



February 2, 2015

Dear Residents:

The arrival of February more or less marks the mid-winter season. We have had some pretty cold temperatures, but not too many bad snow storms so far. This helps to keep the costs of snow plowing and removal down for the Village, which is always a good thing. When we have had snow our DPW has been right there to keep the streets and sidewalks clear and safe. It should be noted that many municipalities require their citizens to shovel the sidewalks in front of their homes and some even assess fines for not doing so. We are fortunate to have a DPW that after clearing our streets, also clears our sidewalks. Thank you Jim and Steve for keeping our streets and sidewalks as safe as possible.

You may have noticed that the Historical Society has closed its doors for the winter season. This is done to save utility costs during the winter and is a common practice for these types of organizations. Please note however, that if you would like to tour the facility during this time, especially if you have guests visiting that would like to take a tour, you can contact Maggie Upson (989-587-4193) or Leo Pohl (989-587-3843) to make the necessary arrangements.

Speaking of the Historical Society, at a recent Planning Commission meeting, Member Maggie Upson (who also happens to be the President of the Historical Society) revealed some ideas for community events the Society is contemplating. I can't say too much at this time since the events are still in the planning stages and final decisions have not yet been made, but if the ideas come to fruition, they will be yet another great addition to the local events we already enjoy. Many thanks to the Historical Society for making Westphalia that much more of a special place to call home.

I would also like to thank the Historical Society for correcting me on a statement I made in an earlier message regarding the number of vocations to the convent of young women from the Westphalia area. The article from the *New York Times* that I referred to stated there had been 37 vocations. Well the *New York Times* (and I) should have checked with the Historical Society first – the total is 89 vocations. Sorry for my error.

Once February gets behind us we will be on the downward slide towards spring – so hang in there!

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President  
Village of Westphalia