



October 2, 2017

Dear Residents:

Have you noticed the improvements at the Ark? The new paint on both the inside and outside of the building looks great! They also installed new flooring and fixed up the booths and tables. Improvements like this make our already beautiful downtown area look just that much better. We thank the leadership of the Ark for taking the initiative to improve this valuable downtown business. Be sure to stop by and check it out!

Many people comment on how good our downtown area looks. The storefronts all look so nice and well maintained. Credit for this rests mainly with the business owners and we thank them for their investment to help make our downtown area so attractive.

I would also like to mention a local program that was established several years ago to provide an incentive for businesses to improve the appearance of their storefronts. The *Matching Funds Program* was initiated by the Village Planning Commission and supported by the Village Council. The program provides financial assistance for a business to make visual improvements to the exterior of their building. Once the improvement plan is approved by the Planning Commission, the work is completed and costs are verified, the Village matches 50%, up to \$1,000, of the cost of the aesthetic improvements to the exterior of the business. A business is allowed only one grant in a five-year period. Many of our local businesses have used this program and the results speak for themselves. A beautiful downtown area is something we can all enjoy and take pride in. Thank you to the Planning Commission for coming up with this innovative idea (which other municipalities have since embraced) and the Village Council for supporting it.

The Westphalia Historical Society sponsored a cemetery walk on September 17th where local citizens represented some of our most memorable ancestors. Although the weather was hot, 369 people turned out for the event and it was a great success. Those attending were treated to refreshments and generously donated around \$800 to the Society. Thank you to the Historical Society for all their work in putting on such a great event. I'm sure next year's Cemetery Walk is already in the planning stages! Pictures and more information are available on the Society's Web site www.westphaliahistory.weebly.com.

Halloween trick-or-treat hours are 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. again this year. Please drive with extra caution during this time.

Be sure to get out and see the beautiful fall colors we get to enjoy this time of the year.

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia