



January 4, 2017

Dear Residents:

As we welcome in 2017, it seems like a great time to look back on the many positive things that happened within the Village in 2016. There is not enough room to acknowledge all of them, but here are just a few...

Events: It was once again a great year for local events in 2016. The 12th Annual Westphalia Cruise-In car show in June was a big success and again ranked 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. The Cemetery Walk in September taught us more about many of our most memorable ancestors. The Oktoberfest in the fall allowed the community to come together in celebration our rich German heritage. December brought the Christmas Light Parade and the lighting of the Christmas tree which was a great family event for all to enjoy. Much thanks to all the organizations and individuals who make these gatherings possible. Special acknowledgement goes out to the Westphalia Historical Society as they played a major role in many of these wonderful community events.

Accomplishes: 2016 also proved to be a very good year for local accomplishments. As always, our DPW did an outstanding job of being proactive in maintaining and improving the Village infrastructure. Our excellent school systems continue to receive many accolades in recognition of their academic and athletic accomplishments. In addition to the many academic honors received by our schools, the high school also had a state champion runner-up girls cross-country team, a state champion boys cross-county team and a state champion football team in 2016. Our young people are certainly a great source of pride for 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 continuing to provide such a great environment for our young people to learn and grow.

Improvements: Major water tower maintenance was completed, including the painting of the exterior and new scripted lettering. This was done at a significant savings to the Village, mainly due to a break in the weather which allowed the contractor to keep their crews working when normally they would not have been able to do so. The former Westphalia Auto Salvage property was purchased by Tom and John Pung. They have demolished the old house, cleaned-up the grounds and are in the process of building the new business headquarters for Pung Foundation. The in-ground fuel tanks located near that same property have also been removed and the property is in the process of environmental evaluation to determine if any further cleanup will be required. Many businesses in our downtown area made renovations to improve their appearance, making our already beautiful downtown look even better.

Many thanks to the DPW, Village Council, Village Planning Commission, Parks & Recreation Board, St. Mary's Parish & School, PW Schools, local businesses, Historical Society and the many other local organizations that do so much make our Village what it is. And of course, a special thanks 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