



January 5, 2015

Dear Residents:

In November, the Westphalia Planning Commission updated the *Emergency and Civil Defense Plan* for the Village. The plan contains basic emergency information such as key personnel, media outlets, special services, Village equipment/infrastructure and Township fire equipment. Emergency plans are developed by communities so local resources can be identified and shared as necessary in the case of an emergency. I appreciate the Planning Commission's work on updating the Village plan.

It should be noted that the Clinton County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), in coordination with the Westphalia Township Fire Department, is responsible for maintaining and responding to any natural or civil emergencies. Their mission is to apply comprehensive emergency management principles to help communities prepare for, prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of disasters and emergencies. More information on the responsibilities of the OEM is available on the Clinton County Web site.

Speaking of the Westphalia Township Fire Department, I'm sure most have noticed the renovations that have taken place at the Fire Station. Many thanks to those involved in the planning and work to make all the improvements possible. The renovations look great and help to make our downtown look even better.

The Village recently received a *Public Protection Classification Report* from the Insurance Services Office, (ISO). The ISO is an independent company that collects and evaluates information on structure fire suppression capabilities within a community. The data is analyzed using the ISO's Fire Suppression Rating Schedule and then a Public Protection Classification number is assigned to the community. This number is used by insurance companies to help determine the rates to charge for fire insurance within the community. The Village received a "6" rating which is excellent for a Village of our size. I thank the Village DPW and Fire Chief Kevin Wieber for their assistance in collecting the data necessary for the ISO to develop the report.

In my October 2014 President's Message, I made note of the many accomplishments Pewamo-Westphalia High School has achieved and mentioned how the Westphalia St. Mary and Pewamo St. Joseph schools play a large part in setting the path to excellence in our public high school. What I unintentionally failed to acknowledge was PW Elementary School's contributions in setting this path to excellence as well. This was a critical oversight on my part and I apologize to the students, parents, administrators, teachers and support staff of the PW Elementary School for my failure to acknowledge their contributions to the success of the PW High School. The quality of students that graduate from PW is a direct reflection on the quality of education they receive from their pre-high school studies regardless of which of our excellent local schools they may have attended. We can and should be very proud of all of our local schools.

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President  
Village of Westphalia