



May 5, 2014

Dear Residents:

On April 12th a storm developed with high winds sweeping through the Village. Fortunately, the damage was limited to mostly blown-down trees and power lines. I happened to be a few minutes from town when the storm hit. By the time I got to town the Westphalia Township Fire Department was already on the scene cleaning up debris and securing areas of danger due to down power lines. I have said this before, and it comes as no surprise to our residents, but we are very blessed to have such an exceptional Fire Department. These volunteers are simply the best and their efforts to keep us safe are greatly appreciated. I would also like to acknowledge our DPW who cut short their travel plans to return to the Village and assist with the cleanup effort. Please take time to thank the firemen and DPW staff for all they do to keep our Village safe during these situations.

As you may read in an earlier President's Message, the Village developed a *Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan* and submitted it to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for review and approval. Having an approved plan on file with the DNR allows communities like Westphalia to apply for grant money for qualifying public park projects.

Much work went into developing the *Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan* and there were many "hoops" to jump through. However, the efforts of all involved in this project did not go in vain. The Village has received notice that our Plan was approved! This means that the Plan will remain on file with the DNR until December 31, 2018. During that time the Village may apply for available grant money for qualifying public park projects.

I would once again like to thank local resident Scott Strong for all his help in developing the plan. I would also like to acknowledge the Village Council, Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Committee and all those who assisted in getting the *Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan* successfully completed, submitted and approved.

May everyone have a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day. Please take the time to acknowledge our local Veterans and keep them in your thoughts and prayers. We are all indebted to the many sacrifices these brave men and women have made on our behalf. May God bless them all on this special day of recognition.

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia