

Parable of the plastic flowers



Once upon a time, four and more years ago, in the towns of plastic flowers lived and ruled a wise Councilwoman Gray, whose one vote certain folks pointed out was an obstruction but a few folks knew this to be impossible.

Often in those years, following behind this wise woman was a chubby, bubbly gadfly who hopped about at meetings lamenting the lack of real flowers in the downtowns. Caring for her constituents, the wise woman pointed out to her council members, including the Great One, about a mechanical watering machine that once proudly rode around the towns dowsing petals and leaves but now stood alone in the dark, sad and abandoned, at the department of the antiquated or "still usable" storage shed. This device could be restored to water real flowers.

Oh no, said the Great One, this would be a traffic problem! Hopping up, the gadfly exclaimed to the council members and the Great One: The men who drove the still usable watering machine could water early in the morning.

Impossible said the Great One, this would cost too much! Leaping about, the gadfly appealed to the Great One: Let them change their hours of work. Plastic is fine with me, the Great One had the last word. Time's up!

But the wise Councilwoman Gray wouldn't give up because many people wanted it and many people would get pleasure from them. Could she find a way to get the flowers up on the light poles in the downtowns? Denied! Denied! The arms of the light poles could not sustain the weight of the baskets of flowers when watered. No way, no how, would Smithtown's residents have flowers. Plastic was fine, said the Great One.

And so the tale went until now, when the Great One said, that until 2009 using fake plants made logistic sense. What ever that meant, 2009 is an election year. A year that was topped with corruption stories: a town employee identified as a felon and sentenced to jail and others still waiting their day in court. A year seeing Law Suits and Legal Troubles amass in the town. With such an awful stench will real flowers provide enough cover? As for the taxpayers, they found out that for the Great One, obstructing the cause amounted to spending \$2,400 for 200 baskets. And, the taxpayers got the happy-go-lucky, still usable watering machine out of storage, they got town workers who changed their hours so there will not be a traffic problem. And apparently the arms of the light poles will sustain the flowers.

Still we have to wonder ... how long till the plastic flowers are gone for good? Eighty years, or will it be more?

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