



June 4, 2018

Dear Residents:

The Village has received many complaints about the speed of traffic within the Village limits, especially as traffic is entering and leaving town. Despite efforts to slow traffic down, this continues to be a significant and dangerous problem. The Council feels that if this problem persists, it could well result in an accident, personal injury or worse. For this reason, we have made our concerns known to the Clinton County Sheriff's Office and have asked that they monitor traffic within the Village closely to assure posted speed limits are enforced.

I've actually checked how long it takes to get from the Village limit to the stop light when driving 25 miles per hour. It literally takes only about a **one minute** to cover that distance when driving the posted speed limit. Take an extra few seconds and abide by the speed limit or risk being ticketed. Please share this information with others as we strive to ensure the safety of all, especially our children who are on summer break.

Another safety issue is again in regards to golf carts being operated by non-age-appropriate drivers. I personally witnessed a younger operator cross Main Street in front of an on-coming vehicle. The driver of the vehicle was paying attention and it was not what I would consider a "close call" but still is reason for concern. I have also noticed that the situation gets worse when there are several young people on the cart which often distracts the operator. Only age-appropriate operators should be allowed to drive a golf cart unsupervised. Also, golf cart traffic on primary streets (Main & Westphalia) should be avoided as much as possible. Heavier traffic, trucks, tractors, etc., make these streets even more of a safety concern for golf carts.

On May 30th, the Village sponsored a field trip for the St. Mary 2nd & 6th grade students as part of the Village Wellhead Protection Grant Program. Over 70 students toured the water tower, pump house and lagoons. After which they were taken to Stoney Creek where several biologists continued the educational experience as the students examined the waterway that our treated water feeds into. A picnic lunch was served to conclude the field trip. This annual event gives students the opportunity to learn firsthand how our Village wastewater treatment system works to protect our important and fragile water ecosystems. Many thanks go to the Village DPW, Council Member Phil Smith, and all those involved in making this important learning experience possible for the students.

I am pleased to announce our newest Village employee. Alex Hanses will be joining our DPW staff beginning June 11th. I'm confident Alex will prove to be a great addition to our already outstanding DPW staff. Alex is currently an EMT for Portland Township and is also a member of the Westphalia Township Fire Department. Please join me in welcoming Alex to this very important position.

The 14th Annual Westphalia Cruise-In Car Show is scheduled for Thursday, June 14th. This event continues to be one of the biggest and best car shows in the entire state. Mark your calendars and come out to enjoy the cars, food, music and comradery of your friends and neighbors.

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia