

VOICE OF JOHNSBURG



Village of
JOHNSBURG

Settled 1841 – Incorporated 1956

A Hometown with Spirit

Spring 2010 Newsletter

www.johnsburg.org

US CENSUS NEWS

Population counts from the Census affects funding for our community, our communities' representation in Congress and helps inform decision-making in municipal government and community organizations. With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship and whether you own or rent your home. It takes about 10 minutes for the average household to complete. Responses to the 2010 Census questionnaire are required by law. All responses are used for statistical purposes only

and all are strictly confidential. *The Census count is extremely important to*

United States
**Census
2010**

our Village as we receive state and federal funds based on our population so please take the few minutes to fill out the questionnaire. You may have a Census worker knock on your door. All Census workers will have an identification badge so please ask to see this before answering any of their questions. There are also plenty of Census jobs available.

Visit www.2010.census.gov for more information and testing sites.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season spending time with family and friends. Many of our community's civic organizations were busy this holiday season trying to ease the burden on some of our less fortunate residents. Johnsburg resident, Craig Wallace and his volunteers along with Chad Miller and a team of volunteers from the Woodstock Infantry Club sponsored Jolly-Pa-Looza which was held on December 5, 2009 at the Johnsburg Community Club in an effort to raise funds to help fight cancer. The event was a great success raising nearly \$8,000 for the cause. The majority of these funds directly assist local citizens of Johnsburg and the surrounding McHenry County area. Additionally, the Johnsburg Rescue Squad Retired was able to provide 10,000 pounds of food helping a total of 211 families this holiday season. This year's *Shop with a Cop* program (sponsored by the Johnsburg Lion's Club) was also very successful. Nine police officers from the Johnsburg Police Department joined 16 children to help them shop for gifts for their family members and to pick out a winter coat, boots, hat and gloves for themselves. After the *Shop with a Cop* program an additional check was presented by Les Lunsman on behalf of his patrons at the Sunnyside Tavern to be used for Johnsburg Police Charity programs for the coming year - a big thank you to that group. The Walla-Pa-Looza, Woodstock Infantry group of volunteers and the Johnsburg Lion's Club have teamed up to organize a fundraiser to support two Johnsburg families in need. Don't miss this fun filled event. The Radtke and Kinney families have experienced some unfortunate medical related issues and are in serious need of our community's support. For more information regarding this event see page 8 or go to www.johnsburg.org. We extend our sincere gratitude to all of the generous people who donate their time and efforts for these and other great causes. Your dedication is truly an example of why Johnsburg is well named as "A Hometown With Spirit".

I would like to thank Salvatore and Josephine DeMarco, son Tino, daughter Maria, and son in law Mario, along with their courteous employees for their constant generosity in support of our community as they celebrate 18 years of operating their family business – Val's Foods. From helping with food drives for FISH and the Knight's of Columbus (keeping our area food pantry readily



Val's Foods Celebrates 18 Years

The Village of Johnsburg would like to congratulate Sal DeMarco and Val's Foods for 18 wonderful years serving our community as Johnsburg's very own grocery. Good luck Val's and we wish you many more years of success!

Pictured from left, Tino DeMarco, Village President Ed Hettermann, Sal DeMarco and Maria Fiorita.

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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 each month - 7:00 p.m.

Community Affairs

1st Monday 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

1st Wednesday of each month - 7:30 p.m.

JCAN

3rd Thursday of each month - 7:30 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 Tuesday of each month - 7:00 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

Bruce Bennett	Harry May
John Huemann	Mary Lou Hutchinson
Bill Sandell	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

supplied), to fully donating all of the food for the Village's Celebration in the Park, the DeMarco family has been a generous supporter of our community. Salvatore and Josephine DeMarco along with Val's Foods is also a major sponsor of the Johnsburg Lion's Club Banjo Beer Night and many other community causes. Sal's generosity is immeasurable. On behalf of the residents, Village staff and the Village Board of Trustees, thank you for your ongoing support of our community. May the next 18 years bring you the continued success you truly deserve. Thank you again for being a valued part of our business community.

The last couple of months of 2009 were a very busy time for the Village Board. In October and November, the board met to review Strategic Plans that were developed over the past fifteen years and established a list of goals and tasks to embark upon in 2010. These goals and tasks have been assigned to committees who will establish priorities and timelines. The Village also closed on the refinancing of a bond issue that we reported on in the last newsletter. The bonding process resulted in the Village receiving a stable AA bond rating from Standards and Poors. This favorable rating resulted in a savings to the Village of nearly \$150,000 over the term of the bond. I commend past Finance Chairman -Trustee Bruce Bennett, current Finance Chairman- Trustee Mary Lou Hutchinson and Village Administrator Claudett Peters along with the Finance Committee for their ongoing diligence and hard work to insure that the Village operates in a fiscally responsible manner. Their commitment and dedication is a true example of going above and beyond.

At a recent board meeting, Ms. Cassandra McKinney was in attendance on behalf of McHenry County to solicit the Village's support for the County's proposed groundwater protection program. Protecting our groundwater resources is important to the long term health of our community. Ms. McKinney along with a hard working group of volunteers has worked diligently in preparing a program that will insure the protection of our groundwater for years to come. To learn more about the program and review the draft program document, go to www.mchenryh20.com.

Due to recent rumors that have resurfaced regarding the Village's intentions with SSA 23, I want to reinforce that the Village Board is concerned with what direction to take in the future when using SSA's to do improvements in our community. The majority of the Board and I felt that clarification was needed regarding the court's decision and therefore chose to ask the Appellate Court to review the matter and provide a ruling. *As I have stated in the past, I will NOT endorse proceeding with this project at the costs previously proposed. I realize that the current economy is impacting our community and the cost would be a burden to many. I know that a wastewater treatment system is a much needed improvement and I will continue to work in finding affordable ways to bring a wastewater collection system to the areas that are in need of one. I want to reinforce that regardless of rumors or hearsay that has been circulating, the Village Board and my position has NOT changed.* I will keep you updated and informed of the Village's progress.

In closing, if you have any questions or concerns please contact the Village Hall. If you feel your concerns are not being addressed, I want to hear from you. You are the customers of the services we provide. If something is broke, I will try to fix it. The Village Board and I expect our staff to treat you with courtesy and respect. I ask that you converse with them in the same manner. I can assure you that you will receive an answer. If I do not have it readily available, I will get back to you. Can I assure you that you will like the answer? Not always, but please give me an opportunity to try and assist you. Watch the Village's website and the Community Bulletin Board by the Johnsburg Library for information on my future subdivision walks (weather permitting). I can be reached through the Village Hall at 815-385-6023 or via email at ehettermann@johnsburg.org.

Respectfully,
Edwin P. Hettermann,
Village President

FAQs

Village President, Ed Hettermann, answers your most frequently asked questions.

Q: How I can get more involved in the Johnsburg community?

A: There are many opportunities for interested persons to become more involved in the community. Johnsburg is fortunate to have many civic organizations that work hard to make a difference in our community. These organizations have been frequently recognized in our newsletters for their tireless efforts and generosity. Additionally, serving on a Village committee is another way you can become more involved in the community. For more information about volunteer opportunities, please go to our website at www.johnsburg.org and click on "Community Directory".

Q: What is the Village's policy on snow removal?

A: Village staff works hard to remove snow and de-ice our roads in a timely manner. Our public works and building department staff are responsible for clearing snow from more than 50 miles of road. Major roads and bus routes are plowed first, followed by secondary subdivision streets and finally cul-de-sacs. We ask that you drive cautiously and make sure to increase the following distance when behind a snowplow. Remember that it is very difficult for the drivers to see a car following too closely behind them.



Q: If I run a business out of my home, do I need to register with the Village?

A: All businesses, both store front and those run from home, are required to register with the Village no later than April 30th each year. If you have a business in the Village and have not registered, please contact the Village Hall at 815-385-6023. So long as you register your business by April 30th, there is no fee to do so.

Q: When can I burn yard waste materials in the Spring?

A: Residents may burn landscape waste on weekends in April and May from dawn to dusk. You must be 100 feet from any home (yours and your neighbors) and 50 feet from any accessory building such as garages and sheds. Only onsite generated landscape waste may be burned. For more information about burning regulations go to www.johnsburg.org, select "Resident Handbook" and click on "Ordinances and Codes".

IN MEMORIAM



Late Village President,
David Dominguez

Being that this newsletter issue covers the months of February, March and April, I can't help thinking about the dedication and commitment of our late Village President, David Dominguez. President Dominguez passed away this past April. He is greatly missed and always in my thoughts. President Dominguez began his service to the Village in 1989 serving as a Village Trustee and went on to become Village President in 1997. He accomplished many things for the betterment of our community. His progressive leadership and tireless dedication were instrumental in the merging of the Village of Sunnyside and the unincorporated community of Johnsburg, creating the Village of Johnsburg we know today. He led the effort in establishing a commercial corridor to enhance the Village's tax base and pursued the establishment of a wastewater treatment and water system for the Village. President Dominguez worked diligently to build relationships with other local, State and Federal officials. His leadership established a full time police and public works departments which greatly expanded services to our residents without significant tax increases. He was successful in helping the Village secure numerous grants to fund much needed infrastructure and capital purchases resulting in millions of dollars in savings to our residents. President Dominguez was a man of great vision, a mentor to many of us, and a true community leader.

Sincerely,
Edwin P. Hettermann

JOHNSBURG COMMUNITY CLUB SUPER RAFFLE

The Johnsburg Community Club will be holding its 18th Annual Super Raffle on Friday evening May 14, 2010. Each Super Raffle ticket costs \$100 and entitles one person to a 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. Tickets will not be available at the door. For more information or to purchase tickets please call Len Eaton at 815-759-9375.

VALENTINES DINNER DANCE FUNDRAISER

McHenry Township is sponsoring a Share Your Love gourmet gala on Friday, February 12th at 6:00 p.m. to benefit the Salvation Army Golden Diners located in the McHenry Township Senior Center. There will be live music by the Starlight Trio for your dancing pleasure. Whether you bring a partner or meet one on the dance floor, be sure to experience this musical celebration. Tickets cost \$30. Donations will be greatly appreciated. For reservations and tickets please call Amy at 815-344-3555.

SOMETHING FROM THE ARCHIVES

By: *Johnsburg Historian Mike Clark*

What would be the circumstances that would cause a family to leave their homes and travel to a different country? Here in Johnsburg we are lucky to have a document that answers that question! In the early 1930s a letter was published in the Chicago Tribune that was written from Johnsburg in the 1840s, a letter written by Nickolas Frett to his friends and family members he had left a few years earlier in Germany. Here is part of that letter.

We left our wives and children in the city of Chicago and we three (Nicholas Frett, Nicholas Adams and Jacob Schmitt) went out to the country to look for an opportunity, and we found it thirty English miles from Chicago near the village of McHenry, where there is an English Free School and a house of correction.

The village is only three English miles distant from us. There I bought a farm of 160 acres which according to the German measure, makes 200 Morgan, at 2.50 per acre. In German money, six marks. The land lies in a good situation and also a beautiful neighborhood.

Also we have very fine meadow land upon which the grass is so high it reaches above my head. This will perhaps seem unbelievable to you but it is true. I would not have believed it myself if I had not seen it. The forest is composed of many trees and Hazel bushes like not such are found in Germany and they grow in great masses. Also in the woods the wild lemons (plums) grow in abundance. When we bought the land we hardly knew what to say when we glimpsed the splendid fruit and high grass.

Nickolas Adams from Hirten also has as much land as we. Jacob Schmitt of Muenck has 60 acres. We three took ours all together in one piece. We also bought 2 Oxen that are as heavy as the largest one to be found in Germany. Also a double span wagon and a cook machine (cook stove) which is very artfully constructed. One can cook upon 4 fires at once and at the same time have an oven for baking.

We also bought 2 cows and a plow, besides household gear that one needs on a farm. The oxen cost forty dollars, the wagon thirty three dollars, the stove twenty two dollars with the utensils included, the plow seven dollars and the 2 cows twenty four dollars. When we get things somewhat arranged we can keep a hundred head of stock on our own place.

Here it is not like in Germany that one must support the cattle with his labor. They run out day and night, cows, hogs, oxen, horses etc. The cows come home evening and morning by themselves. Feed is absolutely free. One can make as much hay as he wants and where he wishes without paying for it. Here one knows nothing about taxes. One does not need to worry about beggars as they do in Germany. Here a man works for himself. Here one is equal to one another. Here no one takes off his hat to another. We know longer long for Germany. Every day we thank the dear Lord that he has brought us so to speak out of slavery into paradise. This also I wish from my heart for my dear friends, sisters and brothers who continue to live in Germany as if under lions and dragons, fearing every moment to be devoured by them.

Costuming in America is similar to that of the best people in Germany. It is particularly handsome in the case of men. One can not distinguish the farmer from the gentleman. They all stand on the same plane. If a women were to cross the street without a hat she would be laughed at. In New York I bought my wife and daughter Maria a mantle of American cut.

Board in America is also cheap. The common man lives better here than the highest in Germany. One cannot describe how good it is good in America and the many remarkable things to be found here. If one should write about them they would sound too unbelievable.

Nickolas Frett sent this letter to Germany to encourage his friends and family to join him in America. Apparently it worked and many followed from the Eifel Region in Germany.



The next question comes from Carolyn Knopp

What is the oldest building in Johnsburg and can you please give a brief history of what it was used for?

The Building on the northwest corner of Johnsburg Road and St Johns Ave. was built in 1857 according to the stone work on the front of the building and was probably built by John Frett (son of Nicholas) who owned that property. This building possibly housed some of Johnsburg's early general stores. The sub basement once was a brewery. In the early 1900's JC Debreck ran a general store. Ben Schaefer later bought the store and ran it for many years until Joe Hiller bought it and ran the store until it closed in the mid 1970s. In recent years it housed a ceramic shop and an insurance agent. The present owner, Keystone Mortgage Emporium Inc., has given the building a good facelift suitable for Johnsburg's oldest building.

The next question is from Adam Schmitt.
Who is the oldest person, born in Johnsburg, that is still alive today?"

Well after asking the go to team we have come up with **Stanley Schmitt**, born in 1921 and is 89 years old. There are two Johnsburg women who are older but were born in Spring Grove. They are Rita Miller and Sal Smith. If this question came up a year ago we had Agnes Freund who was over 100 when she died and Marie Oefling who was in her mid nineties. I found one secret to long life is that you don't go around asking women how old they are.

Email your Historical Questions About Johnsburg to mclark@johnsburg.org and I'll find the answer.

JOHNSBURG BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

I AM! I CAN! DAYCARE

By: Felena Mattos, *Johnsburg High School Journalism Student*

If you have children between the ages of 2 and 8 and you need a local, reliable and trustworthy daycare then you're in luck. **I Am! I Can!** is a daycare located on Grant Rd. in Johnsburg. Children from Johnsburg, McHenry, Spring Grove, Richmond, Lake Villa, Twin Lakes, Ringwood and Genoa City are all allowed to register.

If you want your child to have extra social skills and school preparation **I Am! I Can!** is a good place to find that. "We address education, including school readiness. We provide a safe and protective environment for children that fosters healthy emotional development and secure relationships with adults and other children," one staff member said.

The **I Am! I Can!** staff has a combined total of over 108 years of experience at their school. In addition to that, all staff continues to go to childcare classes. The goal of **I Am! I Can!** is to have children socialize and interact with other children and adults without TV or video games.

Preschool and daycare programs are open mornings, afternoons or all day. Open on weekdays at 6:30 a.m. and closing at 5:30 p.m., kids have all kinds of activities to do. Some activities include arts and crafts, physical activities, group activities, individual activities and outdoor activities including a 2-acre playground.

Not only does **I Am! I Can!** have a lot of different activities to do, but they also serve children nutritional meals. They're open all year, they have a summer camp and they have a Johnsburg bus system. **For more information call 815-363-1333.**

A big thank you goes out to the Johnsburg High School Journalism Class for writing this month's Spotlight article.



Johnsburg Area Business and Craft Expo

Sat., March 20, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Location: Johnsburg High School

This year's expo promises to have something for everyone. In addition to the over 50 local businesses displaying their wares, some special entertainment will also be featured, thanks to a grant from Target. The McNulty Irish Dancers will be performing in the auditorium from 11:30 a.m. - noon, followed by the Barefoot Hawaiians at 1:30 p.m. The Barefoot Hawaiians are an authentic Polynesian-style performing troupe that will transport you to the south Pacific with their dances, music and costumes. Don't miss an afternoon of exhibits, prizes, games, and fun. Admission and parking are free. Lunch will be available in the cafeteria from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Booth reservation forms are available at the Johnsburg Public Library, 3000 N. Johnsburg Rd., 815-344-0077.

