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STATE OF THE VILLAGE

October, 2016

Hey Oakers! I'm sitting here on a beautiful fall day composing this letter and it occurs to me once again what a fantastic town we live in. I am keeping pretty busy assisting the Three Oaks 150 Committee plan the Sesquicentennial next year and I can't help but think about "back in the day" as us old-timers like to say. You know, Oakers are Oakers. Fifty years ago when we celebrated the Centennial and still today. When one of us has a problem, we all step up to help. I remember being a very young boy and asking my mother, who was the first Special Education teacher in this area, why she often brought home students for dinner or a weekend camping trip. She told my brother and me that some people weren't as lucky as we were to have a nice home, health, food to eat and parents who doted on them. We owed it to those less fortunate to help them when we could. I never forgot that and apparently neither have anyone else in Three Oaks. An impressive number of you attended a fund raiser recently for a family that was struggling from the effects of cancer. They didn't ask for the help. A local cancer charity (Betty's Buddies) stepped up, organized the fund raiser and Three Oaks responded. Betty's Buddies has been quietly helping cancer victims and their families in the Three Oaks area for almost ten years now. But they aren't the only ones who do things like this. Churches, civic organizations, schools, individuals all help when help is needed. THAT is what makes this the greatest place on the face of the earth to live and raise a family!

OK, back to Village business. This has been another successful year. Businesses continue to report increased traffic and customers and that's a good thing for all of us. Although we haven't seen any shovels in the ground, we continue to receive a lot of interest from developers - commercial, industrial and residential - in Three Oaks. It's a real balancing act to make sure we get the developments we want and that they fit into the fabric of our area.

We continue to improve our financial position. For the past few years we have been putting money away to purchase new equipment, make necessary repairs and improvements to the water and sewer systems when the time comes and to take advantage of grants and investment opportunities. One of the things we all should be proud of is paying off the loan Berrien County made to us in 2009 this past summer - three years ahead of schedule. It's nice to get that off our backs.

By the time you get this letter we will most likely be in the midst of some street work. We will be repaving two blocks of Elm Street between Ash Street and the railroad tracks, smoothing out the roller coaster ride on West Linden Street and doing some long neglected work on Tulip Street. In addition we will be continuing the micro sealing of several streets throughout the Village.

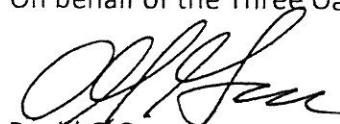
We are very excited about the plans for the Sesquicentennial next year! We hope you all will join us in the planning process, volunteering for a few hours this winter and for a few hours on a weekend or two next summer. The celebration will be five fun-filled family activity weekends beginning in early July and culminating September 16, 2017 with the Grand Dedication. There will be children's activities, home and historical tours, teas, music and dance performances, some great theatre, free films on Friday evenings, and more! All centered on historical events and figures of Three Oaks.

We also hope you plan on attending the President's Reception on January 21, 2017 at Journeymen Distillery. The Welter family has graciously offered the use of their facility free of charge. Details of the celebration will be unveiled for the first time and you will get a chance to participate in what we hope will be an event that Three Oaks will be proud of and one your kids and grandkids will talk about in 2067 when the Bicentennial is celebrated.

Tickets for the Reception are discounted \$50 per person for residents and include heavy Hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks, music and great camaraderie with fellow Oakers. Reservations can be made at Village Hall in person or by phone or by email threeoaks150@gmail.com. Yes, we take credit cards! All contributors will have their names placed in a time capsule to be opened by your grandkids and great grandkids in 2067. Imagine the smiles on their faces when they see grandma and grandpa's names on that list! We are depending on donations to fund this celebration rather than tax dollars, so **we need your help!** Let's all join together and Be a Part of History! Ideas and volunteers needed and wanted!!

Remember Village Council meetings are on the second Wednesday each month at 7:00. **Get out and vote November 8th!!**

On behalf of the Three Oaks Village Council



David G Grosse
Village President