

## *Focus on Phelps from Mayor James E. Cheney* *February, 2009*

### **Good News**

In my opinion, we could all use some good news right now. We should all turn off the TV and stop reading about the doom and gloom in the newspaper and create our own reality. Worrying never solved any problems. And, complaining about what is wrong won't fix it and only makes us feel worse. As much as anything, the nation is in a mental recession. So, let's find ways to feel better.

So, in these newsletters for 2009, I am going to try to focus on as many positives things happening in our community as possible. Legally, I can't advertise for organizations in this newsletter, but that doesn't mean I can't share good stories and happenings. So, if you have things you want to share, e-mail them to me at [mayor@phelpsny.com](mailto:mayor@phelpsny.com). Obviously, I won't be able to include everything and timing-wise, some things might not make sense to include. But, I'll share as much as I can. Let's make Phelps a beacon of hope for the surrounding area. Instead of having people wonder what's wrong with Phelps, let's make them wonder what we know that they don't ... let's make them wonder why Phelps is doing so well ... let's be an example of all that is good about small town America. Let's show that hard work and determination still produce results. In every struggle, there are opportunities if we just look for them and have the courage to go after them.

### **Habitat for Humanity**

A project that I think the entire community can get behind and get involved in is a Habitat for Humanity house. A group of people are beginning to work on a project for Phelps. The Ontario County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity has approved our community for a potential home. This could be a great opportunity to pull the community together in a common task. A little background on Habitat that I wasn't aware of: the house is not given to the family. They must have a mortgage on it. They must qualify for that mortgage. And, they must invest 480 hours of their own time in getting the house to completion. So, it is a hand up, not a hand out. On Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00, a group from Ontario County will be at the Community Center to discuss this with those willing to be on the steering committee. You'll be hearing a lot more about this as it progresses. For more info, visit <http://www.hfhoc.org/>.

### **Downtown**

Under the leadership of Sara Britting, the Phelps Business Development & Tourism Council initiated a plan to begin painting and renovating the facades in the downtown historic district. Even though Sara is, unfortunately, no longer with this group, the project is continuing. The Preston Foundation has committed its support for some of the painting part of the project. This investment has led many of the property and business owners to commit that they will do improvements to their buildings before or during the painting. The goal is to return some of the building faces to their prior glory in a way that will be in keeping with their historic structure and that will highlight their architectural features. So, our downtown area should be receiving a real face lift beginning this spring and summer. This will be one of the first visible projects of the BDTC, with hopefully many more to come.

### **Recreation**

Instead of trying to do the sledding down Tiger Hill this year, the Youth, Park & Recreation Commission is looking at a Winter Festival, either at Redfield Park or the Community Center. If the weather continues as it has, it should be a great year for it. Keep watching for info as it develops.

### **Taxes**

While there is rarely good news in taxes, the situation that the Phelps-Clifton Springs School District finds itself in because of the state budget is providing some opportunities. While there will be tough issues to address, if the administration and school board continue in the direction that they are, it will probably bring the community together more. They have already reached out to a number of people and organizations, such as the Village, to brainstorm on ideas of how they can stay focused on educating our children and work together to save. We are all committed to working together to provide the best services that we can afford. If you see opportunities for sharing of services or cost savings please let us or the school board know. The Village Board is already looking to do its part because we know school taxes are going to have to increase some amount. So, we are looking to keep Village taxes flat to ease the burden some. If we can find a way to cut taxes, we will. We understand that it all comes out of the same pockets and that we affect each other.

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.49

VILLAGE TIDBITS

February 2009

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

If your pipes freeze, be very careful thawing them. Take time to thaw them slowly by using a hair blow dryer.

\*\*\*ANY DELINQUENT QUARTERLY SEWER AND/OR WATER BILLS, INCLUDING ARREARS AND PENALTIES, MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY APRIL 3, 2009. If not paid by April 3rd, the bill will be turned over to the County and included in 2009/2010 Village Taxes.\*\*\*

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.

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 7:00 p.m. at the Village Meeting Room, the second Monday of the Month at which time you may offer payment.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Hall at 548-3861 if you have any questions.

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. Refuse Cards are sold at the Village Office during regular business hours. The cost is \$45.00 per Card with 26 punches. RECYCLABLES are currently accepted free of charge. Cards are available by mail.

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.

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.

THE VILLAGE OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED on February 16, 2009 in honor of Presidents Day. Our regular hours are 8 am to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.