



The Phelps Post

A community newsletter

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A Note from the Town Chair



Welcome to this Spring Newsletter. It's nice to have this early spring. We had an ice rescue out on South Twin Lake this past March. Our Fire and Rescue went above and beyond to save a man's life. We are very fortunate to have such great people on our Fire, EMS, and Rescue teams. Thank you again to all involved!

The progress on the old hospital building is slow-

ly moving in the right direction. Right now, we are working on grant opportunities to help us bring down the cost of demolition. Also, TomCat Holdings is challenging the amount of payment they were awarded for the property – this court date is scheduled for March 2025 so we are discussing whether to hold off on clearing the property until this has all been finalized. I know this eyesore has been such an embarrassment for our otherwise beautiful community and I remain grateful for your trust and patience.

Wishing you all a nice summer. Enjoy our beautiful Northwoods!

-Steve Doyen, Town Chair

Spring Soirees and Scenic Strolls: What's Happening in Phelps Parks!

News from the Phelps Park Commission

As stewards of the natural beauty and recreational opportunities that define Northern Wisconsin, the Phelps Park Commission is pleased to share our latest endeavors aimed at elevating your outdoor experiences within the Phelps Park System! Situated amidst the breathtaking landscapes and pristine waters of our region, our parks serve as a cornerstone of community engagement and environmental stewardship.

In our ongoing commitment to fostering a dynamic recreational environment, we are strategically exploring new avenues to enhance the park's offerings. Our initiatives range from curated nature excursions to meticulously planned recreational activities, designed to cater to the diverse interests of our esteemed patrons.

The latest developments around the lakes are quite exciting! Notably, there's a new dock and porta potty installed on Long Lake, making access and convenience much smoother for visitors. On Smoky Lake, there's anticipation brewing as plans to upgrade are in the works. Additionally, there's a thorough investigation into the feasibility of establishing a sand volleyball court in the park, adding another recreational option for everyone to enjoy. And let's not forget the eagerly awaited completion of phase II for the pickleball courts, promising even more fun and activity for enthusiasts.

Recognizing the importance of safety and accessibility, we are steadfast in our efforts to modernize the shooting range and im-

prove the infrastructure of our boat landings. These enhancements prioritize the well-being of our visitors and contribute to the sustainable management of our natural resources.

As guardians of Northern Wisconsin's natural heritage, we invite you to join us in embracing the boundless beauty and recreational opportunities that Phelps Parks have to offer. Whether you seek solitude amidst nature's embrace or camaraderie in shared outdoor pursuits, the Phelps Park System remains a beacon of possibility and enrichment for all.



Phelps Emergency Services News

There are great things happening in Phelps emergency services! Our big news is we have 6 (yes SIX!) new members finishing their training to become EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians). After months of grueling meetings and hands on training consisting of 4 evening hours twice a week. What a huge commitment in service to our town. These additional members will better ensure a quick and efficient response with our ambulance when you dial 911 for medical assist. So proud of all of them. We also have 2 new firefighter members.

And speaking of proud, I as the Phelps Fire Chief, and you as citizens, can be proud of several of our emergency responders that were given a special award of recognition by the town board for extraordinary service saving a life in an ice rescue in March. Members receiving this special recognition were Andy Regenfuss, Rob Andersen III, Jeremy Ryan, Sean Murphy and Damian Seals. Other emergency services members were also recognized for their help in the rescue including our emergency medical team that all contributed to a successful outcome.



We have been working all winter on a complete rebuild of our what we call our "brush truck". Now complete, and in service. It is primarily a smaller version of a fire truck well suited to wild land fires as it is a nimble truck with pumping and suction water transfer capabilities. It is well suited to any of the smaller fire incidents as it is quick with a hose reel rather than a large compliment of heavy hose. Big trucks for big stuff and this unit for smaller incidents. As we were determining how to



set it up, we opted for a high capacity suction ability pump to be able to transfer water from the many streams and lakes into tanker trucks when hydrant water is not feasible as a water source. We have had several trainings with this new unit and are very pleased with results. We can move 3000 gallons of water from a lake into a tanker truck in 7 minutes 11 seconds! 417 gallons a minute! For perspective, your kitchen faucet flows about 3 gallons a minute.



