



November 4, 2013

Dear Residents:

As you may read in the past Village Council meeting minutes, the Village has been developing a *Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan* for submission to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Having an approved plan on file with the DNR allows communities like Westphalia to apply for grant money for qualifying public park improvements.

There are several steps that must occur before the *Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan* can be submitted to the DNR for review and approval. These steps include the review and support of the plan by the Parks & Recreation Committee and the Planning Commission. The public must be given the opportunity to review and comment on the plan. The Village Council must vote on a resolution in support of the plan. County and regional planning agencies must be presented a complimentary copy of the plan. So there is much to be done before the plan can be finalized and submitted to the DNR, but we are well on our way.

The *Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan* will be available for public review and comment at the Village Municipal Center during regular business hours (M/TU/W from 9:00-4:00) beginning November 22 and ending December 22. It will also be available on the Village Web site (www.westphaliامي.com) and comments can be sent to the Village email account (village@westphaliامي.com).

I would personally like to thank local resident Scott Strong for all the time and effort he put into developing the plan. You may associate Scott with a grass-roots effort to garner support for tennis courts within the Village. Scott has done a lot of work soliciting petitions, gathering cost data, researching potential grant opportunities, etc. If the community supports the construction of tennis courts at some point in the future, the *Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan* could be used to pursue grant money to offset some of the associated costs. However, regardless of whether tennis courts within the Village become a reality or not, having a plan on file with the DNR is in the best interest of the Village, as it could be potentially be used to acquire grant money for other park projects as well.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving. This is a great time to reflect on all the things we are so thankful for and to remember those that may be facing challenges that life can sometimes present. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia