

Mayor's Message
Rowlesburg: December 2025

Christmas decorations and Contest Winners: Rowlesburg citizens should be rightfully proud of the Christmas decorations along the corridor from Catherine Street south along Buffalo Street to the railroad tracks. Those decorations as well as the ones in the Park are quite striking. Thank you, T.J. Hawkins, for lighting up the Park again this year.

As I drove around Town recently, I observed many interesting and artfully decorated residences for the Christmas Season. I would say that the contest judges (I do not know the identity of the judges) had a difficult time selecting the winners of the decorating contest. The winners of the categories are as follows:

Winner	Category
Megan Loughry	Most Creative
Anthony & Alisha Goff	Most Jolly
Robert & Mary Hovatter	Most Traditional
Mike Sinclair & Debbie Moats	Most Inflatable
Kim Glotfelty	Best over-all

Congratulations to each of the winners. And thank you to all who participated in the contest. All the decorations provide a festive atmosphere to be enjoyed by all of Rowlesburg citizens. Also, thank you to the contest judges whoever you are.

Municipal Office Filing Schedule (<https://sos.wv.gov/elections/pages/govotewv.aspx>): Individuals wishing to serve the Town of Rowlesburg and its citizens as a Recorder, Member of Council, or Mayor must file a Certificate of Announcement between the dates Monday, January 12 and Saturday, January 31, 2026. The Certificate of Announcement must be filed in the Town Office in person, or it may be mailed and must be postmarked no later than midnight on January 31, 2026. March 24, 2026, is the deadline date for write-in candidates to file. **The Certificate of Announcement may be obtained at Town Hall.** Please keep in mind that the Town Hall is open 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. weekdays except Wednesday when the office is closed. On the last day for filing Town Hall will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The election will be held on May 12, 2026.

Some requirements for all municipal candidates include: (1) be 18 years of age by election day, (2) be a resident in the corporation of Rowlesburg; or be a resident in the 26425 zip code area, (3) possess a high school diploma or possess a GED certificate, (4) be a registered voter, (5) the residence of the candidate must be free of any delinquent utility debt or fine due the Town of Rowlesburg, (6) the candidate must not be convicted of a felony or other disqualification, and (7) candidates may run for only one municipal office. Also, individuals employed in classified (civil service) positions with state or county governments are prohibited from becoming candidates for any municipal office. Please bring any questions about the election to Town Hall.

Celebrating 100 years: On November 12, 2025, the Rowlesburg Masonic Lodge #165 celebrated its 100th year anniversary. The celebration marked a century of brotherhood, service, and commitment to the Rowlesburg community. It is noteworthy that, for a century, the Lodge quietly upheld the values of Freemasonry while supporting strong community spirit that has defined both the Lodge and the Town of Rowlesburg.

Father Time Brings New Year: We are only halfway through our fiscal year, however; the calendar year is coming to an end. The Winter Solstice has passed so there is an incremental increase in the hours of daylight each day. Most importantly, this is the time of year that Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. It's a time when we are reminded to follow His teaching and to love one another and to help those less fortunate than us.

It is Christmas eve as I conclude this issue of the Mayor's Message. During this season and this day particularly, I envision families participating in traditions passed down through the generations. I also envision many people yearning for past events and relationships which occupy a warm spot in their hearts.

Let's do our best to keep our Town tidy and to respect our neighbors.

A belated Merry Christmas and Goodwill to all
Darrell
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