

Mayor's Message
Rowlesburg: March 2025

First, I want to say thank you to all the participants in the "Light Up The Night" Christmas decorating contest. Certainly, the decorations provide a festive vibe for not only our citizens, but also for those passing through our Town as well. It speaks of our pride of place. Congratulations to the contest winners, who are: (1) Anthony & Alisha Goff, (2) Robert & Mary Hovatter, (3) Dale & Michele Ross, (4) Mike & Lois Bulford, and (5) Mike Sinclair & Debbie Moats. The awards to the winners were made possible by donations to the Christmas Committee, a committee independent of the Town government.

Christmas decorations on power poles have long been taken down. When the decorations were put up, volunteers Roy Moats and Charlie Wagner helped Darel Moats with the installation and removal. Thank you to the volunteers who helped install and remove the decorations. The decorations help to make our Town appear festive during the Holiday Season.

Terra Alta Mayor Danny Hauger gave permission for two TA town employees to bring TA's bucket truck down so that it could be used to safely hang the decorations on the power poles. The TA employees came and took the truck back after the decorations were installed. They did the same when it was time to take the decorations down. If you see Danny, let him know we appreciate his generosity and say, "Thank You to him and the Town of Terra Alta."

The weather in January and February proved rather harsh for getting around for many Rowlesburg citizens. Even so, Darel Moats, through his steadfast effort, was able to plow our streets and keep them passable during the snowstorms. Thanks Darel.

The winter snow and windstorms have also had an impact on the Town's water infrastructure and service. Water meters could not be read in January due to significant snow accumulation; consequently, January water bills were estimated based on past usage. So, any discrepancies in the water bills will be resolved as actual water meter readings are used to determine usage going forward.

Windstorms this past winter also caused problems with components of our water infrastructure system. A power pole owned by the Town and serving electricity to the Rowlesburg Water Tank blew down in a windstorm. This required the installation of a new pole and a new service line. Permission from landowners was necessary to locate the new pole where the power company wanted it and for installing a new subsurface service line access across their property. With some phone calls and explanations, we were able to get that permission. Electricity at the tank serves to power instrumentation which enables water treatment plant operators to determine how much water is in the Rowlesburg water tank and when they need to pump water to it. Because of the weather, it took some time, but this important repair has been made.

The antenna serving instrumentation, which also detects water at the river intake vault, blew down during a windstorm. Of course, until the antenna is repaired the only way to know for sure that water is available to pump to the water treatment plant is to visit the site at the river. The river flows at this time of year pretty much assures that water is available to pump. However, to determine the presence of any obstructions, a visit to the water intake location must be made. A problem with getting part(s) is hampering the work to complete this repair.

As you might surmise, the work to keep our drinking water and water distribution system in a continuously operating, safe, and healthy state is always a work in progress. More information about our water infrastructure next time.

The Rowlesburg Area Historic Society (RAHS) paid to clean up the junk, litter, trash, and debris that resided on the property at the bottom of Cannon Hill Road just off Maple Avenue. The property is privately owned by Allegheny Forestlands, LLC, I believe a TMO or Timber Management Organization. The company is not what we might have known as Allegheny Wood Products, the company that was formerly operating the sawmill at Caddell. The Town does own a 1-acre parcel further up Cannon Hill Road, but the exact location is unknown. The RAHS is requesting that there be an immediate **cease and desist** of the dumping of anything, grass clippings, junk, construction materials, whatever on the site. As this is private property, it should not be littered with whatever from anyone. Citizens will need to make other arrangements for disposing of what they formerly dumped on this site. A discussion at a Council meeting is appropriate.

Yours truly,
Darrell, Mayor of Rowlesburg: mayorofrowlesburg@gmail.com