

Voice of Johnsburg

A Hometown with Spirit



Fall 2015

Fiscal News

The Village Board recently completed the Annual Budget Review and adopted a balanced budget for fiscal year 2016. During the review, much discussion occurred regarding ongoing threats to State disbursed revenues, unfunded mandates and lack of sufficient revenues which continue to drive the need for the Village to seek alternatives to fund major components of its operations. For the past several years, the Village has implemented operational changes to reduce costs and build a capital fund necessary to meet our required short and long-term needs. Despite these efforts, road maintenance, residential garbage/recycling services, reserves and the police pension program remain underfunded resulting in a budget shortfall of more than \$800,000 annually. In order to approve a balanced budget and avoid deficit spending, the Village had to implement several cuts. Short-term adjustments allow for a temporary balancing of the budget, but do not support the fiscal framework necessary to attain the Village's strategic priorities. With that, we must factor in the broader view and economic realities that are shaping our future. Although we cannot expect an overnight fix, our financial plan must be able to demonstrate progress is being made towards sustainability and achieving our long-term goals.

This past year, the Village identified possible solutions and a survey was conducted to obtain input from residents to insure that fair and equitable solutions were implemented. Based upon the feedback received, the Village will be pursuing the following changes to secure the funds necessary to support the underfunded items:

Residential Garbage and Recycling - Beginning November 1, 2015, Waste Management will begin billing residents directly for residential garbage and recycling services. The Village will continue to contract for the service to insure that the best possible rates are obtained. The tax assessment for residential garbage and recycling services will be eliminated and your real estate tax bill will be reduced accordingly.

To operate in a fiscally sound manner direct services must be supported by established revenue streams to cover their costs. Taxes collected for residential garbage and recycling services continue to fall significantly short in supporting the cost of the service. The Village currently collects approximately \$210,000 through real estate taxes to pay for the service however the annual cost is more than \$382,000, causing the Village to utilize general fund dollars to make up the difference, a practice that has cost our Village over \$1,319,000 in the past 15 years. If the service continues to be funded in the current manner, the General Fund will contribute an additional \$1,364,341 over the next 7 years. By making this change, the Village will utilize the funds for capital expenditures and building cash reserves.

(continued on page 2)



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: village.hall@johnsburg.org
Website: www.johnsburg.org

Public Works: 815-363-8667
Police (Non Emergency): 815-385-6024
Police/Fire Emergency: 911

(continued from page 1)

The Village Board unanimously concluded that utilizing general fund dollars to subsidize the residential garbage and recycling program was not the best use of taxpayer dollars and therefore agreed to decrease the Village's real estate tax rate by the amount collected for garbage and recycling services and implement a direct bill system through Waste Management. 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. Beginning in November, residents with the standard level of service of one garbage can and unlimited recycling will be charged a monthly rate of \$15.86 through Waste Management. Residents renting containers will also be charged a monthly rate of \$15.86 plus the cost of container rental(s). Garbage and recyclables will continue to be picked up on Friday.

Please watch you mail for more information regarding this important change.

Local Sales Tax – When seeking ways to help fund underfunded items it is preferable to implement alternatives through which the cost burden is not solely carried by our residents. With that in mind, the Village will be placing a referendum question on the March 2016 ballot asking voters to support a ½% sales tax increase. A ½% increase to our sales tax rate would result in approximately \$600,000 in additional revenues annually to be used for road resurfacing and other underfunded items. At the current time, consumers pay a 7% sales tax for goods purchased within the Village of Johnsburg while goods purchased in McHenry are taxed at a 7 ½% rate. Increasing the Village's sales tax rate would place the Village's rate equal to competing retailers in the neighboring community while bringing in much needed funds to support road resurfacing. Additionally, the cost burden would be shared by all consumers shopping in our community and not just our residents.

For more information or answers to your questions please contact the Village Hall or go to the Finance Committee's page on the Village's website at www.johnsburg.org and click on the 2016 Annual Budget Review to view the full budget presentation.

President's Letter

I hope you have enjoyed your summer with family and friends. The best part of being a Johnsburg resident is that the fun does not have to end with summer. Autumn is upon us and the Village of Johnsburg and the Community Affairs Committee have come up with a new idea to enjoy your neighbors and meet some new people. The new event taking place on August 7th focuses on giving adult residents a night out. It will be "Dancing under the Stars", featuring a Wine and Craft Brew Tasting, Music and Dancing at Rescue Squad Park. See the flyer on page 5 for more information. I hope to see all of you there.



Don't forget our annual traditions, beginning with the weekend of September 11th-13th, mark your calendars for the annual Saufen und Spiel activities. Join your neighbors and friends for a weekend of games, fellowship, good food, beverages, music and the parade during Saufen und Spiel weekend. Read the article on page 8 for the parade route and more information about this event. Don't forget to purchase your cow drop raffle tickets. This is a fun filled weekend and I can't say thank you enough to the Johnsburg Community Men's Club, Johnsburg Community Club and Johnsburg Lions Club for their hard work and their members dedication to our community to make this event a success.

On October 3, 2015, join the Village of Johnsburg and the Johnsburg Community Affairs Committee for the annual Celebration in the Park event. The Committee is busy working to secure donations from businesses and organizations to help fund the event. All contributions are greatly appreciated for without them we would be unable to host this community event. If you are interested in donating, contact the Village Hall at 815-385-6023. Read the article on page 6 for more information regarding Celebration in the Park.

