



November 25, 2013

Dear Residents:

Unfortunately, we had to reschedule the December Village Council Meeting from the regular December 2<sup>nd</sup> date to November 25<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully this didn't cause too many issues for our residents. Rescheduling was necessary due to a deadline requirement for submitting the grant application for the Stormwater Assessment Management and Wastewater Program (SAW). The Council was required to pass a resolution in support of the grant application before the regularly scheduled Council meeting.

In one of my earlier messages, I mentioned the SAW grant program sponsored by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The SAW program is a rare opportunity to receive significant grant funding for the planning and design of municipal storm and wastewater systems. The grant pays 90% of the cost of developing/updating/documenting GIS mapping of current systems, evaluating the condition/capacity of current 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. Understanding the condition of the village infrastructure and maintaining it to maximize its life is very important, as is preparing for future maintenance expenditures. Again, I thank our DPW staff for their assistance in the grant application process.

I am sure all have noticed two huge improvements to our downtown area. The first being the addition of the Little Flower Market located in the building that used to house the old grocery store. Owners Lori & Tom Pung have taken a building that was fast becoming a real eyesore to our downtown area and turned it into a beautiful focal point. Please stop and see all the beautiful things they have to offer and don't forget about the baked goods – I can personally vouch for their deliciousness!

The second big improvement is the new dentist office of Dr. Gadille. What a great addition to our community. Dr. Deb and her husband Pat both expressed to me their commitment to, and love for, the Westphalia area. We very much appreciate having them as part of our community. If you are looking for a great dentist, you need not look any farther than Dr. Gadille right here in Westphalia.

On behalf of the Village and its residents, I would like to most sincerely acknowledge our gratitude for the investment that Lori, Tom, Dr. Deb and Pat have made in our community. As always, we wish these and all of our fine businesses the best of luck and much success.

Lastly, I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and as always, please remember those in need this holiday season.

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President  
Village of Westphalia