



# The Phelps Post

A community newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 3

Spring 2023

## Town of Phelps

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## Town Chair

Steve Doyen

## Town Board Supervisors

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Steve Waier

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2429 Hwy 17, PO Box 217  
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## Phelps Rummage-A-Rama

Saturday, June 17th  
8:00AM - 4:00PM.  
The fee is \$15 to be on the map. Entry forms are available at the Phelps Convenience Center. And maps will also be available at Phelps Convenience Center on that day.

## Join Phelps Pickleball Club!

Players meet at 8:30AM Wednesdays and Saturdays at Wavering Park in warmer months and at Phelps School in the colder months. New players are always invited to come out and try the fastest growing sport in the nation!

## A note from the Town Chair

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter! We still have winter hanging on as I write this, but warmer temps are right around the corner and snow will be behind us soon.

A few updates on current events: we are moving forward with the next steps of eminent domain on the old hospital, and after the court action is resolved we will be eager to proceed with the demolition and cleanup of the property. The town is also purchasing a new grader to replace our 40-year-old worn down grader. And we are looking into replacing our fire tanker truck.

In other news, we have plans for a new town garage to be located on Strong Road, which will

greatly help protect our equipment. The town was recently promised a generous monetary donation and we look forward to using the funds to promote businesses and increase attraction to our beautiful town.

Finally, the Town Board is working hard to get the State to improve the road conditions of Hwy 17 as soon as possible. We have sent letters out to all state officials seeking their assistance in expediting their 5-year road plan for town roads.

Wishing you and your families a summer full of fun, fish, hiking, biking and all else that Phelps has to offer! -Steve Doyen, Town Chair



## News from the Phelps Parks Commission

Since the fall, the Military Creek Trailhead project was completed and drainage issues at Lakefront Pines Park (LPP) have been addressed. Several dead or damaged pines have been removed from LPP, and 3 benches were installed along the Conover-Phelps Trail thanks to generous donations from local residents. Near the bench overlooking the Military Creek wetland, a bronze plaque was installed recognizing the contributions of many Phelps residents to bring the trail to completion. Thank you to all! Additionally, the Deer-skin Snowshoe Trails were well-used this winter.

Upcoming, there will be a **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Military Creek Trailhead on Saturday, May 27th at 10AM**. LPP will again host Music on the Lake events sponsored by the Phelps Chamber, as well as the Summer Party put on by the Chamber and the North & South Twin Lakes Ri-

parian Association, and Scarecrow Fest put on by the Phelps Woman's Club.

In other recent park upgrades, the first phase of converting one of the tennis courts at Wavering Park to pickleball courts will be completed in July, with the second phase is scheduled for 2024. Also, the first phase of adding rip rap along the shoreline at LPP to control erosion will take place. Grasses and shrubs will be planted to strengthen and beautify the shoreline. We also hope to install electrical boxes in LPP along Hwy 17 so food vendors can no longer obstruct the view of the lake during events in the park. And several pine trees will be placed among the tall pines at LPP to begin a reforestation project. The tall pines are over 125 years old, and more are dying or suffering storm damage. And upgrades to the Shooting Range are being planned, as well.

## Phelps Snowmobile Club plans summer event

The Phelps Snowmobile Club had a great 2022/23 season! In February the Club celebrated their 50th anniversary and in March the Club was awarded the title **Snowmobile Friendly Community** at the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs annual convention in Green Bay. The award was accepted by several Snowmobile Club Board members, the Chamber of Commerce Director and a Town Supervisor.

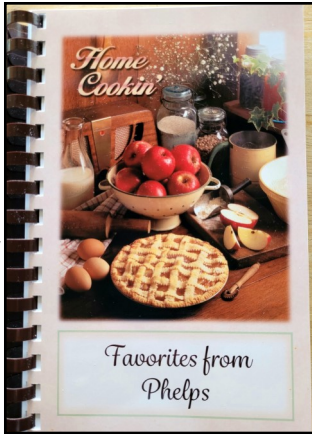
The 2023/24 season promises to be another fun

filled year. The Club will be holding their First Annual **Summer Ride event at Lakefront Pines Park from 3-9PM on Saturday, June 24th**. This fundraiser will include a Vintage Sled show and contest, raffles, live music by Common Ground from 5-8PM, and food trucks and beer tent! If you want to volunteer for the event or donate raffle items, please email Maureen Robinson at [phelpssnowmerch@gmail.com](mailto:phelpssnowmerch@gmail.com) or drop items off at the Chamber of Commerce Office in Phelps.

