



June 1, 2020

Dear Residents:

As we continue to deal with the effects of COVID-19, positive signs are beginning to emerge. More businesses are re-opening, stay at home orders are being relaxed, more people are returning to work and we appear to be heading towards a more “normal” way of life once again.

Being a predominately faith-based community, with many residents being members of St. Mary Parish, it was with great pleasure that we are once again able to attend church services. Although there are still many safety provisions that must be observed, being able to celebrate our faith and experience the sacraments in person is a wonderful sign that things are moving in a positive direction.

When possible, weekend services are being held outside to help maintain social distancing and a healthy atmosphere. The first weekend services that could be attended by all parishioners was held the last weekend of May and we were blessed with beautiful weather. I attended the 11:00 a.m. service Sunday morning and it was amazing. There was not a cloud in the sky and just a slight breeze. The wonderful sound of the birds singing was only matched by the beautiful music provided by Brian Flynn and his daughter Michaela. It truly felt like we were being rewarded for remaining faithful, trusting and positive during this very unusual and difficult time. I would like to acknowledge and thank Father Eric Weber for his spiritual leadership during the pandemic.

The Village has applied for a Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF) Grant. The TEDF Grant is specifically for road improvements for cities and villages with populations of 10,000 people or less. If awarded, the Grant would cover 50% of the cost to chip and fog seal the remaining streets that were not done in 2018.

In other street related news, the curbing, sidewalk and water/sewer repairs have been completed on Elm Street, north of St. Mary School. New asphalt will be laid on Elm Street and Vidua Circle in mid-June. I would like to thank our DPW (Steve and Alex) for their work on the Grant and street projects.

As I understand how difficult the pandemic has been on so many people, I would also like to acknowledge the positive attitude exemplified by so many here in our Village. The notes of encouragement in windows, signs on the lawns, the birthday car parades – many made extra special by the Westphalia Township Fire Department – were uplifting. A simple wave, smile or greeting, made things just a little easier to deal with. The positive outreach of so many has been truly heart-warming and another reason to be thankful for the place we get call home. Stay safe and healthy – we are almost there!!!

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President  
Village of Westphalia