

Conversation with the Mayor - May 16, 2011
Vicky Daly

Legislative Breakfast Provides Unexpected Resources

A week or so ago, I attended the Annual Legislative Breakfast hosted by the Wayne County Business Council www.waynecountybusinesscouncil.com. I try to make it each year because it is a worthwhile investment of time as it draws attendees from all over the county. Elected officials, representatives of our schools and business owners come together to talk and learn from each other and from guest speakers.

This year's session was one of the best I can recall. The topic, "*Today's Challenging Employment Outlook*" was addressed by representatives of the NY Business Council and the NYS Department of Labor, as well as Karen Springmeier, Executive Director, Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board and Michael Mandina, President, Optimax Systems, Inc, Ontario. Mr. Mandina also chairs the Executive Committee of FAME, Finger Lakes Advanced Manufacturers' Enterprise of which FL Workforce Board is a member. They work together for our general good. All four speakers addressed the same topic from different perspectives.

Wayne County, with a too-high unemployment rate has jobs, good jobs, remaining unfilled. Why? They are technical jobs and too many of the applicants simply do not have the skills and/ or knowledge base to fill them. It is a complex problem waiting for a solution which, to be successful, will require attention and action in many sectors. The problem impacts all of us – business owners, parents, students, residents of Wayne County, and, of course, those looking for work. For more information about FAME, check out their website, www.NYFAME.org ; for Finger Lakes Workforce, www.fingerlakesworks.com . We can change things together.

On a much lighter note, keep your fingers crossed for good, warm sunny weather for the next batch of upcoming events in the village: Saturday, June 4, 11 AM – Grand Opening of the Palmyra Comfort Station at the Port of Palmyra Marina with Village Crier Jim Bush as MC; also Saturday, June 4, 2:00 PM, at the Marina, the 'Boys of Wexford', a Celtic band playing sea songs and canal tunes; Sunday, June 5, 2:00 PM, Bob Plant, Supervisor, Town of Walworth, will present 'Stained Glass: its Care and Repair' at Zion Episcopal Church, 120 East Main Street, Palmyra. All events are free. Come join us.