

Conversation with the Mayor January 7, 2008

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Passing It Along

When I first went into office a friend gave me a small sign with a picture of Harry Truman and the caption 'The Buck Stops Here'. This Christmas another friend presented me with a handcrafted image that bears the same statement. And it's true. The mayor has no more authority than any other member of the Village Board, but, in this case, the mayor is more visible and more accessible than our Board members who all have full time jobs and are working on behalf of the people of the village in addition to their other responsibilities.

I remind you of this fact because, in addition to being in the front line for questions (many) and complaints (not as many as you'd think), the compliments come to me. Now, you realize that I am not personally responsible for the quality of work that was done on Burnham Heights or for the beauty of the Christmas lights in the Village Park. So, I say thank you to the bearers of nice words, tell them I will pass their comments along to the appropriate people, and do so, suggesting that if the happy resident has the time, a brief note or email to my attention will be acknowledged publicly and put into the folder of the village employee whose work was being praised. Compliments should be passed along. Having someone notice the quality of your efforts and saying something about it brightens the dreariest of days.

The 'Final Report to Communities' from the partners who brought us the *Grand Journey of the Lois McClure* in August just arrived. After reviewing the Journey of 1000 miles in 100 days, a committee representing the Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor, the NYS Canal Corporation, and the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, prepared the report for the 25 communities that hosted the schooner. Palmyra shines. The Village of Palmyra was second only to the city of Ithaca in number of visitors to the boat. We were cited also for community involvement as demonstrated through our incredibly successful *Pirates of the Erie Canal Weekend*. That weekend did not just happen. It was the result of enthusiastic hard work by a huge number of people and local organizations. I am not going to try to name them for fear of forgetting someone. So, to all the wonderful people who planned, sponsored, donated time and/or money, and worked to make *Pirates Weekend* worthy of being complimented statewide, thank you. We had such a good time we are going to do it again August 8 - 10. Mark your calendars now. You won't want to miss it.

Compliments, kudos or thumbs up also to the folks keeping the hydrants clear. (As I write this, it is 50+ degrees but we know that won't last and this is a very important thing to do.) On our street, three of the neighbors have adopted a hydrant and have signed for a month at a time to keep it clear. Sharing the burden makes it lighter. Compliments also to the snowblower brigade for clearing neighbors' sidewalks as long as they are out. Going the extra 50 feet (village lots) isn't such a big deal doing it, but it certainly is for the neighbor. You can tell it is appreciated because the neighbor does the same thing if he or she is out first. That's village living at its best.