



January 6, 2020

Dear Residents:

As we look back, 2019 was a very good year for the Village of Westphalia. Our downtown storefronts continue to be fully occupied by local businesses and we appreciate their commitment to our community. Investments were made to upgrade infrastructure and equipment which will provide long-term benefits to the Village. We continue to enjoy excellent relationships with our local partners. For example, we worked in collaboration with St. Mary Parish to improve the grassy area of the playground which is used for school activities as well as community youth programs and with Westphalia Township to expand the recycling program from monthly to bi-weekly to help handle the local demand.

Local events were once again an important part of our Village in 2019. The Cruise-In Car Show, 4th of July Festival, Marian Procession, Chillin' & Grillin' BBQ Challenge, Cemetery Walk, Christmas Bazaar, Holiday Parade and Christmas Tree Lighting were all wonderful events that brought our community together. A special "thank you" to St. Mary Parish, Knights of Columbus, Westphalia Historical Society and all those involved in making these events a reality.

Our local schools and young people continue to impress and are an enormous source of pride for our communities. In the most recent study conducted by the *U.S News and World Report*, Pewamo-Westphalia was ranked the 15th best high school in the State of Michigan (out of a total of 650 schools). P-W also ranked in the top 50 schools for SAT scores in the State. Congratulations to the students, teachers, administrators, parents and all that help to make our local schools so outstanding.

Then we have the P-W athletic accomplishments, which were truly amazing! In 2019, our athletic teams won a total of 5 state championships... Competitive Cheer, Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, Girls Track & Field and Football. In addition, the Boys Track & Field and Baseball teams missed winning state championships by the slimmest of margins. Congratulations to the student-athletes and coaches on their extraordinary accomplishments. Congratulations also to the P-W Band for finishing with a #1 rating at the High School Band Festival. Lastly, our local fans are to be commended for their remarkable support and the class they exemplified during these events.

Please join me in welcoming Charlie Hengesbach to the Village Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has been instrumental in many Village projects and we look forward to Charlie's input and expertise.

With 2019 now behind us, we look forward to continued blessings in 2020. I offer my sincere appreciation to all who help to make Westphalia the very special place that we get to call "home".

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia