



**MAYOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF
GREENCASTLE
December 4, 2023**

FRANKLIN COUNTY TAX BUREAU REPORT: As your appointed representative I attended the October 26 meeting held at the Greene Township municipal building. For the first three quarters of 2023 (thru September 30) the Tax Bureau collected \$566,584 in earned income taxes to Greencastle, an increase of 3.79% compared to this period in 2022. Total collections for the three quarters that includes the local services tax (LST) and other collections totaled \$668,717.

LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT SUBMITTED: Thanks to Ericka Faight and Chief Phillippy for your assistance as the application for three replacement police vehicles was submitted to the PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development on November 29.

DONATIONS FROM AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS AND SONS OF A.L.: A combined donation of \$1,400 was received recently for the Greencastle Police Department. The Department purchased two tactical level III ballistics shields for use by our officers in the event of an active shooter call. Vests worn by our officers are Level II for handgun caliber mitigation. The Level III shields are designed and tested to mitigate rifle fire. **THANK-YOU** to the American Legion riders and sons for your generous donations and for your concerns for our officers' safety.

GPD ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE: Thank-you Ericka for again handling this important logistics effort to provide food for the G-A Pantry located in the basement of the Presbyterian Church. I am thankful to all the churches in Greencastle that provide essential nourishment for individuals and families in need. Remember these organization after the holidays as the needs continue.

POLICE PERSONNEL RETIREMENTS: *THANK-YOU Officer Jim Bradley and to Chief John Phillippy for a combined nearly 100 years of law enforcement service. Jim will retire December 31. Chief is on the job until early January. We are grateful for their dedication to our citizens.*

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AND SHOP SMALL: National Shop Small Saturday was November 25 that followed Black Friday, November 24. I proclaimed the months of November and December as "Shop Small Greencastle!" Please join me in shopping in our many shops that support our community where 67 cents of every dollar stay local and is continuously redistributed through their owners and employees supporting non-profit organizations right here at home.

Heritage Christmas is in full holiday color that followed a well-attended tree lighting ceremony and Christmas parade.

On Thanksgiving evening, I appreciate observing Rescue Hose Company's quick response to a fire to the rear of townhomes in the 300 block of S. Washington Street. The fire was brought under control within minutes.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN TRAIN IDLING REPORT: Larry Pittman has issued his monthly report. It appears train visits are less than last year at this time. I am hopeful that N/S is looking at other locations for their trains to set and idle.

I am honored to represent Greencastle and attend many public events in the Greencastle area. I shall continue to do so and always encourage us to "shop small" in Greencastle.

ACTIVE ITEMS:

- Downtown parking inventory, new systems, partnerships
- Downtown truck traffic (letter authorized to PennDot)

Respectfully submitted, *Ben Thomas, Jr. Mayor*