

Conversation with the Mayor - February 16, 2009

Vicky Daly

Keeping an Eye on the Money and the Bird

Doesn't the sun make you feel better? Even though we know that the cloudless blue skies are accompanied by lower temperatures, these few sunny days raise one's expectations, tolerance levels and general attitude toward life. I suspect that we appreciate these days much more than people for whom seeing the sun in mid-winter is not a special treat. It tells us that spring is coming not too awfully far off and provides the energy we need to take care of business.

Sun or not, the Village Board is hard at work on the village budget for 2009-2010. Kudos are in order for our department heads – Alicia Lynch, Village Clerk/Treasurer; Mike Boesel, Highway; Bill Colburn, Fire Department; Dave Dalton, Police, and Gary Hopkins, Buildings & Grounds, and their staffs. All of these good people have been working for the benefit of the village, not just in accomplishing the things that need to be done, but doing so with a vigilant eye on funding. All departmental budget requests were submitted at or below last year's level. Yet, through careful planning and in-house cooperation, what needs to be done is getting done. On the Board level, while being exceedingly attentive to finances, we will not allow ourselves to be penny wise and pound foolish. Too long deferred maintenance of buildings and equipment is ultimately costlier than when it is done as needed. We have one more work session, public, of course, on the budget and will hold the Public Budget Meeting on Monday, March 16th, at 6:30 PM in the Village Hall.

I don't believe it is generally said that Palmyra is for the birds, but after Saturday, April 25th, it will be. That Saturday marks the First Annual Palmyra Village Bird Fest, an opportunity to learn about local birds and their habitats; to learn about backyard birding; to find out what trees and flowers attract the birds; to talk to experts in the field, and to just have a good day of outdoor family fun. There will truly be something for everyone. Details will be coming soon, but, for now, reserve April 25th on your calendar and invite a friend or two to join you.