



March 4, 2019

Dear Residents:

With the passage of Proposal 1 in November of 2018, the establishment of recreational marijuana facilities within a municipality is allowed unless the municipality decides to “opt out” by passing an ordinance banning such establishments. There are six commercial establishments allowed under Proposal 1. They are: Retailers, Growers, Processors, Secure Transporters, Safety Compliance Facilities and Microbusinesses (Mom & Pop Shops). The State will not be issuing licenses for any of these commercial establishments before December of 2019.

It is the opinion of the Village Council that banning any and all of these commercial marijuana establishments within our Village would be in the best interest of our community. The Council is working with other communities, as well as our legal counsel, to develop the proper wording for an ordinance to ban marijuana establishments anywhere within the Westphalia Village limits. The ordinance adoption process involves a public hearing at which time local citizens can express their views – pro or con – to the proposed ordinance. In anticipation of community support to ban such establishments here in the Village, the ordinance adoption process will begin soon to insure the ordinance is in place well before State licensing begins in December.

The Council has also been discussing the possibility of a resolution or ordinance regarding the use of ORVs and/or golf carts within the Village limits. Although current state law does not permit their use on public street, it is probably worth noting that law enforcement personnel generally have more important issues to attend to than monitoring ORVs and golf carts that are being driven responsibly on our local streets.

The authority to adopt a local resolution to allow golf carts is permitted under a new law that was passed last year (PA 139 of 2018). However, the law does contain certain requirements, restrictions and limitations that must be complied with. The Council has also been reviewing an ORV ordinance passed by Ionia County in 2015 to determine if it contains information that could be incorporated into a potential local resolution or ordinance in regards to ORV use on Village streets. The main concern of the Council is the safety of our local citizens and limiting any potential liability to the Village. We will continue to investigate options, and pursue legal counsel as needed, to determine the best course of action to be taken.

Congratulations to Coach Staci Myers and the PW Competitive Cheer Team for their 2019 Division 4 State Championship! A long-time powerhouse in competitive cheer, PW won its 9<sup>th</sup> State Title (to go along with 10 runner-up finishes). Very impressive – congratulations ladies!

Think spring – it will be here soon!

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President  
Village of Westphalia