote, recommending adoption; Resolution 2026-05 would remove the three-mill fire tax cap, currently in the Borough Code, and remove the millage caps related to fire and EMS services. Resolution 2026-06 supports amending the PA Prevailing Wage Law to increase the threshold from \$25,000 to \$257,000 for municipal and authority funded public works projects that would be adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index. This is something I've been working on for decades. If passed, the proposal would be forwarded to our legislators for review.

Please join me in congratulating Loren and Gavin Marlin of ELM Active for recently being recognized by the Cumberland Valley Business Alliance's Economic breakfast. ELM Active received recognition for revitalizing the former Carl's Drug Store building at 6 East Baltimore Street, transforming into a vibrant retail destination while preserving the building's historic character; Property Improvement Award up to \$500,000. Support our locally owned businesses by shopping here in Greencastle!

AMERICA (G-A) 250 COMMEMORATION: Plans continue and include a G-A Alumni Association band concert and pageant, September 24 and 26 (7 PM) in the Shockey Center for Performing Arts auditorium at GAHS. Ringing of the bells across G-A on July 4 at 7:00 P.M. A time capsule, 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 events being organized by Antrim Township.

Attendance and participation in the month of May: Greencastle Police briefings, May 9 tribute and ceremony at the VFW in memory of Harry D. Zeigler, the first WW II casualty from Greencastle on that day in 1942; May 7, spoke at the National Day of Prayer at the Presbyterian Church; National Police Week; May 13 GPD Distinguished Service ceremony for Officers Brennan, Morris, and Knopp; Announced the starting line-up rosters at the GAHS boys Mid Penn District play-off games x 3; Attended the GASD faculty benefit softball game May 19 for the Sydney Barnes Memorial Scholarship Fund; May 25 welcomed our Memorial Day guest speaker, Colonel Charles Diggs, at an indoor ceremony in the American Legion.

Comments regarding agenda items listed on the June 1, 2026 agenda: A 15 MPH speed limit ordinance is proposed in the Moss Spring area development. Have you driven 15 MPH in this development? Police have limited means of enforcement. Similar to when GPD was pro-active with the long retired and obsolete excessive speed prevention (dual strip) system decades ago, the department wrote a lot of citations, that included issuance to local residents. Specific to Moss Spring, citizens complained about speeding, and often, they would receive speeding citations.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN TRAIN IDLING: Report to be issued.

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. PennDot has acknowledged our second letter as we await a study and response.

Repeating: Regional Greencastle area traffic impacts (today and in the future) by large housing plans near Williamsport Pike and Williamson Road in Antrim Township. Again, I strongly encourage updating our 15-year-old Comprehensive Plan and look at the five-year Strategic Plan that is now 17 years old.

Watch the deer that are visiting in the eastern sections of Greencastle as their natural habitat has been significantly disturbed by development construction.



I still await a Personnel Committee meeting as requested a month ago.

By: *Ben Thomas, Jr. - Mayor*