

## **The Mayor's Column**

### **More Economic Development Activities**

There is a significant amount of new economic development projects underway in the Village of Arcade. I'd like to keep you aware of each of these as they start and continue to develop.

One of the more promising projects is the Arcadia Heights residential development on Cramer Drive. This private development expects to build and sell up to 87 new single family homes in that part of the Village. The first section includes 12 homes and is currently at the stage where the developer is gaining approval on engineering drawings which define the construction and layout of this section. These approvals need to come from the Board of Health and the Village Board. The developer is working with a timeline that will let construction start later this year. At least two lots have already sold.

On Route 98, north of the Village, work has begun on another project and we are installing water and sewer lines to the new Industrial Park. The Village successfully renegotiated with the developer so that the full costs of those installations would be paid for by the developer. When complete, this site will house 3 industrial factories and provide additional jobs for the area.

The Revitalize Arcade Committee, an independent, not for profit, citizens group has applied for a grant to provide funds for downtown redevelopment. If this grant for \$200,000 is won, the Committee will be able to work with store front owners to refurbish facades and interiors and some apartment spaces to make them more attractive and successful. The initiative of this committee is refreshing and we hope that they will soon hear that their application has been accepted and their work can begin. (Note: in late August, after this column was originally written, we heard the funding for this project was not made available for this year)

On Wednesday August 1, in Warsaw, I addressed the Planning Committee of the County Board of Supervisors at the invitation of Supervisor Berwanger. He asked me to share my ideas on Village development activities. I was able to share with the Board the need for the County to become involved in Village revitalization and to dedicate a set amount of County development funds for this purpose in each year's budget. I suggested the county start by allocating \$300,000 per year out of general County Sales Tax or Property Tax revenue towards these programs and I outlined 4 significant initiatives that could be used to make progress. The Board had already been working on similar items and in fact had already acted on one of them, by awarding \$70,000 to support the Microenterprise Assistance Program. Several businesses in Arcade have already benefited from this Program and it is likely more will be able to take advantage now that additional funding has been provided. We also discussed how the County's recently formed Local Development Corporation (LDC) would be a perfect vehicle to work on the other suggestions I had made for Village revitalization. The Board expressed a willingness to work to make a difference in the Villages and invited me to attend a meeting next week

where further discussion will be held on the projects to be entered in to by the LDC. I hope to continue championing the cause of the Villages at that meeting.

As you can see, we are starting to gather momentum in the Village and in the County with activities that will help grow our area. The projects have a needed balance between residential, industrial and retail growth. I believe both the balance and the extent of the projects will be important to the long term vitality of the Village.