



January 4, 2016

Dear Residents:

As we welcome in 2016, it seems like a great time to look back on the many positive things that happened within the Village in 2015. There is not enough room here to acknowledge all of them, but here are just a few...

Events: What a great year 2015 was for events here in the Village. In June, the 11th Annual Westphalia Cruise-In car show was held which ranked once again as one of the biggest and best in the state. July brought the annual St. Mary Parish festival with all its family fun and camaraderie. In September, the Cemetery Walk taught us more about many of our most memorable ancestors. We welcomed the fall season by acknowledging our German heritage with an Oktoberfest celebration. Then in December, the Christmas Light Parade took place with beautiful floats and the lighting of the Christmas tree. What a memorable family affair it was for all to enjoy. Much thanks to all the organizations and individuals who make these gatherings possible. I would like to especially acknowledge the Westphalia Historical Society as they played a major role in many of these wonderful community events.

Accomplishes: 2015 also proved to be a very good year for local accomplishments. Our DPW did an outstanding job of being proactive in maintaining and improving the Village infrastructure, resulting in long-term cost savings. Our excellent school systems continue to receive many accolades in recognition of their accomplishments. Along with all of the academic honors received by our schools, the high school also had a state champion girls track team and state champion runner-up football team in 2015. Our young people are certainly a great source of pride to our community and they continue to be a wonderful reflection of our values. Thank you to St. Mary's, St. Joseph's and PW Community Schools for providing such a great environment for our young people to learn and grow.

Partnerships: The Village continues to develop and maintain valued partnerships with our neighbors to share resources and reduce costs where possible. We partnered with Westphalia Township to bring recycling back to the Westphalia area. The Township also made significant improvements to the fire station and purchased a new firetruck to provide better fire and emergency protection to our community and beyond. The Village partnered with Fowler on the purchase of a sewer jet truck which will provide long-term cost savings to both communities. And as always, we continue to maintain our close relationship with the Village of Pewamo. These partnerships, along with those we have with our local businesses, St. Mary Parish and School, PW Community Schools, the Historical Society and so many others, are appreciated and greatly valued by the Village.

Thanks: Where do I start??? The DPW, Village Council & Planning Commission, Parks & Recreation Board, St. Mary's Parish & School, local businesses, Historical Society & other local organizations – just too many to name. However, the biggest thanks goes out to all of our residents who continue to make Westphalia the special place we get to call "home".

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia