

Voice of Johnsburg

A Hometown with Spirit



Winter 2015

Johnsburg Community Events

The Village of Johnsburg and Community Affairs Committee had another very successful year bringing you annual events like Celebration in the Park, Holiday Magic, the Easter Egg Hunt, and new this year - Dancing Under the Stars.

Members of the Johnsburg Community Affairs Committee are busy planning events for the community to enjoy. Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events.

Village of Johnsburg
Holiday Magic

Friday December 4, 2015
Johnsburg Community Club
6:00 to 8:00

A special guest from the North Pole will arrive at 6:30
Village of Johnsburg tree lighting at 7:45

Crafts, Balloonman, Music, Refreshments

In the spirit of giving, we ask that you please bring a new toy, a food pantry item, or a monetary donation for those in need.

Holiday Magic

On **Friday, December 4th**, from 6 to 8 p.m. the Village of Johnsburg and the Community Affairs Committee will host "Holiday Magic" at the Johnsburg Community Club. A special guest from the North Pole will arrive at 6:30 p.m. There will be crafts, balloons, music and refreshments and a tree lighting ceremony at 7:45 p.m. In the spirit of giving we ask that you please bring a new toy or an item for the food pantry for those in need.

Family Community Skate Night

The Village of Johnsburg and the Community Affairs Committee will host Family Community Skate Night on **Saturday, January 23rd** from 4 to 7 p.m. (weather permitting) at Rescue Squad Memorial Park. The event will include a bonfire, hot chocolate and cookies.





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

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

Development & Government Affairs

4th Wednesday of each month - 6:30 p.m.

Economic Development

3rd Wednesday 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 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

Tom Curry	Kyle Frost
John Huemann	MaryLou Hutchinson
Greg Klemstein	Kevin McEvoy

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

President's Letter

With the end of the year swiftly approaching, I've been thinking about the great things that have been accomplished this past year and the many new opportunities before us. The Village Board took action on several initiatives aimed at insuring a safe and financially secure future for our community. Most recently, the Village Board took action to partner with the McHenry Township Fire Protection District in an effort to pursue updated emergency warning sirens in our community. In October, a new emergency warning siren was installed at Fire Station #2 located across from the Johnsburg Library. Today's technology enables this siren to have a far greater range than what was previously in place. The Village will continue to work with the Fire Protection District to pursue additional emergency warning sirens to provide more coverage to residents.



In July, the Village closed on the acquisition of two parcels of land. The first is a five acre parcel located next to Sunnyside Park. The Village will one day expand the park to accommodate sports fields and address overflow parking needs. The second parcel is located adjacent to the McHenry Township Fire Protection District's fire station on Johnsburg Road. The parcel was acquired to serve as the future location of a municipal center housing both the Village Hall and Police Department.

In September, the Johnsburg Rescue Squad Retired formally dissolved marking the end of an era. In doing so, they very generously donated the balance of their funds, \$22,700, to the Village of Johnsburg to be used to install decorative pedestrian lighting in Rescue Squad Memorial Park. Additionally, they are donating the original rescue squad vehicle to the Village to be used in parades and for other approved functions. We are very grateful for the generosity and commitment shown by the Rescue Squad Retired members throughout the years. Read more about the history of the Squad and their contributions to the community on page 9.

In October, the Village Board took action to continue extending the Village's wastewater treatment system into neighborhoods. At the request of residents on Sunnyside Beach Drive, who submitted a petition reflecting majority support for the project, an ordinance was approved by the Village Board proposing the establishment of a Special Service Area on Sunnyside Beach Drive for the purpose of installing sewer infrastructure into the neighborhood. The Special Service Area will enable the residents to pay back the cost of the project over time on their tax bill.

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

As I reported in the fall issue, we bid sad good-byes to several employees this year, but in turn, we welcomed some terrific new talent to our "A-team". Most recently, Timothy Haynes joined our Administration staff as our new Administrative Assistant/Collector at the Village Hall. He assists residents and provides administrative support to the Village Board and several committees. Tim also coordinates the Village's plan review, building permit and inspection activities. Anthony Wallin joined our public works team this summer and has already put his valuable experience and skills to work helping the department complete an aggressive patching, ditching and tree trimming program. Joe Kleinhanzl joined public works at the end of October. Joe will assist the department in maintaining our infrastructure, facilities and properties.

The Lion's Club's meat raffle will be held at Raymond's Bowl at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 3, 2015. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go to support the Lion's vision and hearing program. They need your support to continue these services so please come out for the December meat raffle. I would like to thank Joan and Mario Arcari, owners of the Waterfront Hotel & Marina who donated accommodations at the Waterfront Hotel & Marina to the Lions of Illinois Foundation's Hearing Technician, Lion Joe Krenkel, while staying in Johnsburg to perform the screening tests for the Lion's hearing screening.

In closing, I would like to thank all of our residents and the business community for the opportunity to serve you again this past year as your Village President. I hope I have addressed any concerns you have had and if not, please contact me. I, along with the Village Board and staff, wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Respectfully,
Edwin P. Hettermann
Village President

Public Works News

INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE

Public works employees are busy preparing trucks and equipment for the upcoming snow removal season. Over the past few months, they have been working diligently to complete an aggressive road patching, ditching and tree trimming program. Additionally, they have been working to clear brush and debris from major drainage areas to insure that the Village's storm water system operates properly. We are fortunate to have a team of skilled and knowledgeable employees who are able to perform much of the work in house which enables the Village to do more while containing costs. This past year, pavement cutting and

patching occurred on Chellington Drive, Frances Drive, Old Bay Road, Hilltop Avenue, Bronson Avenue, Bison Lane, Amber Way, Florence Drive, Hillcrest Drive, Hamlin Drive and Farmington Lane. Additionally, culvert replacements and/or ditch work were completed on Buchanan Drive and Hamlin Drive, Oakdale Avenue, Rolling Lane and Bald Knob Road. The Department also pursued tree trimming throughout the Village to remove branches impacting line of sight and safe travel along our roadways. Tree trimming will continue throughout the winter months.

By taking a proactive approach to infrastructure maintenance we can prevent having to pursue costly repairs.



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Shop with a Cop

The Johnsburg Police Department and the Johnsburg Lion's Club created the "Shop with a Cop" program 20 years ago. The program has built many positive relationships between police officers and the children of our community. Each child receives a fixed amount to spend on Christmas gifts at our local Walmart store. This evening positively impacts the kids as well as the Johnsburg Police officers and Lion's Club volunteers.

Children are recommended for participation in the program by police department members, school employees, social agencies and family shelters.

Anyone can nominate a child who meets the criteria of being between the ages of five and fourteen and who has a social or economic need and has not participated in past years.



The "Shop with a Cop" program is fully funded by local donations. If anyone would like to donate to this wonderful program to help make a child's Christmas special, or would like to nominate a child, please contact Chief Keith Von Allmen at 815.385.6024.

Welcome Fox River Liquors!

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Fox River Liquors held its grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, August 29th. Many area residents came out to welcome the owners, Jon and Isabella



Brudzinski, along with Village President Ed Hettermann, Trustee John Huemann, and JABA President Rick Bierman. The Brudzinski's are Johnsburg residents who felt there was a need in Johnsburg for a liquor store supplying specialty liquors which can be blended into exotic drinks. The store also features local craft beer, an extensive wine selection and other well known beers and liquors. Jon and Isabella are excited about their new business venture and hope you will come out for one of their upcoming special tasting events. Fox River Liquors is located by the bridge at 3312 Chapel Hill Road.

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Citizen's Police Academy Class

The Johnsburg Police Department has announced the 6th annual Citizen's Police Academy Class. A Citizen Police Academy is a program intended to educate adult citizens about police work and is designed to give the public a working knowledge of our department's organization, personnel, policies and procedures. The Citizen's Police Academy is not designed as a preparatory class for individuals who desire to become a law enforcement officer. Rather, it is intended as an educational and informative offering for adults who both reside or work within our village and have a desire to learn more about their police department. Enrolled citizens will be encouraged to build a lasting partnership with the department, with the ultimate goal of reducing crime and improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods.



The Citizen's Police Academy topics will include the history and evolution of law enforcement, firearms familiarization, patrol tactics, gangs, drug enforcement, special response team operations, canine patrol, criminal law, crime prevention, media relations, crime scene processing, investigations, and more.

The Academy begins on Wednesday January 27th, 2016 and will meet once per week for a total of 9 sessions. The class will last 2 to 3 hours. A variety of instructors from the Johnsburg Police Department, and guests, will be presenting an assortment of topics in order to provide the public with a comprehensive view of police work and the criminal justice system.

The Academy is offered free of charge to Johnsburg residents as well as business owners and employees. Any one interested in applying for the Academy must complete an application which involves a criminal background check and must meet the following criteria:

- Must be 21 years old or older
- No outstanding warrants
- No prior felony conviction
- No pending criminal cases

Class size is limited to 8 participants, and will fill quickly, so please visit www.johnsburg.org for a printable pdf application. Any questions may be directed to Chief Keith Von Allmen at 815-385-6024 or by e-mail at police@johnsburg.org.

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Village Successfully Strikes State Bank's Affirmative Defenses in Ongoing Litigation

At a court hearing held on October 22nd, the Village was once again successful in the ongoing suit against the State Bank over the Bank's refusal to take care of their obligations and complete the infrastructure improvements in Whispering Ridge Subdivision. Following unsuccessful attempts to dismiss the litigation, the State Bank filed their answers to the Village's Complaint and cited four Affirmative Defenses in response to which the judge found in favor of the Village on three of the four Defenses. The Village of Johnsburg filed the original Complaint against State Bank in July of 2014 in response to the Bank's refusal to provide for the completion of outstanding public improvements in the subdivision which they took over from the developer. State Bank's attorney and Chairman, Jack Franks, has maintained that the bank is not obligated to provide infrastructure improvements in the development because it did not have a "profit motive" when it took over ownership of the development and therefore the taxpayers of the Village should bear the cost. Such position has been met with shock and disappointment by the Village Board given its history of doing business with the State Bank. The Village filed suit in an effort to bring the matter before a jury, in response to which the State Bank indicated that it will use its best efforts to prevent the matter from being heard by a jury and in turn filed unsuccessful motions to dismiss the litigation. Following the recent court decision, the Village is eager to proceed with depositions in hopes of swiftly proceeding to trial so that the residents of Whispering Ridge subdivision can finally see their subdivision completed.

Garbage and Recycling



You have likely received your first invoice from Waste Management for residential garbage and recycling services. As we previously reported, beginning this fall, Waste Management is billing residents directly. The Village continues to contract on behalf of residents for the service to insure that the best possible rates are obtained. Your real estate tax bill will be reduced by the amount previously included for garbage and recycling services. Service levels will continue to be the same, and residents will still be able to rent containers and contract for additional services if they so choose. Residents with the standard level of service of one garbage can and unlimited recycling will be charged a monthly rate of \$15.86 billed quarterly through Waste Management. Residents renting containers will be charged the monthly rate of \$15.86 plus the cost of container rental(s). Garbage and recyclables will continue to be picked up on Friday. If you have any questions regarding the invoice, contact Waste Management at 800-796-9696. As always, you may contact the Village Hall at 815-385-6023 for additional assistance.

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Johnsburg Area Business Association

2015 was once again a very successful year for the Johnsburg Area Business Association. Membership continues to grow under the leadership of President Richard Bierman (R.B. Custom Design), Vice President Lori Boyle (BWB Graphics & More), Secretary Suszan Worzala (Insurance by Suszan) and Treasurer John Huemann (Village EDC Chairman).

- 2015 kicked off with a very exciting and successful Johnsburg Business Expo. The Johnsburg High School was filled with local businesses, crafters and civic groups. This event was attended by over 800 people.
- The annual “State of the Village” dinner, held at the Pistakee Yacht Club, was very well attended. Village President Ed Hettermann spoke regarding Village accomplishments and discussed exciting plans for the future.
- The Roger Liston Scholarship Committee, headed by Dr. Rachel Northern (Northern Light Care) presented a \$500 scholarship to Johnsburg High School graduate, Joseph Nicolai.
- A very successful networking outing was held at Sunnyside Park with refreshments and grilled sandwiches being served to current and prospective members.

JABA supports our local Johnsburg Shop with a Cop event with a \$500 donation each year to help children that are less fortunate to enjoy the giving spirit of Christmas. Our Johnsburg Police Officers assist these children with shopping for their families.

JABA was a sponsor of 2015 Celebration in the Park having an information tent and providing a professional face painter for the children to enjoy. JABA also invested over \$4,000 towards new banners in the newly renovated downtown.

With a growing membership of over 70 members, JABA looks forward to 2016 with improved services and activities to help local businesses grow and improve.

If you have a business, no matter what size, come to our monthly meetings held on the first Thursday of the month and get to know other business owners in and around Johnsburg. For more information about membership visit the JABA website at www.JohnsburgJABA.com or call John Huemann at 815.482.8724.



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Celebration in the Park

On Saturday, October 3, 2015, the Village of Johnsburg and the Community Affairs Committee held the 9th Annual Celebration in the Park event. Friends and family came out to enjoy a fun filled evening of live music by Stupidville; food prepared and served by the Johnsburg Jr. Skyhawks; desserts, coffee and hot chocolate served by St. John the Baptist Athletics; and beverages served by the Johnsburg Lions Club. Despite the chill and mist in the air, children enjoyed the moon jumps, face painting, games and hayrides and everyone was wowed by the incredible fireworks display at the end. We would like to thank the following generous contributors who made this event possible:



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The event would also not have been possible without the hard work of the Community Affairs Committee, Village Staff, Johnsburg Jr. Skyhawks, Johnsburg Lions Club, Five Alarm Fireworks, Stupidville, Walmart, the Johnsburg High School Football Team, Johnsburg High School CARES, Johnsburg Explorers and the McHenry Township Fire Protection District. Thank you to all.

Johnsburg Rescue Squad

With fond memories, the remaining members of the Johnsburg Rescue Squad formally dissolved the organization this fall. We would like to thank the dedicated members of the Rescue Squad and take a moment to reflect on all they have done for our community.



The Johnsburg Rescue Squad was the first volunteer rescue squad in McHenry County and the first chartered rescue squad in the State of Illinois. In 1952 a group of twelve men solicited donations to purchase the needed equipment to form the squad and by 1953 the rescue squad was officially organized. The founding members consisted of Clem Freund, Gerald Hettermann, Fred Huemann, Kenneth Hamsher, Lloyd Oeffling, Joel Himplemann, Gerald Wakitsch, Richard Marshall, Albert Adams, John Stone, Bill Schmitt and Harry Freund. The Johnsburg Rescue Squad at that time served the unincorporated areas throughout the County and the surrounding communities including Fox Lake, Spring Grove, McHenry and Richmond. Since that time more than 98 men and women served on the volunteer squad until 1990 when rescue services were taken over by the McHenry Township Fire Protection District. These committed men and women saved many lives and were there in times of medical need for many people. The building we see today that houses the Johnsburg Police Department originally was home to the Johnsburg Rescue Squad and was built by members of the squad back in 1954.

After the McHenry Township Fire Protection District began to provide services, members of the volunteer squad had a desire to stay involved with the community. Over the years they have donated much time and money towards improving the community to include scholarship donations to students pursuing a career in the medical field; the purchase of the Johnsburg Community Sign located by the library and furniture for the Johnsburg Public Library. They organized food drives every other month for the past six years and financed (at no interest) the Village's purchase of the old rescue squad building to house the Johnsburg Police Department. The retired rescue squad also donated \$15,000 to the Johnsburg Community Club to replace the club's roof and aid in the replacement of windows. More recently they donated more than \$150,000 in improvements to park land owned by the Village next to the Johnsburg Community Club which has been named

"Johnsburg Rescue Squad Memorial Park". The improvements include tree clearing; grading and the creation of a detention area; construction of a gazebo and sitting area; an asphalt parking lot with concrete curbing and sidewalks; landscaping (including shrubs and trees); and the purchase and installation of a flagpole, monument, benches and signage. Their final action in dissolving the organization was to turn over the rescue squad vehicle to the Village of Johnsburg for use in parades and other approved functions and to donate their remaining funds of \$22,700 to the Village to be used to install pedestrian lighting in Rescue Squad Memorial Park. A formal dedication of the park was held in September 2014 in honor of the members. For more information regarding the Johnsburg Rescue Squad, visit their display at the Johnsburg Public Library.

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Snow Removal

The Village of Johnsburg has a Snow Removal and Ice Control Policy in place to help insure safe roadways during inclement weather. As we prepare for winter weather, here are some things you should know:

- Hazards at the roadside, such as boulders or driveway markers that may interfere with or damage plows, must be removed before the first snowfall. In larger storms it can be difficult for our drivers to see the edge of the road.
- Major roads and bus routes are plowed first, followed by secondary subdivision streets and finally cul de sacs and private roads.
- Please adhere to the “No Parking” along the road on days when a 2 inch snowfall has occurred or is being forecasted.
- Check your mailbox post to make sure it is sturdy enough to withstand snow being deflected from the plow. We will repair mailboxes only if they come in direct contact with the snowplow and will not repair them if the force of the snow knocks them down.
- Make sure the area around your mailbox is shoveled so mail can be delivered and clear around any fire hydrant that may be on your property.



- Increase the following distance when driving behind a snowplow. It is very difficult for the drivers to see cars directly behind them.
- The Public Works department will be clearing snow from the downtown, Johnsburg Rd, St. Johns Ave. and Church Street sidewalks. **ABSOLUTELY NO snowmobiles are permitted on sidewalks or in the downtown area.** Citations will be issued to snowmobilers who ride on sidewalks.

With your help and patience, this year’s snow removal should run smoothly. You can view the entire Snow Removal and Ice Control Policy on our

website at
www.johnsburg.org.



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News from the Johnsburg Public Library

It's a Hoppy, Froggy, Jolly Christmas

Weds., Dec. 2, 7:00 p.m.

Ages 8 through Adult

Ben "The Frog Guy" Rosenfield returns to the library to delight all ages with his fantastical and inspiring stories of the season. Ben has been featured at festivals and has appeared on TV and radio. Advance registration is required and begins November 16.



The Frog Guy



Knitting Club

Sat., Dec. 12, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Ages 12 and up

Help make holiday projects to donate to not-for-profit charities. No previous knitting experience is required. All supplies will be provided. Advance registration is required and begins Dec. 1.

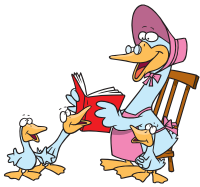
Holiday Preschool Story Hour

Special holiday stories, songs, crafts and fun for preschoolers.

Ages 3 to 5 with caregiver: Tuesday, Dec. 15, 10:00 a.m.

Ages 2 to 7 & families: Weds., Dec. 16, 7:00 p.m.

Advance registration is required and begins Dec. 1.



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