



July 1, 2013

Dear Residents:

The 2013 Westphalia Cruise-In was once again a great success. Though the weather appeared to be in question a few times, the rain held off and it was a fine evening for the show. We had a total of 933 show cars and many spectators. It is always interesting to hear the comments from those visiting Westphalia from out-of-town. They are always so impressed with not only the show, but also our community and its people. There was a very nice article in the Lansing State Journal following the show, written by Tom Thelen – a journalist born and raised in the Westphalia area. There was a quote at the end of the article from one of the attendees regarding Westphalia and its people. The person's statement was, *"The people [in Westphalia] are just grand. This is just a top of the line community out here."* I could not agree more. Thank you to all of our residents for making our visitors feel so welcome. It is a great reflection on our community.

I would once again like to thank the Planning Commission, Village Council, DPW, and all the volunteers that make this event possible. A special thanks to Dave and Karen Boswell for all the extra effort they put in to making the Cruise-In such a success. This event gives our village, and its businesses, great exposure to individuals who may not otherwise have a reason to come to Westphalia. The folks that attend the Cruise-In truly enjoy our community and appreciate the hospitality they are shown.

I would also like to acknowledge St. Mary Parish, the Knights of Columbus, and the local businesses that allow their property to be used to display the show cars. Although we hope the event gives exposure to all of the businesses in the village, it is important to note the sacrifices that many of them make. With the downtown streets being closed early, many businesses are not able to conduct business as usual on this day. Please remember to thank them for the sacrifices they make for the good of the Village. Or better yet – give them your business! Remember, this is what keeps our community alive and vibrant.

The Village will be pursuing a Stormwater Assessment Management and Wastewater (SAW) Program grant through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The grant program is a rare opportunity for significant grant funding for the planning and design of storm and wastewater systems. The SAW grant pays 90% of the cost of developing/updating/documenting GIS mapping of the systems, evaluating the condition/capacity of the systems, and preparing related reports. It also covers the development of capital improvement plans for any recommended short and/or long term improvements that might be necessary. As I have said before, understanding the condition the village infrastructure and maintaining it to maximize the value is very important. Thank you to our DPW staff for their assistance in the grant application process.

Hope to see you at the St. Mary Parish Festival on July 4<sup>th</sup> – Happy Independence Day!

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President  
Village of Westphalia