



January 7, 2019

Dear Residents:

Looking back, 2018 was quite a year for Westphalia. Let me recap some of the highlights...

The West Main Street Project was one of the largest infrastructure projects undertaken in the Village in quite some time. This project, along with the chip and fog sealing of 2.75 miles of secondary streets, represents a major investment in our local roadways. These infrastructure and aesthetic improvements will provide long-term benefits to the Village. Many thanks to the Village Council, Planning Commission, DPW, local businesses and residents for all their hard work, cooperation and patience during this important project.

The Village redesigned its Website and launched its own Facebook page. The new Website has a variety of information about the Village and the Facebook page allows us to post information regarding Village activities and receive feedback from residents. We appreciate all the work that Village Clerk Sandy Smith did to coordinate these valuable communication improvements.

Many special events were held in the Village in 2018. Westphalia played host to the annual meeting of local Villages. The Cruise-In car show was bigger and better than ever. The St. Mary's Parish 4<sup>th</sup> of July festival, Marian Procession and Christmas Bazaar were awesome gatherings. The Cemetery Walk, Holiday Parade and Christmas Tree Lighting sponsored by the Westphalia Historical Society were wonderful events that brought our community together. Thanks to all those involved for their efforts in making these special events a reality.

Through a grant from the U.S. and Michigan Departments of Education, and in collaboration with Great Start and Clinton County RESA, Westphalia secured four "Free Little Library" outdoor cabinets which are now located around town for all to use. Our local schools were once again recognized for their outstanding academic and athletic achievements. Congratulations to the students, teachers, administration and all who help to make our schools so outstanding and such a source of pride for our local communities.

We had some major personnel changes with the retirement of long-time DPW supervisor Jim Bierstetel after nearly 42 years of dedicated service. Steve Miller was appointed to replace Jim as the new DPW supervisor. The Village is very fortunate to have someone with Steve's expertise and competence to handle this most important position. We were also pleased to announce the addition of Alex Hanses to our DPW staff. It is great to have someone of Alex's caliber join our already outstanding DPW team. A major investment was made with the purchase of a new backhoe which is probably the most important piece of equipment used in the Village. Thank you DPW for all your efforts.

Looking back on 2018, it is clear to me that we are a very blessed community. I offer my sincere appreciation to all who help to make Westphalia the special place that we all get to call "home" and I hope that 2019 brings continued blessings to our Village.

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President  
Village of Westphalia