

MAYORS MEMO PART 2 YEAR IN REVIEW

Soon I will begin my third year serving the residents of the Village on the Village Board. The first two years as a Trustee and this past year as Mayor. I am fortunate that I am retired and have the ability to be an advocate for Medina. With that said, I cannot say thank you enough to my wife Brenda for time she allows me to give to the Village. In part 2 of my Mayor's Memo, Year in Review, I will highlight some of the activities your Board has accomplished along with some happenings over the last year.

The residents of the Village can rest easy knowing that your Board is very dedicated to the job you elected them to do. We have had healthy and spirited debates during the budget process, the hiring of new employees, along with the everyday issues that come up in front of the Board. Before making our decisions, we gather as much information as we can and share it with each other. We may not agree on all things; however we do agree that all of us have had our turn in voicing our opinions and we are well informed about the issues in front of us.

Village Board goes on tour! One of the Board's objectives this year was to tour the Business District stores and all of our Village Departments. What we thought would take a half a day visiting with our store owners and employees actually took us a day and a half. We were welcomed by surprised faces when we walked in. As we were thanking the owners of businesses for what they are doing to bring shoppers to Medina, they were thanking us for stopping in and taking time to listen to their complaints, concerns and compliments. They were positive visits; we were able to take care of items that needed attention. Our tour of Village Departments also lasted longer than expected. We all learned a little more of what it takes to offer the services we have to the residents and visitors of Medina. I can say for sure that the sewer plant was not the favorite of the visits for some Board members. All of the department heads and Village employees were more than welcoming and happy to show us what their job entails.

The Village co-sponsored a job fair with Orleans County Work force. We had several businesses and temp to hire agencies requesting booth space. When planning the event we estimated 100 to 150 potential employees to come through the door. We had an estimated 350 job seekers come to the fair. Some had an instant interview and were hired on the spot. I spoke with some people as they were leaving; many of them had tears of joy in their eyes because they were hired that day. We will be hosting another job fair on May 18th at the GCC Medina campus.

The Village enacted a Vacant Property Law last year. Property owners including banks and lien holders who have vacant property were required to register the property. They had to give detailed information as to what plans they have for the property. There is a fee they had to pay and every year the property is vacant they have to re-register and the fee increases. When the property is again being used in the manner it is intended, it is then removed from the Vacant Property List. In our first year the Village had just over 75 properties on that list. This year there is now just over 50. Because of this law about 25 properties were placed back on the property tax roll.

The Village has seen an economic growth in the last three years that we have not seen in a long time. We welcomed our newest Agri-Businesses plant, Pride Pak, to Medina. This is Pride Pak's United States headquarters and first US plant. Associated Brands has added several new dry food lines to Medina and increased their employees. If you read through the local help wanted ads, you can see ads for local businesses looking for employees. The Orleans EDA has announced that the Medina Business

Park has one of the largest shovel ready sites in the Finger Lakes Area if not one of the largest in the State. I am confident we will be seeing more businesses coming into Medina. The trickle-down effect from our manufacturing plants is having a positive influence on the local businesses. When you drive through the Business District you can see how busy the stores and restaurants are with more opening up on a monthly basis it seems like. The parking lots of the stores on the Maple Ridge Corridor are full with shopper's vehicles. We all need to keep this growth going. Shop local when you can.

In the last year the Village has undergone an Energy Efficiency Project. Phase One of the project included high efficiency light replacement in all Village owned buildings, HVAC upgrades, heating upgrades in the DPW buildings, along with the new LED lights in the business district and canal basin that is 99% complete. The new radio read water meter system is about 85% complete. The company the Village is working with had a devastating fire. They lost most of their files and computer system. Once we receive all the information we need to complete the replacement, work will begin again. Phase Two of the project will be purchasing all the street lights from National Grid and replacing them with LED lights that are owned by the Village. I expect this project to begin starting early summer. With the guaranteed savings from this efficiency project we will see a payback time in less than 14 years.

In 2017 we will see the completion of two major projects that were started in 2016. The first one is the 3 million gallon water tower. Last year NYS Health Department gave us a notice that our water tank was leaking. After an inspection we had two choices. The first was to install two 1.5 million gallon tanks. The second choice was to repair the tank we have now. After reviewing the cost of both projects, the Board decided that the less expensive of the two was to repair the tank we have. As the project went forward we were told that our tank was the worst the company has ever repaired. Like anything old, the more you get into the project the more they found that needed to be fixed. However it is all not bad news, with the use of different technology and negotiation, we were able to keep the repair at the budgeted cost. When the Board visited the site we were able to walk inside the empty tank. That was a once in a life time experience to be in a 3 million gallon water jug! Our other major project was the Waste Water Treatment Plant or the Sewer plant. The plant received a complete makeover with either replacing or refurbishing the existing machinery. This project was able to be completed under budget and on time. The Village received a zero interest 30 year loan from NYS for this project. No, we did not go into any tanks on this project!

I have appointed three Village residents to be on the Western Orleans County Regional Planning Committee. This Committee includes members from the three Towns and the Village of Lyndonville; they are tasked with planning out the needs of Western Orleans County over the next several years. This planning is needed when we apply for State and Federal grants. We can show that we have the need and the plans in place to accomplish what we would like to do with the grant funds. In the near future residents will be receiving a survey. Please read it through and answer the questions and return it. This will help the committee to understand the needs of our residents. This project is being completed as a shared service with Orleans County Department of Planning and Development.

These are just a few things your Village Board has worked on the last fiscal year. I am sure there are others but by now you are wondering when I will end. I urge anyone interested as to what is going on in our Village to come to the Village Board meetings on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. The first Board meeting is a workshop meeting where we discuss agenda items and it is held at the Village Clerk's Office. The second meeting of the month is our business meeting and is held at the Shelby Town Hall. Both meetings start at 7pm. If you would like to talk to me in person or by phone you can leave a message at the Village Office and I will be in contact with you as soon as I can. I am

proud to be called your Mayor and look forward to my next year in office.