

Conversation with the Mayor - September 21, 2009

Vicky Daly

Don't Roll Up the Sidewalks

Canal Town Days is over for another year but it is worth mentioning on several fronts. It was hugely successful thanks, in part, to the magnificent weather, but mainly because of what awaited our visitors. Canal Town days doesn't just happen. Without the time and effort that literally hundreds of local folks put into it, Canal Town Days would not be the great event that draws so many people to our community. So, thank you to everyone who made it such a wonderful weekend!

For many, that weekend, even more than the opening of school, marks the end of the summer. Certainly, then pace slows after having four major events in three months – Pageant, Pirates, the Fair, Canal Town Days. That said, we are not about to roll up the sidewalks until next year. There is lots more to come – library book review luncheons; church suppers and sales; 9th Period History Class presentations; monthly speakers at Historic Palmyra and the cemetery walks; steak dinners at the Legion, and too many more to mention.

On Saturday, October 3rd at 10:00 AM, for example, 'Letterboxing 101', a free how-to session, will be offered at the Village Bookmarket at 207 East Main Street, Palmyra. If you want a family friendly activity for people who like puzzles, scavenger hunts, being artistic, and just having fun, you will like letterboxing. Owner Marcia Marsille will explain the basics and give people an opportunity to try it.

The next day, Sunday, October 4th, former mayor Jim Elliott and I will team up to lead a tour of the Village Hall and the Union Club Rooms (Sexton Building). Join us at the Village Hall at 2:00 PM to learn more about the history of these handsome buildings and how they have changed over time. It would be wise to bring a flashlight and wear comfortable shoes. Continue your exploration of Palmyra's past that afternoon with a visit to the world class, award winning museums of Historic Palmyra which will be open for you to tour. You did know, didn't you, that the museums of Historic Palmyra have been designated by the National Park Service as one of only 21 Heritage Tourism Destinations in New York State? How great is that!

New store alert: Uncle Stompy's Web Arcade is open at 230 east Main. Owners Dan and Zack Beagley offer video games, pinball and the like. Internet access and basic PC training is also available. Just down the street is Just Solutions, a Verizon store managed by Laurie Wallace. Laurie can also help you computers and peripherals. Stop in and say hello.

Whether you called it Copy Central, Allens' or Rapid Repeats, the handy copy shop on the corner of East Main and Cuyler is gone – and with it a page in Palmyra's history. It is missed, not just for the convenience and service it provided, but because of the people who were part of it and part of Palmyra for so many years. Gerry and Jack Allen exemplified the spirit of the village. They were special people.

Finally, a short PS about driving for Meals on Wheels. It is easy, rewarding, takes very little time, and fills a real need. The problem is that there are just not enough drivers. Current volunteers will meet on October 14th at 10:00 AM in the Sexton Building for an update on procedures. If you are interested but dislike going into a new situation alone, meet me at the Village Hall at 9:45 that morning and we will walk over together. I will introduce you to some very nice people who will make you feel welcome.