NEW PROGRAM SEEKS STORIES ABOUT HELPFUL TEENS

Kids Who Dare to Care, sponsored by Sage Products, Inc., is looking for stories of any high school age teens in McHenry County who make life better for someone in the county or the world. The goal of Kids Who Dare to Care is to collect stories of kindness and giving which happen everyday in McHenry County. The program believes that as teenagers learn the importance of giving from their hearts, our world can change. If you would like to tell us the story of a student who has dared to go the extra mile to help out in our county or world, please share your story with the project founder, Moe Ross at 630-980-3574 or email her at kidswhodaretocare@yahoo.com. You must know the contact information for the teenager. No story is too small. The deadline is March 1, 2010.



PUBLIC WORKS NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Johnsburg Public Works Department is asking for your help in assisting them with snow removal efforts. Please make sure when putting out garbage and recycling for pickup you place the cans either in your driveway or shovel a spot for them to be placed on the side of the road. We experienced a lot of garbage cans that were placed in the road during the last big snowfall, most of which were hit by the snowplow leaving a trail of litter throughout the neighborhood. We would also like to remind you that shoveling snow back into the road is illegal and fines will be issued to those in violation. We appreciate everyone's help in ensuring that snow removal efforts can be completed efficiently.

MEDICINE CABINET INFO FROM THE POLICE DEPT



The police department has established an unused or expired medicine collection program for the Village. The purpose of this new program is to give residents an opportunity to insure unused and expired medicines are properly disposed of.

Please either place your pills and capsules in a resealable bag or leave them in the original containers. If you do bring prescription vials they will be destroyed too. If you are

disposing of liquid medication, please leave the medication in the bottle and put the bottle inside a resealable bag to avoid leakage. We cannot accept sharps, needles, IV bags or thermometers. You won't have to complete any forms or sign any papers, so you can maintain complete privacy. After the drugs are collected they will be safely disposed of by a professional medical waste handling company. **It may seem an inconvenient way to get rid of unwanted drugs, but there are some very important reasons to dispose of old medicine safely and responsibly:**

The Environment: Please don't flush! Recent research has uncovered some disturbing facts about pharmaceuticals in our environment. Flushed drugs are much more persistent than anyone ever realized. The sewage treatment plants currently in use in this country are not designed to remove dissolved drugs from our wastewater. Antibiotics and other medications in a septic system can destroy beneficial bacteria necessary for the system to operate. Septic systems also allow leaching of the drugs into water resource systems. *That means that the pharmaceuticals we flush end up being released back out into lakes and streams.* Don't toss it out either! Throwing drugs in the trash is not a good disposal option either. Children or scavenging animals can find the medication and ingest it. Drugs can also endanger sanitation workers if not packaged correctly for disposal. Finally, drugs often dissolve in landfills over time and wind up leaching into groundwater anyway.

Abuse and accidental poisoning: The danger with throwing old medications in the trash (or just keeping them in the house forever) is that other people can find them and take them. Prescription medication abuse by teens and young adults is a growing problem in the United States. There has been much media attention lately on the alarming phenomenon of "pharm parties", parties where teens take combinations of prescription drugs scavenged from their family medicine cabinets.

Protect our senior citizens: Kids and teens aren't the only population at risk. Senior citizens may also become confused about their medications. They might accidentally take expired medications or drugs that are no longer prescribed for them. For your family's sake, it is really worth this small effort to get rid of medication your family no longer needs, and to get rid of it safely.

Your privacy: Finally, when you throw drug vials in a landfill, you expose yourself to the possibility that someone will get their hands on your personal information. Believe it or not, there are people who will go through trash looking for personal information to help them in identity theft schemes. Why put the information there in the first place?

For further information: If you have any questions about the program or need more information, please call Sergeant Keith Von Allmen at (815) 385-6024.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION FOR THOSE IN NEED



The Johnsburg Rescue Squad Retired Members will sponsor a free food distribution on February

24, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. at the Johnsburg Community Club, 2315 Church St.

The Rescue Squad was able to assist 211 families consisting of 722 people during their Free Food Distribution in December. The Johnsburg Rescue Squad again purchased 10,000 pounds of food, enough for 200 families, from the Northern Illinois Food Bank for their distribution on February 24th. It will be donated to those who need assistance on a first come, first serve basis. No lines will be formed prior to 3:45 p.m. You must be 18 to get a ticket, only 1 ticket per family. Recipients are asked to provide their own storage containers such as a large box, tote, laundry basket or garbage bags. **ILLINOIS RESIDENTS ONLY.** The next food distribution will take place on April 28th at 4:00 p.m. at the Johnsburg Community Club. Lines will not be allowed to form until 3:45 p.m. on April 28th. Once again, this program is open to Illinois Residents Only and only one ticket per family. The Village wishes to thank the Johnsburg Rescue Squad Retired Members for all the countless and selfless hours spent on this endeavor.



The Connie Sizer Foundation and JSB Law PC are pleased to announce a food drive to

help local families in need. They will be collecting donations to support the Johnsburg Rescue Squad Retired Members food distribution program and the Richmond/Spring Grove Food Pantry. Non-perishable food donations may be dropped off between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at JSB Law PC, 3604 Chapel Hill Rd., Johnsburg, IL 60051. Monetary donations may be made by sending a check, made payable to The Connie Sizer Foundation and mailed to the above address. Donations can also be made online at www.conniesizer.org and click on the Donate button. Please write "Food Drive" in the note field of the donation form. All donations made between January 15th and February 15th will be provided in full to the Johnsburg Rescue Squad Retired Members while food donations dropped off at the address above will be provided to the Richmond/Spring Grove Food Pantry. For additional information, please call Roy Bethge at 815-322-2500.

News from the Johnsburg Public Library

3000 N. Johnsburg Road
815-344-0077
www.johnsburglibrary.org

New! Downloadable Audiobooks

Downloadable audiobooks are now available via the Johnsburg Public Library's website. All you need is a computer and an Internet connection, and you can hear the entire collection of the latest digital audiobooks – free! Simply go to the library web site at www.johnsburglibrary.org and follow the Downloadable Audiobooks link under the Navigation sidebar on the left. Download your choice of title to your desktop, laptop, or portable media device, and you'll be set to go. Complete instructions are available online.

“Beat the Critics” Oscar Party Sun., Feb. 28, 2:00 p.m.

Think you can beat the experts on predicting the 2010 Academy Award winners? If so, you could win a \$50 Classic Cinemas gift card! Andy Berlin, 2007 JHS graduate and current film student at Columbia College, and Jim Stockwell, film instructor at McHenry County College, will discuss the Oscar nominees as well as the films and performers that were overlooked. Clips of the nominated films will also be shown, pending availability, and free movie treats will be available. The audience member who predicts the most winners will receive the gift card. Due to the adult nature of some of the nominated films, this program is not appropriate for children under age 13. Advance registration is required. Register online at www.johnsburglibrary.org, or call the library at 815-344-0077.

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

In the last edition of the “Voice of Johnsburg”, we reported that the Village Board would be considering the Finance Committee's recommendation to refinance an existing debt through the use of General Obligation Alternate Revenue Source Bonds. In December of 2007, the Village refinanced an existing \$2.6 million debt certificate, and at that time secured an additional \$2 million for the construction of the low-pressure sewer system it was pursuing. Due to the delay in construction resulting from ongoing litigation related to SSA #23, the Village must now return the additional \$2 million it borrowed.

Since the last edition, the Village Board voted to move forward with the refinancing. We are pleased to report that the Village received a favorable AA rating from Standards and Poors for the bonds. The favorable rating enabled the Village to receive a lower interest rate and prevented us from needing to purchase bond insurance which resulted in a savings of nearly \$150,000 over the term of the new bond. The Village closed on the refinancing on December 30th.

The Finance Committee continues to perform a monthly analysis of revenues and expenditures for this fiscal year. State Income Tax revenues remain a concern as they continue to come in lower than originally projected by the Illinois Municipal League. As we reported in the last edition, the Illinois Municipal League regularly provides municipalities with information regarding the amount of State Income Tax that will be collected. Updated information still reflects State Income Tax coming in nearly 15.5% lower than last year's receipts. Additionally, the State continues to fall as much as three months behind in distributing the income tax they have collected. This coupled with the decrease in actual receipts places municipalities in a cash flow crunch. The Finance Committee and Village Board are working diligently to manage our expenditures and work with our representatives to try and improve the distribution of the State Income Tax that is rightfully ours. The Finance Committee is also looking into further reductions in spending to help maintain a balanced budget.



DISTRICT 12 UPDATE

Continual Curriculum Improvements – A Johnsburg School Board Priority

The Johnsburg School Board is committed to providing the fullest curricular opportunities to all our district students. We are currently in the process of restructuring our entire math curriculum from kindergarten through high school. We have already adopted many changes at the Junior High to both expand the curriculum we offer and to operate more efficiently.

The new schedule at the Junior High allows our staff common planning time to work on their lesson plans together. For those parents that may recall, gone are the days of students needing to study for several tests and having to work on more than one large project at the same time. Not only does this allow for better planning, it also permits the interjection of the curriculum throughout each subject.

Our foreign language program has been expanded and will be fully implemented by the next school year. Every one of our seventh and eighth grade students will have had the opportunity to take both French and Spanish as an exploratory class. Instead of a second study hall, our seventh graders are now taking Art and Technology classes. Health class is no longer “in place of” Physical Education, it is offered “in addition to” PE.

The Johnsburg School board is committed to offering a wide array of courses along with extracurricular activities that will help to create an environment that inspires students to become productive life-long learners.



PRE-KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION AND SCREENING For Three, Four and Five Year Olds

Johnsburg School District 12 will hold registration for all children who are three, four and five years of age and who have not yet entered kindergarten. Registration will take place on March 9th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on March 10th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Ringwood School Primary Center. This registration applies to all preschool children ages three through five, even if the child has registered and been screened in previous years. For more information or if you have any questions, please call the Ringwood School Primary Center at 815-729-0459.



NEW TRANSPORTATION OPTION IN MCHENRY COUNTY

Need a ride to work?

A new transportation option will be available beginning February 13, 2010 that will provide trips between the cities of Crystal Lake, McHenry, and Woodstock (including the Government Center!) and to and from Valley Hi and the Fox Lake Metra Station. The new dial-a-ride service expands on the current dial-a-ride programs provided by Woodstock, McHenry, and Crystal Lake. It's funded by the County's Transit Grant Program and Senior Services Grant Fund. Other agencies participating in the program include Crystal Lake, McHenry, Woodstock, Dorr Township, McHenry Township, and Pioneer Center for Human Services. Registration is required for this service and is open now.

Riders are encouraged to register before February 1 to allow time for processing. Register by filling out the registration form online at: www.co.mchenry.il.us/departments/dot/Pages/PaceService.aspx. Contact Sarah Lutz at the McHenry County Division of Transportation at 815-334-4985 with questions. All one-way trips on this new service are \$3.00 and there are no discounted or multi-ride fares. Registered riders can make trips Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Rides must be scheduled one day in advance. The first trip reservations will be accepted on February 12—call 800-451-4599 (TTY) 888-454-4724, Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

KINNEY / RADTKE FUNDRAISER

Sponsored by Johnsburg Lions Club & Walla-Pa-Looza



LIVE MUSIC / RAFFLES / FUN & PRIZES

When: Saturday - February 27th, 2010

Where: Johnsburg Community Club

Time: 6:00p.m. to 12:00a.m.

Why: To raise money in order to help these families in need in our community.

Come help us help others....

Live Music, Calcutta, 50/50 Raffles, Meat Raffles, Snacks and Frosty Beverages

All proceeds will be given to the families to off-set mounting medical bills and other needed services.

Admission: \$5.00

Donations can be sent to:

Johnsburg Lions Club

5017 N. Brorson Lane Johnsburg, IL 60051

Checks made Payable to: Johnsburg Lions Club

For additional information call: 815 385 - 8475

VILLAGE OF JOHNSBURG

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RECEIVE YOUR VILLAGE NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY

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Registration will eliminate the mailing of hard copies and will provide a cost savings to the Village.