

Conversation with the Mayor May 19, 2008

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Another Productive Meeting

If I do say so myself, and I do, the most recent Village Board meeting was a really good one. That isn't unusual, they normally are, but the May 19th meeting was an excellent mix, which brought about results which will benefit the people of Palmyra. Some outcomes are immediate; some are upcoming, but they are anticipated. Here is what happened that evening. The evening started with a well-deserved proclamation by the Village Board that Saturday, May 24, 2008, would be Palmyra-Macedon Lions Club Day in the Village of Palmyra, on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary. The Lions Club, with its sister service organizations, represents the best of the community. Put simply, they help as they strive, successfully, to live up to their motto, 'We Serve.'

The business portion of the meeting dealt with end-of-the-year matters. The Villages fiscal year runs from June through May and, although our budget was approved with a negligible increase (three cents a thousand) in March, it seemed like a logical time for seeing where we stand in fiscal matters. Read that as 'fuel costs. The department heads - Police Chief Dalton, Fire Chief Colburn, Buildings & Grounds Supt. Hopkins, and Highway Supt. Boesel - met with the Board to discuss even more ways to economize. You undoubtedly have had the same discussion at home. We have, and as in our household and with the department chairs and Board members, you have probably come to the same conclusions - drive less, plan for trips, look for other ways to do things, shop locally. Obviously, fuel for police, fire and ambulance calls cannot be rationed, but everything else is on the table for discussion.

The Village Board has constraints that do not exist in most households. We have to balance costs with services that are expected by Village taxpayers. You have heard me say that most people choose to live in the village and when they make that choice, they understand that there are costs associated for the services they receive. Never in my memory, and we have lived here for almost fifty years, have costs for virtually everything risen as they have and continue to do so. We are all in new and uncharted territory. As a Board we will continue to strive to do the best for Palmyra and its people. We have a vested interest - we live here too.

More immediate were the actions taken on behalf of the people of Palmyra. A concerted campaign is being started to remind dog owners that they have a responsibility to clean up after Fido or Rover. Not only is it good manners to do so, it is the law and punishable by fine. Cooperation of another sort was the resolution passed by the Board declaring the building at 402 East Main Street, which will become the new Kings Daughters Free Library, a historic building. That designation, as a structure worth preserving, will enable the Library Board to apply for grant money to prepare the building for its new life as a library. Cooperation was also the theme as the Board approved a request for placement of a tent in the parking lot behind the Grandin Building to accommodate visitors touring the

museum during July. Incidentally, if you have not made the tour, it is well worth your time. The events chronicled there are a part of Palmyras history.

Unrelated notes: If you are sometimes overwhelmed with unwanted, unsolicited catalogs, check out www.catalogchoice.com. It is easy, free and effective. Our mail carrier can attest to the fact that the number of catalogs coming to our house has decreased markedly. And on your next trip to Breens IGA, be sure to check out the new selection of artisan cheeses and the Earl of Sandwich breads in the deli section. I particularly recommend the apple smoked cheddar and the marinated mozzarella. They go well with the Earls dark rye bread. Calories and points? Every now and again I do not choose to know.