



March 5, 2018

Dear Residents:

On-going issues with the Post Office continue to be a major concern of the Village and its residents. Attempts to gain access to USPS staff with the proper authority to address our issues has proven to be quite a challenge. I have even reached out to U.S. Rep. John Moolenaar's office for assistance. I am happy to report that after several weeks of trying, we have finally secured a customer service representative to help us navigate the complex and bureaucratic USPS system.

Our preliminary discussions have gone well and I believe we now have a good contact person to assist us in our efforts. That being said, getting answers and resolutions will likely take some time as the various issues we have need to be addressed by different areas within the USPS. Discussions will need to take place. Research and analysis will need to be done. Options to help resolve issues will need to be developed and presented. This will all take time.

As we work through these issues, the customer service representative has assured us that the USPS personnel will continue to do their best to get all First-Class mail and packages to the proper recipient even if it does not have a P.O. box number on it. However, to ensure proper delivery it is best to get a P.O. box number on your mail whenever possible. The Village will do its best to keep citizens informed as things progress and accurate information is available. Your patience during this time is much appreciated.

The Village Website has been redesigned and we now have a Facebook page. The new Website has a variety of information about the Village. The redesign looks great and makes the site easier to use. The Facebook page will allow us to post information regarding Village activities and receive feedback from residents. The Village Web address has not changed (www.westphaliami.com) and you can access our Facebook page from there as well. Thank you to Clerk Sandy Smith for her work on coordinating these important and valuable communication improvements.

On March 26, Westphalia will host the annual All-Area Meeting of Villages. Representatives from Pewamo, Fowler, Maple Rapids, Hubbardston, Muir and Lyons will gather to share information about their communities. This event was initiated several years ago to provide a forum for local villages to communicate directly with each other in order to share experiences, brainstorm on potential solutions to common problems and just to get to know each other better. This networking opportunity has provided great benefits to all the participants and we are honored to be hosting our neighboring villages for this great event.

The first Clean Community Event sponsored by the Clinton County Department of Waste Management will be held in St. Johns on Saturday, April 21 from 8:00–2:00. This is great way to safely and responsibly dispose of hazardous waste and other items. Appointments are required. More information is available at www.Clinton-County.org under Department of Waste Management, or call 989-224-5186, or email recycle@clinton-county.org.

Think spring – it will be here soon!

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia