



June 5, 2017

Dear Residents,

Seeing the increased activity at Dan Droste Memorial Park is a sure sign that summer has arrived. Whether it is family reunions, picnics, softball or baseball games, people walking the track, music being played in the pavilion, young children enjoying the playground equipment, or people just enjoying the serenity of nature, it is wonderful to see our beautiful park being used by so many of our local residents and visitors. I feel our park is a great asset to the Village and the Township. Thank you to the Park Commission and DPW for all they do to maintain the facility and to Leon Bierstetel for keeping the park mowed and looking so good. Go and enjoy our wonderful park!

This spring the Village once again sponsored the annual field trip for the St. Mary 2<sup>nd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade students as part of the Village Wellhead Protection Program. Approximately 80 students toured the water tower, pump house and lagoons. After which they were taken to Stoney Creek where several biologists continued the educational experience as the students examined the waterway that our treated water feeds into. A picnic lunch was served to conclude the field trip. This event gives students the opportunity to learn firsthand how our Village wastewater treatment system works to protect our important and fragile water ecosystems. Many thanks go to the Village DPW, Council Member Phil Smith, and all those involved in making this important learning experience possible for the students.

We have been notified by the State of Michigan that we have been selected for a Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater (SAW) grant program sponsored by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The SAW program is a rare opportunity to receive significant grant funding to do a thorough inspection and mapping of the Village municipal storm and wastewater systems. The grant pays 90% of the cost of cleaning, GIS mapping, evaluating the condition/capacity of current systems, and preparing related reports. It also covers the development of capital improvement plans for any recommended short and/or long-term improvements that might be necessary. Understanding the condition of the village infrastructure and maintaining it to maximize its life is very important, as is preparing for future maintenance expenditures. I would like to thank our DPW staff for their assistance in the grant application process.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Westphalia Cruise-In Car Show is scheduled for Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. This event continues to be one of the biggest and best car shows in the whole state. Mark your calendars and come out to enjoy the cars, food, music and comradery of your friends and neighbors.

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President  
Village of Westphalia