

Conversation with the Mayor February 5, 2007

Vicky Daly

It's Planning Time

I'd never thought of this time of the year specifically as a planning time, but it clearly is - in almost every realm of activity. Health and nutrition concerns after the holidays; finance as we prepare tax returns; personal improvement - read more, exercise more, volunteer more; entertainment - gardening catalogs and travel brochures as we endure the depth of winter. This review of where we are, where we want to be and the plan for getting there is happening all over the community in homes, businesses, organizations and government offices.

The Village Board continues work on the budget for 2007-2008. I will tell you frankly that is a painful exercise for everyone concerned for two reasons - 1) too many things (costs) are completely outside our control and 2) we are constantly aware that it is other people's money which we are using. You know in your personal budget that costs continue to rise, but so do resident expectations for services from the Village. Services cost money. Expanded services will impact the tax rate. Not fun. We have had three budget meetings and have three more scheduled - February 19, March 5 and March 19, the Public Hearing. All meetings are in the Village Hall and begin at 6:30 PM. They are open to the public and we would welcome your presence.

Much more fun are some of the events that are now in the planning stage. The nice thing about these events is that they could also have a positive economic impact on the Village. Note them on your calendar now. Sunday, April 22, Palmyra Fire Hall, 2:00 PM - Cynthia Hawk returns to Palmyra to present "Two Hundred Years of Palmyra's Architecture". The title may change slightly but that is the gist of the slide show she will present. It's free and should be delightful. (I am looking for someone to videotape it. I don't do technical things well.)

In July, in addition to the Hill Cumorah Pageant and the annual Erie Canal Bike Tour which has a water stop in the Village Park thanks to the Kiwanis Club, there will be a group of twenty teachers visiting Palmyra as part of the New York State Geography Alliance's annual seminar for teachers. This year, the Alliance is concentrating on the Erie Canal in a project they call ExpERIEnce (Experience Erie). Palmyra, on the western canal, and its counterpart Little Falls on the eastern canal, have been chosen as model canal villages to be studied by the teachers. Bonnie Hays is working with the Alliance to prepare for the visit and lead a tour of the Village when they arrive. The teachers lucky enough to be part of this program will create lesson plans on the canal to share with colleagues in their home schools. The bike tour, the visiting teachers and the start of the Pageant are all in the same week!

Way off in August, Palmyra is going to play host to the Lois McClure, an 88 foot long replica of a canal schooner, c.1862. The Lois McClure will embark on a 100 day, 1000

mile journey from her home at the Champlain Maritime Museum, Burlington, VT in early July, stopping at 25 ports during the summer. Palmyra was chosen to be one of them. Planning has already started for its two day visit, Saturday and Sunday, August 11 and 12. This is an opportunity for Palmyra to shine and we are starting the polishing right now. As we identify opportunities for involvement in the visit, you will hear about them.

For right now though, a comment about Meals on Wheels, more properly the Home Meal Service, Inc.: Each week, volunteers across Wayne County deliver nutritious meals to their neighbors who, for whatever reason, are in need of this service. Sometimes the need is ongoing; sometimes it is a temporary one due to illness or injury. In either case, it is welcome. Last year 245 Wayne County volunteers delivered 41,037 meals-on-wheels to 324 homebound participants. There is always a need for additional help, especially when the snowbirds flee to warmer climes. If you can spare as little as 2 hours one day a month to help in this effort, call Kathy Denniston at 315-946-5622. She and the recipients will thank you.