September is still construction season and the action is moving from the east and west ends of the village, which are looking quite spiffy, to the central business area. Two distinct crews are working there. Toner Construction, a subcontractor for NYSEG is in the process of putting in new gas lines. G.P. Smith, in a completely unrelated project, is working on Clinton Street. The gas lines are part of the overall Route 31 reconstruction. Clinton Street is a badly needed village project, funded by village money. The enhancement of Canal Street and the work being done on Main Street made it clear that it needed attention. If you live, as I do, on one of the village streets whose condition has not yet been addressed, take heart. There is a prioritized list and, eventually, all the streets will be taken care of. It is a question of time and money.

I have to correct a piece of misinformation. Fred Witt’s barber shop is open on Thursdays, but it is also open Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 8:30 until about 11:30. He is located on the southeast corner of Fayette and Main. Say hello to Tilly, his faithful canine companion, when you stop in.

Our last segment in the main business block continues with Van Parys Associates which holds the distinction of being able to trace its business history back to 1857! I cannot go back quite that far but I do remember it as Vandenbout’s and before that as Henry Mitchell’s agency. Van Parys Associates has been in business since 1969. Office Manager Lynda Nation, who has been with it since its founding, tells me that more than half of the 12 person staff has fifteen or more years experience in insurance of all sorts, an admirable record. Next to the west is Marafiotti’s Shoe Service, currently closed.

If you have not visited the Grandin Building, you should. It is a magnificent museum which focuses on a major event in Palmyra’s history. Exactly the same thing should be said of the new Visitors’ Center on Route 21 South. Literally thousands of people come through our community each year to visit these sites. We should be knowledgeable about them.

We have already visited Latter Day Harvest and Cumorah Mercantile which has its new front window. Positioned discretely in that block is the door to Pro-to-Call, marketing specialists who have their office upstairs in the same building. I’ve told you, too, about the Candy Corner Fudge Shop which now has Haagen Dasz and Nestle ice cream in addition to the great fudge. The last building on the block houses the office of Dr. Malcolm McBurney Riggs, general practitioner. After practicing in Marion for seven years, Dr. Riggs opened his practice on Main Street October 1, 2001. I am told he is accepting new patients.

Around the corner and down William Street is Bob Pease’s Side Street Grill. Open from 11:00 a.m. until closing, they feature the world’s best rib eye steak sandwich,
quantities of which were served during Clinton Ditch Daze. I’ll put that on my ‘try one’ list. (We did try the Sunday brunch at The Taste of Southwest and found both the Breakfast Burrito and the Southwest Omelet excellent and a very good buy.)

Across the street from the Alling Coverlet Museum, which you should also visit, is the Family Dollar Store. I find myself in it or its friendly competitor, Dollar General on the east end of Main Street, several times a week. (They refer customers to each other since their product lines are slightly different.) Family Dollar carries all sorts of things at excellent prices. In another era this would have been a five and dime like the Ben Franklin which centered Main Street for so many years. With the coming demise of Ames, Family Dollar and Dollar General will become even more important additions to the community.

Nima’s, owned and operated by Jim D’Arduini and his son Bob, is a pretty little Italian restaurant. They provide not only a take out service and an attractive eat-in option, but catering. For information about any of those services, call 597-5399. The D’Arduinis are due a tip of the hat for going the extra mile. Last week Jim and I talked about several things including the proliferation of cigarette butts on the sidewalk at his corner. Though clearly not of his making, the mess marred the entrance to Nima’s and so he did something about it. The butts are gone and Jim has gone one step further by ordering a container for people to dispose of their cigarette butts. Thank you, Nima’s for keeping us neater. The road construction does not give us permission to just toss trash wherever we choose.

Steve Berdy’s Treasure Chest, just next door, offers A Trip Thru the PAST. If you have items to sell or want to buy, call Steve at 331-6618. The Palmyra Masonic Temple is next. In addition to its identified purpose, the building serves as meeting place for the Palmyra Senior Citizens who meet there the last Thursday of the month for lunch at noon. It’s bring-a-dish so you know the food is top notch.

The last shop in the central business area is Shannon’s Hair Design. I know several very satisfied weekly customers. If it is Tuesday noon, Village Treasurer Dolly Matteson is across the street getting her hair done. What I did not know was that Shannon caters to the seniors in the community. She offers home services; arranges transportation for clients, and travels to the nursing homes and hospitals when asked. She is also a licensed barber and so can accommodate the gentlemen. All of this is at no extra charge. She is closed Mondays but can be reached Tuesday through Saturday at 597-2029 for information and appointments.

Before we move out to the east end, let me tell you about two very talented women, both on the west side of Canandaigua Street. Amy Tones operates Gift Inspirations at 141 Canandaigua St. She is a gifted artist who has many hand painted gifts available for a variety of tastes. Reach her at matones@localnet.com or at 597-5474. Just a bit south at 155 Canandaigua Street, Debbie Newman presides over Figuratives as an Apparel Designer. The text on her business card includes Couture Dressmaking,
Patternmaking and Alterations. She does excellent work. I know from experience. Her phone number is 597-9569.

That’s all for this week. Next time round we will look at the shops on our east end. Doesn’t the number and variety continue to amaze you? If I miss someone, please let me know at palmyramayor@palmyrany.com or at 597-4849. We want the list to be complete. Shop Palmyra!