

Conversation with the Mayor - June 1, 2009

Vicky Daly

I thought you should know

Last week I received notice of grants available directly to homeowners from the Sheen Housing Foundation, www.sheenhousingfoundation.org The intent of the grants is to make repairs – roofs, insulation, siding, plumbing, electrical – so people can remain in their homes. The intended audience is broad – low income, senior citizens (60+), persons with disabilities, and veterans. Cost to the homeowner would be either ZERO or 40%, depending on income and number of people in the household. If this is of interest to you, call Sheen Housing Foundation at (585) 657-4114. This is one of the very few, if not the only, agencies that work directly with the property owner. If this would work for you, get in touch.

In the May 31st edition of the Democrat and Chronicle, there was a multi-colored map of New York State with the colors indicating the number of taxing districts in each county. There are 624 in Monroe County; 161 in Ontario, and 148 in Wayne. The subject of the article was the tax burden in New York State. We all agree that taxes are too high and that something must be done to alleviate the situation for everyone's benefit, but I was surprised to learn where our village fell in this count and decided that more information on the local level was needed as a follow up to the article.

The writer states that the average total tax rate per thousand in New York State is \$73.00. That is the total of all the property tax rates paid. In our case it would be the total of village, town & county, and school district. A little bit of research shows the total for a property owner in the Village of Palmyra to be \$46.89 for all 4 taxes. The national average is \$43.00. Yes, we are higher, but not as far out of sync as we might have thought. This, of course, is just the tax rate. Your tax bill, for each municipality and the school district, is the individual tax rate multiplied by your assessment, e.g. a property in the village assessed at \$100,000.00 would have a village tax bill of \$100 multiplied by the tax rate of \$11.50 per thousand or \$1150.00. Still a lot of money, but this may put things in perspective.

The Palmyra Farmers' Market is back in business in the Village Park, but on a new day and at a new time, Tuesdays from 4:00 to 8:00 PM. Stop in and take your pick of locally grown produce and herbs. You can taste the difference in the freshness. In addition to the wonderful produce available on its opening day, the market had Peg Green's wonderful wool yarn. Its beauty will make you want to knit or crochet even if you never have before. Look for kits for small projects to be available there also.

Something brand new in the village is the Palmyra bumper emblem. You probably have seen others – FLX or Finger Lakes for example, but this one, oval in shape, reads ON THE ERIE CANAL VP VILLAGE OF PALMYRA, NY. The emblem is the brainchild of Dean George who has them available in his Palmyra Canal Shop on East Main Street. Cost? \$1.00. Why did he design and produce them? He knows that this place matters.