



October 1, 2018

Dear Residents:

The Downtown Improvement Project along West Main Street is nearly completed. The WOW cable line (the line just above the new lamp posts lights) should be buried soon, a new metal pole for the stop light will be installed on the corner by the Ark and a few other minor things need to be completed and then it's done! This concludes nearly three years of planning and construction work.

This project was initiated after it was determined that fixing the first block of West Main Street would require major reconstructive work. With a forward-thinking approach, the Village Planning Commission and Council decided to investigate the possibility of incorporating some other improvements to this area while it was under reconstruction. That triggered numerous hours of discussion and meetings which led to contacting our Village engineering firm to help develop construction plans, timelines, estimate costs, etc. Then there were all the meetings with the utility, cable and other affected companies to bring them onboard and coordinate all that would need to be done. Often it seemed like we were taking "two steps forward and one step back" but with patience and determination the project continued to move in a positive direction and has finally reach fruition.

I have noted in the past my appreciation for all the work the Planning Commission and Council have done on this project and the cooperation received from local businesses and others. This acknowledgement is well-deserved, but the real champion of the project is the Village DPW. When the engineering firm provided the Village with cost estimates, they were based on hiring contractors to do the work – which is normal for these types of projects. As we reviewed the necessary tasks to be done, Jim and Steve were right there saying "we could do that ourselves" for many of the tasks that normally would have been put out for bid. Where contracting was necessary, we used local contractors whenever possible and were treated very fairly by them as well. Although final costs have not yet been calculated, I am confident that through the hard work of our DPW and local contractors, the Village saved a very significant amount of money on the project. Thank you to Jim, Steve and Alex for all their long hours and for doing such a great job.

The West Main Street project, coupled with the chip and fog sealing of 2.75 miles of other streets, represents a major investment in our local roadways. The Village will benefit from these infrastructure and aesthetic improvements for many years to come.

I need to make a correction... last month I mistakenly said that Father Dennis Howard had led the Marian Procession through town. It was actually our own native son Father Dennis Spitzley who led the procession. Sorry for my mistake and thank you Father Spitzley.

The fall colors are beginning to show their brilliance. Be sure to get outside and enjoy all the beauty the fall season has to offer!

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia