



May 2, 2016

Dear Residents,

The Westphalia Historical Society is currently displaying items in honor of our military veterans. Please stop by and see the interesting items on display. Also, on April 21st the WHS sponsored an educational program where WWII speaker Richard Thelen, a resident of Lansing who served in the Pacific Theatre during WWII, gave a fascinating talk on his life-changing military experience. Richard was one of only 317 survivors out of 1196 on board the *USS Indianapolis* during WWII when it was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine in shark infested waters. Richard also spoke to St. Mary's elementary students earlier that day. We thank Richard for sharing his story with us. We also thank all of our veterans for their service and sacrifices on our behalf. More on Richard's story can be found on the WHS Web site (<http://westphaliahistory.weebly.com>). Many thanks to the Historical Society for all they do to promote historical education in our community.

Did you notice the purple ribbons around town? They were placed by volunteers in support of cancer victims and cancer research. Nearly everyone is touched in one way or another by cancer at some point in their lives. The Village appreciates the work of these volunteers and supports the fight to eliminate a disease that impacts so many of us.

I have mentioned before my feelings regarding the impact and importance of the many social events we have here in the Village. With this in mind, I would like to add the Westphalia Garage Sales to the growing list of important events that we have come to enjoy. The exposure and economic impact the garage sales have on the village and its businesses is substantial. Thank you to the garage sale organizers for all their work in making this such a successful event in our community.

I'm sure many have noticed the orange cones on our streets. Our DPW has been cutting out certain areas of our streets, removing the old asphalt and replacing it with new asphalt. There comes a point where simple patching and sealing are no longer sufficient and this type of major repair is necessary. It requires a lot of hard work, but is the best solution to address certain types of problems. Thank you to our DPW for all the hard work they do to maintain our Village streets.

The weather is finally getting warmer ... enjoy it!

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia