



March 2, 2015

Dear Residents:

The month of February was brutally cold, but with the arrival of March comes the promise of spring and warmer temperatures. I have personally witnessed many examples of neighbor helping neighbor during this very cold winter season. Although this is not unusual for our community, it is still very heartwarming to see. Thank you to all who take the time and make the effort to lend a helping hand to those in need.

We have continued to look for alternative solutions for local recycling since the closure of the recycling site at the PW High School last spring. I have been in contact with the Village of Elsie regarding their once-a-month recycling program. The program is simple – one weekend a month a recycle bin is made available for residents to use. It is delivered on Friday and picked up the following Monday. All recycled materials can be comingled – no need to separate them by type. Plastic, tin, aluminum, cardboard and mixed paper are accepted. Unfortunately, glass is not permitted with this type of program. The program has been very successful for the Village of Elsie and they are very satisfied with it.

Using Elsie's monthly program as a guide, contact was made with Clinton County Department of Waste Management, Westphalia Township and Granger Waste Management, in an effort to develop a collaborative effort to address our local recycling situation. They have all been very receptive and cooperative. Although perhaps not perfect, a monthly recycling program may be the best alternative at this time. We will keep you posted as this continues to evolve.

The Village received notification from Tri-County Regional Planning Commission that the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will be administering a travel survey in 2015. The survey is voluntary and based on randomly selected households throughout Michigan. All responses will be kept strictly confidential. If you receive an invitation to participate in the survey you may certainly choose to decline. I just want our residents to know that this is a legitimate activity – not a scam. More information is available at the Michigan Travel Counts Web site www.mitravelcounts.com.

Each spring, usually around mid-March, load restrictions are placed on commercial trucks to protect roads from damage as the frost works its way out of the ground. Granger has informed us that during this time they may not be able to carry full loads in their garbage trucks. This may require them to start their routes earlier in the day, so they are asking customers to try to have trash ready for pick up by about 7:00 a.m.

Think spring – it will be here soon!

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia