



February 2018

Dear Residents:

For the past two years, the Village Council and Planning Commission have been working together on a Downtown Streetscape Improvement Project. The plan evolved after it was determined that the first block of West Main Street would require some major work. A relatively simple asphalt resurfacing would not be possible due to the current grade of the road surface. The necessary work requires the removal of several layers of old asphalt, regrading of the road surface and resurfacing with new asphalt.

The Village Council and Planning Commission viewed this as an opportunity to look at some other potential improvements to the downtown area. Since the street would be torn-up, it seemed logical to investigate the possibility of burying the overhead wires. Working with our engineers from Flies & Vandenbrink and Consumers Energy, it was determined that burying the “primary” wires (the highest wires you see on Main Street) would be far too expensive. However, burying the lower wires could be done at a more reasonable cost. This means that all the electrical poles on the south side of the street, and all the wires that cross the street, could be removed from sight.

Continuing this forward-thinking approach, it seemed that this may be a good opportunity to address some other potential downtown infrastructure/streetscape improvements. This led to the decision to install new lamp-post style decorative lighting and replace sidewalks and curbing. We hope to start the project in early spring and have it completed by the Cruise-In car show in mid-June. Much attention is being given to limiting the inconvenience to residents and especially our downtown businesses during the project. We are considering this “Phase 1” of a master plan that will hopefully include additional phases in the future as resources allow. Additional phases would include the first block of East Main Street and possibly the first blocks of North and South Westphalia Street.

We will also be addressing some needed repairs to the secondary streets in the Village. This will include chip-seal resurfacing of many of our secondary streets through a cooperative effort between the Clinton County Road Commission and the Village. As I’ve said before, it is generally much better and more economical to be proactive instead of reactive when addressing infrastructure needs. We are very fortunate to have a DPW that does an excellent job of identifying and addressing these needs – Thank you Jim and Steve!

The Notice residents received from the Post Office recently has caused considerable confusion and concern. The main concern was the issue of mail being returned if it was not addressed with a PO Box number. I have talked to the interim Post Master and he will do his best to continue forwarding packages and First-Class mail received after the February 10th deadline given in the Notice. However, Postal Regulations do not require this to be done so it could be discontinued at any time. Please try to get a PO Box number on all of your mail. We also ask for your patience as we continue working with local and regional Post Office officials to address your concerns.

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

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia