

# *Focus on Phelps from Mayor James E. Cheney*

## *February, 2010*

### **NEW LOOK**

One of the first things you probably noticed when you opened this envelope was the new look of the bill. We have implemented a new billing system for sewer and water. The old program still ran under the DOS operating system and had become difficult to maintain. If you have any questions regarding the bill, please contact the Village Clerk's Office. We are expecting that this program will eventually allow you to pay your bill online. We'll keep you updated on that.

### **MAGNUS**

It's always nice to be able to share a positive story about a local company receiving national attention. Recently, Magnus Corporation was recognized in a national magazine, Aerospace Manufacturing & Design Magazine. This trade magazine is distributing world-wide. Congratulations to Magnus. It's one more way that our community's name is being spread.

### **PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION DINNER**

On Saturday, January 23, we held a dinner to recognize the people who serve our community as volunteers, members of the various town or village boards or commissions, or municipal employees. We sent invitations to as many community organizations as we could think of and invited them to share it with the appropriate people. We're sure there are people we missed and we apologize to them. 130 people attended and 29 different entities represented. It was a pleasant surprise to get such a great response. We expect to make this an annual event and hope that it will continue to grow as more and more people serve our community and each other. It will be called the Mary Preston Memorial Dinner in honor of the quiet, humble service to the

community that she represents.

### **BUDGET**

We have begun our budget process and like every governmental entity, we are going to be challenged. The biggest thing we find ourselves faced with is the cost of materials. We need to re-build Franklin Street, after our water project last year. It will cost nearly the same to do that relatively short street as it did to rebuild Needham, Clearview and South Ave a few years ago. We have no choice but to complete the project. So, we'll be looking at ways to minimize the impact.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

As you hopefully saw on the enclosed insert, the Fire Department will be making the rounds to inspect smoke detectors in each home in their district. This is a huge and valuable commitment that the firemen are undertaking. Your participation is completely voluntary, but we encourage your participation. If you allow them to, they will inspect your home to make sure you have at least one working smoke detector properly located. If you do not, they will provide and install a free smoke detector or battery replacement if needed. They have received the support of many businesses in the area, in addition to using some of their own donated funds, so that they can provide this service at no charge.

Since they will be entering people's homes, they have been coached on proper procedures and confidentiality. We are aware of the risk of publicizing this so heavily. But, we want you to be aware that this is a legitimate project. To prevent others from trying to take advantage of the knowledge that they will be doing this, our volunteers will have identification and will be wearing fire department attire. They also will be using one of our vehicles. So, a fire truck should be nearby when they visit your home. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the telephone number on the insert.

**Thank you to everyone who is supporting this project.**

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@phelpsny.com](mailto:mayor@phelpsny.com).

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No. 53

VILLAGE TIDBITS

February 2010

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

**\*\*\*ANY DELINQUENT QUARTERLY SEWER AND/OR WATER BILLS, INCLUDING ARREARS AND PENALTIES, MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY APRIL 2, 2010. If not paid by April 2nd, the bill will be turned over to the County and included in 2009/2010 Village Taxes.\*\*\***

Please be aware that online bill paying services very often mail your water and sewer payments in envelopes that are NOT postmarked. The Village recognizes a US postmark as date of delivery; if no postmark appears or is illegible the payment is deemed to have been made on the date of delivery to the Village Office. Contact your banking institution to insure timeliness of your payments. To avoid penalties, you may wish to schedule your payment a few days early.

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

**SEWER BILLS ARE SENT OUT QUARTERLY**  
February, May, August, November 1<sup>st</sup> - payable by the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

**PHELPS TRANSFER STATION:** The Village/Town Transfer Station is open Wednesdays from noon to 7 pm and Saturdays from 8 am to 4:30 pm for your convenience. Transfer Station Cards are sold at the Village Office during regular business hours. You may add to your card balance in person at the Clerk's office or by mail, cash or check please. **RECYCLABLES** are currently accepted free of charge.

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETINGS:** Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at the Phelps Community Center; 8 Banta St., Village Meeting Room; Phelps 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.

**If your pipes freeze,** be very careful thawing them.

Take time to thaw them slowly by using a hair blow dryer.

**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.

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

**IT IS AGAINST THE LAW** to snow blow, snow plow or shovel the snow from your property or driveway into the public street. **ALSO,** no owner or occupant of a building or structure adjacent to a street shall allow snow, water, or ice to accumulate on such building or structure so that it may fall on any street or sidewalk. Please take note of these requirements during this winter season. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

**Reminder...** There is **NO PARKING** on Village Streets from 12 midnight to 6 am **ALL** days from November 1 to March 31 of each year. This allows the streets to be cleared by the Village DPW. Please cooperate with this request. **VIOLATORS will be PROSECUTED.**

**THE VILLAGE MUNICIPAL CODE STATES** that all sidewalks must be kept free and clear of snow and ice. This is the responsibility of the property owner or occupant. You are requested to keep the fire hydrants in your neighborhood clear of snow, for your safety and that of your neighbor should there be a fire.

**FYI** - the operation of snowmobiles on streets, highways, and public ways of the Village of Phelps is allowed only under certain rules and regulations in the Phelps Municipal Code. Please contact the Village Clerk at 548-3861 if you have any questions.

**STAR:** you may be entitled to a tax exemption. Contact the **Town Assessors (548-2973)** at the Town Hall for further information and any forms necessary to verify qualifications.

**THE VILLAGE OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED** on February 15, 2010 in honor of Presidents Day. Our regular hours are 8 am to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.