



October 5, 2020

Dear Residents:

After more than 35 years as a member of our Village government, I have made the difficult decision to step down at the end of my current term as Village President. My journey started in 1985 as a member of the Parks & Recreation Board. In 1995, I joined the Planning Commission. In 2001, I became a member of the Council and have served as Village President since July of 2011. I have gotten to know so many interesting people and have learned so much from them. It has been a truly wonderful and rewarding experience for me.

Although this has not been an easy decision, I believe the timing is right. The Village remains in sound financial shape and we have made several investments in equipment and infrastructure that will continue to provide long-term benefits. We have an excellent and experienced Planning Commission, Council, Clerk, Treasurer and DPW. Tim Fandel will be taking over as Village President after the November elections. Tim has served on the Council since 2008 and I am confident he will do an excellent job. The future of our Village is in great hands and continues to look very bright.

I truly appreciate all the encouragement and positive comments – as well a few opposing opinions – that I have received over the years. We have a wonderful Village and the efforts of all the current and past members of the various commissions, committees, councils and especially our outstanding administrative and DPW staff, have played a critical roll in making this possible. However, a community is only as good as its citizens and we have the best here in Westphalia.

The 3-year SAW Grant Project is drawing to a close and the work continues to be on schedule and on budget. This grant pays 90% of the cost to evaluate our storm and sanitary sewer systems. There are many aspects to the grant, one of which is running a video camera through the storm and sanitary sewer lines to identify areas of concern. With a sanitary system that is over 50 years old and a storm system that is even older, there are bound to be some problem areas identified. The goal is to address these problem areas and act on them before a system failure occurs. Doing preventive maintenance is much more cost-effective than fixing a system failure. The information provided by the SAW Grant Project is already proving to be very useful and will benefit the Village for many years to come.

I once again had the distinct pleasure of being a judge for the annual Westphalia Knights of Columbus “Grillin’ & Chillin’ BBQ Challenge” which took place on September 26th at Droste Park. The weather was great, the beer was cold and the food was simply fantastic. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for all they do to help those in need with charitable events like this that make our community so very special.

Be sure to get out and enjoy the beautiful fall colors!

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia