

Conversation with the Mayor January 2, 2007

Vicky Daly

Lots of Things to Think About

You probably know by now that patience is not one of my virtues. I am working on that. This job requires patience because things move so slowly, but I am pleased to tell you that we have taken our first small, but exceedingly important step toward the Canalside Nature Park, our economic development initiative on the east end of the village. Part of that plan is a launching site for motorized boats. Right now we don't have a site in the Village of Palmyra. If you tow a boat to a launch site, you need a place to park your vehicle and trailer. The purchase of this property on Park Drive will give us that necessary space for a parking lot. Extra parking in that area will be a blessing, too. Yes, it will be off the tax rolls, but that balances the property the village sold last year on Canal Street for the building of a residence. It is a net gain for the people of Palmyra - an undeveloped property becomes residential and, in time, the boaters in Palmyra can launch here.

You have undoubtedly seen signs around the community that read "**Come talk to us about Economic Development**", Thursday January 11, 7:30 PM, in the Palmyra Fire Hall. It is an invitation from your elected officials on the Town and Village Boards. We want your input - ideas, concerns, expertise - on this topic. The tag line on the flyer is "working together to make it happen". Palmyra is a "great place to live and to work", now we have to work on "to prosper." I truly believe that working together we can make that happen. Come and be a part of the discussion.

Two of the groups working diligently to make Palmyra even better are our Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. During their monthly meetings, the Boards deal with questions about new construction, conversion of properties, or requests for variances from code. They attempt to work with applicants to reach a solution that works for the individual and the Village Comprehensive Plan, the citizen-drafted blueprint for Palmyra's future. Sometimes that just isn't possible, and the request must be denied. Always, the good of the entire community is a consideration. These are important positions and the volunteers who fill them are under appreciated. I bring this to your attention because there are openings for alternates on both Planning and Zoning at the moment. If you are interested, send a letter to Village Clerk Alicia Lynch to say so. This is another aspect of working together to make Palmyra even better. Thank you for considering this.

Another group, seldom thanked publicly for all they do, is the Palmyra Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary. When the Village needs a place for an event, they provide it, cheerfully and willingly. Over just the last few years, they have hosted speakers from the National Trust on Palmyra's Main Street; the Post Office on ebay procedures; Robert Cornelly on the letters of Admiral Sampson; Bill Bolling on identity theft. Their January 2007 calendar includes three village events - Cynthia Howk on preservation;

the Joint Town and Village Board meeting on the 11th, and a Merchants Meeting on the 22nd. They collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce, the county Humane Society, and the Fair Board, this spring with Kings Daughters, and who knows who else. The best way to say thank you for their generosity is to support their fundraisers. Watch the PFD sign for announcements, and enjoy the next Pancake Breakfast on January 28th.

As I write this, snow on sidewalks has not been a major concern. Chances are excellent, however, that before we can declare that spring has really arrived, it will be. So, let me remind you that the clearing of sidewalks is the responsibility of the property owner or the first floor tenant, not the Village. The Village crew does plow - when they have the time. At the top of their list are the routes which the children use going to school. Everything else comes next, if it comes at all. It depends on time and conditions. Obviously, every street cannot be first. Consider the clearing of your sidewalk, when it happens, as a gift, not an entitlement.

One other thing about snow covered sidewalks: there is another ordinance about cleaning up after your dog. There is nothing more un-lovely than the evidence of a dog owner who does not do so. Don't be upset with the dog. Fido is not to blame for the mess. His owner is. Think about the public good and how you want your yard and sidewalk to look. Tuck a plastic bag in your pocket and keep our streets clean, winter and summer. Thank you.