



The Phelps Post

A community newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

Fall 2022

Town of Phelps

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PHELPS CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

FESTIVITIES AT 4PM

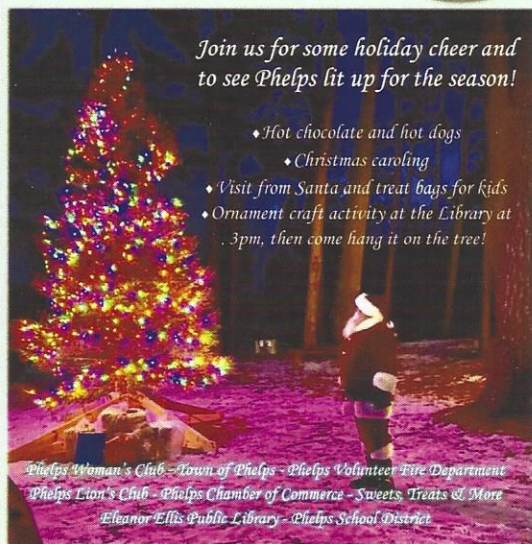
TREE LIGHTING AT 5PM

DOWNTOWN PHELPS



Join us for some holiday cheer and to see Phelps lit up for the season!

- Hot chocolate and hot dogs
- Christmas caroling
- Visit from Santa and treat bags for kids
- Ornament craft activity at the Library at 5:30pm, then come hang it on the tree!



*Phelps Woman's Club - Town of Phelps - Phelps Volunteer Fire Department
Phelps Lion's Club - Phelps Chamber of Commerce - Sweets, Treats & More
Eleanor Ellis Public Library - Phelps School District*

Phelps Fire Department Needs You!

Phelps Fire Department and EMS is happy to announce that we recently had three new members complete the Emergency Medical Responder training through Nicolet College and are obtaining the national registry test and requirements for service. This will greatly help our medical response, but as in most towns, we are still woefully short of help and implore anyone inclined to help in the ambulance service to contact the Fire Department or the Town Board. Even though Covid response has lessened, the increased population in the Northwoods, especially in the summer, causes a greater than ever need for staffing the ambulance service.

The Fire Department also has two new applicants. They have begun training through Nicolet College and now serve as probationary help before becoming fully available for service in December.

The Phelps Fire Department is also very pleased with how well the new auxiliary fire station with adequate equipment has been to the protection of Phelps. With well-trained, experienced firefighters living near that station, the response time has been greatly enhanced to the north areas of our town. As a bonus, property owners in that response area get a break on property insurance due to prox-

imity to that station. An ongoing project we are working on to better serve the community is to improve our brush truck capabilities. Along with additional personnel carrying capacity, we are working on a better configuration for more varied



equipment capability that would be used for smaller fire and emergency responses. When appropriate, the smaller size verses a full-size fire truck allows a quick and nimble response. A generous donation from a local property owner has helped us obtain the new truck! It is currently being fitted with equipment storage boxes, emergency lights and radio, and fire equipment. This project is being done with donations and no property tax dollars!

A quick reminder to Phelps residents to keep driveway accessible for large emergency vehicles. Over time areas fill in with foliage that needs to be cut back for adequate access.

The Phelps Area Volunteer Fire Department is privileged to serve and appreciates your support!

Clerk's Corner-local gov info!

townofphelps.com Interested in what's happening with your local government, and other town news? I highly recommend the 'Subscribe to Updates' feature on the home page. With a few clicks you can be notified by text message or email of meeting dates and agendas of the Town Board, Parks Commission, Planning & Development Commission, and more. Minutes are posted, as well! Have a look around for other useful information pertaining to Phelps.

vilascounty.wi.gov Here you can find your tax records going back 10 years. Tax statements can be found on the County website before they hit your mailbox, which is helpful if you like to pay by December 31. Navigate

to Property Owners-Taxes-Property Tax Information then search by name, road, or parcel. When you click on your parcel, it will look like a report. Click on PDF and it will look exactly like the statement you receive in the mail.

myvote.wi.gov A user-friendly site with helpful election-related information. Here you can register to vote, change your address, find out about upcoming elections and what's on the ballot, and more! This site is an excellent and easy way to request an absentee ballot as the Town Clerk is notified almost immediately making for quick turnaround time!

For more info call 715-545-2270 or email townclerk.phelps@gmail.com.

Phelps Woman's Club - *dedicated to a better life in Phelps*

Phelps Woman's Club held another successful Scarecrow Fest this past September 17. Weather was perfect and the attendance was great! Everyone had something to do and see. Thank you to all who supported this event. Mark your calendar for September 16, 2023 for the 14th Annual Scarecrow Fest. This is our major fundraiser, and the proceeds will

again go back to improving Phelps and helping our citizens.

The town crew is helping the Club to make the 2023 Christmas Tree Lighting bigger and better - see the flyer on the front cover for more info!

The Woman's Club also awards annual Scholarships to local students (including for adult education), supports the Headwaters Food Pantry, the Firemen's Auxiliary Project Santa, and has provided 60+ years of support to the Eleanor Ellis Phelps Library. Our

Kindness Crew has funds available to help people in emergency situations such as fires or accidents. Recently we gave a gas card to a local person to travel to the Duluth Hospital for an urgent situation. Also town beautification includes the flower boxes and lamppost flags.

If you want to join the Woman's Club, it is open to all area women. You don't have to live in Phelps, and you don't have to live here 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.



Eleanor Ellis Public Library Celebrates Summer Readers

We just completed a successful Summer Reading Program for 2022! We had 47 participants in the program, plus we were able to provide a summer full of great family-oriented weekly programs. Programs included Trees for Tomorrow Environmental Education Center of Eagle River, who presented three amazing Northwoods themed educational programs. We also hosted three family evening campfires, complete with Storyteller Laura Myszk, sing along songs with Kaye Petts our Director, and her guitar and s'mores to boot. We were also able to host a live concert with the Northwoods

Ukers, a ukulele playing and singing group, as well as a program about Hiking Safety with a walking stick craft. So much fun!

In conjunction with our Summer Reading this year, we included a new program called Books for Kids in Children's Hospitals of Wisconsin, created by our Library Board of Trustees President, Lisa Volkmann and sponsored by Lisa and her husband, Dan. Phelps Summer Readers were required to read a specific number of books or minutes depending on age. As they met their weekly reading goals, they were able to earn sponsored money

Volkmann for their generosity!

Besides continuing forward in providing the most recent released books, DVDs and other materials, we are gearing up for a great Fall/Winter season of adult and children's programs and events. Some of the highlights include monthly Stories with Ms. Laura Myszk, a Phelps Living History project in collaboration with the Phelps Historical Museum and the History Department of Phelps School, our annual Creative Writing Contest (last year we had over 150 participants), a device Q&A with Dawn Nordine in November, monthly adult programming including Next Chapter Book Club and Write On Writer's Group. Lots happening at Eleanor Ellis Public Library.

Library hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10am-4pm; Wednesday 2pm-6pm; Saturday 10am-1pm. Material pickup is available 24/7 in our secure, outdoor locker system and is available upon request by calling 715-545-2887. Materials can also be delivered and picked up through Eleanor Ellis Homebound. Call the library for details. WiFi and digital services are available 24/7. Princh cloud-based, wireless printing services are also now available. You can also find us online at phelpspubliclibrary.org or on Facebook at *Eleanor Ellis PL*.

Books for Kids in Wisconsin Children's Hospitals

PART OF THE ELEANOR ELLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM & SPONSORED BY DAN AND LISA VOLKMANN, PHELPS, WI

For every completed reading log, participants of EEPL Summer Reading Program earned sponsored money toward books going to this year's recipient, Marshfield Children's Hospital, Marshfield, WI. EEPL Summer Readers read to earn a total of \$511 and books are on their way to Wisconsin hospitalized children.

Thank you to our sponsors, Dan and Lisa Volkmann and thank you EEPL Summer Readers for giving the gift of literacy.

The Phelps Parks Commission has been busy!

It started Memorial Day weekend with the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Conover-Phelps Biking-Hiking Trail. Despite the rain there were over 100 attendees. In June, the commission added extra outlets to the stage in Lakefront Pines Park. These provided plenty of power for the four Music on the Lake events run by the Phelps Chamber of Commerce and the North and South Twin Lakes Riparian Association party. Many in attendance at these events made favorable comments about Lakefront Pines Park, how beautiful it is and the million-dollar view of North Twin Lake. The park also served as a rest stop for two of the Ride with Leinie rides. Water, bananas and granola bars were served. And this was the first time many riders had visited Phelps and many were impressed with the lakefront! Also at Lakefront Pines Park, ten picnic tables were constructed. Labor was donated by Ron Buell and family and Jon Racine—Thank you! Parking stops were also installed in the lakefront parking area and an inclement weather sliding door was installed on the lakeside of the stage.

The Park Commission was grateful to hire a part-time summer employee who kept the grass mowed and watered the hanging baskets and flower boxes. This permitted the full-time parks employee to address many other issues. The area behind the tennis courts in Wavering Park has been cleaned up and orga-

nized. A new storage building door was installed by Ron Buell who provided the installation labor. Also, the press box was painted, the trim on the pavilion was painted, the park sign was painted and much of the

concession stand was painted. The roof on the concession near the soccer field was also repaired. Repairs to the tennis courts have been made and we are planning to place funds in the 2023 budget for pickleball nets.

The Conover-Phelps Trail was also busy this summer. Many bikers and walkers took advantage of this beautiful trail. Three donated benches were installed this summer and a bronze plaque was placed near one of the new benches overlooking the Military Creek watershed. The plaque thanks all who contributed to the trail over the last ten years.

Several projects are awaiting completion. The Military Creek Trailhead should be completed by the end of October. Plans had to be modified because of some serious erosion problems. Addi-



tional power along the south side of the Lakefront Pines Park fest grounds has not been completed. This project has top priority to address complaints that fest-goers could not see the lake view during events because food trucks blocked the view. With these new outlets, the food vendors will be located along the sidewalk south of the fest grounds. Also, we are hopeful that the drainage issue at the base of the restroom hill will be completed this fall. Several projects are planned for future years for Lakefront Pines Park. Leveling and graveling the fest grounds and west parking area in Lakefront Pines Park. Grading and graveling the grassy area across from the Post Office for parking. And addressing erosion issues on the park shoreline along North Twin Lake.

Come Play Pickleball With Us!

What is the fastest growing activity for seniors in the US? Pickleball! Phelps is leading the charge recognizing the importance of senior fitness and wellness. The Phelps Pickleball Club has been playing for almost 10 years! It's a pretty simple game to learn and can be enjoyed by men and women alike. All you need to get started is a pair of sneakers and a paddle that you can start with for about \$50. We have many converted tennis players who enjoy the workout and social aspects of pickleball without the work and running of tennis.

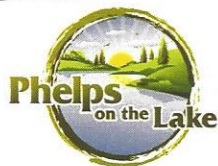
The Phelps Pickleball Club plays twice a week: 8:30-10:30am Wednesdays and Saturdays. Phelps School has been a terrific partner to the club and allowed play in their gyms when outside is not practical. Without a place to play during the winter months, the club might have folded by now. Thank you Phelps School!

Looking into the future of pickleball in Phelps, the Town Board and Park Commission have recognized the need for expanding and upgrading the current pickleball facilities at Wavering Park.

They are working to develop a plan to reconfigure the existing basketball and tennis courts to accommodate more pickleball courts. Hopefully we will see some of the new look in the summer of 2023 and completion in 2024.

So why not come out and try pickleball with us? You will find a warm and welcoming group to teach you and help you through the learning process. No need to buy a paddle first, we have plenty we can loan you! For more info, call or email Tom Hickson at 715-545-3736, tomhickson88@gmail.com.

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Phelps Chamber of Commerce - *making Phelps an event destination*

The Phelps Chamber had a busy summer with the return of the popular *Music on the Lake* summer concert series, drawing thousands of residents and visitors to downtown Phelps to enjoy live music with the best view around!

More recently the Chamber held the 42nd Annual Midwest Musky Classic fishing tournament - one of the longest running of its kind. This year's tournament drew

the most anglers ever in the event's history. Almost all Musky Classic participants come from out of town. They book our lodging, patronize our bars and restaurants, and fill up on gas and bait - all in Phelps - helping to strengthen our local economy and drive tourism.

As always the Chamber works to support and promote our local businesses and serve as the local Visitor Information

Center. Visitor guides, trail maps and other resources are always available at the Chamber office on Hwy 17. As well as ever-popular Phelps apparel! Follow us on Facebook at *Phelps Wisconsin* and online at phelpswi.us.



Phelps Snowmobile Club - *best trails around!*



The Phelps Snowmobile Club is a volunteer organization that maintains 40 miles of the most pristine trails in Vilas County and all of Northern Wisconsin.

Our trails are deep in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and include North and South Twin Lakes and Lac Vieux Desert.

Along the trails are several restaurants, bars, and gas stations to stop in for a break.

We are looking forward to our 2022/2023 season. Thanks to a great working rela-

tionship with our Businesses, Land-owners, Volunteers and the Trail Groomers our trails are some of the best around.

This community support allows our club members to participate in the following events:

- Merchandise booth with club merchandise and raffle baskets at Phelps Maple Syrup Festival, Music on the Lake, Habit Bash and Scarecrow Fest
- Phelps Snowmobile Club's 50th Anniversary party at Sand Lake Pub
- Pumpkin Chucking at Scarecrow Fest
- Trail Brushing events in October
- Trailside Roast with Conover Sno-Buddies on January 14th 10am-2pm
- Monthly club dinner meetings.

Our fundraising committee has been raising money to pay for our groomer we

purchased two years ago, and new equipment we may need to purchase/replace to maintain the trails in great condition. In

addition to the booth at the events, we are holding a Cash Raffle with a \$3,000 grand prize. Tickets are \$50 each and can be purchased at local restaurants and bars or at club meetings and events. We are also holding a Rifle Raffle with a grand prize of a TIKKA T3X CR-6.5 WD 24". Tickets are \$20 each or 3 for \$50 and can be purchased at the same locations.

Club merchandise can be purchased on our website at phelpssnowmobileclub.com. Please follow us on Facebook for updates on events. Please consider joining our club! We have a great time on the trails and at our events. Club Memberships can also be purchased on our website!

