



April 14, 2014

Dear Residents:

As with most others in our community, I was swept up in the excitement of the PW boys basketball team's run to the state championship game at the Breslin Center. What a great time as the "cardiac kids" (as the team was dubbed by the local media) had some nearly unbelievable comeback wins on their road to the championship game. The team had some very talented basketball players and excellent coaching, but that is just the beginning of the real story of their success. These student athletes gave us all much to be proud of beyond the victories on the court. They represented themselves in a mature and respectful manner in times of great joy and more importantly, in times of disappointment.

The team, along with the coaches and cheerleaders, also took the time to give back to the communities of Pewamo and Westphalia. Whether it was collecting cans for Austin's House, visiting the special needs children at the RESA Center in St. Johns (and celebrating with them personally after a victory at the Breslin Center), or any of the other positive contributions these fine student athletes have made, we should be very appreciative of them for taking to time and making the effort to give back to our communities in such humble and selfless ways.

I've heard said that a child is often considered a reflection of their parents. I would like to take the liberty of extending that statement to say our children are also a reflection of our community. That having been said, I could not be more proud of the team, coaches, cheerleaders, PW student body, parents and fans. All represented our communities in a very positive manner. As I stood after the final game with all those that had come to support the team and applauded their achievements, I was also applauding our communities and once again reflecting on what a great place we have to live and raise our children.

In the early morning of March 28<sup>th</sup>, some residents with landline telephones received a "Reverse 911" call informing them of a missing/at risk person. Most residents were not aware of the Reverse 911 service and how it works. The Reverse 911 enables the Clinton County public safety officials to notify people by phone when there is a situation in their specific geographical location (in this case the Westphalia area) that merits their attention. In this instance it was a missing/at risk person, but the system can be used for things like natural or man-made disasters, hazardous material incidents, or any other situation where there is an immediate potential risk involved.

Rest assured that the Reverse 911 notification system is only used when the county feels the situation merits its use. In fact, it has only been used a few times in the county since its inception a few years ago and it had never been used in the Westphalia area until now. The Reverse 911 is part of the regular 911 service and landline residents do not have the option of canceling the service. However, it could prove to be a very valuable and life-saving tool should a future risk arise.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Easter – I think spring is finally here!

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President  
Village of Westphalia