



The Phelps Post

A community newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2022

Town of Phelps

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A Note from the Town Chair

Hello, everyone. And welcome to the first issue of the new Phelps community newsletter! As I sit here writing this letter the days are getting warmer and longer. Just an update on the old nursing home - we are moving forward to hopefully have it removed and cleaned up by the end of the year. Some challenges we face this year include replacing highway equipment and planning for our roads with the increasing prices of oil and fuel. Please enjoy reading the new newsletter and learning about the many things happening in our town!

-Steve Doyen, Town Chair



New Community Center Proposal

Phelps is exploring the possibility of a new town hall and community center to be located on the present Wavering Park site. For over 20 years Phelps has been accruing funds and considering a new expanded community center. In February 2021, a committee was formed to investigate Town needs and tour other community centers in Vilas and Oneida counties. After compiling a list of needs, a top-

notch design firm was recruited to draw up concept sketches and a floor plan. Meetings were held with representatives from the Town Board, Town Offices, Library, Chamber of Commerce, Woman's Club, Lions Club and the Museum. The new community center design will include more office space, a large gathering hall for events, a larger room for Town meetings with multi-media capability, the

Chamber, the Library, and serve as a hub for future activities. A first design review was held in February and all functions provided their feedback. An information session will be held on **Tuesday, July 12th at 6pm in the Wavering Park Pavilion**. We encourage everyone to attend to learn more and offer feedback. If this project were to move forward, broad taxpayer support and a fund-raising campaign would be required.

Town Crew Updates

2021 was a busy year for several road repairs. We re-constructed 4.4 miles of Kentuck Lake Road and another 1/2 mile for reconstruction of Charlie's and Hazen Lane. We replaced several culverts, added gravel and graded over 50 miles of

gravel roads. Did you know we have over 102 miles of roads to maintain in Phelps! We also added a new dump truck, patrol truck and we replaced our aged backhoe. We hope to reconstruct Grosser lane this year and we applied for grant assistance.

Phelps Youth Rec and Booster Club

The Phelps Youth Rec Association strives to provide school sports opportunities and prepare elementary and middle school kids for high school sports. Making children part of the community, encouraging positive sportsmanship, and fostering a love for sports is the top priority. The Youth Rec Association has recently collabo-

rated with the Phelps Booster Club to best ensure that all students receive support and funding to make sports programs possible. Together both clubs will host the annual softball tournaments which are the biggest fundraisers of the year, continue the \$500 scholarship program for participating applicants, and hold monthly meet-

ings. If you are interested in being part of the Phelps Youth Rec Association and Phelps Booster Club, contact Lori Merkel at 715-350-1407.

43rd Annual Men's Softball Tournament
July 29-31, 2022

Old Timers Softball Tournament
August 19-21, 2022

Summer
fun in
Phelps!



June 15 - Music on the Lake, Unity the Band

June 22 - Music on the Lake, Forrest Pike

July 4 - 4th on the Lake Celebration
Grand Parade, Boat Parade, Fireworks,
Live Music by Forrest Pike & Rebel Jane

July 16 - Fireman's Picnic & Pig Roast
Live Music by The ChillBillies and
Fireworks at Wavering Park

July 20 - Music on the Lake, Bret & Frisk

July 29 - Summer Party co-hosted by NSTLRA with Chain Skimmers Water Ski Show and Live Music by Shirts & Skins

August 6 - Phelps Twin Triathlon
A family friendly paddle, bike, run race!

visit www.phelpswi.us for more info

News from Eleanor Ellis Public Library

Eleanor Ellis Public Library has been back in full swing business since August 11, 2021. Open hours are, Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri: 10am-4pm, Wed 2pm-6pm and Sat 10am-1pm. We can be found online at phelpspubliclibrary.com or on Facebook at Eleanor Ellis PL. We currently provide masks at our entry door, if you prefer, and are keeping up with recommended sanitizing and social distancing precautions.

The library has added two new staff members since our doors reopened. We welcome back Kaye Petts as Library Director. Kaye was previously employed by Eleanor Ellis from 2009 to 2014, when she left to care for her newly adopted children. She has been back since August 2021 and looks forward to her future with Eleanor Ellis Public Library. We also welcome Carol Litchfield to our staff as Library Assistant and Youth Services Coordinator. Carol brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to our library. She has settled in and is proving to be a perfect fit, as our goal is to continue to strive for a positive library presence in our community.

We have much happening at our library. We now have an easy to use and secure outdoor locker system, which provides

24/7 access to materials. We have also implemented a new delivery service called Eleanor Ellis Homebound, where Phelps Township patrons who cannot leave their homes for various reasons can have materials delivered and picked up. We also continue to offer curbside pickup for those interested. Call the library for more information or to schedule any of these services, 715-545-2887.

Programming options we now have available include Storytime with Ms. Laura Myszka, which meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2pm. Storytime is open to ages preschool and up and participants will receive a Take and Make craft along with a treat. A virtual version of Ms. Laura's stories can also be found on our website. Check out our newest virtual children's program on YouTube at Ellie's Hometown Bookshelf. Ellie's Hometown Bookshelf hosts stories, art displays, kids music and movement videos, along with future plans of Music with Mr. Tedd Pasternak and his accordion, the adventures of making Maple Syrup, the view from inside a local chicken coop and Reading with Rain; the most awesome therapy dog, just to name a few. And for adults: Next Chapter Book Club meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at

6pm. Write On Writer's Group meets monthly. Call the Library for dates and times or visit our website for updates.

Looking ahead... Our Summer Reading Program is back from June 20-August 12. Reading challenges are open to kids and adults with incentives and prizes! Special family programming is scheduled for each week and will include Reptile and Amphibians with Trees for Tomorrow, Stories by the Campfire, Hiking the Northwoods, Animal Tracks with Trees For Tomorrow, Art Inspirations, Skulls Skins & Bones with Trees for Tomorrow and more. More info will be available on our website or call the library.

A Special Adult Program is set for Wednesday, June 8 at 3pm: Common Scams and Fraud plus Identity Theft with Jeffrey Kersten from Wisconsin Division of Trade and Consumer Protection.

We are excited to reconnect with old friends and form new friendships. Come hang out with us at Eleanor Ellis Public Library. We are excited to be part of our growing Phelps, Wisconsin on the Lake.



Enjoy a complimentary coffee when you visit the library!

Phelps Snowmobile Club Celebrates 50 Years

The Phelps Snowmobile Club is a volunteer organization that maintains 40 miles of the most pristine trails in Northern Wisconsin. Our trails are deep in the Nicolet National Forest and include North and South Twin Lakes and Lac Vieux Desert. There are restaurants, bars, and gas stations to stop at along the trails!

We had a fantastic 2021/2022 season. Thanks to great working relationships with our businesses, landowners, volunteers and the trail groomers, our trails

were some of the best in the area.

Our club also participated in a logo contest with a \$100 prize won by a local student, Pumpkin Chucking at Scarecrow Festival, Trail Brushing, Trailside Roast with Conover Sno-Buddies, Tuesday and Thursday club rides and monthly club dinner meetings.

2022/2023 already promises to be a good year as well. The Phelps Snowmobile Club will be commemorating a signif-

icant milestone as the club will reach its 50-year anniversary. We are planning some exciting events to celebrate. We are creating a fundraising committee to review our events and look for new opportunities to raise money to pay for our groomer purchased 2 years ago, and new equipment we may need to purchase or replace to maintain the trails in great condition.

Please consider joining the Phelps Snowmobile Club! We have a great time on the trails and at our events.

Helping Hands at the Headwaters Food Pantry

The Headwaters Food Pantry in Land O' Lakes has served residents of Land O' Lakes, Phelps and Conover for over 30 years. Food Pantry services are open to all. Clients simply fill out a form so the Pantry can track items picked up; all in-

formation collected is confidential. The Pantry currently assists over 40 Phelps families. At the Pantry shoppers can be provided with a grocery list or a volunteer to shop with. With uncontrollable risings costs that affect our monthly budgets,

the Headwaters Food Pantry is available to assist more families! It is open the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month from 8:30 - 11:30am, visit or call 715-547-6060 for more information.

Happy Spring from the Phelps Historical Museum

As the snow and ice slowly melts our thoughts turn to spring and summer.

The museum board has been working hard all winter planning for the upcoming season and future projects.

New this year is our 50/50 Raffle! Tickets are on sale now and the jackpot will continue to grow until the drawing on September 17, 2022.

Thanks to the generous lending and donating of items our museum is quickly growing. We are currently exploring options for the expansion of our building

giving us much needed additional storage, exhibit and research space.

This season in addition to our regular permanent displays we will have a video documentary on the Ford-Becker-Lee property available for in house viewing. Other new exhibits feature the Phelps Theater and The Military Hill Fire Tower.

We will also be hosting a special event, Night At The Museum for NSTLRA members on June 23rd. Information is available at www.nstlra.com/event.

We are always looking for people who enjoy history to volunteer with us.

Hours are flexible and time spent is engaging. There's a position for everyone whether greeting people during open hours, helping at events or cataloging inventory. Interested individuals can contact Joan Barrett for more information at Volunteers4PHM@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing everyone this summer and as always we appreciate your support and patronage.

Fireworks in Phelps

Mark your calendars and join us on July 4th at dark for one of the best fireworks displays in the area. This amazing show is made possible by the hard work of Mike Myszka and the Phelps Volunteer Fire Department. We are always looking to improve, upgrade and replace the necessary equipment to make these shows bigger, better, and safer every year. Phelps provides residents and visitors a spectacular show every Independence Day.

This town sponsored event is one example of what makes Phelps great, and you are the other. Your generous donation towards fireworks makes a huge difference each year as we strive to make the show bigger and better. It would be tough to do this without you and we thank you for your continued support. Contributions can be made



at any time. Please make the checks payable to the Town of Phelps Fireworks Fund, PO Box 157 Phelps, WI 54554. And of course you will see Pauleyn Nystrom collecting the day of at Lakefront Pines Park! Feel free to contact her at 715-545-3012. We hope to see you again or welcome you for the first time, either way it is the perfect way to end a fun filled day with family and friends!

Who is the Town Constable and what does he do?

Rick Brown is The Phelps Town Constable. He serves any writ, process order, or notice to any Phelps citizen not abiding by the town ordinances. These notices are presented to him by the Town Board and the Constable then serves the notice to the person in question.

Phelps residents can also contact the Constable at 715-617-0196 when there is a domesticated animal found on private property. The Constable will attempt to catch the pet and contact the owner. If an owner is not located, lost pets are taken to the Vilas County Humane Society.

Phelps Woman's Club

Dedicated to a better life in Phelps

The biggest event for the Phelps Woman's Club is the Annual Scarecrow Fest in downtown Phelps. What started out very small to thank the people of Phelps for their support has become a major community event and festival that attracts visitors from all over the state and beyond.

The members of the Woman's Club are dedicated to using the proceeds from Scarecrow Fest to improve the lives of local children and to make the town attractive to vacationers and our citizens.

In 2021-2022 we continued town beautification with flower boxes and Christmas

decorations. This year was our first Christmas Tree Lighting, and plans are to continue and improve that event.

We give scholarships to local students (including for adult education), support the Headwaters Food Pantry, the Firemen's Auxiliary Project Santa, and 60+ years of supporting the Eleanor Ellis Phelps Library.

This year we purchased flags for the downtown lampposts and sponsored one of the Music on the Lake events.

Our newest initiative is the Phelps Woman's Club Kindness Crew. We have set aside funds to be used in case of a local emergency. We also made a large contribution to the Foster Care Program of Vi-

las County. In addition, we are looking for ways to help the elderly in our community with individual needs.

If you want to join the Woman's Club, it is open to all local women. You don't have to live in Phelps or be year-round. About 1/4 of our members are summer residents. Contact Sharon Gifford at 715-616-0308 or gifford.se3@gmail.com to attend a meeting at no obligation.



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PHELPS, WI 54554

What has the Phelps Park Commission been up to?

The Phelps Park Commission has been busy lately! In Lakefront Pines Park, boulders were added and nine flower boxes installed which are maintained by the Phelps Woman's Club. Additionally parking signage was installed and signage added at the entrance to the Conover-Phelps Bike Trail. The bandshell stage was wired and painted and the town brand *Phelps on the Lake* was affixed. And additional pier sections were added to the lakefront dock!



In other updates, Phase 1 of 2 of the Military Creek Trailhead has been completed. This includes a roughed-in parking area, entrance road, on/off loading ramps and fenced enclosures around test well caps. 80% of the trailhead costs were covered by a DNR grant! And at the Kentucky Lake boat landing, a vault toilet was installed which was also funded by a DNR grant. Finally, a new Bob Cat Tool Cat was purchased to replace the previous 10-year old Tool Cat.

In the upcoming quarter, the Park Commission plans to obtain estimates for more projects including adding additional outlets to the bandshell stage and installing perimeter wiring around the fest

grounds, for topsoil and sodding the fest grounds, for installing parking stops along the lakefront parking area, graveling around the base of the restroom slope to address drainage problems, graveling the parking area across from the Post Office, for replacing fencing around the west ball field, and for completion of Phase 2 of the Military Creek Trailhead (additional fencing, vault toilet, kiosk and some asphaltting). Additionally, a chain gate will be installed in the southeast corner of the fest grounds and a dozen picnic tables will be constructed for Lakefront Pines Park. A new overhead garage door will be installed in the storage building in Wavering Park. Two additional dock sections will be purchased for the Kentucky Lake boat landing dock using DNR grant funds. Long-range plans will be discussed to address erosion control issues along a section of park shoreline, develop a maintenance plan for structures in Wavering Park and plans to remodel the Phelps Shooting Range in several years.

As you can see, we are trying to make Lakefront Pines Park a destination location for Phelps. But, it will take us a number of years to accomplish the sod installation, addressing the drainage issue and providing maintenance-free picnic tables for the public. If you are interested in assisting us by making a donation in the name of a loved one, please contact the Phelps Town Clerk at 715-545-2270.



PHELPS SPRING CLEAN-UP!

**MAY 21, 2022
8:00 AM – 11:00 AM
TOWN GARAGE
4497 TOWN HALL ROAD**

It's time for our annual Spring Clean-up! Dumpsters will be available for all Phelps residents. All garbage must be bagged, boxed or bundled.

ACCEPTING RECYCLABLES, FURNITURE, METAL, WOOD & YARD WASTE.

WILL NOT ACCEPT HAZARADOUS MATERIALS, PAINT, MOTOR OIL, TIRES, TELEVISIONS, ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT OR APPLIANCES

YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK!

For more info call 715-545-2270