

Conversation with the Mayor - December 5, 2011
Vicky Daly

It's that Crazy, Busy Time Again

And we love it. That doesn't mean that there isn't complaint – cookies to bake, shopping to do, gifts to wrap, holiday concerts and overlapping get-togethers. And even with the first appearance of holiday decorations and sales before Halloween, most folks think this is the best time of the year. I want to believe it is for the right reasons – the opportunity to be with family and friends and to consider what really matters in our lives.

Throughout this maelstrom of holiday activity, everyday life and work goes on and, in that vein, let me share some bits and pieces with you about what's happening in the village. You may notice that the new bus shelter on Main Street has its benches – always a nice addition, especially when one has bags and bundles to carry. (That's my usual state of affairs.) The timing for the shelter itself is excellent now that winter finally appears to have arrived. Thank you Bob Jordan and WATS.

Because of the way the calendar reads in January, the holiday season continues and impacts the meeting dates of the Palmyra Village Board. We normally meet on the first and third Mondays of the month unless the Monday is a holiday. In January that happens twice. Because the new year starts on Sunday, Monday, the 2nd, is celebrated as the national holiday. That means we move our regular scheduled meeting to the second Monday, January 9th. Martin Luther King Day is celebrated on Monday, the 16th, thus pushing our usually 3rd Monday meeting date back to January 23rd, the 4th Monday. Bottom line, if you want to attend a Village Board meeting in January, the dates are the 9th and 16th. At least we haven't changed the site. By the way, if you want to be on the meeting agenda, call the Village Office, 597-4849, and make the request. I don't believe we have ever said no. It is a smart thing to do because the Board can be prepared on the topic you want to discuss. It's just a better use of your time.

One last thing: an article in a local paper on the village's adding wi-fi in the commercial district missed a few points. We are paying for its installation and a three year warranty with funds dedicated to economic development. Those monies are the residue of a grant we received from the Governor's Office of Small Cities, now the Office of Home and Community Renewal, many years ago. They cannot be co-mingled with local funds, but must be used for economic development projects. They cannot be used to reduce the tax levy or the tax rate. If that money was not available to us, we would not be adding this amenity. Also, mention was made about monthly charges. There are none. If there had been, we would not have taken this on.

If you have time and inclination over the holidays or during the (so-called) lull thereafter, this retired librarian offers the following list of really excellent books for your consideration. I have been on a history kick in my reading of late and found these to be well worth my time. Taken roughly in chronological order they are Candice Millard's Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President – the death of President James Garfield not by an assassin's bullet but at the hands of inept doctors; The Warmth of Other Suns – The Epic of America's Great Migration by Isabel Wilkerson, a NY Times Bureau

Chief, speaks to the movement of hundreds of thousands of African Americans from the southern states to the industrial north and its impact on American culture, and finally The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by editor and librarian Mary Ann Shaffer which is a fictionalized but accurate account of the German occupation of the Isle of Guernsey in the English Channel during World War II. Told only in letters, the story sent me to the web for further information about an aspect of World War II about which I knew nothing.