

DPW

Spring Cleanup: With the early nice weather, the Village Crew has been out already and will be out during May picking up leaves, grass clippings, small branches, etc. that you can place at the edge of your street. Your cooperation with the guidelines outlined in the Merchandiser and available at the Clerk's office is appreciated.

Transfer Station: Thank you to everyone who participated in our training / conversion sessions. It was a great opportunity for Ken McAllister, our DPW superintendent; Dave Nieskes and Jill Seifert, our clerk and deputy clerk; and me to see and talk with so many residents. There were a lot of great questions and suggestions. We were very impressed by the number of people who came out, as well as their patience, cooperation and interest.

The Village Board has committed to reviewing the rate per pound in six months to see how things are going. We calculated the 9¢ per pound by dividing the projected cost of operating the station by the pounds we took to the landfill last year. If this turns out to be much more efficient, we may be able to adjust it.

It was suggested numerous times that we do a refresher on recycling and a course on composting. In a future newsletter, we will include the recyclable list. Cornell Cooperative Extension has stated that they would be willing to do another course on composting. They did one for PCC earlier this year and had 25 people attend.

If you have questions on how the new facility operates, please visit phelpsnyc.com and view the video there. The three most important things to know about the facility:

If you have not converted your blue punch ticket to the new scannable account card, you must do so at the Clerk's office before using the transfer station to dispose of garbage.

Please stop at the bottom of the ramp, rather than on it.

Everyone must go through the building, whether for recycling, trash, metal, brush, etc.

Franklin Street: With finances the way they are, we are looking hopefully at a rebuild project on Franklin Street. As long as things don't get worse, we plan to replace the water line and re-pave the street this summer. Because of certain issues, we've had to shuffle our schedule on street improvements that we put together a few years ago.

Budget

As you'll see when you receive your tax bill, we were able to put together a budget with virtually no tax levy increase. Each department was very cooperative and helpful and understands that, given the economy, every project will be approved at the time, even if it is included in the budget. If revenues drop or expenses rise dramatically, we will hold off on doing certain things. So, we're already planning contingencies.

Downtown

You may have noticed that the economy is taking a toll on our downtown businesses, like it is in so many communities. We have too many open storefronts. The work ethic and spirit of Phelps doesn't allow us to stay down for long, however. So, if you think of an opportunity or something we need in our downtown, please encourage people to look into it. Also, please continue to support local business. The Business Development & Tourism Council, with the support of the Preston Foundation and the cooperation of the building owners, is planning a painting and restoration project of many of the downtown buildings this summer. Be watching for these exciting improvements.

Youth, Parks & Recreation

This commission is again planning the Concert in the Park series in July; watch for the dates and bands to be published in The Merchandiser. The dates for the Summer Youth Program will be June 29th thru August 14th from 1 until 4 each weekday afternoon. Details regarding registration will also be in The Merchandiser.

Property Maintenance

While we understand the economy has people nervous, we want to remind residents that it costs very little to clean up around your property. If you're like many of us, you'll be saving some money this year by staying closer to home. Take the opportunity to do a little extra sprucing up and make your property something to be proud of. Our crew does a great job of making the public areas look terrific. Help out by doing your part.

PLEASE HELP KEEP OUR VILLAGE CLEAN, BEAUTIFUL & HEALTHY

Remember – In Phelps, we have opportunities, not obstacles. We will be whatever we choose to be.

Thank you for continuing to share your thoughts, ideas and talents with our community. Please feel free to contact any Village Board member regarding issues you feel are important, including me at 548-8017 or mayor@phelpsnyc.com.

No. 50

VILLAGE TIDBITS

May 2009

If you have tenants, PLEASE pass this Village Newsletter along. Extra copies are available at the Village office.

VILLAGE BOARD MEETINGS: Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at the Phelps Community Center, Meeting Room; 8 Banta St. and convene at 7:00 p.m. These are open meetings and may be attended by anyone. Please attend and see what is happening in the Village.

ATTENTION DELINQUENT WATER USERS!! The Village will no longer place shut-off warnings on your doors for late water payments. Water hearings are held at 7:00p.m. at the Village Clerks Office, the second Monday of the Month at which time you may offer payment. Service will be terminated without further notice. A \$30.00 turn on fee applies when water is turned off for non-payment.

WATER BILLS ARE SENT OUT QUARTERLY January, April, July, and October 1st - Payable by the 20th.

SEWER BILLS ARE SENT OUT QUARTERLY February, May, August, November 1st - Payable by the 20th.

THE VILLAGE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR NON-DELIVERY OF THE MAIL!! If you do not receive a bill please contact the Village Office and we will send out another.

WATER AND SEWER BILLS are sent to the property owner of record, including any final readings. There is a \$15.00 charge for water readings requested at times other than the regular quarterly billing times. A Charge of \$30.00 is added if the water is turned off for ANY reason. These charges are in addition to any water charge due, including penalty, if applicable.

DO YOU REALIZE that a leaky faucet or a leaky toilet can REALLY add to your water bill? It could cost you less to have it repaired than the amount added to your water bill if it is ignored.

LAWN MOWING: Please do not mow or rake trimmings into the streets, it clogs the storm drains. **Also: according to Village Law, it is unlawful to allow grass to grow in excess of 8 inches.** Each Village parcel shall be kept free of poison ivy, poison sumac, ragweed, goldenrod and other harmful weeds and rank or noxious vegetation. (Chapter 57 of the Village Code.)

NOTICE - NOTICE -NO WATER from roof drains may be discharged into the Phelps Sewer system, per

the Village of Phelps Municipal Code.

OUTDOOR FIRES: Outdoor fires are prohibited by the Village Code except a barbecue fire or a fire for cooking of food and only then if in a fireplace or other fireproof container or barbecue pit and shall not be located near or adjacent to any flammable material or structure so as to cause a fire hazard.

The Village Office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, May 25, 2009 in honor of Memorial Day and Friday, July 3, 2009 in observance of Independence Day.

FIREWORKS: If you are planning a fireworks display, a permit is needed, per Chapter 89 of the Village Municipal Code.

PHELPS TRANSFER STATION: The Village/Town Transfer Station is open Wednesdays from noon to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 8 am to 4:30 p.m. for your convenience. Account Cards are available at the Village Office during regular business hours. You may put as much or as little money as you deem necessary on these new account cards. Check payments are also accepted by mail. **RECYCLABLES** are currently accepted free of charge. Brush may be taken to the Transfer Station at NO cost.

THE VILLAGE OFFICE has installed a Drop Box to better serve the Residents of Phelps. **Payments received on the 20th of the month will still need to be at the Office by 4:30 p.m. at the close of business to avoid the 10% penalty.**

GARAGE/YARD SALES: PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF YOUR NEIGHBORS. Parking can be disruptive to the traffic flow, consider this when planning or attending a sale.

SIDEWALKS: Does your sidewalk at your residence need replacement or repairs? The Village offers a reimbursement of \$2.00 per square foot or 1/2 the actual and necessary cost, whichever is less, for replacement or repairs to sidewalks that are **in need** of attention. Details, specifications and an agreement are available at the Village office **before replacing.**

SWIMMING POOLS: Both above ground and in-ground pools require a permit. The permit is available from Village Code Enforcement at 8 Banta St., Suite 411.