



November 2, 2020

Dear Residents:

The time has come for my last “President’s Message”. As such, I would like to reflect on some of the things we have accomplished together here in Westphalia over the past 9-1/2 years that I have had the privilege of serving as your Village President. I would also like to note that none of these accomplishments would have been possible without the hard work of so many people who are dedicated to making our Village such a very special place to live.

I also believe that the accomplishments we have experienced here in the Village would not have been possible without the fantastic partnerships that have been established with our local businesses and organizations. And of course, the support of our local residents is paramount to enabling so many good ideas to actually come to fruition. Here are a few highlights of what has happened here in the Village over the past 9-1/2 years...

- New Businesses... Ox’s Smoked Meats; Growing Patch Daycare; Pung Foundation (replaced the old auto salvage yard); Nobach’s Creative, Fabiano’s Pizzeria; Neon & Camo Boutique; Albin Hengesbach Carpentry Showroom.
- Renovations/Improvements... Village Smiles (new dentist office); Little Flower Market (replaced the old grocery store); Westphalia Museum and Historical Center; Township Fire Station, parking lots.
- Technology... New Village fund accounting software; water and sewer system monitoring software; GIS mapping of water and sewer systems; new web page design; establishment of a Facebook page.
- Grants/Programs... SAW Grant (sewer system maintenance – 90% grant); application pending for a MDOT Category B Grant (street maintenance – 50% grant); application pending for an EGLE Drinking Water Asset Management Grant (water system management – 100% grant); Matching Funds Program (matches up to \$1,000 for local business aesthetic improvements).
- Infrastructure/Equipment Improvements... West Main Street improvements (gas lines, asphalt, lamp posts, curbing/gutter, sidewalks); Elm Street replacement north of St. Mary School (St. Mary partnership); Vidua Circle Street replacement; chip & seal 2.75 miles of Village streets; water tower paint/new logo; new backhoe; new utility tractor; replaced old dump truck; purchased sewer-jet truck (Fowler partnership); overhauled well pumps, recycle program (Westphalia Township partnership).
- Social Events... Oktoberfest (K of C and Historical Society); Grillin’ & Chillin’ BBQ (K of C); Cemetery Walk (Historical Society); Christmas Light Parade and Tree Lighting (Historical Society).

Again, none of these things would have been possible without the dedication of so many great people, most notably the residents of our community. I appreciate the opportunity to have held the position of Village President and it has truly been a privilege to have served with, and gotten to know, so many wonderful people along the way. I would like to thank each and every member of our community for being a piece of the fabric that makes our Village such a unique and wonderful place to call “home”. Thank you for all your support and may God continue to bless the Village of Westphalia.

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia