



# The Phelps Post

A community newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 2

Fall/Winter

## Town of Phelps

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Steve Doyen

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## A Note from the Town Chair

Welcome to the fall/winter newsletter. Our town has some great news for 2025 moving forward. We were awarded a 4.25 million dollar grant to build a new Library/Community Center for multi-purpose use, which will include the Town Hall and Chamber of Commerce offices! It will be located on the parcel of the current Town Hall and Library.

The Town also received approval from the electorate to construct a new Public Works (Town Shop) building which will be located on Strong Road. This is long overdue.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that we will

be tearing down the old hospital building.

This project will begin this winter with the abatement of the hazardous material at the direction of the WDNR and the removal of the entire building should be completed March -April 2025. Thank you all for your patience these past 7 years as we worked so hard for this moment in time.

As you can see, we have been very busy setting all three of these projects in motion. That's all for now. Enjoy the fall/winter season and thank you for all your support.

-Steve Doyen, Town Chair



## Exciting News for Phelps!

Thanks to Phelps applying for and winning

helping make our community's future brighter!

Town Board Supervisor Jeremy Ryan commented that "this remarkable investment of over \$8.5 million is a milestone for our town, and thanks to the grant, the project will cost us approximately \$4.3 million - a win for all. This project is not only about infrastructure; it's about building a place that brings us together and makes our community stronger. I want to thank each of you for your trust and confidence in the Town's vision. The unanimous vote and your generous support have made all of this possible. It takes time, dedication, and thoughtful planning to achieve impactful results. Special thanks go to the many generous donors who provide their time, donations, and expertise to strengthen our town's future. Moving beyond barriers, including previous inaction, issues of trust, and the often-heard 'but we've always done it this way'—has been no small feat. These mindsets can create doubt and roadblocks, but seeing our residents' faith in new directions fuels our determination to keep moving forward."

Ryan added that Phelps is also making significant strides on the hospital site project, working alongside the THRIVE team

as we carefully study the best future use for this area. This project is a huge undertaking that requires countless hours and thoughtful planning. We recently submitted a grant request for around \$83,000 to assist in the site's cleanup. By Thanksgiving, asbestos removal will begin. Depending on holiday schedules and underwriting processes, we hope to have final approval by Christmas. Regardless, we are set to begin demolition in the first quarter of 2025, taking one more major step toward revitalizing this area.

And Phelps' efforts go beyond these immediate projects. The Town is actively working to address other important issues, like creating more affordable housing and finding ways to enhance our community as a whole. We are refining our budget and seeking new efficiencies to make every dollar count and to deliver a budget that reflects responsible stewardship of your funds. All of these exciting developments will attract new investors to our town, promoting growth and bringing in more day-to-day conveniences. Together, we are establishing our town as a more profound destination in Northern Wisconsin.



a \$4.25 million dollar Flexible Facilities Grant awarded through the Governor's office, and the support of our community, Phelps is moving forward with plans to build a new community center and a much-needed town garage. To complete these projects, the Town will borrow \$3.9 million, which was recently approved by voters. As part of this endeavor, we're offering an opportunity for individuals, families, organizations, and businesses to leave a lasting impact. By contributing to our Community Center Fund, you can help us create a vibrant space that serves everyone - and be recognized for your support. Donations can be used to sponsor rooms, sections, or areas of the new center. This is a unique chance to dedicate a space in honor or memory of loved ones, or to show your commitment to the community. Whether you'd like to make a family memorial, recognize a local group, or contribute on behalf of a corporation, every donation will help us build a legacy for generations to come. Watch for exciting news about donation options coming soon. Thank you for

# News from the Phelps-Land O'Lakes Lions Club

provides annual \$1000 scholarships to graduat-



The Phelps-Land O'Lakes Lions Club bestowed the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award to the following members: Jerry Gifford, Wally Beversdorf, Bill Reckling, and Dr. "Painless" Pete Schindelholz. This award is the highest form of recognition and embodies humanitarian ideas consistent with the nature and purpose of Lionism. These members put in countless hours of leadership and volunteer service to the community.

The Phelps-Land O'Lakes Lions welcomed 8 new members in 2024: Stefan Anderson, Bret Miller, Gretchen and Joe Vespo, Alyssa and Dean Imse, John Huza, and Matt Reek. In addition, Brian Blank and Mike McAdams received 15

year Milestone Chevron Awards for their continued service. It's great to be a Lion!

The mission of the Phelps-Land O'Lakes Lions Club is to serve our local communities and conduct fundraising activities to support our many charitable contributions. Lions Clubs service activities include: vision (eyeglasses, corneal transplants and leader dog training), diabetes, youth, environment, humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and most recently, Childhood Cancer. In Wisconsin, we also help support Hope House in Madison for transplant patients and families, and Wisconsin Lions Camp for youth and adults with disabilities. If you would like more info on any of these, please contact us.

Our community service activities include vision screening at the Phelps and Land O'Lakes Elementary Schools, helping with Phelps School Halloween activities, and participating in the Phelps and Land O'Lakes July 4th Parades.

The Phelps-Land O'Lakes Lions Club

ing seniors in the Phelps and Land O'Lakes School Districts. We make regular contributions to the Phelps Library, Headwaters Food Pantry, FORK, and Warm the Children. We also support the Phelps Fire Department Santa project. Your local Lions Club also contributes to the Phelps Beautification Fund for hanging baskets. Larger scaled projects include helping in the purchase of the restroom at Lakefront Pines Park and the shelter at the ball field. And eyeglass drop boxes are located in the Phelps School office and at the Phelps Library.

We are always looking for individuals who are interested in giving back to their community. We believe it feels great to do good! If you are interested in becoming a member or helping contribute to one of the Lions Club causes, please contact Rollie Alger at 715-545-2711 or Steve Chandler 715-547- 6085, [stephen-jchandler1@gmail.com](mailto:stephen-jchandler1@gmail.com). And visit the Phelps-Land O'Lakes Lions Club Facebook page.

## Eleanor Ellis Public Library: New Beginnings!

Leaves have dropped their colors as they prepare for another season, and so is Eleanor Ellis Public Library. The new building that will house town offices, meeting spaces for community members and a bigger library, approved by town electors in October, will break ground in 2025. The updated library space will allow us to better serve our community and patrons, and we are excited to offer a dedicated children's space with more room for story time and more books. Adult patrons will also benefit from the new space where we will have improved seating, and a new fireplace to make you feel at home as you meet with friends or

relax with a book. The new building offers opportunities for programs that will educate community members, assist in job searches, online classes or even medical appointments.

We would also like to invite you to say Thank You to our outgoing Director, Kaye Petts, as she takes on a new role for Eleanor Ellis Public Library by joining The Board of Trustees. Kaye's kindness and creativity has inspired many in the community to read, write, and given them the confidence boost they needed without even realizing it, with her kind words and compassionate attitude. Behind the scenes she wrote articles, applied for

grants, solved problems for staff and patrons and **loved** the library.

The Board of Trustees would also like to introduce their new Director, Angie Carlson. Born and raised in Phelps she graduated from Phelps School in 2004 and UW-Stout in 2008. Angie and her family live in Phelps and their children, ages 4 to 11, attend Phelps School, and her husband Joel has been a Phelps Volunteer Firefighter since 2012.

Email - [director@phelps.wislib.org](mailto:director@phelps.wislib.org), web - [phelpspubliclibrary.org](http://phelpspubliclibrary.org).



### Phelps UCC Church

Phelps Congregational UCC Church services, led by Dr. Pamalyn Lee., are Sundays at 9AM. All are welcome to join us!

