

Mayor's Message
Rowlesburg: November 2025

Holiday Lighting: I asked Council members Delores Riggs and T.J. Hawkins and citizens Eric Baumgardner and Bonnie Hemerick to serve on the Christmas Committee. Also joining the committee are Joann Sisler, Nancy Cramer, and Sue Flynn. Their first job was to test the bulbs in the fixtures and then provide some guidance, as to where the Christmas lights were to be placed on power poles.

Darel Moats and Everett (Kent) Stonebraker with the help of volunteers, Deadeye and Roy Moats, have placed the lights in Town. A BIG thank you to all those involved with the holiday lighting. The lights on the power poles along N. Buffalo Street look very impressive.

Last but not least, the Town of Terra Alta was very gracious to loan us their bucket truck to use while placing the Christmas lights on power poles. A BIG thank you to TA Mayor Dodge and citizens and to Jason Berbonitz who scheduled the truck and brought it to Rowlesburg and really made use of the truck possible.

Decorating Contest: The Christmas Committee is also organizing the Christmas decorating contest for this year. The 5 categories for the contest this year are: (1) most creative, (2) most jolly, (3) most traditional, (4) most inflatables, and (5) best overall. The winner of each category will receive a \$25 gift card from Walmart. All Rowlesburg citizens, businesses, and organizations are encouraged to participate.

Please observe the following decorating contest rules: (1) House numbers must be visible from the road or street. (2) Illuminate your decorations between 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on December 19 & 20, 2025, when the judging will take place. (3) The five winners are asked to attend a Council meeting to collect their prize.

Welcome Sign Status: Prior to September 16, 2025, our welcome to Rowlesburg sign on the west edge of Town, along WV 72, suffered damage due to a large limb falling on its upper right corner and severely bending it. On the morning of the 16th the ultimate insult occurred when the sign fell face down where it stood. To me it was somewhat of a mystery in that, to my knowledge, wind was absent. It could be that it just had enough and it just fell over. I asked Town workers to take the sign apart and salvage the placards thereon. Organizations may pick up their placards at Town Hall.

I have asked a committee of Delores Riggs, Gary Henline, Buzz Halterman, Maggie DeWeirdt, Nancy Cramer, and Sue Flynn to serve on the Sign Committee. I asked the committee to propose a replacement for the sign and tasked them with making all decisions concerning the replacement. However, I did offer some suggestions for the committee to consider: (1) Move the sign out of the woods to a more easterly location on West Catherine Street. (2) Obtain permission from the landowner for the proposed relocation. (3) Installation and maintenance be given consideration. And (4) The design elements are based on elegance and simplicity and indicative of Town history, culture, or natural features. But it's up to the committee as to how the suggestions are used or not. If you have thoughts about the sign, please pass them on to the Sign Committee for consideration.

A thank you is extended to Delores Riggs for the work to organize and the leadership involved for both the Christmas and Sign Committees. Of course, all committee members are thanked for their work as well.

Thanksgiving Greetings: You might receive this wish after Thanksgiving, but from all of us at Town Hall and the Water Treatment Plant, we wish you a Happy Thanksgiving. It's the time when families and friends come together to celebrate our blessings and to enjoy catching up with each other's life events. Also, the tradition of deer hunting and Black Friday Shopping are favored by many as part of this season of Thanksgiving. In 1621, the Pilgrims and Native Americans, each with a different ideology and culture, joined together to celebrate the first Thanksgiving. Let's do the same in 2025. Safe holiday travels to all.

Darrell
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