

Conversation with the Mayor April 7, 2008

Vicky Daly

Seeing the Bigger Picture

I have been traveling of late and, as usual, when I come home it is with a better, clearer vision of Palmyra, the wonderful little community I am pleased to call home. Why? Because seeing what is happening in other areas and how it is being accomplished, or not, puts things in perspective. It is sort of like using the zoom lens on a camera. Focusing in tightly on our little village, all 1.3 square miles of it, is crucial, but so too is pulling back and looking at Palmyra as part of the bigger picture, as part of the town, the county, the region, the state, the nation, and yes, even the world.

Travel is one way to achieve that perspective, but on a day by day basis, networking is the way to go. That's why we work in collaboration with the Town of Palmyra in so many areas; why the Wayne County Canal Mayors and the larger Wayne County Village Officials group meet regularly. A healthy cooperative relationship exists between the Palmyra-Macedon School District and the Village as we work toward additional ways to collaborate. Local service clubs and organizations, too many to list here individually; also play a huge role in our successes.

Memberships in the New York Conference of Mayors, the Macedon-Palmyra Chamber of Commerce, the Wayne County Business Council, Canal New York, and the Landmark Society of Western New York put us in touch with people and resources. Looking at the bigger picture this way enables us to participate in programs and activities we could not on our own. These connections allow us to make the best use of your tax dollars and to get the Village the 'biggest bang for its buck.

An example: Currently we are working with the Preservation League of New York and the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (You may know it as SHPO.) to achieve the status of Certified Local Government (CLG - another acronym). That designation would permit Palmyra to join a select group of communities in New York State which have access to monies for preservation planning focused on preserving our architectural heritage, a bankable asset for our economic development.

Palmyra started efforts in this direction almost forty years ago during the administration of Mayor Sid Fitzgerald. Two historic districts were identified in the village: 1) the East Main Street Commercial Historic District which runs from the intersection of William and Cuyler Streets with East Main Street to the intersection of Clinton and East Main Streets and the equivalent spot on the south side of East Main Street, and 2) the Market Street Commercial Historic District. These designations recognized the importance of the architecture in these areas and resulted in their listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Listed much later, through the efforts of the church membership and administration, is Zion Episcopal Church. There are many, many more buildings in this community which, as

the credit card ad says, are priceless and irreplaceable. They are an economic asset to Palmyra, bringing visitors and often new residents.

If you are interested in this effort to preserve our architecture and spur our economy, make note of two upcoming meetings:

May 15- 'Preservation in Palmyra: History, Background & Rationale', Palmyra Fire Hall, East Main Street/NYS Route 31, 7:00 PM; Jayme Breschard, Senior Planner, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council presenting

May 29 - 'Historic Preservation Commission: Roles & Responsibilities of Members', Palmyra Fire Hall. East Main Street/ NYS Route 31, 7:00 PM; Jayme Breschard presenting

To be successful in this effort, we need you to be part of it. See you there.