

Conversation with the Mayor - September 14, 2009
Vicky Daly

An Organized Laundry List

Sometimes a number of things I want to share with you do not seem to have any natural connection and the traditional laundry list results. That, I thought, would be this week's column. Not so. As I thought about it, I realized that there was a thread weaving the various pieces together – neighborliness, which is, giving thought to the well-being of others, right next door or in the community. Often, that leads into the 'thou shalt nots' – not this time. These are the proactive, reaching out neighborly deeds.

This topic cannot be addressed without a mention of Bob Gunkler, who passed away a few weeks ago. Bob was a good man who valued his family, his church and his community. He demonstrated that he cared by doing for them, quietly, reliably and with a smile. Bob will be missed by all those people whose lives he touched through Village government and the Fair Board over the years. He was a good neighbor and he made a difference in the community he loved.

Also in the quiet and reliable category are the volunteers who work at the Food Pantry, the Good Neighbor Fund and the Palmyra Kings Daughters philanthropic organization, making life easier for people who are having a rough time of it. With no fanfare or publicity these folks help their neighbors in times of need.

Not quite so quietly, because of the nature of their cause and their fundraisers, are the folks working hard to build the Palmyra Skateboard Park. Their dedication and hard work to do something for the young people in Palmyra have to be admired.

And then there is 'The Community Resource Guide: 2009 Community Directory', a project of the Community Resource Collaborative Forum. The people spearheading it were Marya Vande-Doyle, Bill Doyle and the Rev. Nancy J. Farrell. They will be the first to tell you that they had help from a large and diverse group of people and agencies. The guide's subtitle "Linking People and Resources in Wayne County" explains its reason for being. Copies are available for use in municipal offices, libraries, and in the offices of the services listed. I hope you have no need for it now, but it is good to know that it is available when or if you should.

Most of the neighborliness one sees in Palmyra is not organized; it is simply person to person – welcoming the new neighbors; sharing cuttings and produce from your garden; keeping an eye on their house while they vacation - the minor, everyday gestures that make this a good place to be and to be proud of. These are the things that make us who we are.