We applied for and received a partial grant for the pump for the new truck from the DNR, and ALL the rest of the project was paid for with fundraising and donations and NO property tax dollars. This truck will also be used for pulling the off road rescue unit and the other ongoing project, the open water rescue boat which is nearing completion. More to follow on that project in the next newsletter.

A huge THANK YOU to the community for their support as we promise ours in service.

- Norm Mesun, Phelps Fire Chief

Eleanor Ellis Public Library: Books are Just the Beginning!

We know how busy summer can get for a family with children! This year as part of our Summer Reading Program, we have much available to do anytime of the week. No registration, set days, or schedule to keep, just great resources and super fun options, set up for easy access any day of the week.

Beginning Tuesday, June 4 through Friday, July 26, kids will have weekly opportunities to check out books from our Summer Reading Book picks and receive scratch off tickets for ice cream, cool prizes, and a chance to raise funds for our 3rd annual Books for Kids in Marshfield Children's Hospital. We will also offer Wisconsin State Park Nature Discovery and Explorer Mystery Solving Kits, Catch & Color and A Big Splash of Color activity packets, weekly Take & Make craft kits,

weekly Mystery Box Puzzle sheets, Rainy Day Legos & Magna Tile fun and more. Tile fun and more. For the 3rd year in a row, the Yukers will be providing a free concert on Friday July 12th, at 1:30p.m. (location still to be determined). The library will again give away a Ukulele to one lucky concert goer. Families can also checkout our 6-person, one-day Family Pass for the Northwoods Children's Museum in Eagle River (must call the library to reserve). There will be lots of options to explore. Watch our website for more details.

New additions to our library include the Phelps Historical Museum display cases, where the museum staff rotates a bit of Phelps' history. We also have a beautiful Our Town Photo Pocket Wall Quilt, donated by the Phelps Woman's Club. Lend us

your 5 x 7 photo, portrait or landscape, of anything representative of our Northwoods community. All photos will be returned to the owner.

Beyond our consistently updated collection of books and movies for Adults and Children, we have patron computers for use during business hours, Wi-Fi 24/7, ongoing puzzle and magazine exchange, coffee, tea and snacks and so much more. Visit us Mon, Tu, Th & F, 10am – 4pm, Wed 2pm – 6pm and Sat 10am – 1pm. Material pickup is also available 24/7 using our secure, outdoor locker system and is available upon request by calling the library during regular business hours. Find us online at phelpspubliclibrary.org or on Facebook at Eleanor Ellis PL. Call 715-545-2887 or email director@phelps.wislib.org.

Motor in to the Phelps Historical Museum this summer!

Happy spring everyone! We're looking forward to the return of summer weather and a new season of sharing our history with you. Before we get to our new displays, we have some news to share.

We lost two very important people within our museum family last year. Jack Carlson our friend, expert woodcarver, and a Thursday night fixture passed away this winter. Jack left us with many gifts, his abundant knowledge of Phelps, amazing handcrafted depiction of a 1930's downtown, and his warm friendship. Jack, you will be missed.

We also remember Dennis Holcomb. Denny made numerous contributions to the museum throughout the years. One example of his handy work is the wonderful walking tour signs that guide visitors around town sharing its history.



There's so much that goes on behind the scenes at the museum, we certainly are grateful to have had these men as a part of our museum family. Their talent, gifts, and memory will continue to live on.

This year at the museum we take a fun look back at all things automotive!

Did you know Phelps had a successful car dealership and several services stations?

Do you know where these buildings are or what new businesses now call them home? Cruise in and check it out!

This year we also recognize St. John Ev. Lutheran Church as they celebrate 75 years! Explore the interesting history this house of worship has in Phelps.

We will be hosting our annual open house, Memorial Day, following services at the Phelps cemetery. Stop in to see what's new while enjoying sandwiches and light refreshments. There will be opportunities to renew membership and purchase museum swag and books.

Interested in volunteering? We will be happy to answer all of your questions. We look forward to seeing everyone this summer and as always, we are grateful for your patronage and continuing support.

- Your Phelps Historical Museum

Phelps-Land O'Lakes Lions Club at your service!

The Phelps-Land O'Lakes Lions Club is a community service club with male and female members. Lions International has 1.4 million members in 49,000 clubs who bring hands and hearts to communities in nearly every country on earth.

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 and donations.

Lions Clubs International 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 support Hope House in Madison for transplant patients and families, and Wisconsin Lions Camp, which is free to youth and adults with disabilities. If you would like more information on any of these, stop by and see us this summer or contact us!

