



April 14, 2020

Dear Residents:

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our way of life so dramatically in such a short amount of time it is not surprising that many have felt like their world has been turned upside-down and may be questioning what the future holds. The virus effected so many things we often just take for granted... kids going to school, attending church services, greeting friends and family with handshakes and hugs – these adjustments have been difficult to accept. It was so disappointing for our P-W basketball teams who had a solid chance at repeating as state champions and the Varsity Quiz Bowl team that qualified for the Small School National Championship Tournament in Chicago. Graduations, weddings, funerals, social gatherings, etc., have all been impacted by this pandemic. The economic effect on our local business community and their employees is also very challenging - the list goes on and on. My heart and prayers go out to all those whose lives have been so dramatically impacted by this pandemic.

It is also important to acknowledge the heroes in this difficult time. The doctors, nurses, firemen/first responders, police, EMTs, faith leaders and so many others. Many of these people risk their own health, with an obvious concern for the health of their families, while doing important jobs that need to be done. Please remember to thank them and keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

There have also been many heart-warming experiences. A grandchild singing so beautifully from the front lawn to her grandmother sitting on the porch. Kids making wonderful chalk art murals on the driveway to brighten someone's day. Neighbors checking on neighbors. People keeping their distance while still showing kindness to each other. Notes of encouragement posted on doors and windows. The use of technology and social media has also helped people stay in-touch virtually, which may not be as good as seeing someone in person, but certainly helps. All these are helpful as we navigate through this unusual time.

I have been truly impressed by the over-all optimism and resilience shown by so many in this difficult time. We will get through this and hopefully will have a whole new appreciation for some things that we previously may have taken for granted. Be sure to follow the instructions provided by health and government officials. Do your best to stay healthy and positive until our lives can return to normal.

Please be sure to complete your 2020 Census information - it is very important to your community!

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President

Village of Westphalia