

Conversation with the Mayor April 30, 2007

Vicky Daly

One Small Success After Another

My life is nothing if not varied. Friday, April 27, was a good example of that. At 8:00 AM I was at the Annual Legislative Breakfast sponsored by the Wayne County Business Council at the Quality Inn in Newark. There was an excellent turnout poolside to hear updates on what's happening in Wayne County by Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Jim Hoffman; Peg Churchill, head of Wayne County EDA (Economic Development Agency), and Assemblyman Bob Oaks. Mr. Oaks, of course, provided a state-wide perspective. I believe it would be safe to say that all three indicated that things go well, but could always go better. It was interesting to hear the questions from the audience. They ranged from wi-fi to the proposed AMTRAK station in Lyons.

Something Peg said caught my ear. In the past, we have sometimes thought one thing, one innovation, one advance could eliminate all our problems - and it never does. It is the critical mass developed through a series of innovations, advances, individual and group efforts. It is the synergy that develops as one small success spurs you on to another attempt and another success. That is the philosophy we are working with here, little by little, working together to make Palmyra even better.

I had to leave the WCBC Breakfast a few minutes before it ended to be at one of those small, good events that build toward the whole. Jim VanLaeken, owner of Spring Valley Greenhouse, donated a tree to the Village for the Viet Nam Veteran Park at the Port of Palmyra Marina (more on that later). He and Roger Weaver discussed variety and location and on Arbor Day 2007, a dogwood was planted at the marina in honor of our Viet Nam veterans. Second and third graders from Palmyra Elementary School joined us for the tree planting. They had been studying about the holiday and the value of trees to the environment. That was one of those small events - a generous donation, the involvement of the students, a beautiful addition to the Viet Nam Veteran Park.

Join us on Saturday, May 12 for the dedication of the Vietnam Veteran Park at 11:00 AM. It will be a soul stirring event. The American flag will be raised and then those of the five services and, finally, with Taps, the POW/MIA flag. The Palmyra-Macedon Select Choir will sing and the Marion Minutemen, the official New York State American Legion Color Guard, will perform. The park, like so many things in Palmyra, is a grass roots success story, created by the generosity in time, effort and funding by people who care. Do come. You will be pleased that you did.

Two other opportunities for generosity are available to you. St. Anne's Resource Center is participating in an effort to bring a touch of home and comfort to the veterans recovering from war injuries at the Landstul Medical Center in Germany. Suggested items for donation include small pillows, throws, and current DVDs appropriate for the younger troops. Donations can be dropped off at St. Anne's Resource Center or at St. Anne's Church.

Items are also being collected in Hornell and Webster.

The other small, but excellent, opportunity to help make us an even better community is the Cross Creek/Macedon-Palmyra Community Center Challenge scheduled for Saturday, July 28 at Gravino Park, Macedon. You can do a 4 mile walk, bike for 14 miles, or do a 5K run to raise funds for the American Cancer Society, the American Diabetes Association, UNYFEAT Autism Treatment, or the Victim Resource Center. You get to designate where the money you raise goes. Choices everywhere. For more information and to register call Steve Poutre at (315) 690-9825 or check www.crosscreekcommunitychallenge.com.