



MAYOR'S REPORT
TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF GREENCASTLE
PRESENTED: 01 March 2021

Testing Smoke Detectors: I request all citizens test their smoke detectors this week and change the batteries if warranted. Though Fire Prevention Week is commemorated in October of each year, we should practice fire prevention every week. Please test your smoke detectors.

(Anti) Speed Tables: I was pleased with the inter-active discussion with elected officials, staff, the design engineer, and citizens regarding the future North Carlisle Street project. I endorse the “traffic calming” design efforts and hope the project has a 30-year pavement life expectancy. Here are samples of traffic calming devices recently installed on streets in Gettysburg, PA.



Traffic Enforcement: Traffic enforcement incorporates a variety of violation observations on Greencastle streets. With one or two police officers on duty calls for service and supplemental follow-up (including extensive computer entry) takes precedents over pro-active traffic enforcement. Especially challenging is speed enforcement as the Pennsylvania legislature still does not permit municipal police to use radar or lidar. The use of antiquated speed timing devices is limited due to limited daylight hours, weather conditions, officer safety, and time. An officer may do stationary patrol checks on streets in the Borough for 20 or 30 minute intervals with no violations. The question was asked by Council members regarding speeding on N. Carlisle Street. Police observations have been negative (as also indicated by citizen and business owner Dave Dickson). The main reason is the deteriorated condition of the current

pavement that creates a calming effect that slows motorists down. New paving will mean greater speeds. Thus, the need for new traffic calming devices.

Spring Traffic Enforcement / Saturation Patrols: With the soon arrival of Spring, extended daylight, and more pedestrians on our streets and sidewalks, I am initiating a speed enforcement saturation effort by Greencastle Police. Each week officers will be assigned saturation enforcement at various locations in the Borough (both State and Borough streets and roads). Officers will use ENRADD (if possible), chronometers, and patrol observations for vehicle code violations. The observations may be stop sign compliance, expired inspection stickers, faulty equipment, and other Pa. Vehicle Code violations. Patrols are unable to monitor expired license plate registrations as this requires computerized registration reading systems that few municipal police have available to them.

I also request the radar monitoring system to be moved every 14 days (allowing battery recharge time) to monitor vehicle speeds across the Borough for enforcement.

Pa. Amendment to PROCLAMATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY: Effective Feb. 9, Governor Wolf was again renewed for the Opioid crisis requiring emergency action necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of affected citizens of Pennsylvania for an additional 90 days. Opioid use remains Pa. #1 public health and public safety crisis. I encourage citizens to use the secure disposal drug box located in the Greencastle Police Headquarters lobby.

A belated Thank-you: To the members of the Greencastle Presbyterian Church for presenting gift cards for BRIO coffee to our police officers during National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, January 9. I join you in supporting all of our Borough employees for their vital roles performed. I appreciate our officers who are out 24 / 7 in all kinds of weather to keep us safe.

Ah Spring time!: Spring arrives on March 20th at 5:37 A.M. We welcome this time of year as we are able to get outside more...the best medicine yet! I encourage our citizens to get outside as much as possible, support each other, and continue to support our local businesses.

By: Ben Thomas, Jr.