



July 10, 2017

Dear Residents:

The annual Westphalia Cruise-In car show was once again a very successful event. Although it is hard to get an accurate car count as many participants leave before the count is taken, the estimate was 1,163 cars. The cars, food, entertainment, camaraderie and especially the hospitality of our local residents all help to make this a very special day for the Village of Westphalia. Our goal is to have a good, safe and fun event that provides exposure of our wonderful Village and its businesses to those that visit. I believe the goal was once again accomplished.

Once again, Dave and Karen Boswell (and family) deserve much thanks for all the work they put into making this event such a success. The Planning Commission, DPW and the many people who volunteer their services also deserve recognition for their hard work and dedication. Our local businesses, those that directly benefit from the event and especially those that sacrifice their normal business routine for the success of the event, we thank as well. Thank you to the Clinton County Sheriff's Department for providing excellent security. Last but certainly not least, thank you to our local residents and many visitors who came out to support this event. We look forward to the Westphalia Cruise-In 2018!

We had nearly perfect weather for the St. Mary Parish 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival. It was once again a fun family event. The food was sensational (as always) as were the entertainment options. Many of our local residents volunteer their time to make the day a success. To all those involved, especially those in leadership and chair positions, great job and thank you for your efforts.

I have always known that we have a very generous community and that point was recently confirmed in an incredible way. St. Mary's Parish, in collaboration with the Diocese of Lansing, recently participated in a capital campaign entitled "Witness to Hope" to raise money for needed local and Diocese-wide projects. I was honored to serve on the local steering committee for the campaign. Through the tremendous generosity of many parishioners, St. Mary's raised a total of over 2.3 million dollars, with over 1.6 million dollars staying in our local parish. This is over 250% of the goal set by the Diocese and exceeded all other parishes in the Diocese.

Our community was greatly saddened by the loss George and Grant Heckman. There are no words to adequately express our grief. George was a personal friend of mine, as he was to so many others. His lifelong commitment to the education of our children, as a teacher, coach and administrator left a positive imprint on so many people. The quality of our students, and the entire school system, is a direct reflection of George's commitment to our local communities. We, as a community, will grieve and heal together. All of us have personal struggles in our lives, some more difficult than others, but we all need prayers, compassion and support. Remember this as we heal together from this tragic loss. Please keep George, Grant, Jeanne, Sam and Claudia in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President  
Village of Westphalia