

Conversation with the Mayor June 18, 2007

Vicky Daly

What Do YOU Do Here?

Early in the month four first grades from Palmyra Elementary came to tour the Village Hall and the Police Station. That is approximately eighty children. They were delightful and asked very good questions. What was particularly interesting was that, as classes, they zeroed in on different things. The most surprising was the class in which several of the students were quite knowledgeable about television's Judge Judy. I found myself explaining, off the top of my head, the difference between Justice Rodman's and Justice Abbott's court sessions and those of Judge Judy - to a group of seven year olds. Try that without any advanced preparation!

The more usual questions were about the court, the Erie Canal (Mary Piccola created a great display.), the vault door in the court room, and generally what do you do here? I will bet you sometimes wonder the same thing.

The Village Hall is a very busy place. The Clerk's office is essentially Mission Control. Alicia Lynch, Heidi Jarvis, and Mary Piccola field questions all day every day. In some respects, it is a triage or sorting situation. The questions better answered, because of specifics or a need for immediate attention, get routed to the Police or Court office, the Highway Department, Buildings & Grounds, Water & Sewer, Animal Control, the County (Use of Aqueduct Park is a big one.) or the Town Office. (All licenses are issued by the Town Office.) We also get questions better answered by Historic Palmyra or the library. My office (That's me.) also gets a variety of questions and I do the same sorting. Because my door is always open and adjacent to the brochure rack, I also get tourists asking questions - and that's fine. This morning I provided information about the Village and maps and an *I Love NY* Travel Guide for their day trip to Niagara Falls to a family from Oregon. They left with all our Palmyra materials and plans for a day in our museums upon their return.

When not answering questions, the Clerk's Office oversees the record keeping for all the Village departments mentioned above. Precision and accuracy are required to keep the records - payroll, income, revenue, insurance, and the like. Correspondence with New York State and the record keeping created by contractual obligations also require major time and energy.

The Mayor's office oversees the whole procedure and the Mayor is the first among equals on the Village Board as the Supervisor is on the Town Board. Neither Supervisor Lyon nor I have more than one vote in an official meeting, which is the only place valid, legal decisions can be made by the Town or Village Board. The office of the Supervisor and of the Mayor are also the contact points for the agencies of New York State and the federal government. We, then, pass the information and/or question along to our Board colleagues and see that it is addressed at a Board meeting. The agendas for the meetings come from our offices,

although any Board member can request that something be included. On both Town and Village levels, a quorum of 3, of the 5 members, is required for action.

It is not all work and drudgery by any means. People are the best part of the job. In this Mayor's case, anyway, the Mayor gets to meet all Palmyra Elementary's first graders and to applaud the K-2 Flag Day Parade which marched by our front door on Flag Day. That is the fun part.

At the June 18th Village Board meeting, the Board accepted the resignation of Buildings & Grounds Supervisor Roger Weaver. To know the positive impact that Roger has had on the Village of Palmyra over the last thirty years, you need only look at our beautiful award winning cemetery and Palmyra's Main Street and marina. We will not see his like again. Roger has set a high standard for those who follow. Both personally and officially, we wish him well in his retirement and whatever he chooses to do in the future.