



February 1, 2016

Dear Residents:

Have you noticed the new paint job on the water tower? Routine maintenance requires periodic cleaning of the exterior of the water tower to remove mildew and loose paint. The paint job is then touched-up as needed. When the exterior cleaning was completed this fall it was discovered that the amount of touch-up needed was extensive and a total repainting of the tower might be the best alternative. The normal life expectancy of paint on a water tower is 12-15 years and ours was last completely repainted 17 years ago. With this in mind, the Council decided it would be in the best interest of the Village to move forward with a total repainting of the tower at this time.

Another incentive for this decision was the opportunity to negotiate with the contractor to have the work done at a significantly reduced cost to the Village. This was possible for the following reasons: 1) the preparation work for repainting the tower was already completed; 2) the unusually mild weather allowed the work to be done when normally it would have been too cold; 3) the contractor had an opening in their schedule and was motivated to take advantage of the good weather to keep their crew busy.

Unfortunately, the weather did change before the new "Westphalia" lettering could be completed (it is partially done on the north side of the tower). The lettering will be completed as soon as weather permits. The tower also needed some internal maintenance which was done in coordination with the painting project. This helped to reduce the amount of time the tower had to be taken off-line.

I would like to point out that taking advantage of this very limited "window of opportunity" required some quick action by the Council and DPW. Calls were made and within 24 hours Council members met and determined that doing this project now was in the best interest of the Village. We are very fortunate to have Council members and DPW staff that are willing to pull together for a last minute meeting (on a Sunday evening) in an effort to do what is best for our community. Thank you to the Council members and DPW for your dedicated service and commitment to the well-being of Westphalia and its residents.

On the subject of water, I'm sure most everyone is aware of the situation with the Flint water system. Please know that the water system here in the Village is tested frequently to ensure our residents continue to receive the high quality water they are used to. A side note to the Flint story that caught my attention was the water/sewer rates charged by the city and the surrounding area. Flint residents pay about \$140/month for their water/sewer services and the surrounding villages and townships pay from \$50-\$105/month. Generally, our Village residents pay less than \$25/month. That's quite a bargain when compared to most other areas!

Hope you are staying warm and healthy during this winter season.

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia