

Village of Philo

News from the Best Little Town in Illinois

Winter 2020-2021
December - February

FROM THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT

By: Larry Franks

Another year is coming to an end and the Board of Trustees and I would like to wish you all well in the New Year.

2020 will be a year to remember. You all have done a great job in supporting our local businesses through this and I hope you all will continue to take the measures needed to keep you, your families and our community safe and healthy. We are working with the State with a program to help keep our village fiscally strong.

Projects that we worked through this year were the complete remodeling of the R. E. Franks Center Thelma Melohn Gymnasium after we had a burst pipe in May. The Streets, Alley's and Sidewalks Committee has met several times and now have a long-term plan to replace and add sidewalks around the village.

Our Emergency Declaration is still in place and we will probably have to go back to conducting meetings via Zoom. You can stay up-to-date through our web site at www.villageofphilo.com

Wear your masks and wash your hands. Use social distancing measures.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Comments and suggestions regarding
The *Philo Newsletter's* format
and content are welcome.

Village of Philo
Attn: Newsletter

P.O. Box 72
Philo, IL 61864

Phone: 684-2562 E-mail:
janet@villageofphilo.com

IN OTHER VILLAGE HAPPENINGS

From the meeting minutes:

September - The annual audit was completed and presented to the Board. All good news. Speeding on Village streets continues to be an issue. Bob Daly of Daly's Sports Bar requested village approval for a 6th gaming machine keeping in line with the State regulations. Mr. Daly also requested uniform business opening times for all businesses holding liquor/gaming licenses. His final request is to purchase the "old village hall" that is located next to his business. Bids for new bleachers and painting the gym were approved. Long-term tree/forestry plan was presented. Recycling Center discussion. New Business: Alley between Garfield and Hayes Ct.

October – Champaign County Forest Preserve representatives made a presentation and requested support on the upcoming ballot referendum. Residents of Hayes Ct presented a signed petition against the change of easement between Hayes Ct. and Garfield from grass to gravel. Final gym renovations and updates presented. REFMC has reopened with several rentals for athletic practices and social events. Hugs & Bugs contract up for renewal. Liquor License Ordinance amending the number of gaming machines and opening time voted on. Trick-or-Treating was discussed. Executive Session for the limited purpose of discussing the sale and pricing of Village real estate. Parade of Lights was discussed.

November - Minutes will be approved at the December board meeting to be held Wednesday, December 9, 2020 in the Eileen Painter Room of the R. E. Franks Meeting Center with a special meeting time of 6:30pm.

Meeting minutes are posted on the Village web site www.villageofphilo.com under the *About Philo-Village Board* tab after they are approved at the following monthly meeting. The public is invited to attend.

Extra Recycling

Please help keep the recycling center and surrounding area clean and neat. We know there is extra garbage and recycling around the holidays and have ordered extra recycling pickup and containers thru the middle of January 2021. Please do not leave anything outside of the recycling containers if they are full. This creates a wet, soggy, unsightly mess and added expense to the Village. Please come back later. You can make extra space by breaking down your boxes.

Snow Removal

When there are two or more inches of snow on village streets, residents living on Washington Street in the downtown area are asked to park in the alley between the hours of 12:00am and 6:00am so that the streets of Washington and Harrison can be plowed. Village maintenance also requests that anyone living in a cul-de-sac park in driveways or further off the road. Parking in the circle makes it too tight for the plow trucks to do a decent job.



Santa Breakfast



Just another casualty of the times. The annual Santa Breakfast hosted by the Philo Exchange Bank **WILL NOT** be held this year. The bank will be hosting a toy drive at the main bank. The lobbies are currently closed, but

you can drop new/unwrapped toys in the main bank foyer. Visit their web site for more details www.philobank.com. They look forward to hosting the Santa Breakfast in 2021.

LET'S HAVE A PARADE!

A group of local women are organizing a Christmas light parade for Friday, December 4. Line up will begin at 6:00pm at the corner of Washington and Jackson. At 7:00pm the parade route will head east on Washington Street turning south on Hayes. The parade will then turn east on Madison, south on Garfield, west onto McKinley, turning back north on Harrison, west on Jefferson and north on Jackson finishing back at the R. E. Franks Center. The route was chosen for parking options and to allow for optimal social distancing. Candy will be distributed, please use caution when collecting it. Also, please be considerate of your Philo neighbors if parking on private property. Watch for Santa at the end! The Philo Tavern will sell hot cocoa curbside. See the village website for a map under the Announcements tab.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP

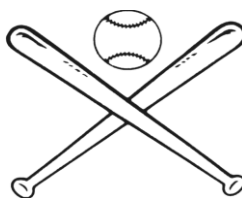
Tree pick-up will be January 15, 2021. Weather permitting.

BRUSH PICK-UP

Final brush pick-up for 2020 will be December 1. Brush pick-up will resume on Thursday, April 1, 2021 weather permitting.

DO NOT PILE BRUSH IN ROAD OR ALLEYWAYS. KEEP IT ON YOUR PROPERTY AND AWAY FROM STORM DRAINS.

If you have questions, please contact Dave Traxler at 684-2674.



Watch for Sign-Up Dates

The Philo Ball Park Association is looking forward to getting back in the "swing" of things next summer. Watch for sign-up information late January or early February. Visit our web site for more information. www.villageofphilo.com/parks

Exercise helps keep the Winter Blues away!!



Exercise with Caution

It's great that so many people in the community enjoy getting out and walking, running, biking or taking care of their pets. The winter months bring challenges of getting these activities in safely. When outside, wear reflective gear and bright colored clothing. If it is dark, along with the reflective gear, wear or carrying a light. Rules of the Road dictate that walkers and runners face oncoming traffic. When biking follow the rules of going with traffic. If you are on a hill, be sure to move to the side of the road and possibly stop until the vehicle has passed. Always assume the driver does not see you. Unfortunately, in this day of distracted driving they probably do not. Drivers, **PUT DOWN THE PHONES!** Please watch the web site for announcements on walking at the R. E. Franks Center (no pets allowed).

Sledding!

The snow will be flying soon. Sledding on the hill at the water tower is at your own risk. Motorized vehicles of any kind are not allowed on the hill.

Support Local Small Businesses

Shopping for the holidays will look very different. Did you know the Village of Philo has many small business entrepreneurs? These small businesses would love your support:

- **Diana Lueth Morgan** – ColorStreet Nails: www.colorstreet.com/dmorgan87 luethtwin@yahoo.com; (217) 979-2653
- **Brandi Dalton**-- Jewelry: www.mygraceandheart.com
- **Amanda Frank Blair**: Face Masks www.facebook.com/maska.f/
INSTRUCTIONS FOR PLACING ORDERS:
You MUST book an appointment in the services tab. Please select either shipping or mask pickup; then, place your order in the comment section. (217) 621-9128
- **Ester & Beth Peregrine** – We sell spindles for spinning yarn, cocoons, and things made from silk such as cocoon jewelry, not cards, handwoven bookmarks, etc. www.etsy.com/shop/essiespinner
- **Christine Szabo Payne** – Contact me if you need picture frames. I have many in storage since I closed my frame shop. Call for sizes. (217) 419-0588; crpayne30@hotmail.com.
- **Teri Miller** – Teri's Treasures is located at 1253 E. Grove in Rantoul
- **Sidney Improvement Group** – Hosting a Shop at Home in their new community building on Saturday, December 5 from 10:00am – 3:00pm. Masks and social distancing required.

Don't forget the other local businesses that would be happy to sell you a Gift Certificate to use at a later date.

SHOP LOCAL! SHOP SMALL TOWN!



30th Annual Tree Trimming & Lighting at the Library Hosted by HCE

The HCE along with the Philo Library will be hosting the annual tree trimming and lighting on **Sunday, December 6 at 4:00pm** at the library. Everyone will be given an ornament to hang on the tree and it will be in keeping with the original idea of recycling as they will use a variety of decorations saved over the past 30 years. Children will receive a "Make It-Take It" ornament to take home and instead of hot-chocolate and cookies there will be a surprise treat for all attending. Read below how the tradition started!

PHILO HCE CENTENIAL

Margaret Khachaturian – Historian mmilesk@yahoo.com

It has been one hundred years since the Philo unit of HCE began meeting and receiving study material from the University of Illinois that would better their lives in many ways. The subjects then varied from nutrition to economics with current topics dealing with interest rates and technology.

In November the Philo Library hosted a display of the activities and variety of studies through the years.

In the fall of 1991 and 1992 HCE helped organize the Fun Days with Throwaways at Market Place Mall for which Champaign County received the Outreach Award from the state for those two years.

A follow-up to that was the trimming of the first village Christmas tree. In December of 1991, Mayor Thelma Melohn blocked off the street near the welcome to Philo sign where a giant pine tree stood. Those who put their homemade ornaments on that tree can now watch their own grandchildren decorate the trees at the Philo library.

In March of 2009, HCE began sponsoring the community coffee hour which was held every Thursday morning at the library until Covid restrictions began. With the virus lockdown, the meetings have been moved to the Philo Presbyterian church on the third Friday of each month at one o'clock. HCE hopes to have a membership drive next year. Marlene Evans can be contacted for more information.

R. E. Franks Meeting Center Currently Closed to the Public

You can book your future events now and beat the rush when the restrictions are lifted. Contact Janet Decker at 684-2562 or e-mail janet@villageofphilo.com. Additional information and a calendar for availability can be found on the village web site www.villageofphilo.com under Franks Center tab.

Village Board and Officials

Village President

Larry R. Franks 684-2493.. LRFranks11@yahoo.com

Village Clerk

Judy Kirby 684-2118

Village Treasurer

Kevin Chalmers.....(217) 441-2927

Trustees

Tom Kelley..... 369-6690.. tom.kelley@syngenta.com

Steve Sappenfield.. 621-3084.. Steve@philosports.com

Pat Pioletti..... 493-9069.. pw64@comcast.net

Paul Brady 684-2540.. paul-brady@comcast.net

Rachael Garrett.... 714-8484.. rachaelgarrett@comcast.net

Steve Messman ... 493-8762.messmanfarms@comcast.net

Deputy Village Clerk & R. E. Franks Meeting Center Rentals

Janet Decker.. 684-2562.. janet@villageofphilo.com

127 W. Washington St., Monday - Friday 8am - 11am

Village Maintenance & Building Inspector

David Traxler 684-2674

105 E. Washington St., Monday-Friday 7am - 4 pm

Philo Planning Commission

Chris Payne, Co - Chair 684-2226

Karl Helmink, Co - Chair.....karl.helmink@comcast.net

ESDA Co-Coordinator

Richard Brand 778-8259

Chris Lueth.....377-9627

View meeting agendas & minutes on the Web at www.villageofphilo.com

Village of Philo
127 W. Washington St.
P.O. Box 72
Philo, IL 61864-0072

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