



December 5, 2016

Dear Residents:

It has certainly been quite a fall season for our high school athletic teams. The PW boy's Cross-County team won the state championship and the girl's team was the state championship runner-up. What a great accomplishment! Congratulations to both teams and their coaches.

For the second year in a row, the PW football team made it all the way to the state finals at Ford Field and this year they became the first football team in the school's history to be crowned State Champion! Playing a hard-fought, nearly flawless game, the Pirates defeated Detroit Loyola 28-14.

The support shown to the football team by our local communities during their championship run was amazing. I believe PW fans outnumbered the opponent's fans at every game. Even when PW played Traverse City St. Francis on their home field we had more fans – that's impressive! I would also like to compliment the players and coaches on their great example of sportsmanship. I heard many comments from opposing fans about what a well-disciplined, hard-working and classy group of young men we had on the team. Similar comments were also extended to the coaching staff and the PW fans. During interviews I often heard the coaches and players express their gratitude to the fans for their support. They also often mentioned their appreciation and thankfulness for being able to call our local communities "home" which is always great to hear.

The football team had many excellent players, but there was one player that gained a lot of state-wide, and even national, recognition. I'm speaking about Westphalia's own – Jared Smith (son of Brian and Lori Smith). Not only did Jared break many school and state rushing and scoring records, he also carries a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. Jared is a great example of what it truly means to be a "student-athlete." Congratulations to Jared and the rest of the team and coaches on their State Championship season. Thank you for giving us all just one more reason to be so very proud of our wonderful communities.

I am honored to have been re-elected as Village President and thank you for your continued support. I would also like to thank Council members Dave Boswell, Tim Fandel and Phil Smith for agreeing to run again and serve another term. Their continued service to the community is very much appreciated.

Westphalia Township also has some new faces after the election. Frank Trierweiler is now the Supervisor, Heather Platte the Clerk, and Dennis Fox a Trustee. The Village looks forward to continuing our valued relationship with the Township and we welcome these newly elected officials. The Village would also like to thank retiring Supervisor Bud Thelen and Clerk Jane Bierstetel for their many years of dedicated service to the Township.

The Christmas light parade and tree lighting was once again a great success. Thank you to the Historical Society for sponsoring this wonderful family event. May everyone enjoy a safe and merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia