

NewsLetter

City of Greencastle
JANUARY 2026



Topics

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Vine Street & Seminary Square Development

Strategic Budgeting for 2026

Words from the Mayor

City Departments Spotlight: Braving the Elements

Snow Removal Reminder

Mayor's January 2026 Update: Investing in Our Future

As we look ahead to the coming months, the City of Greencastle is focused on strategic investments and smart growth.

Our priorities this month centered on fiscal sustainability and the revitalization of our downtown corridor.



STRATEGIC BUDGETING FOR 2026

January's Budget Focus:

- **Reduced Spending:** In anticipation of potential shifts in state and federal funding, we have successfully reduced our planned spending by nearly \$1 million compared to 2025.
- **Core Priorities:** Enhancing public safety and utility reliability through smarter technology and in-house efficiency – optimizing every service for our community.

2026 PAVING & INFRASTRUCTURE

Our engineering teams are busy preparing for the 2026 construction season.

- **Focus on Engineering:** While our overall budget is leaner this year, we have intentionally increased our investment in engineering fees. This allows us to complete high-quality bidding and planning now, ensuring we get the best value for every taxpayer dollar when paving begins.
- **Maintenance & Readiness:** Our crews have spent January managing winter maintenance, including snow removal and essential base repairs, to keep our streets safe until the larger 2026 projects kick off this spring.

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VINE STREET & SEMINARY SQUARE DEVELOPMENT

We are reaching a significant milestone in our partnership with DePauw University for the Seminary Square project.

- **Vine Street Vacation**: The City Council moved forward with the First Reading for the vacation of a portion of Vine Street (between Poplar and Seminary Streets). This property is being transferred to DePauw to facilitate the next phase of the development.
- **City Benefits**: This transition is a win-win; it shifts long-term maintenance costs away from the city, while supporting a major housing development that will bring more people and energy into our downtown.
- **Ensuring Access**: We are coordinating closely on the vacation of the alleyway behind Marvin's to ensure that while construction proceeds, essential access for surrounding residents and businesses remains a priority.



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CITY DEPARTMENTS SPOTLIGHT: BRAVING THE ELEMENTS

As we move through the peak of winter, our city crews have been working around the clock to ensure that extreme weather doesn't stand in the way of our safety or our daily lives. This month, we want to recognize the extraordinary efforts of our departments:

- **Fire Department**: Our firefighters showed incredible bravery and coordination this month, responding to a high-stakes residential gas explosion. We are grateful for their rapid response and expertise in managing such a critical situation.
- **Police Department**: From minor slide-offs to serious collisions, our officers have been out in the freezing wind and snow, managing high call volumes and keeping our slick roadways organized and safe.
- **Street & Parks Departments**: These crews have been the backbone of our winter mobility. While most are asleep, they've been out plowing and salting to ensure that our streets remain passable and safe for everyone.
- **Utility Departments**: Working in sub-zero temperatures is no easy task, yet our utility teams have been relentless in repairing leaks and frozen pipes to ensure our residents' essential services remain uninterrupted.

A sincere thank you to these men and women who leave their warm homes to protect ours.

City of Greencastle



WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

"Greencastle isn't just a place on a map; it's a community that looks out for one another. Whether it's through careful budgeting or checking on a neighbor after a winter storm, we are moving forward together."

– Mayor
Lynda Dunbar



Reminder: Snow Removal

Residents, Business Owners & Occupants

Please remember to clear the sidewalks adjacent to your property!

- **Rule:** Snow and ice must be removed within 24 hours after the snow stops falling (per City Code, Art. 11, Sec. 6-145).
- **Failure to Comply:** If the City has to clear your sidewalk, the property owner/occupant will be billed for the service.

Thank you for helping keep our sidewalks safe!

Stay up-to-date on the happenings in Greencastle by visiting the City's Facebook and website!