

Conversation with the Mayor - October 19, 2009  
Vicky Daly

## **Dancing as Fast as You Can**

Think on this: How many times have you greeted someone with 'Hi, how are you?' or 'How are things with you?' or something similar and have received a response on the order of 'Just fine – but BUSY!' Not as a complaint, but as a fact of life today. The version one is likely to hear from a retiree is 'I don't know how I had time to work.' or 'I am busier now than I was when I was working.' True?

There is no doubt in my mind that it is true. From a totally unscientific observation I would attribute the greatly increased pace at which most of us live to the 'labor saving devices', everything from microwaves to computers and all the hand held electronics which keep us tethered to our jobs. I found myself asking yesterday if wi-fi were available on a cruise ship we were discussing. (My husband made no comment.) It was not.

Another piece, of course, is the economy. Downsizing, layoffs, working multiple jobs – two, and more and more often, three: You do what you need to do. No two families find the details to be the same, but we are all impacted by these factors, not just as individuals, but as a community. The organizations which exist to help people have seen their resources reduced as the need has grown. Somebody whose name I don't remember described the pace of life today as 'dancing as fast as you can'. I like the analogy.

The good news is that, as community, on a person to person basis, we do exceedingly well in support of each other. The needs are still there and, fortunately, people step forward to fill them. Some needs deal with individuals and families, some with village and town activities. If you find you have the time in your particular schedule, please consider using that time to fill a need. They come in all shapes and sizes from driving for Meals on Wheels, where the commitment could be as little as an hour or so a month to serving on Village or Town Committees which work, on a volunteer basis, to keep our hometown the great place it is.

Contact your church; the school; a local service club; Meals on Wheels, 946-5623; the Village Hall, 597-4849, or the Town Hall, 597-5521, to see how you can be even more of a part in shaping your village and town. Thank you for considering this.