



May 7, 2018

Dear Residents:

The downtown streetscape project is being delayed slightly so that Consumers Energy can replace the main gas line and the gas service lines along West Main Street. Although the delay is a bit disappointing, this work was due to be done in the next few years anyway. By completing the work at this time, we will avoid having to tear up our new street and sidewalks to get these necessary repairs done in the future. The gas line replacement project is scheduled to start June 25th and should be completed in 2-3 weeks, after which the streetscape project can commence.

The Village recently purchased a new backhoe. The backhoe is probably the most important piece of equipment used in the Village. The old backhoe was 17 years old and at the point where it still had some resale value but would likely need some major maintenance fairly soon. With this in mind, the Council felt the timing was right to make this important purchase. Thank you to our DPW for keeping such a good handle on the timely replacement of equipment to help minimize long-term expenses to the Village.

We continue to work with the Post Office on our Village concerns. As I have mentioned before, this process is going to take some time and we appreciate everyone's patience. I must once again emphasize the importance of getting your Post Office box number on all your incoming mail. Please also note that packages being delivered by shipping companies like UPS and Federal Express are often delivered to the Post Office even if they only contain a street address. **Providing only your street address when placing an order does not mean that it will be delivered directly to your home.** To help with this situation, please add your PO Box number to all deliveries. If a PO Box number is not allowed when ordering, please try addressing as follows, "123 Main St., #XXX" (XXX being your PO Box number). Also, if you receive mail or packages with your PO Box number hand-written on the piece by the Post Office, please contact the sender to request your PO Box number be used on future mail and package deliveries.

Have you noticed the "Little Free Libraries" located around town? Through a grant from the U.S. and Michigan Departments of Education, and in collaboration with Great Start and Clinton County RESA, Westphalia has secured four of these small outdoor library cabinets. The cabinets are located at St. Mary's School, the Westphalia Historical Center, Growing Patch Day Care, and the Village Municipal Center. Books may be borrowed and returned free of charge. Although mostly intended for children, everyone is welcome to borrow the books. You can also donate books that contain appropriate content by simply placing them in the cabinets. Thanks to Great Start and RESA for their assistance in making this new learning opportunity possible.

PW Cross-Country coach Scott Werner has been named "Coach of the Year" by the Michigan High School Coaches Association. Scott has also been named as a finalist for the 2018 National Cross-Country Coach of the Year by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association. The effort Scott has put into the program has resulted in PW being a perennial power in high school cross-country. Congratulations to Scott on this well-deserved recognition!

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia