

## Conversation with the Mayor September 4, 2007

Vicky Daly

### Village Life & Times

Life in a community, whether it be a village, town, or the neighborhood of a city, is made up of a series of events, big and small. The Village Board itself, in fact any board, is a community and change is a constant. Usually, the change comes at expected intervals, elections. Occasionally, however, a resignation prompts a change. Mayor Peter Wilson's job relocation prompted his resignation and the Board changed, first with Trustee Bob Gunkler's appointment and then with my election. Fred Celentano was first appointed to the Board, as was Christopher Piccola. Both were later elected.

At the September 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, we had another change. Trustee Gary Hopkins resigned, and at our next Board meeting, his replacement will be appointed. Gary was one of 27 applicants for the position from which Roger Weaver, long time Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, resigned in late June. Careful review of the applications narrowed the field to seven well qualified individuals, all of whom were interviewed by the remaining trustees and the mayor. The number of interviews lengthened the process, but ensured that the chosen candidate was best suited for the position and the Village. During this period of time, Chris Deys and Darren Moore oversaw the operation of the department. It should be noted that the visit of the Lois McClure occurred during this time. They have done a fine job and are to be commended.

So Trustee Hopkins is now Superintendent Hopkins. He brings to the position a background in both horticulture and landscaping plus building management and maintenance. Having served as liaison to the department, he also knows the needs of the Village and its financial constraints. Roger Weaver has set a high standard for his successors. There is no doubt in my mind that Gary will keep Palmyra on the path which Roger had established. The Board will change and the department will change, but everyone and everything that has gone before have made Palmyra better and the new mix of people, ideas and energy will continue to do so.

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A sign in Woodens' window says Wallpaper is Back, but I want to talk about paint, exterior paint. A walking tour of the Village is in order to see all the beautiful results of house painting. It is absolutely amazing what a fresh coat of paint and the detailing of trim does for a house, a neighborhood, the community. The best thing is that I believe it is contagious. One paint job seems to inspire others nearby.

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And from our Village Clerk/ Treasurer: Many people pay ahead on monthly bills, especially utility bills. Add on in the warmer months so the bills in the depth of winter aren't so bad. Good idea, but you cannot do that with Village water and sewer bills. The Village can accept a check only for the exact amount. We cannot make change, except for cash, nor can we credit your account for the next bill. Because we can only accept the exact amount, we cannot take a check to cover two separate bills in different categories. Why is this so? New York State Village Law.