

VOICE OF JOHNSBURG



Village of
JOHNSBURG

Settled 1841 – Incorporated 1956

A Hometown with Spirit

Spring 2012 Newsletter

www.johnsburg.org

Electric Aggregation Referendum

As you are heading out to cast your vote in the March elections you will notice an important referendum question on the ballot. The Village has been asked by residents to consider pursuing Electric Aggregation for residential and small business electric supply. Recent changes to State statutes allow municipalities to contract for this electric supply. If the majority of voters want the Village to pursue this type of contract, the Village may be able to save its residents and small businesses perhaps as much as 20% annually compared with the rates currently being paid for electric supply through ComEd.

Electric Aggregation has received much attention over the past several months. You may have read articles in the local paper regarding other communities considering this alternative for electric supply. The reason being that by contracting on behalf of an entire community, the Village may be able to obtain more competitive rates. Rates obtained by municipalities that have already contracted on behalf of their community have been lower than those offered directly to the consumer. While many residents have asked us to pursue this opportunity, others have raised concerns about the Village contracting for their electric supply. We have put together this information to help you make an informed decision when you cast your vote. The following would apply should the results of the referendum direct the Village to pursue this electric supply alternative:

- Residents who have contracted with suppliers other than ComEd have expressed concern that they would be subject to cancellation fees with their current supplier should they be forced to switch to the Village's supplier. This will not occur. If you already elected to go with another supplier and are under contract, the Village's contract would not affect you or the benefits/obligations of your contract. Additionally, if you want to stay with ComEd or select another supplier, you would have an opportunity to "opt out" of the Village's program if you so choose.
- Should the referendum pass, the Village would work to establish the contractual specifications for which interested suppliers will provide bids. Once bids are received and a supplier is selected, you would be provided information regarding the rates and terms established under the Village's contract and be given the opportunity to "opt out" of the program if you so choose.
- The supplier the Village chooses to contract with would only provide the electric supply - the distribution of electricity would still be the responsibility of ComEd. As the distributor, ComEd would continue to process all of the billing for both the supply and distribution of your electric service and remain your point of contact for any questions or concerns regarding your service. Com Ed would no longer charge you for the supply portion of your electric service. Instead, your ComEd invoice would include the supply rates agreed to through the Village's contract which they would bill on behalf of the new supplier.

We realize the importance of this decision and understand that residents may be skeptical about relinquishing decisions regarding their electric service to the Village. You can find more information regarding this subject on the Village's website at johnsburg.org. We also urge you to take the time and do your own research regarding this very important matter.

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Village of JOHNSBURG

VILLAGE HALL HOURS

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Committee of the Whole

Last Thursday of every month - 7:30 p.m.

Community Affairs

2nd Tuesday of each month - 7:00 p.m.

Development & Government Affairs

4th Tuesday of each month - 7:30 p.m.

Economic Development

2nd Monday of each month - 7:00 p.m.

Finance

4th Monday of each month - 7:00 p.m.

Ordinance

2nd Monday of each month - 7:00 p.m.

Plan and Zoning Commission

2nd Tuesday of each month - 7:00 p.m.

Public Works

4th Wednesday of each month - 7:30 p.m.

Village Board

1st & 3rd Thursday of every month - 7:30 p.m.

Please call the Village Hall to confirm a meeting date and time. Meetings are rescheduled from time to time.

VILLAGE DIRECTORY

Village President

Ed Hettermann

Village Board of Trustees

John Huemann	Kevin McEvoy
Mary Lou Hutchinson	Janice Sisk
Rich Janusz	Ron Zanko

Village Hall: 815-385-6023

Email: villagehall@johnsburg.org

Website: www.johnsburg.org

Public Works: 815-363-8667

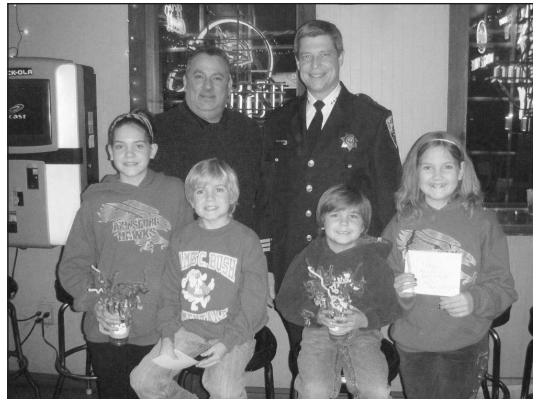
Police (Non Emergency): 815-385-6024

Police/Fire Emergency : 911

A Hometown with Spirit

Our community is fortunate to have civic organizations, residents and business owners that are there to help ease the burden on some of our less fortunate residents.

The Johnsburg Lion's Club, with the help of their family members and the officers of the Johnsburg Police Department, raised enough funds for the annual Shop with a Cop Program to provide area children of families that are less fortunate the opportunity to shop for gifts for their family members and select a coat, boots, hat and gloves for themselves. Area youths Rylee, Kaycie, R.J. and Kaeden Mowen created and sold reindeer crafted of candy canes to raise funds for the program. It is exciting to see our area youths giving their time and talents to raise funds for their peers who are less fortunate. For the last 14 years, the Johnsburg Lions Club, along with the help of Johnsburg residents and businesses in our community have raised over \$52,000 for the "Shop with a Cop" program. We would like to thank the Mowen siblings along with this year's primary sponsors - Walmart,



Area youths Rylee, Kaycie, R.J., and Kaeden Mowen, pictured with Johnsburg Lion's Club Treasurer Doug Carlile and Police Chief Keith VonAllmen, helped raise funds for this year's Shop with a Cop program.

Raymond's Bowl, the Johnsburg Area Business Association, Joan and Les Lunsman - and all the other generous contributors who helped make the event a success.

Over the past several weeks we welcomed home several local soldiers who have been serving overseas including Sergeant Rob Emmons, Warrant Officer Jason Klein and Corporal Anthony Moro.

If you are aware of a local soldier returning home, please contact the Village Hall as we are very grateful for their service to our country and would like to participate in welcoming them home.

Monica and Chuck Cannell, owners of the Sunnyside Little Store, recently received a \$500 grant through Exxon Mobil's Educational Alliance Program. Funds from the Educational Alliance Program are to be used for enhancing local school programs. Over the years, the Cannells have pursued the grant and contributed towards local athletic facility improvements, the Johnsburg Jr. High Outdoor Club, Johnsburg School's art, math, and science departments and other student programs. This year's grant was given to Johnsburg High School to advance its math and science programs. We thank Monica and Chuck Cannell for their commitment to our community.

Craig Wallace and his group of dedicated volunteers sponsored another successful Jolly-Pa-Looza event in December at the Johnsburg Community Club. They would like to give a special thank you to the Johnsburg Community Men's Club for their generous support for the event which raised more than \$10,000 used locally and nationally to help fight cancer.



In December, the Rescue Squad Retired was able to assist 199 families consisting of 637 individuals during their free food distribution. The Johnsburg Rescue Squad Retired has been helping area families with their food distribution program for 4 1/2 years. Many of our citizens and local civic organizations including the Johnsburg Oldtimer's Baseball Club, Johnsburg Community Men's Club, the Men's Catholic Order of Foresters Court #96 and the Johnsburg Lions Club, sponsored one or more of the food distributions this year, each at a cost of \$650.00. If you or your organization would like to help sponsor a food distribution, contact Wayne Hiller at 815-385-8399.

The Community Affairs Committee hosted the annual Meet & Greet Santa event on Friday, December 9th, 2011 at the Village Hall. Children and their families enjoyed treats and hot chocolate while they decorated ornaments and took time to talk to Santa. The event was well attended and closed with the annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony. I would like to thank the Community Affairs Committee for all of their hard work in planning and preparing for this event.



Fund raising efforts have started for this year's Relay for Life event which will be held on June 23rd. For more information, go to their website at relayforlife.org/northmchenryil.

The Village of Johnsburg would sincerely like to thank Zim and the Johnsburg High School graphics students for their assistance in the preparation and production of this newsletter.

It's the generosity of these individuals, businesses and our many organizations that truly exemplify our "Hometown with Spirit" motto.

Newsletter Distribution Changes

In 2010, the Village eliminated the distribution of its newsletter through the mail in order to reduce operational costs to proactively prepare for the challenges brought about by declining revenues. This issue of the newsletter is being circulated through the mail to all residents as a means to inform you of the upcoming referendum question regarding the purchase of electric supply which will be included on the March 20th ballot (see the article on the front page of this issue).

In lieu of mailing newsletters to all residents, the Village collected email addresses and began distributing the newsletter electronically to reduce printing and postage costs. While this cost savings approach may sound good in theory, it has hindered our ability to keep our residents informed. In an effort to address this, the Village has been working with a publication company to develop a way in which we can again distribute the newsletter through the mail while containing costs. One such measure is to include advertisements from local businesses in the newsletter to help fund the costs of its publication. We anticipate finalizing details in the near future and hope to begin regularly circulating the newsletter through the mail to all Village residents shortly.

From the President · A Year in Review

This issue marks the first issue of the New Year therefore I wanted to take a moment to look back over the past year and share with you a review of some of the key events that took place. We started out the year by holding a Strategic Planning Session in January during which 38 representatives throughout our community participated in performing a S.W.O.T. analysis of the Village to identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. This analysis helped us establish a list of key goals which were assigned to committees to develop the tasks and timelines necessary to achieve these goals.

One of the recurring goals identified in this year's session was to further improve communications. Village staff has been working diligently towards accomplishing this goal with the implementation of many new communication tools. Improvements have been made to the Village's website including the posting of Village Ordinances and Codes, a monthly Board Report and E-newsletter. Additionally the Village has broadened its communications to include the implementation of Facebook and Twitter, enabling us to reach a larger demographic group with Village news and information. The first comprehensive Annual Financial Report was also published on the Village's website this past year. This year's report has been posted and includes a condensed summary of the Village's financial activities for those who do not wish to review the detailed report. Last February's blizzard is an event we will not soon forget. Although record snowfalls brought vehicular movement to a halt for a period of time, the Village's Public Works Department worked swiftly to open up roadways despite a limited crew.

In the spring the Village Board performed another detailed review of the annual budget. Village staff and the Finance Committee spent a great deal of time establishing the Village's first comprehensive Capital Improvement and Maintenance Plan which identifies short and long term capital needs and the funding required to meet those needs. By setting aside dollars annually we can ensure that funding is available to maintain Village facilities, infrastructure and equipment as well as replace capital items when appropriate. Over the past four years, the Village has taken drastic steps to ensure its fiscal health through spending reductions and improving operational efficiencies. These proactive measures enabled the Village Board to approve a balanced budget that incorporates a newly established capital fund to support the Village's Capital Improvement and Maintenance Plan.

This past summer, work continued on the Rescue Squad Memorial Park located adjacent to the Johnsburg Community Club. Improvements included earth excavating, seeding, tree planting and the establishment of an access and future parking area off of Johnsburg Road. We are very grateful for the generous contributions made by the Johnsburg Rescue Squad Retired for this project. June brought about another weather related event when wind gusts of more than 70mph took out electric service throughout McHenry and Lake Counties. Though Com Ed crews worked diligently to restore power, many residents were without power for nearly a week. This event brought about the true meaning of community as friends and neighbors worked together while the Village's public works crews focused their efforts on cleaning up downed trees and debris.

During the construction season, residents along Fairview Avenue, Chapel Hill Road and Reed Avenue became the first residents in an established subdivision to connect to the Village's sewer system. A project that has been nearly 20 years in the making has finally come to fruition. Additionally, sewer infrastructure was extended to Halftime Bar and Grill funded by owner Fritz Larsen which now provides an opportunity for properties adjacent to the sewer main to connect to the system.

This past fall the Village finalized right of way and property acquisition of Church Street. This too has

been a project many years in the making. While residents have repeatedly raised concerns about the condition of Church Street (between St. Johns Avenue and Blitsch Street), the Village could do little to help as the road was situated on private property. Now that the Village has acquired the right of way, we can perform ongoing maintenance and pursue funds to improve the design of the road.

Family, friends and neighbors came together once again in October to enjoy the annual Celebration in the Park event. This year's event was a great success thanks to the hard work and coordination of the Community Affairs Committee, Village staff and the generous businesses, residents and local students who graciously contributed. The Community Affairs Committee also hosted a very successful Meet and Greet Santa event in December which was well attended by area children and their families.

This past year we were very fortunate to experience the opening of several new businesses in our community despite today's economic challenges. In October we welcomed Walmart to our community after years of working out the details of this development. Shortly thereafter in December we welcomed the opening of Angelo's Market. We also benefitted from the opening of many other new businesses such as Doggie Depot, Subway, Epic Deli, 7-Day Bar and Grill, Discovery Clothing, AMB Roofing & Sheet Metal, Justice for Girls, Salon Artistix and Cut Loose. These new businesses provide great new shopping and service opportunity for our community.

In closing, I cannot overlook a major milestone as 2011 marked the 20th Anniversary of the annexation of Johnsburg into Sunnyside. Those of you who have been here for some time will remember what a significant event it was. "Neighbors joining Neighbors" was the motto at that time. The annexation held many hopes and set goals for the future which were successfully accomplished. Please read the article on Page 6 for a look back over the past twenty years.

Well Wishes To Trustee May

At the December 20, 2011 meeting, long time Trustee Harold May announced his retirement and resignation from the Board. Mr. May played a key role in the Sunnyside-Johnsburg annexation in 1991, after which he was first elected into office in 1993. During his tenure, Mr. May chaired both the Community Development Committee and Public Works Committee. He served more than 18 years with the Village and will be greatly missed. We wish him all the best in his retirement.



Welcome Trustee McEvoy

Following Trustee May's retirement, Mr. Kevin McEvoy was appointed to serve Mr. May's remaining term as Trustee. Mr. McEvoy has been very involved with the community for years as a fireman for the McHenry Township Fire District, President of his homeowner's association and a committee member on the Johnsburg Public Works Committee. We welcome Mr. McEvoy to the Board and look forward to working with him.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors • 20 Years Later

In November of 1991, history was made in the State of Illinois when the incorporated community of **Sunnyside** annexed an area nearly three times its size commonly known as **Johnsburg**. Overnight, the Village of Sunnyside's population jumped to 4,631 residents. In March of 1992, the community officially changed its name to Johnsburg.

Since that time, through good planning, many positive changes have occurred throughout our community. With Sunnyside and Johnsburg pooling their respective resources our community was able to make great things happen. In 1991, the Village employed two part-time police officers and administrative personnel and had no public works department to speak of. Shortly after the annexation, the Village was able to begin building a full-time police department and providing regular business hours at the Village Hall. Additionally, equipment and manpower slowly began building to develop a full-time public works department and a building department was established. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the vision of leaders who dedicated their time, knowledge and resources for the betterment of our community. Today we are able to efficiently carry out operations equaling those of much larger communities and do so with fewer staff and resources.

Through careful planning over the past twenty years, we have seen the complexion of our community change for the better. Village leaders understood the importance of **protecting the small town landscape** that our residents want to maintain while **attracting business growth** that sustains our economic base and helps support the services our residents desire. Creating this balance was not always easy, but years of planning and hard work eventually paid off. In looking back, we were able to fund the following capital projects by applying for and receiving State and Federal grants and other funding options:

- Reconstruction of Johnsburg Road and the installation of sidewalks
- Village Hall addition and renovations
- Acquisition of and improvements to the Police Department facility
- Acquisition of 7 acres of land and buildings that became our Route 31 Public Works facility
- Development of the Shiloh Ridge Water System
- Acquisition and improvements to the Claremont Hills Water System
- Construction of the Route 31 Water System
- Construction of a 750,000 gallon water tower on Route 31
- Construction of a 1 million gallon per day wastewater treatment plant
- Construction of the central lift station
- Construction of the central force main and gravity sewer system
- Extension of sewers to existing homes through **voluntary** SSA funding
- Construction of sewer/water mains to Rt. 31 Developments
- Road improvements/upgrades to Fairview Avenue, Lower Pitzen, Upper and Lower Bald Knob, Middle, Stubby and Long Avenues, and Sunnyside Beach Avenue funded through **voluntary** SSAs.

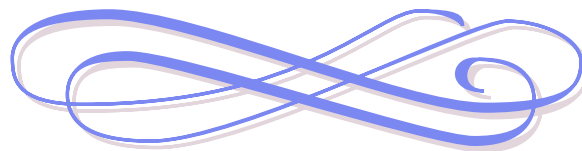
During the past twenty years, we experienced the development of several new residential subdivisions bringing new housing alternatives to our community. As growth opportunities arose through new development, Village leaders mandated that growth pay for itself, complementing the community not burdening it. This was done through the collection of impact fees required at the time of permitting. In planning for new residential and commercial growth, Village leaders saw the need to develop a pathway system that will enable pedestrians and bicyclists to move safely throughout the Village. In many areas throughout the Village, paths have already been installed which will eventually linkup and connect to form the entire pathway/sidewalk system.

Additionally, the Village constructed enhancements to existing parks such as **Sunnyside Memorial Park and the Alfred May Park and Boat Launch**. New parks such as **Hiller Park and Rescue Squad Memorial Park** (which is currently being developed) have been funded predominately through funds from donations and development. Many of these park improvements could not have been done without the generous contributions of funds and efforts by local sports organizations (such as **Johnsburg Boys Baseball League, the Pigtail League and White Lightning Soccer**), and civic organizations (such as the **Johnsburg Lions Club** and the **Johnsburg Rescue Squad Retired**). Their contributions, along with grants, member initiative funds and developer donations helped develop our parks and pathway system.

The Village also benefitted from the addition of many new businesses and worked aggressively to develop our **North Town Business District** which includes commercial opportunities in Prairie Commerce and Heritage Commerce Centers. In 1997, the Village partnered with property owners along Route 31 to annex their properties into the Village which resulted in the creation of our **Route 31 Commercial Corridor**. The annexation of this key area has provided us the benefits of the JC Penny and other retail shops in the Shops at Fox River Development and the new Walmart development, both of which have provided new shopping opportunities and beneficial increases in sales tax for our community. The 1997 annexations have also positioned the Village for a future **Metra commuter rail station** to enhance mass transportation alternatives in the area.

In the near future, McHenry County Division of Transportation will be improving Johnsburg Road between Chapel Hill Road and Route 31. The improvements will include signalization at Spring Grove Road and Riverside Drive, center turn lanes throughout the project area and a roundabout at the intersection of Johnsburg Road, Chapel Hill Road and St. Johns Avenue. As a part of this project, many streetscape enhancements will be implemented which will be primarily funded through a grant secured by the Village. Additionally, sidewalks will be added to provide for safe pedestrian movement.

In looking back, we have much to be proud of. It can be difficult to recognize these accomplishments when so much of our lives are consumed with the challenges brought about during today's economic climate. We all hope for and look forward to better days ahead. **With continued good planning and direction from the community we will be able to reflect on additional accomplishments.** Thank you to all of you who have worked so hard to make our community the wonderful place we call home.



Johnsburg Community Club Super Raffle

The Johnsburg Community Club will be holding its 20th Annual Super Raffle on Friday, May 11th. The Club opens at 6:30 p.m. with dinner being served at 7:30 p.m. Each Super Raffle ticket costs \$100 and includes one complimentary steak or chicken dinner and an entry into the double elimination Calcutta Super Raffle. Additional dinners are available for \$20. Advanced tickets are required and will not be available at the door. For more information, please call Len Eaton at 815-759-9375 or visit their website at www.johnsburgcommunityclub.com

Get Involved

The Village welcomes all its residents to get involved in their local government. Volunteering for a village committee is the best place to begin serving your Village. Here, you will have the opportunity to participate in making decisions that will steer the course of the village as well as solve everyday problems. The valuable knowledge and experience gained serving on these committees provides an in-depth understanding of the Village issues and will help answer your questions regarding Village operations. If you are interested in serving on a committee or want to learn more about how local government works in Johnsburg, please visit our website www.johnsburg.org or contact Village Hall at 815-385-6023.



VILLAGE OF JOHNSBURG T-SHIRTS & SWEATSHIRTS

The Village of Johnsburg has T-Shirts, Sweatshirts and Hooded Sweatshirts featuring the Johnsburg Village logo available for sale through the Village Hall.



T-Shirts \$10.00
T-Shirts are cream with a burgundy logo. Sizes Medium, Large, X-Large and XX-Large. All sizes of T-Shirts are in stock.



Sweatshirts \$20.00
Sizes Medium, Large, X-Large and XX-Large

Hoodies \$22.00
Sizes Medium and Large

Hoodies \$28.00
Sizes X-Large and XX-Large.

Sweatshirts and hoodies are burgundy with cream logo. Orders for sweatshirts and hooded sweatshirts are being taken. (Most sizes in stock.)

Please contact the Village Hall at 815-385-6023 to place an order. Proceeds from the sale of these items will go towards The Celebration in the Park.

Visit www.johnsburg.org often for community updates and events.

VILLAGE OF JOHNSBURG
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Johnsburg, IL 60051

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The voice of Johnsburg newsletter is currently only offered electronically to resident subscribers. Simply go to www.Johnsburg.org and register your email address to continue receiving this valuable communication about The Village of Johnsburg. If you are unable to receive the newsletter electronically, please contact the Village Hall at 815-385-6023 to get your name and address registered on the mailing list.