The congregation, led by Sharon Caskey, hosts Veterans' and Memorial Day services to honor our service men and women. We have Tom Hickson's gospel band every 4th Sunday. The Church also

hosts *Church by the Lake* in the spring to celebrate our heavenly location by the lake. And members host a *Hunter's Supper* the opening Saturday of deer season. The church is available for weddings, renewing vows, and funerals. The Congregational Church strongly believes in caring for our members and our community, that's why we say we are "The Little Church With a Big Heart".

The Phelps Congregational Church participates in Phelps Rummage-A-Rama, the Samaritan's Purse Project, and raises money for helping local causes. The church is also home to many quilters and serves as a location for quilt shows. We appreciate the community support and look forward to welcoming you to our church family on Sundays.



# Fall and Winter Greetings from the Phelps Historical Museum



A beautiful October was capped off with Northwoods hospital. Dr. Kim's career ghosts, goblins and one absolutely adorable hunter. Our thanks to the Kim family for spending some of their time visiting with us this summer.

2024 was a wonderful season at the museum. Collectively hosting over 300 visitors, local, and from across the country.

One visit of particular note was from Dr. & Mrs. Kim and their family. Dr. Kim was a well-known physician that lived and

We will be busy working over the winter on new displays for spring 2025. Among them, we will take an in-depth look at The Big Sand Lake Club as it celebrates a milestone centennial anniversary. And we are continuing working on our options for expansion. We've quickly outgrown our space and are exploring building an addition to make our museum a larger, more complete, and inclusive representa-

tion of our community. More space will allow more opportunities for display and research. The ability to partner with other area museums and local Tribes will allow us to provide a more immersive experience. We are excited by the opportunities this expansion will provide, allowing us to better educate our community and visitors about the area and our local history. As always we thank our patrons, visitors and volunteers for their support and dedication. We couldn't continue to grow and share our history without the supportive roll each of you play. We look forward to sharing our vision for the future in the upcoming year and how you can help us achieve these goals. Have a beautiful winter season!

## Phelps Fire Department: Fall into Safety Season!

The Phelps Fire Department had a great day at a safety fair at the station with Phelps School 4K - 5th graders. We were happy to show our emergency trucks and



equipment as a reminder to stay safe from fire and what to do in emergencies. We were also glad to have Officer Shelby of the Vilas County Sheriff's Dept attend and explain the police side of safety. And we gave out goodies including batteries to take home for smoke detectors. As we turn back the clocks and our furnaces start kicking, it is a reminder to replace the batteries in smoke detectors.

Also to improve safety, the Phelps Woman's Club has purchased smoke and carbon monoxide detectors which are now available to anyone who needs one. The Phelps Fire Department is happy to arrange to install them. If you, or a friend or family member needs one, please contact us by email at [phelpsfiredepartment@gmail.com](mailto:phelpsfiredepartment@gmail.com).

In regards to carbon monoxide detectors, a little known fact is that carbon monox-

ide detectors EXPIRE. Some information from one of the manufacturers of these units reads "When the CO alarm emits a quick beep every 30 seconds and the red LED flashes, the unit has reached the end of its 7 to 10 year life. Replacing the batteries will not stop the chirp if the unit is at the end of its useful life and it will not detect the presence of carbon monoxide." CO detectors expire in 7 to 10 years! They have a manufacture date on the back of the unit. If your CO detector is beeping, check the manufacture date and if it is over 7 years old it should be replaced. Although we will be happy to come out and check your CO levels if you suspect an unsafe condition, it would be wise to check the unit first. Wishing all a safe heating season and reminder that we are here if you need us.

- Norm Mesun, Phelps Fire Chief

## Phelps Snowmobile Club Plans Phelps Radar Run

The Phelps Snowmobile Club will have two big fundraising events this winter. The **Trailside Roast** will be on **January 11, 2025**, co-hosted with Conover Sno-Buddies at the intersection of Trails 8 & 6 near Blong Rd, Vilas County intersection #500.

And **Phelps Radar Run** will be held on **January 25, 2025**. The track will be located on North Twin Lake in front of Great

Escape Bar. For more information on these events please contact the Chamber of Commerce Office at 715-545-3800.

Groom to Ride Raffle Tickets and Cash Raffle tickets are also sold to help support the Club's fundraising efforts. They are available at many Phelps businesses.

Thank you for your support and let's hope for a snowy winter with lots of great riding on the best trails in the Northwoods!



**1/25/25 at Great Escape!**

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PHELPS, WI 54554

## Clerk's Corner

*Helpful info from Town Hall staff!*

**Thank you to our Poll Workers!** Phelps is very fortunate to have a dedicated, experienced, informed, and reliable team of Poll Workers. Thanks to this great group of men and women, the November 5, 2024, General Election ran smoothly and efficiently. Thanks also to the Phelps Citizens for your courteous and patient participation during a very busy election.

**Room Tax** Room Tax begins January 1, 2025. If your Phelps property is used as a short-term rental property, and you have not yet received a letter and forms from the Clerk's office, please let us know and we will get these to you. Per the Room Tax Ordinance, your first payment will be due to the Town of Phelps April 10, 2025. Ordinance 2023-1 and forms are available to view and print on the Town website.

**Town Website** [www.townofphelps.com](http://www.townofphelps.com)

Visit the Town website to find various forms and permit applications, answers to common questions, a calendar of events, meeting agendas and minutes, town contacts, news, notices, ordinances, resolutions, and much more. To receive automatic updates, scroll down on the homepage for the option to 'Subscribe to Receive Town Updates'. Updates can be received by text or email.

**Property Tax Bills** Tax bills will be arriving in mailboxes and online, at [vilascountywi.gov](http://vilascountywi.gov), mid-December. Look for the Treasurer's Page when searching the Vilas County website. Bills will be sent out as soon as they are printed. If your mailing address has changed, be sure to notify the Vilas County Tax Lister. This can be done online at the Vilas County website, or we can provide you with a form for mailing.

**Lottery Credit** If you have made Phelps

your primary residence within the last couple of years, check your tax bill to make sure you are receiving the lottery credit on your tax bill! Information and answers to commonly asked questions can be found here: [www.revenue.wi.gov/Pages/Form/lottery-home.aspx](http://www.revenue.wi.gov/Pages/Form/lottery-home.aspx)

**MyVote WI** [www.myvote.wi.gov](http://www.myvote.wi.gov). A website for all things relating to Wisconsin Elections. Here you can register to vote, update your name and address, request an absentee ballot, find out when elections are scheduled and what's on the ballot, view election results, and more. Your Clerk/Treasurer and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer are here to help you with any number of issues, questions, or concerns you may have regarding the Town of Phelps. If we can't help you, we will try to point you in the right direction to find someone who can. Thank you. Sheryl Ward & Kathleen Ray, 715-545-2270.

## Phelps Christmas Tree Lighting

Make sure to join us at the lakefront on December 7th at 4pm for caroling, hot chocolate, hot dogs, and the tree lighting at 5pm. Kids can start at the library at 3pm to make a special ornament for the tree. We hope to see you there!

2024 Scarecrow Fest opened to a beautiful day at the lakefront. We had record attendance and Phelps Woman's Club raised over \$33,000. We want to extend our gratitude to all who attended, participated, and volunteered. The food and music were great and basket raffles, boutique, and Wine Tasting had big crowds all day. The ever-popular Pumpkin Chuckin' provided great entertain-

ment. We had 53 craft vendors, 21 more than last year, and more cars in the Car Show. The Congregational Church was transformed with beautiful quilts, and the kids had fun Trout Fishing and painting pumpkins. This event is incredibly exciting for the Phelps, and we are committed to continuing the tradition on Sept 13, 2025.

The Woman's Club is active throughout the year with sponsorships for Music on the Lake, downtown flower boxes, annual commitment to the Library, scholarships, support for the Foster Care program, and the new tradition of the Christmas Tree Lighting. The Phelps Woman's Club is proud to be a part of the community and so thrilled with the support we receive.