# Visit the Phelps Historical Museum this season

Welcome Spring! As the snow melts and the lakes open, our museum is getting ready for a new season. We are busy freshening up exhibits and putting final touches on new ones before our **Annual Open House on May 29th**. Stop in and check out the Phelps Museum's new swag this year!

Our Cash Raffle tickets: Grand Prize of \$1000, 2nd \$500, 3rd \$250. And the much anticipated reprint of *Home*



*Cookin~Favorites From Phelps*, last published 34 years ago, is now available for purchase.

Do you remember the Antique shop in Phelps? This year we will be feature Hackley House Antiques. Stop in and take a look at what was the Myers pride and joy. Is sports your thing? Come in for a look back at baseball in Phelps. Did you know a major league ballplayer and broadcaster calls Phelps his home? Most of you know the Wilderness Reserve, but do you know it's long history in Phelps of how it began as The Smoky Lake Game Reserve?

We have expanded our local Military collection thanks to the generous donation and loan of items by Norm & Kathy Mesun and Jack, Donald & Jerry Niemisto. Visit the museum to learn more.

Our season runs Memorial Day Weekend through mid September. Admission is free and donations are greatly appreciated. Help up celebrate the start of our season at our **Open House on Monday May 29th**, where complimentary light lunch and refreshments will be served immediately following the Memorial Day service at Phelps cemetery. If you're interested in becoming a member or volunteering, this is a great opportunity to learn more.

If you have memories of Phelps from yesteryear we would love you to share them! We encourage long-time year-round and seasonal residents to write your stories. These are important parts of history that all too often are lost to time. Help us preserve your memories by sharing them with us! We look forward to seeing you throughout the coming season.

## The Phelps Woman's Club plans Scarecrow Fest

The club is already planning **Scarecrow Fest on September 16, 2023**. All the awesome things that make the fest will be back, great food, great music, pumpkin chuckin', kids games, raffle baskets, quilt show, wine tasting, mums for sale, plus we are bringing back trout fishing for the kids. AND, new this year will be a car

show. Mark your calendar. More information will be coming. And don't forget, it's never too early to start your scarecrow to win \$100.

All local women (or men) are welcome to join the Phelps Woman's Club. Dues are \$20 a year and we meet once a month May through February.

Call Sharon Gifford at 715-617-0308 for more info.



## Eleanor Ellis Public Library Increases Programming

In December we displayed a Giving Tree where patrons purchased ornaments with proceeds going toward books and materials for kids in the Vilas County Foster Program. The total amount raised was \$306. We purchased Life Journals and books for 18 Phelps area foster children. Thank you to our generous givers!

This year we added seasonal adult programming, including sessions of Crafts with Carol Litchfield, Essential Oil Basics Class and Essential Oil Blending Class, as well as a Basic Seed Starting Session with Sheryl Ward of Wild Granny Home & Garden. We also continued our monthly Book Club and Writer's Workshops as well as continued Kid's programming and popular Stories with Ms. Laura Myszka. In March we hosted our 2nd Annual Creative Writing Contest, sponsored by the

Phelps Woman's Club, a big thank you them! We had participants from Phelps and Northland Pines School Districts, as well as the home school community and adults. Awards went to 13 winners in 5 divisions. This year's prizes were art materials of various forms and \$100 cash for the adult division winner. We look forward to next year's contest!

We are planning a busy summer with our Summer Reading Program, Pollinator's Please!, beginning June 5th. We will have our **Summer Family Programming Series kick-off on Wednesday, June 14th at 6:30pm**. Participants will enjoy a hotdog cookout, songs and stories around a campfire, authentic Northwoods smore's, and good old fashioned family fun. Other Summer Family programs include programs by Trees For Tomorrow

about pollinators and seeds, Stories by the Campfire Evenings, a concert with The Northwoods Ukers Ukulele Group, a Honey Bee Necklace Craft session, making seed bombs for planting, and more. For the second year in a row Summer Readers will have the opportunity to read to earn Books for Kids in Wisconsin's Children's Hospitals, sponsored by Dan and Lisa Volkmann.

Library hours are M, T, Th, F 10am-4pm; Wed 2pm-6pm; Sat 10am-1pm. Material pickup is 24/7 via secure outdoor lockers. Materials can also be delivered and picked up through Eleanor Ellis Homebound. Wi-Fi and digital services are available 24/7. Wireless printing, faxing, scanning and laminating services are also available. Visit [phelpspubliclibrary.org](http://phelpspubliclibrary.org) or [Eleanor Ellis PL](https://www.facebook.com/EleanorEllisPL) on facebook.



# Phelps Fire & EMS Updates

## News from Fire Chief Norm Mesun

The Phelps Fire Department has been busy! We had 163 emergency responses in 2022. Most were medical issues and rescue assist. We also had several structure fires, wild land fires, power lines down, car accidents, water rescues, and animal in distress rescues. With our mutual aid agreements we also responded to nearby townships for bigger incidents, and we receive help at our bigger emergencies. It is comforting to know there is additional resources nearby to help.

A big department welcome to Josh Hedberg and Sean Murphy who completed their firefighter training and state certification. They have been very active and effective in recent responses. We also have a new probationary member in training.

We are working on several equipment upgrades. We are outfitting a new flatbed truck for wild land and small fire responses. The new pump on it can be used as a water supply source in remote areas. We have many lakes and streams available and this unit can be brought to a water source and pump in excess of 500 gallons per minute into tanker trucks. This will be used in addition to the dry hydrants that can be a maintenance problem due to water level issues and silting.

We are also improving the open water rescue boat which will be used for recovery searches and emergencies on water and will have some water pumping capacity. These projects are funded by donations and fundraisers and no property tax dollars.

We are also soliciting quotes on a new pumper tanker to replace Engine 2 which is housed at Fire Station North. This truck is 22+ years old and has become a maintenance issue. There is a two year build time for fire trucks, so Engine 2 will be nearly 25 years old when traded in! A new truck is costly, but so are repairs on old ones. The town has a substantial reserve for this replacement.

Please mark your calendar for the **Fireman's Picnic & Pig Roast on Saturday July 15 at Wavering Park, 3PM till fireworks at dusk!** We appreciate the support shown by attending and improving services with funds raised.

## News from EMS Director Carole Selin

Northwoods Living Care will be holding a fundraiser **Picnic in the Park on June 28 at Wavering Park, 4PM - 8:30PM** to benefit Phelps EMS. The event will have live music by Old Pine Road Band, family activities, raffles, and more. The EMS crew will serve burgers, brats, pork sand-

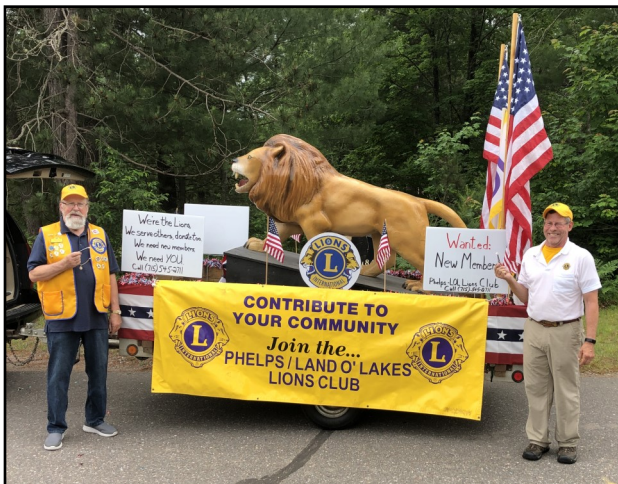


wiches, potato salad and chips. Kids under 10 get a hotdog, chips and juice for FREE. The Fire Department will sell beer, wine, soda, and water.

This year our EMTs were lucky to receive heated hi-visual jackets for cold weather ambulance runs from the fundraisers put on by Northwoods Living Care Foundation. Thank you!

Phelps EMS continues to hold classes and trainings to keep us updated on new procedures to provide better care to our patients, including a water rescue class that will help to better assist the Fire Department. We are always looking for people to become EMTs and EMRs. If you are interested please contact Carole Selin to learn more about the training involved and the duties. It is an awesome opportunity to help the people of our community!

## Join the Phelps - Land O' Lakes Lions Club!



The Phelps Lions Club was founded in 1981 and in 2014 the name changed to include Land O' Lakes after their club dissolved. Our mission is to serve our

communities and hold fundraisers to support our many charitable contributions.

Our community service includes chili judging at the Phelps Winter Carnival, vision screenings at Phelps School and Land O' Lakes Elementary, helping at the Phelps Halloween Party, and we participate in both the Phelps and Land O' Lakes July 4th parades. Our fundraisers include selling burgers and brats at Music

on the Lake events, Scarecrow Fest, Maple Syrup Fest, and parking cars at the Vilas County Fair.

We provide several annual \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors residing in Phelps and Land O' Lakes, we make contributions to the Phelps Library and Headwaters Food Pantry, and contribute to the Phelps Beautification Fund for flowers in the downtown. We also assisted with the cost of the restroom building at Lakefront Pines Park.

We are always looking for individuals who are interested in giving back to their community. We meet the third Thursday of the month at the Gateway Lodge in Land O' Lakes at 5 PM. Our meeting is followed by dinner. If you are interested in joining please contact Rollie Alger at 715-545-2711.

# The Phelps Post



## Town of Phelps

4495 Town Hall Road

PO Box 157

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[www.townofphelps.com](http://www.townofphelps.com)

**ATTENTION! We need your help get Hwy 17 rebuilt!** Hwy 17 from US 45 to the MI border is in very poor shape, with many eaves making traveling very treacherous and hard on our vehicles. And it slows response time for emergency calls for fire and EMS. Hwy 17 is scheduled to be repaired in 2028. We need to rally together to get it repaired sooner! The town has a sample letter with contacts at [www.townofphelps.com](http://www.townofphelps.com) or contact Steve Waier at 715-617-5552 to receive a sample letter.

## Music on the Lake in Phelps is back!

6-9pm Lakefront Pines Park in downtown Phelps  
Food trucks and beer tent! Bring chairs!

**June 23** - Unity the Band

**July 19** - Bret & Frisk

**July 28** - Summer Party w/ NSTLRA  
Chain Skimmers Show and Live Music!

**August 9** - Juke Dawgs



## Phelps Snowmobile Club Summer Ride

**June 24, 3-9pm** - Vintage Sleds - Live Music - Food & Beer

**Picnic in the Park for Phelps EMS - June 28**

## 4th on the Lake Celebration

**July 4, 3-10pm** - Grand Parade - Boat Parade  
Live Music - Food & Beer - Fireworks

**Fireman's Picnic & Pig Roast - July 15**

**Phelps Twin Triathlon - August 5**

**Scarecrow Fest - September 16**

**Midwest Musky Classic - October 6-8**

Phelps Chamber of Commerce 715-545-3800 [www.phelpswi.us](http://www.phelpswi.us)

## Clerk's Corner

**Local Gov Info:** The Town Clerk/Treasurer Sheryl Ward, and Deputy Clerk Sarah Kristmann are updating the town website [www.townofphelps.com](http://www.townofphelps.com), check it out! Enter your email address and click on "subscribe" at the bottom to get updates.

**Other Helpful Sites:** To see property tax info, visit [www.vilascountywi.gov](http://www.vilascountywi.gov). To request an absentee ballot, register to vote, find out about upcoming elections, visit [www.myvote.wi.gov](http://www.myvote.wi.gov).

**Garbage Dump and Recycling Info:** The Phelps Recycling/Transfer Station is at 4351 DNR Vista Lane off Strong Rd. Hours are: Sat after Labor Day thru Tues before Memorial Day, Sat 9AM-12PM. Sat before Memorial Day thru Tues after Labor Day, Tues 12PM-3PM & Sat 9AM-2PM. Recycle Vouchers at Town Hall are for \$15 towards eligible items, limited to 2 per primary residence per year.

**Use of Facilities:** The following facilities can be rented for private events - Wavering Park (including the pavilion, basketball court, tennis court, soccer field, ball fields), Fire Station Hall, Shooting Range, Town Hall, and Lakefront Pines Park (including the stage). You can find the reservation form and deposit information on the website. For more info, call 715-545-2270 or email [town-clerk.phelps@gmail.com](mailto:town-clerk.phelps@gmail.com).

## Town Lakes Committee – keeping Phelps' lakes healthy!

The Phelps Town Lakes Committee was formed in 2008 and serves as an advisory group to the Town Board concerning lake and stream issues. One of its most important roles is to work with the town on grant applications for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) treatment and management, as well as grant applications for the development of Lake Management Plans which are required for AIS grants. There are 8 lake associations or districts that are members of the Town Lakes Committee. Of these 8 lakes, 7 have Lake Management

Plans for addressing AIS. This is of the nearly 40 total lakes in Phelps.

The Town Lakes Committee meets annually or as necessary. Each member lake provides information on accomplishments and plans related to AIS and Lake Management plans. This information is compiled into an Annual Lakes Report presented to the Town Board. The Town Board provides financial assistance to member lakes for AIS treatment and management, and for the development and revision of Lake Management Plans. This assistance

helps lake organizations receive grants as local government support shows collaborative efforts to keep lakes as wholesome as possible to support tourism and recreational activities. As of 2018, 72% of Phelps' property taxes came from property located on lakes, rivers and streams.

