

## **Conversation with the Mayor - March 16, 2009**

**Vicky Daly**

### **Questions and Answers about Canandaigua Street**

On March 5th, the Village of Palmyra held an Information Meeting at the Village Hall about the stimulus funding that had been announced for the reconstruction of Canandaigua Street. This early in the project, there is little to tell, but I am going to reiterate what was said that evening.

The \$1.44 million of stimulus funding will cover the reconstruction of the street, including sewer but not water work. It has been our practice to address needs in both water and sewer during street work and we will here also. The street will be reconstructed basically in its current size. There are no plans to widen the street. It appears all work to be done will be in the village right of way (ROW ). We are working with the school district to address the congestion in front of the elementary school at dismissal time. Village crews will not be working on this project as the intent of the funding is to create new jobs. We will try very hard to save the trees. Everyone appreciates their value and realizes how long it takes to have them achieve their size and beauty.

Since the meeting several people have gotten in touch with questions. We encourage folks to do that. Here, for everyone's benefit, they are:

Q: Is the school putting any money into the project?

A: No, any work done in the vicinity of the school will be in the village ROW and part of the project as a whole.

Q: Who will clear the new public sidewalks of snow?

A: The property owner will be responsible for keeping sidewalks clear as he/she is throughout the village. Sometimes, depending on the lease, the first floor tenant is responsible.

Q: Had the village made any effort to secure funding for fixing Canandaigua Street prior to this?

A: We had met with Congressman Walsh in an unsuccessful effort to be included in the Federal Transportation Appropriations Bill for 2009. Mr. Walsh was supportive, but it just did not happen. This year, in addition to the application through the Genesee Transportation Council for stimulus funding, we applied for Transportation monies for 2010 through the offices of Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and Congressman Maffei. Those applications are now, of course, redundant and will be purged. Our efforts on the federal level were suggested by the NYS DOT which told us they could not help us to reconstruct the street.

Q: Will we see village crews work on this project?

A: Because this is stimulus funding, you won't see village crews working on the road project, BUT, because it makes sense, we will be putting in the new Canandaigua Street sidewalk which will be funded by a Safe Routes to School grant, for which the village and the school district applied jointly. In fact, you will see a crew made up of both school and village employees on that project. It is all about working together.

Q: Talking about sidewalks and the SRTS grant, now that there is talk of reconfiguring the school grade levels, are we still eligible for that grant money if Palmyra has K – 2 level students?

A: Yes. Wouldn't it be great if parents walked their little ones to school and formed a lifelong habit?

As the questions keep coming, we will keep answering. The more everyone knows about the project, the better.