



September 3, 2013

Dear Residents:

Well, I must start this month's message with a correction to last month's message. I mistakenly stated that the Historical Society had received a donation from Ted and Lou Anna Simon. The donation was actually received from Ted and Mary Jane Simon. Ted and Mary Jane are the parents of Roy Simon who is the husband of Lou Anna Simon, President of Michigan State University. I apologize for my mistake – if only I would have had a place to research the genealogy. ☺

In July you should have received a copy of the 2012 Water Quality Report produced by the Village of Westphalia Department of Public Works (DPW). Although some of the terminology used in the report is a bit foreign to most of us, what it does point out is that Westphalia has exceptionally high quality water.

Several years ago the Village was successful in securing a Wellhead Protection Grant through the State of Michigan. The grant monies can be used in a variety of ways, but our main objective was to identify and seal individual wellheads within the Village. Since we have a municipal water system, these wells are not needed. Sealing the wellheads prevents potential contamination, thus protecting the high quality aquifers that supply our Village. Our DPW has done a great job to identify and seal individual wellheads throughout the Village.

State regulations regarding sewer and water systems continue to change. Many of the tests and reports that our DPW staff handled in the past are now required to be completed by a licensed engineer, often at a substantial cost to the Village. We are very fortunate to have had a DPW that was able and willing to perform these duties in the past and save the Village money. However, compliance with state regulations and more importantly, protecting the quality of our water, continues to be the top priority. We must accept the costs associated with maintaining our high quality water supply.

With the new school year starting, please take extra caution when driving in town, especially when the children are walking to and from school. Enjoy the start of the beautiful Michigan fall season!

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia