



MAYOR'S REPORT
TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF GREENCASTLE
PRESENTED: 07 September 2021

September 11 events: All are invited to participate in the September 11 events hosted by the Mayor including a 9/11 Memorial Walk and two patriotic blue grass concerts (copy attached).

Tropical Storm Ida Disaster Declaration: As an abundance of precaution, I initiated a Proclamation last Wednesday for a Disaster Declaration that was also affirmed by Pa. Governor Wolf. Greencastle was quite fortunate with no public facilities damaged. A Disaster Declaration allows for additional resources, if needed, at the County, State, and Federal levels and provides for financial reimbursement if a Federal disaster is proclaimed with funding from Pa. Emergency Management Agency and FEMA. Nothing is anticipated.

Coffee with a Cop event: A special thank-you to the G-A citizens and Chief John Phillippy for participating in our first Coffee with a Cop at Sunnyway Diner on August 27. A special thanks to Audrey Clopper for providing the space. We'll do it again in the future, possibly at a pavilion at the Jerome R. King Playground.

Visit to Greencastle, Ireland: This week, G-A citizen Mike Hoover will travel to Ireland and visit Greencastle, a beautiful fishing village located on the north-east side of Ireland (Inishowen). Mike will carry a letter of greeting from the Mayor on behalf of the citizens of Greencastle. He is also organizing pen pals between G-A elementary students and children from Greencastle, Ireland.

Greencastle-Antrim Education Foundation Dedication & Ribbon Cutting: Following a quick rainstorm on August 25 a very successful ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony was held for the beautiful, new "gateway" building as you enter Kaley Field at the GASD campus. A special thanks to the GAEF Board and the financial and in-kind contributors that made this project a resounding success. The building will provide essential services to citizens and visitors at many community events in the future.

Mike Ross; Franklin Co. Area Development Corporation Update: I, along with several Council members attended the G-A Chamber of Commerce breakfast on August 19 and received extensive projects update around the County from Mike. Franklin County's population grew 4.2% with the 2020 census with a population of 155,932. Over 2,000 new employment opportunities are

coming to Antrim Township. More warehouse and fulfillment, large buildings are expected along I-81 and Route 11 between exits 3 and 5 in the not too distant future. The Norfolk-Southern Inter-modal facility is re-opening. A new I-81 interchange known as Exit 12 will be built in Guilford Township by 2025. There are 23 solar facilities planned in Franklin County. Challenges include work-force, housing, infrastructure, broadband, and I-81 widening in the 2030s'. With additional large buildings around Greencastle truck traffic will continue to increase. I appreciate Emilee's working with Antrim Township. We should all be cognizant that we do have a Greencastle-Antrim Comprehensive Plan and be meeting with our municipal neighbors to plan our community. I am concerned regarding plans for a proposed collector road across from Tayamentasakta Environmental Center to Route 11. I understand that Antrim Township will address similar concerns during the land development planning (LDP) process for multiple future LDPs. For that, I am grateful. It would be good to have a joint meeting with Township Supervisors as has been done in the past as more commercial, industrial, and residential development will continue just outside of Greencastle with public water being provided by the Water Authority. Such development will continue to impact our infrastructure, emergency services (police, fire, EMS), traffic, education, and other planning services. Greencastle Police continue to receive calls for incidents occurring outside of the Borough, however, ending up here.

Discussions with Pa. Representative Paul Schemel: Paul and I recently sat down and discussed a variety of issues including MS4, fireworks law, radar use by municipal police, and other matters affecting Greencastle.

Pennsylvania DARE Program: The DARE Program is in approximately 60 communities across Pennsylvania. The Greencastle Police program started in 1992 with funding from the Pa. Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Antrim Township, and the Borough of Greencastle. The Commonwealth's funding was discontinued approximately ten years later. Such a program must be supported by the school district and municipal police must have sufficient staffing to provide an instructor that requires significant training and certification. No police departments in Franklin County nor the school districts teach the DARE program since funding was discontinued.

Train idling matter: Congressman John Joyce, MD, staff has acknowledged the letter sent by the Borough regarding idling trains in the residential areas. I personally spoke with Nancy Bull who advised the Congressman's staff would be in contact with Norfolk Southern.

Traffic back-up, E. Baltimore St. @ Dunkin: I continue my dialogue with the owner who again advised last week that traffic mitigation plans are being worked on. Unfortunately, this is a common problem at fast food locations as customers no longer get out of their vehicles as precipitated by COVID. A stand-by option is to ordain "no stopping or standing" on E. Baltimore Street, east-bound. A portion of the east bound lane and all the west-bound lane is in Antrim Township.

Chesapeake Bay / MS4 Update: I recently completed several trainings and seminars regarding MS4 as initiated by Pa. Dept. of Environmental Protection and Federal Environmental Protection

Agency. Hopefully, this education will aid the Borough of Greencastle in the years to come as we continue to seek any waivers from MS4 requirements in the future. In the September, 2021 edition of the Chesapeake Bay Journal an article appears regarding successful partnerships in Lancaster County and Luzerne County. Four southeastern Counties teamed up with projects for the Susquehanna River which is a major influent contributor to the Bay. I am working with various groups in Adams County regarding MS4 projects and seeking significant grant funds. According to the article, “funding on the scale needed to help Pennsylvania come nowhere close to meeting its pollution reduction goals by 2025 remains a huge uncertainty. The state’s latest Bay cleanup plan identified an annual funding gap of more than \$300 million a year.” “County wide Action Plans,” yes, County-wide are now in ½ of Pennsylvania’s counties as administered by their “Conservation Districts.” That is one of my partnerships in Adams County. 2022 will be a good planning year in Greencastle with Franklin County’s Conservation District and other partners.

Respectfully submitted, ~ Ben Thomas, Jr.