



MAYOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF GREENCASTLE

April 3, 2023

CONGRATULATIONS to the GAHS bocce team for placing second in the Commonwealth competition championships in Hershey with a total of 203 teams in competition.

Last Wednesday morning I attended the 2022 awards breakfast for the Cumberland Valley Business Alliance, a partnership between the G-A Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce. The Greencastle-Antrim Old Home Week Association received the 2022 NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR AWARD presented by G-A Chamber Executive Director Debby Cunningham and accepted by current OHW President Garon Gembe. 2022 OHW President Bonnie Shockey was unable to attend as she was committed to third grade student tours of the Allison Antrim Museum.

Wednesday evening, I was honored to attend the 2023 National Vietnam War Commemoration, at the Greencastle American Legion Post 373. Organizers for the event honored and memorialized eight nurses and other women who lost their lives during the Vietnam War. The eight nurses were pictured (attached) and their service was recognized. A total of 67 women died while serving in Vietnam.

REQUEST TO COUNCIL: Downtown truck traffic will continue to increase as regional warehousing / supply chain structures continue to be built. I recommend a letter be authorized to the PA DEPT. of TRANSPORTATION suggesting a traffic study designating Baltimore Street for "local truck traffic only." Baltimore Street should not be a through road for heavy trucks exiting I-81 Interchange #5, passing through our downtown, for points west, north, and south. I-81 exits 3 and 10 should be utilized for Route 11 as this was built as a "by-pass" on the west end of Greencastle in 1955. We were successful for the South Washington Street "local truck traffic" designation. Let's support our Baltimore Street residents and our downtown businesses with this request.

WELCOME Co-responder Marry Miller, Community liaison to support those in need in our community working with Greencastle Police.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT REGARDING DOWNTOWN PARKING (Recommended future workshop discussion:

One large storefront is currently empty on S. Carlisle Street, which has the potential of a larger commercial business downtown. That is also true for the AURA building along E. Baltimore Street. Another restaurant will ultimately open on E. Baltimore Street. Pending action by Council may further remove street parking from the first block of E. Madison Street. As is typical in urban settings, downtown buildings are not required to have parking with limited building setbacks due to the make-up of downtown as a mixed-use community. I encourage the Council to review what is stated in our comprehensive plans regarding downtown parking to benefit all of our businesses. Section 7-8 of the G-A / School District Comprehensive Plan dedicates information recommending the following..." Develop a comprehensive downtown parking

strategy and management plan.” It further states that “One of the most common misconceptions is that there is not enough parking available in the downtown, and that the lack of parking is prohibiting the downtown from being as vibrant and successful as it could be if additional parking opportunities were available. In order to successfully manage parking resources, it is necessary to evaluate existing conditions, implement short term improvements, and develop a long-term plan for the management of parking facilities in the downtown.”

Parking meters came to downtown Greencastle in 1953. The current meters are being scavenged for parts to keep the current meters in service. An off-street parking inventory may be warranted...even a public / private partnership for modern “smart pay parking” areas designated with proper signage where revenues may be shared with private property owners. These areas would be numbered, and you pay at centralized stations by credit card or cash. I don’t know what such a system costs, however, it’s worth exploring and seeing a smart system demonstration of the system for long range parking system planning.

Public comments regarding parking spaces in close proximity to Center Square: When parking issues are reviewed by Council, I recommend consideration of ordaining the closest metered parking spaces to center square be designated as “compact car” or “passenger cars only; no trucks or SUVs” to enhance visibility by and to pedestrians attempting to cross East and West Baltimore Street.

Citizen Larry Pittman’s Norfolk Southern train idling report was submitted to the Mayor and Borough for the month of March. The train idling was heard and observed on at least five occasions.

Happy Easter!

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Thomas, Jr. Mayor