

## Conversation with the Mayor April 9, 2007

Vicky Daly

### I Like Words

You already knew that if you have stayed with me through five years of rambling about Palmyra and its people. Not too long ago a word I'd not thought of or used in years popped into my head. It was COMMONWEAL, that is 'the public good'.

It's sudden reappearance on my radar screen ( This is being written as I sit in an airport.) was prompted by a scene on East Main Street a week or so ago. It was one of those very welcome, unseasonably warm days and a man was washing his car. It appeared that he was also charged with the responsibility of watching a small boy who was keeping busy picking up the remnants of litter revealed by the melted snow. Back and forth the boy went adding bits and pieces to his bag. Every now and again he checked in with the man at the car. Father and son? Neighbors? I don't know, but it struck me that the little boy, probably not yet in double digits, was doing something for our commonweal.

So has the Palmyra Garden Club. In previous years, the Garden Club's successful grant applications have provided the beautiful large flower pots on Main Street and at the marina. This year's grant monies will be used for flower boxes on the Alling Coverlet Museum, a real grace note.

Add CANAL NEW YORK to our commonweal list. This slightly more than one year old not-for-profit marketing and business alliance has as its goal the promotion of the canals of New York State and the businesses in the 200+ canal communities. (The Village itself and a significant number of Palmyra businesses are members of CNY.) Thanks to a \$40,000 Explore New York grant from the NYS Department of Economic Development, CANAL NEW YORK will develop a program of canal related educational tourism on both the youth and adult levels. Commonweal? You bet - more promotion, more opportunities for collaboration, more visitors, more outside money coming into Palmyra.

And then there is the Landmark Society of Western New York, another not-for-profit with the goal to preserve and promote the historic assets throughout the region. Cynthia Hawk will return to the Palmyra Fire Hall Sunday, April 22 at 2:00 PM to present a free armchair tour of Palmyra's history - 'Discover Palmyra: 200 Years of Historic Architecture'. Commonweal? A gift to Palmyra and its people. We have much to be proud of.

Follow up Cynthia's presentation with dinner at Historic Palmyra's annual spaghetti fund raiser at the Alling Coverlet Museum - good food, good company, good cause. Historic Palmyra is all about commonweal. You can add to it by just being there.

And that's just a start on the people working for commonweal in Palmyra. The list includes all the volunteers for Town and Village committees and boards; our firemen and the auxiliary; the members of the service clubs; the coaches; the scout leaders; the Meals on Wheels people; the church volunteers; the people who check on their neighbors; those

who clean up after their dogs. The list is long and I have probably missed people. The good, no excellent, thing is that there is no limit to the number of people and the good works that can be done for our commonweal. One thing builds on another and Palmyra just gets better and better.

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Want to see beautiful and affordable art work done by a local person? Jessica Harloff's cards ,pottery, and 'happy' chairs (photos only) will be on display in the Village Hall display case through the end of the month. They are available at Wooden's Custom Upholstery.