



The Phelps Post

A community newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 1

Spring/Summer 2026

Town of Phelps

4495 Town Hall Road
PO Box 157
Phelps, WI 54554
715-545-2270
townclerk@phelpswi.gov
www.phelpswi.gov

Town Chair

Steve Doyen

Town Board Supervisors

Mary Ann Holcomb
Maureen Robinson
Jeremy Ryan
Steve Waier

Phelps Chamber of Commerce

2429 Hwy 17
PO Box 217
Phelps, WI 54554
715-545-3800
chamber-office@phelpswi.com
www.phelpswi.com
Facebook - Phelps Wisconsin

Town Revaluation

Due to state statutory requirements, the Town of Phelps is undergoing a Revaluation of all properties in 2026. For explanatory information on how the 2026 Town Property Revaluation may affect your taxes, please stop by the Town Hall, or visit www.phelpswi.gov and find the information under the Government tab.

Pictured to the right is the new Phelps Community Center on Town Hall Road off of Hwy 17 as of May 12. The Library, Town Hall offices, and Chamber of Commerce expect to move in in late June and building completion is expected later this summer or early fall.

A Note from the Town Chair

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter. The Town has a lot going on. The new Department of Public Works (town shop) building is being finished as I write this; the new Community Center/Library is on schedule for a move in late June; and the demo and parking lot is scheduled to be completed by September. Keep an eye on the Town of Phelps website for the open house date. We are also still working on finding a developer to move forward with the old hospital site. Due to the timing of demolition at the Town Hall, we

cancelled the spring clean-up dumpster day, but we will have a fall dumpster day and electronic recycling event this year instead. Check the website for that date, as well. That's all for now, stay safe and enjoy the great Northwoods.

Steve Doyen
Town Chairman



A Forever Foundation: Meet the Phelps Area Community Foundation

Phelps is officially investing in its own future. The **Phelps Area Community Foundation (PACF)**, a 501(c)(3) public charity, has launched with a clear mission: to enhance the quality of life, services, and opportunities for our community — FOREVER.

The Concept of "Forever" Funding: At the heart of the PACF is the **Community Endowment Fund**. Unlike traditional fundraising, an endowment serves as a permanent community nest egg. By growing this fund toward a \$1,000,000 milestone, the foundation creates a self-sustaining financial engine where the principal remains untouched, and annual interest is distributed as grants to ensure local initiatives thrive for generations.

Supporting Our Pillars: As a trusted fiduciary partner, the PACF already manages dedicated funds for important local projects, including:

- Phelps Library & Community Center: Supporting facility updates and expansion.
- Phelps Museum: Preserving our unique local history.
- Shooting Range Fund: Modernizing the range for safe, local recreation.

Local Heart, Professional Power: As an affiliate of the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin, the PACF ensures all contributions remain strictly local. This partnership provides Phelps with the best of both worlds: local decision-making backed by national accreditation and expert investment management.

Whether you wish to honor a family legacy, establish a scholarship, or address immediate needs through the Phelps Area Community Support Fund, the PACF ensures your vision is managed with professional care.

Visit www.phelpsareacf.org or email info@phelpsareacf.org to help secure a vibrant future for our community.

Jim Kuchenbecker
PACF Advisory Board
President



From the Desk of Fire Chief Jeremy Ryan

As we welcome spring, it's been an incredibly busy and productive time at the Phelps Fire Department. While our call volume remains consistent with last year, our team has been working diligently behind the scenes to strengthen operations, improve safety, and invest in the future of our department.

By the time you read this, we expect to have taken delivery of two new apparatus. Our new Engine 1 is nearing completion and should arrive in early May. This engine represents a major step forward—combining two aging units into one modern apparatus. It will allow us to respond more efficiently with the right equipment and up to six firefighters on the initial response. This not only enhances safety and effectiveness on scene, but will also save taxpayers an estimated \$50,000 annually by reducing long-term replacement costs.



Alongside Engine 1, we will be placing a new command/EMS response vehicle into service. This unit will improve communication and coordination at larger incidents, while also serving as a rapid medical response vehicle when our ambulance is unavailable. This project was made possible entirely through community donations, and we are deeply grateful for that support.

We have also completed a full replacement of our turnout gear. This project was funded entirely through donations raised by our members, saving local taxpayers approximately \$95,000. After extensive research, we transitioned to PFAS-free gear—making Phelps one of only a handful of departments in North America able to say our entire fleet of turnout gear is PFAS-free. This is a meaningful step in protecting the long-term health of our firefighters, while also safeguarding the environ-

ment we all value and enjoy.

In addition, we recently replaced and upgraded our extrication equipment. Our new battery-powered TNT tools significantly enhance our capabilities while reducing the maintenance associated with older gas-powered systems. These tools provide greater reliability, increased cutting and spreading force, and allow us to operate without the limitations of hose lines or power units. As modern vehicles incorporate stronger materials and more complex construction, this level of equipment ensures we are prepared to respond effectively when seconds matter most.



None of this progress is possible without our dedicated members and the unwavering support of their families. Their commitment allows us to provide a high level of service with a small but incredibly capable team.

As always, please be mindful of fire safety this season—fully extinguish outdoor fires and ensure your smoke and CO detectors are working properly.

Last and most importantly, thank you to our community for your continued support. All of us at Phelps Fire and EMS feel incredibly proud and grateful for our community's support, and we cannot thank you enough. We look forward to seeing you all at our summer picnic.

As always, please be mindful of fire safety this season—fully extinguish outdoor fires and ensure your smoke and CO detectors are working properly.

*Jeremy Ryan, Fire Chief
Phelps Volunteer Fire and EMS Department*

47th Annual Phelps Softball Tournament returns to Wavering Park July 24-26

The Phelps Youth Recreation Association and Phelps Booster Club are warming up for their 47th Annual Softball Tournament set for July 24-26th 2026! This all-weekend event offers concessions and an adult beverage stand! We are looking for adult teams to enter in this double elimination tournament at a \$200 entry fee! Not a softball player? No problem! We are looking for sponsors and volunteers, too! The proceeds go towards our amazing Phelps Knights and supports school sports, functions and other school needs. If you are interested in signing up a team, sponsoring, donating, or volunteering, Mike would love to hear from you! Contact him today at 715-891-8460.



46th Annual Softball Tournament Winners - Brew's Pub

Clerk's Corner

Helpful info from Town Hall staff

New Office – The progress on the new Community Center/Library is moving along quickly, and we anticipate being able to move into the new building very soon. Our primary objective is to ensure that this transition is as smooth as possible for everyone involved. We expect that the office will be closed for only a few days during the move. We kindly ask for your patience and understanding as we complete this process. Please note that our address and phone number will remain the same: 4495 Town Hall Road, 715-545-2270.

Property Tax Bills – The second installments of property tax bills are due on July 31, 2026. Payments must be made payable to the Vilas County Treasurer and mailed to 330 Court St, Eagle River, WI 54521. Alternatively, you may deliver your payment in person. There is also an option to pay online at www.vilascountywi.gov. If you have recently changed your mailing address, please use the same website to update your information and ensure you receive your tax bill.

Lottery Tax Credit – If you have made Phelps your primary residence within the past couple of years, please check your tax bill to confirm that you are receiving the lottery credit. For more information, answers to frequently asked questions, or to apply for the credit, visit www.revenue.wi.gov/Pages/Form/lottery-home.aspx.

Elections – The next election is the Partisan Primary, which will take place on August 18, 2026. If everything proceeds according to plan, voting will be held at the new Community Center. For comprehensive information about Wisconsin elections, including voter registration, updating your name and address, requesting an absentee ballot, checking election schedules and ballots, viewing results, and more, please visit www.myvote.wi.gov.

Town Website – The Town website was recently updated, and we remain committed to keeping residents informed about town business while ensuring the site is user-friendly. Visit phelpswi.gov to find meeting agendas and minutes, ordinances, resolutions, news, notices, and town contacts. Additionally, our "Stay Informed" section on the homepage allows you to subscribe for updates via email notifications. This is a convenient way to have agendas and minutes sent directly to your inbox automatically.

Your Clerk/Treasurer and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer are available to assist you with any questions, issues, or concerns related to the Town of Phelps. If we are unable to provide the information you need, we will do our best to direct you to the appropriate resource. Thank you.

Sheryl Ward, Town Clerk
Kathleen Ray, Deputy Clerk
715-545-2270

Phelps Historical Museum Announces An Engaging Summer Season of Events

The Phelps Historical Museum is preparing for its most exciting season yet, featuring a series of events that celebrate local heritage while honoring the nation's 250th anniversary.

The season will open on Memorial Day following the annual Memorial Day service at the Phelps Cemetery. Beginning at 1 p.m., the museum will host an open house featuring a powerful new exhibit dedicated to local service men and women. Visitors can explore stories of Phelps-area residents who served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, including notable accounts of a local general, colonel, and a World War II prisoner of war.

In addition to seasonal programming, the museum will launch its capital campaign over Memorial Day weekend. Guests can learn about expansion plans, view a 3D model of the proposed space, and find ways to support the preservation of local history as the museum continues to grow.

A centerpiece of this summer's programming will be the traveling Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Banner exhibition. This moving display honors the lives and service of Wisconsin residents who served during the Vietnam War, offering visitors a chance to reflect and remember through a deeply personal and visual tribute.

To accommodate this special exhibition, the museum will offer extended hours from July 4 through July 11, open daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Organizers encourage both residents and summer visitors to take advantage of this limited opportunity to experience the exhibit.

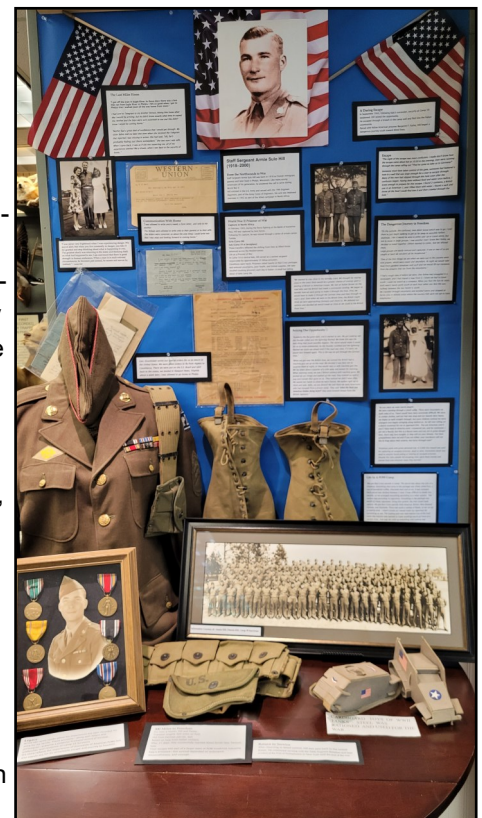
Returning this year are the museum's popular raffle drawings, featuring seven different prize packages. Tickets will be available at the museum and at community events throughout the summer.

With a focus on honoring the past while engaging the present, the Phelps Historical Museum invites the community to take part in a meaningful and memorable season.

Interested in volunteering? Contact Joan at 715-545-2936.

We have many ways you can get involved!

Phelps Historical Museum hours are:
Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10am-2pm.
Thursday evening from 4pm-8pm.



The Phelps Post



Town of Phelps
4495 Town Hall Road
PO Box 157
Phelps, Wisconsin 54554
715-545-2270
www.townofphelps.com

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
US POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

LOCAL POSTAL PATRON
PHELPS, WI 54554

Phelps - a year-round events destination!

Here in Phelps we have truly become known as a small-town with destination events and festivals drawing new and old visitors and from all over the region, state and Midwest! This summer we have a fantastic line-up of bands for **Music on the Lake**, including the popular **Summer Party** with a Chain Skimmers Water Ski Show on North Twin Lake before the band takes the stage.

Last year's **4th on the Lake Celebration** on the 4th of July saw over 4,000 people in downtown in Phelps in one day - that's over three times the population! And for this year's 4th of July event we are excited to bring back the DUNK TANK! So be sure to bring

cash and come ready to dunk your favorite community members. **4th on the Lake** includes the Grand Parade, Boat Parade on North Twin, live music from Burton Tyler and Noliium, food trucks, beer tent, cornhole tournament, raffles, bounce house with slide, dunk tank, face painting, and of course an incredible fireworks show over the lake! For more information on the 4th of July including the full schedule of events visit www.phelpswi.com/phelps-4th-of-july-festival or contact the Phelps Chamber at 715-545-3800.

And if you haven't been to **Stoneline Valley Music Fest** in the fall, well you don't know what you are missing! Stoneline Valley is put on by father-son duo and their family on their property, which is described as a natural amphitheater. It features two days of live music, camping, yoga, food trucks, craft beer, hula hooping, giant bubbles, bonfires, dancing, and so much more. It is family-friendly and welcoming to all. Bands play a variety of music including blue grass, americana, folk, indie and alternative rock, and blues. For more information and to purchase tickets visit www.stonelinevalley.com.

Another new event in recent years is the Phelps Snowmobile Club's **Phelps Radar Run**. This past January was the 2nd Annual Phelps Radar Run with snowmobiles racing down a groomed 1000-foot snow track on frozen North Twin Lake. The event was a great success and welcomed hundreds of snowmobile riders and spectators to Phelps; many for the first time who were excited to plan return trips and explore more that Phelps has to offer! The Phelps Snowmobile Club looks forward to continuing and improving this event in coming years.

We have also seen incredible growth in recent years in the Phelps Woman's Club's **Scarecrow Fest** every September, and the Phelps Chamber of Commerce's **Maple Syrup Fest** every April.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our many Phelps events throughout the year! Visit www.phelpswi.com to view the events calendar.

Music on the Lake in Phelps!
Lakefront Pines Park in downtown Phelps
Food trucks and beer tent. Bring chairs.
June 19 6-9pm - **Santy & Son**
July 15 6-9pm - **Bogfoot**
July 24 5:30-9:30pm - **Summer Party!**
Chain Skimmers Ski Show and **The Now**
Aug 5 5:30-8:30pm - **Bret & Frisk**

MUSIC ON THE LAKE
PHELPS, WISCONSIN

4th on the Lake Celebration
July 4 3-10pm - Grand Parade-Boat Parade
Live Music from **Burton Tyler** and **Noliium**
Food & Beer-Bounce House-Dunk Tank-Fireworks
Picnic in the Park for Phelps EMS - June 24
Fireman's Picnic & Pig Roast - July 18
Phelps Scarecrow Fest - Sept 19
Stoneline Valley Music Fest - Sept 24-26
Midwest Musky Classic - Oct 2-4

Phelps
Headwaters of the Wisconsin River
www.PhelpsWI.com

PHELPS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WWW.PHELPSWI.COM 715-545-3800