Some of our fundraising activities include serving brats and burgers at the Phelps Music on the Lake: June 21, July 17, July 26, and August 7. We will also be at the Land O'Lakes Historical Society event "Moonshine in the Northwoods" on July 13. Once again, look us parking cars at the Vilas County Fair August 8-11. We also serve burgers and brats at Scarecrow Fest and Maple Syrup Fest. We appreciate the community's support!

Our community service activities include vision screening at 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. Club members also set up Christmas decorations at Lakefront Pines Park in downtown Phelps.

The Phelps-Land O'Lakes Lions Club provides annual \$1000 scholarships to graduating seniors in Phelps and Land O'Lakes. 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. We also contribute to the Phelps Beautification Fund for hanging baskets. And we assisted in the purchase of the restroom at Lakefront Pines Park and the shelter at the ball field.

We are always looking for individuals who are interested in giving back to their community. We believe it feels great to do good and we'd love to have you as part of our team! If you are interested in becoming a member or helping contribute to one of the Lions Club causes, please contact Rollie Alger 715-545-2711 or Steve Chandler 715-547-6085, stephenjchandler1@gmail.com. And visit the Phelps-Land O'Lakes Lions Club Facebook page!



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Phelps Snowmobile Club Summer Ride Picnic

A night of live music and fun!

The Phelps Snowmobile Club will hold their 2nd annual **Summer Ride Picnic** on July 12th from 4-9 PM in downtown Phelps. Vendor booths, food and beverages will be available starting at 4 PM. Live music from the fantastic local band **Bogfoot** from 6-9 PM. There will also be a face painting booth from 4-8 PM. There will be a \$1,000 cash raffle, a Phelps Snowmobile quilt raffle (quilt was donated by Julie and Jim Paquette), basket raffles, 50/50 raffles, prize wheel, and lots of new merchandise, including UV Sun shirts, V-neck Ts, crewneck Ts, baseball caps, travel mugs, gnomes, and lots of items for children. Cash donations can be mailed to the Phelps Snowmobile Club, PO Box 214, Phelps, WI, 54554 and baskets can be dropped off at the Phelps Chamber, or email phelpssnowmerch@gmail.com, to initiate a credit card payment. All donations made to support our event are deeply appreciated!



Music on the Lake in Phelps!

Lakefront Pines Park in downtown Phelps
Food trucks and beer tent. Bring chairs!

June 21, 6-9pm - Night Shift

July 17, 6-9pm - Juke Dawgs

July 26, 5-10pm - Summer Party

Chain Skimmers Ski Show and Live Music!

August 7, 5-8pm - Jenna Jane Band



Picnic in the Park for Phelps EMS - June 26
4th on the Lake Celebration
July 4, 3-10pm - Street Parade - Boat Parade
Live Music - Food & Beer - Fireworks

Phelps Snowmobile Club Summer Ride Picnic
July 12, 4-9pm - Vendors - Raffles - Music - Food & Beer

Fireman's Picnic & Pig Roast - July 20
Phelps Twin Triathlon - August 3
Scarecrow Fest - September 14
Midwest Musky Classic - October 4-6

Phelps Chamber of Commerce 715-545-3800

Clerk's Corner

Helpful info from Town Hall staff!

Town Website - www.townofphelps.com

Visit the Town website to find various forms and applications, answers to common questions, a calendar of events, meeting agendas and minutes, town contacts, news, notices, and much more. While there scroll down on the homepage for the option to *Subscribe to Receive Town Updates*. Updates can be received by text message or email.

Permits - All Building Permits are applied for through the Vilas County Zoning Department. Mitch Buhler is the Deputy Zoning Administrator for the Town of Phelps. Mitch can be

reached at 715-479-3734, or apply online at vilascountywi.gov. The only permits issued by the Town of Phelps are Driveway Permits for Town roads only.

Property Tax Bills - If your mailing address has recently changed, be sure to contact Vilas County to update it by November 15, 2024. This will ensure timely delivery of your tax bill. Visit vilascountywi.gov to update.

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! Information and answers to commonly asked questions can be found here: www.revenue.wi.gov/Pages/Form/lottery-home.aspx

MyVote WI - 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 point you in the right direction to find someone who can. Thank you!

- Sheryl Ward, Clerk/Treasurer

- Sarah Kristmann, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer