



May 1, 2017

Dear Residents:

The Lansing State Journal recent ran an article about water and sewer rate charges around the Lansing area. Those rates ranged from \$44.66 to \$100.11 per month (based on 5,000 gallons of water used), with an average of over \$73 per month for the 13 communities noted in the article. In comparison, the monthly cost here in Westphalia for water and sewer would average only about \$27 per month. Although we will need to revisit our rates at some point in the future, you can see that when compared to other communities in the area, our rates for water and sewer are quite a bargain!

The arrival of spring and warmer weather entices many residents to get outside for some fresh air and exercise. Walking is an activity that many residents use to do this. This is great to see, but please keep safety in mind at all times. With this being said, I would like to remind residents of the walking options available within the Village. The safest is the walking track at Droste Park – no roads to contend with and there is a sidewalk connecting the track to the cemetery for additional walking options. The Village sidewalks also allow you to walk around town safely, just be careful when crossing streets. Lastly, there are the Village streets themselves. I know many residents prefer walking on the streets and although this is the least safe of the walking options, making yourself visible to road traffic by wearing bright clothing can greatly reduce the risk. This is especially important during the evening hours. Whatever your preference is, just keep walking – it's very good for you!

The April issue of the Westphalia Historical Society Newsletter contains an article on other areas in the U.S. that share the name "Westphalia." There happens to be a total of 6 other communities that share our name. We have the second largest population with only an unincorporated area in Maryland – that is currently being developed as a luxury suburb of Washington D.C. – has more people. As always, the WHS Newsletter contains a lot of fascinating information. Newsletters, pictures and other interesting information can be found on their web site – www.westphaliahistory.weebly.com.

The WHS 2017 display will feature a salute to our local businesses, past and present. This promises to be very interesting and I hope everyone takes the time to visit the display when it opens up. They are looking for artifacts, pictures, stories, etc. that will help tell the story of Westphalia. If you have anything to share, please contact Gladys Rademacher (587-6958) or Sharon O'Brien (587-3268).

Mark June 15th on your calendar for the 13th Annual Westphalia Cruise-In Car Show. This event continues to be one of the biggest and best car shows in the entire state. Be sure to come out to enjoy the cars, food, music and comradery of your friends and neighbors.

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia