



**MAYOR'S REPORT TO MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, STAFF, AND OUR CITIZENS**  
**Presented September 03, 2019**

**RECOVERY MONTH (SEPTEMBER); LET'S COLOR GREENCASTLE PURPLE:**

Every September, SAMHSA (Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration) sponsors **Recovery Month** to increase awareness and understanding of mental and substance use disorders and celebrate the people who recover. The 2019 [theme](#) is *Join the Voices for Recovery: Together We Are Stronger!* Now in its 30th year, Recovery Month celebrates the gains made by those in recovery, just as we celebrate improvements made by those who are managing other health conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, asthma, and heart disease. Recovery Month works to promote and support new evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, the emergence of a strong and proud recovery community, and the dedication of service providers and community members across the nation who make recovery in all its forms possible. Let's color Greencastle purple with lights this month including partnerships with Franklin-Fulton Drug & Alcohol, Greencastle citizens and businesses, Chamber of Commerce, Antrim Township, and others. AC&T has contributed \$100 to support this effort. What do you do when someone asks for help? On Aug. 23 I attended Overdose Awareness Day in Mercersburg and met with family members who have lost loved ones from the Opioid epidemic. I also spoke with treatment and recovery organizations as Greencastle PD is assembling information for our citizens when they want HELP! A Mayoral PROCLAMATION will be authored. Thank-you for supporting these efforts.

**REPRESENTING GREENCASTLE:** As your Mayor I represented Greencastle at a variety of functions since August 13 and it is an honor to do so.

**GREENCASTLE'S STORM WATER FEES:** My frustration continues regarding Greencastle's storm water fees and related recommendations and decisions made by Council since June. The fees are excessive compared to other municipalities and based on yet to be determined capital projects for stream restorations; high staffing costs in the next three years; high appeal fees; and now a Resolution where if you don't pay or are behind on your stormwater fee payment, the Greencastle Area, Franklin County Water Authority will shut your water off! I disagree with the August 13 Resolution passed by Council on a 6-1 vote. Did you realize that you placed our most financially vulnerable citizens in jeopardy of having their water shut off if they didn't have enough funds to pay their storm water bill...notwithstanding those who may have chosen to defer SWM payments with the first billing? I believe it is wrong to intermix the storm water fee with water and sewer bills, especially where there is an "operating water

authority” such as Greencastle Area, Franklin County, Water Authority So we’re going to do stream restoration. Have you looked at Paddy Run flowing from Route 11 (south-west) across from Corning Federal Credit Union that I assisted in designing years ago? Significant grant funds were received to construct this system.

The attached photos show extensive outfall sediment blocking the SWM flow from the Borough’s SWM system that needs cleaned. Beyond that is natural, filtering plants with trees traversing the stream to the south and west.

**SEDIMENT BUILD-UP WHERE PADDY RUN MEETS GREENCASTLE SWM OUTFALL:**



**PADDY RUN CONTINUES SOUTH THEN SOUTH-WEST**



I believe Council should consider reducing the SWM fee and then live within the Borough’s means for future Chesapeake Bay clean-up funding projects. Projects that make sense for the community without inflating costs with future, unknown contracted projects that will include prevailing wage rates. We should use public works employee

partnerships with Greencastle, Antrim, and volunteers via an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement.

As stated in my August 13 Report, I continue to receive many complaints regarding the SWM utility fees, appeal fees, and now water shut off notices. To that end I desire to review the preliminary engineering projects proposals and costs; staff and new staff costs in the next four years; and Partnership opportunities with other municipalities.

**ACTIVE ITEMS:**

1. Emergency Management Coordinator: Lorraine has asked me for names of potential candidates
2. MS-4 Strategic Task Force with community members
3. Thank-you to staff for uploading the 2019 Budget/s
4. I authored a DRAFT letter to Penn Dot which is being processed by staff regarding continued truck traffic traveling in our residential areas. Antrim Township is also sending a letter in support of our efforts.
5. Single source trash / recycling vendor (community discussion)
6. Strategic Planning public meeting recommendation

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Thomas, Jr. Mayor