

Conversation with the Mayor December 4, 2006

Vicky Daly

Filling Up the Calendar

For at least six weeks before the holidays, maybe more, the comment "Lets wait until after the holidays." was repeated again and again - and with reason. There is probably no busier time of the year for most people. I am as guilty of suggesting the postponement of meetings and projects as anyone. But we are now approaching the "after the holidays" and it occurs to me that the lull after Christmas isnt going to happen yet again this year. So get out your 2007 calendar and a writing instrument and make note of three very important meetings which are already scheduled for January. It is important that you know about them and even more important that you participate.

On Sunday afternoon, January 7, 2007, at 2:00 PM, Cynthia Howk, Landmark Society of Western New York, will speak at the Palmyra Fire Hall. She will be talking about the National Trust for Historic Preservation and give us an introduction to historic preservation - what is involved with listing a house, commercial building, or church on the Register; what preservation ordinances can do for a homeowner and community; how they are created; what they can impact. Why have we invited Ms. Howk? To learn something. Personally, I am not as knowledgeable as I could be, and I suspect there are other Palmyra residents who have little information on the topic or, worse, misinformation. What sets Palmyra apart from many other communities of our size is our architecture - commercial, religious and residential. It is an asset which, as we sadly know, once lost, cannot be replaced. Ms.Howks presentation will provide us with the beginning of a knowledge base to make decisions.

Just four days later, come back to the Fire Hall on Thursday, January 11, at 7:30 PM for a Joint Workshop Meeting of the Palmyra Town Board and the Palmyra Village Board. The topic? Economic Development in Palmyra. It is an open meeting to brainstorm ideas to make Palmyra, Town and Village, an even better place to live and work - and prosper. That last '- and prosper is new. Thats what the meeting is really about, bringing new, good, (emphasis on good) jobs into the community. Thinking and then working together - all of us, Town and Village, residents, property owners, merchants - we can move forward. Obviously, there are things over which we have no control, but there are many things we can do to create the community that we and our children and grandchildren deserve. So, add this one to your list. What happens or does not happen that evening will depend on who comes and participates, that evening and into the future.

Then on Monday, January 22, again at the Fire Hall (God bless the ladies of the Auxiliary), at 6:00 PM, Leslie Vecchiotti will facilitate a discussion about the pros and cons of a merchant organization of some variety. Do the merchants want one? Would it be beneficial to them? To the community? What can the merchants do collectively that cannot be done singly or through other agencies, organizations or local government? These are just some of the questions that could be asked, discussed and answered that evening. If you are a Palmyra merchant and see value in this gathering, come and be part

of it. If you are considering opening a business in Palmyra, Town or Village, come and be part of it. Your wisdom, experience and ideas are invaluable.

January also starts the Palmyra Village Budget process. All budget meetings are open meetings and you are free to attend any and all sessions in the Village Hall. The dates set now are January 16 and 23, 5:30; February 5 and 9, 6:30 PM; March 5, 6:30 PM, and the Public Hearing, March 19, also at 6:30 PM. On the February and March dates, a regular Village Board meeting will follow the budget session. Those, too, are always open and we invite you to come and learn more about your community.