

## Conversation with the Mayor April 21, 2008

Vicky Daly

### Spring Has Sprung!

Its Spring - a beautiful, glorious time of the year! And this year it appears that it has come early and we are very definitely ready for it. I love autumn and the translucent, glowing colors of the leaves, but nothing matches spring. The sunshine, the warmer weather, the almost technicolor green of the new grass, and the delicate tracery of the budding trees energize us. You want to be part of it. The raking, clipping and hauling of the remnants of last years leaves dont seem such a burden.

On a golden spring afternoon neighbors who have waved as they drove by in the winter are now outside talking across the fence and across the street. Last years newborns are toddlers. Scooters, skateboards, and roller skates appear. Sidewalk chalk for hop scotch and pure decoration is in evidence. Porches are swept and furniture emerges from the basement and garage. Windows are washed. Steps are repainted; flowers planted. Runners, joggers, and walkers with or without strollers or dogs are out and about. It is truly a great time of the year.

The sprucing up is happening at the marina and on Main Street as well. Our wonderful hanging baskets will be in place soon. The Garden Clubs sidewalk planters will grace the street corners. Bunting will return to the Village Hall and Sexton Building. The Highway Crew will begin garden waste pickup May 5 and will continue on first and third Mondays through the summer. In the meantime, a spot is available at the Highway Barns for drop offs. While you are there, pick up some free mulch, but bring your own containers and be prepared to shovel. Everyone is working to make our beautiful hometown as lovely as it can be.

Or almost everyone. Sometimes we forget some of the rules we learned in kindergarten: Pick up after yourself; if you get something out, put it back; be nice. That last rule really covers everything else. If you walk a dog, please pick up after it. We have a law that says you must, but, really, it is just good manners. If you smoke, put your cigarette butt in one of the receptacles on Main Street, or make sure it is out and put it in your pocket. Food containers? Bottles and cans? In the trash barrels, please. They add nothing to the landscape except additional work for someone else. Several years ago there was a movement, a good one, to do random acts of kindness. (I think Ethel Mae was ahead of the movement when she walked her dog and picked up with her pointy stick those things other people left behind.) It shouldnt be necessary, but if you see something, pick it up an dispose of it properly. It is a good, generous thing to do. Everyone benefits when we keep our hometown beautiful.