(continued on page 4)

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(continued from page 3)

The **Johnsburg VFW**, with the help of the **Johnsburg Community Club** and **Johnsburg Lions Club**, conducted another memorable Memorial Day event on May 25th honoring our area Veterans. Despite the rain and poor weather conditions, our residents showed their support of our Veterans. I am always moved by the outpouring of support exhibited by our community for the Veterans who have sacrificed so much for our freedom. I'd like to thank our **Johnsburg Police Explorers** for an excellent job helping with traffic. Our **Johnsburg High School Band** showed they are second to none. Their performance in the rain storm is a true demonstration of our youth being grateful for the freedoms they have. A special thank you to **Tracy and Tom Benck of West Side Tractor Sales** and **Emily and Jason Konrad of Konrad Construction** for their donation of the pig roast, **Angelo's Market** for their donation of food, pop and water for this event. **Joe and Kathy Huemann** of Huemann Water Conditioning for their annual cash donation to cover other miscellaneous expenses, **Jeremy Tekamp** for cooking the pig, and **Dan Bitton of Air-One** for an amazing demonstration of helicopter piloting in the wind and rain storm for the wreath drop. Because of their generosity, the same level of performance from past year was able to be obtained. If I have missed anyone, please contact me. I am truly proud of the fact we are a Red, White & Blue Community.



On May 29th, the **Johnsburg Police Department** again participated in "Cop on Top" a fundraising program to raise funds for Special Olympics. Johnsburg police officers once again donated their time for the cause. To date, more than \$10,000 has been raised for this important program. Read the article on page 11 about the upcoming Special Olympics Run/Walk event being sponsored by the Johnsburg Police Department.

On June 10th, the **Johnsburg Area Business Association (JABA)** hosted the 5th annual State of the Village dinner at the **Pistakee Yacht Club**. Business owners from around the community attended a presentation of this past year's accomplishments and the Village's goals for the coming year. I would like to thank JABA President Rick Bierman and the organizing committee consisting of Mr. Joshua Hagen, Mrs. Debbie Adams and Trustee John Huemann for all of their hard work in coordinating the event. View the full presentation on the Village's website at www.johnsburg.org.

We are finalizing the acquisition of two important parcels of land. One of which will be used for future park expansion adjacent to Sunnyside Memorial Park. The other is situated next to the McHenry Township Fire District's Station 2 and will serve in the distant future as the Village's Municipal Center housing the Village Hall and Police Department.

We hope you were able to enjoy the fireworks display over Pistakee Bay on July 4th. **Thank you to Mr. Tom Fuchs, owner of Oak Park Lounge**, his sons Don and Greg and their friends and members of the Pistakee Bay fireworks committee, along with members of the community who donated the monies needed, making this Fourth of July display possible, to say the least incredible. The fantastic display made the entire show a 30 minute grand finale.

This past June, we said goodbye to some long time employees who will be greatly missed. **Laurie Cwerenz** who retired at the end of June after having served as the Village's Accountant for 5 years. **Bill Swartzloff** who served in the Building Department and also coordinated the maintenance of Village facilities retired at the beginning of June after serving 8 years with the Village. **Dave Wilcox** who served as the Village's Public Works Director also retired at the beginning of June after serving 18 years. All of these individuals will be greatly missed and we wish them all the best in their retirement.

I welcome **Kim Giovanni** to the Village Staff of Johnsburg. Kim is serving as the Village's first full-time Accountant. The Village board, the Village Staff and I are looking forward to working with Kim and wish her the best in this new venture.

In closing, I hope you enjoy the remainder of the summer and that you have an opportunity to come out with family and friends to enjoy some of our upcoming community events.

Respectfully,
Edwin P. Hettermann
Village President

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Celebration in the Park

The Village of Johnsburg and the Johnsburg Community Affairs Committee are busy making arrangements for this year's Celebration in the Park event. If you are not familiar with this celebration you are missing one of Johnsburg's most popular events, enjoyed by all ages! Invite your family, friends and neighbors for a fun filled evening with live music, delicious food and cold beverages. There will also be games, hayrides and FIREWORKS! This is truly a community celebration!



This year's Celebration in the Park event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015 at Sunnyside Memorial Park beginning at 5:00 p.m. We are very grateful to all of the generous contributors who make this event possible. Donations, in any amount, from individuals, groups or businesses are still needed and would be greatly appreciated. For more information or to contribute to this event, please contact the Village Hall at 815 385-6023

We look forward to seeing our residents, families and friends Celebrate in the Park!

St. John Annual Parish Fest

Plan on coming out to the Johnsburg Community Club grounds on Sunday August 9th, between 12-6 p.m. St. John the Baptist Parish will be hosting their annual Parish Fest, a fun, family orientated event featuring the popular band New Odyssey on the main stage. Grilled brats, roasted corn, and beer will all be available. There's a great Petting Zoo for the kids, as well as Carnival Games and Culver's Ice Cream! The Grand Raffle this year features cash prizes of \$1,000. & \$500! No Admission Fee. Individual tickets are sold for each activity! See you there!

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Village of Johnsburg Participates in "Walk to School Day"

James C. Bush Elementary, Johnsburg Junior High and St. John the Baptist schools will be joining schools from around the world to celebrate International Walk to School Day on October 7, 2015. Students from these schools will be walking to school along with parents, teachers and community leaders. The Walk to School Day event is expected to include 5,000 schools from all 50 states.



Walk to School events work to create safer routes for walking and bicycling and emphasize the importance of increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion, concern for the environment and building connections between families, schools and the broader community. For additional information, please contact the Village Hall, 815-385-6023 or visit www.walktoschool.org.



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Saufen Und Spiel 2015

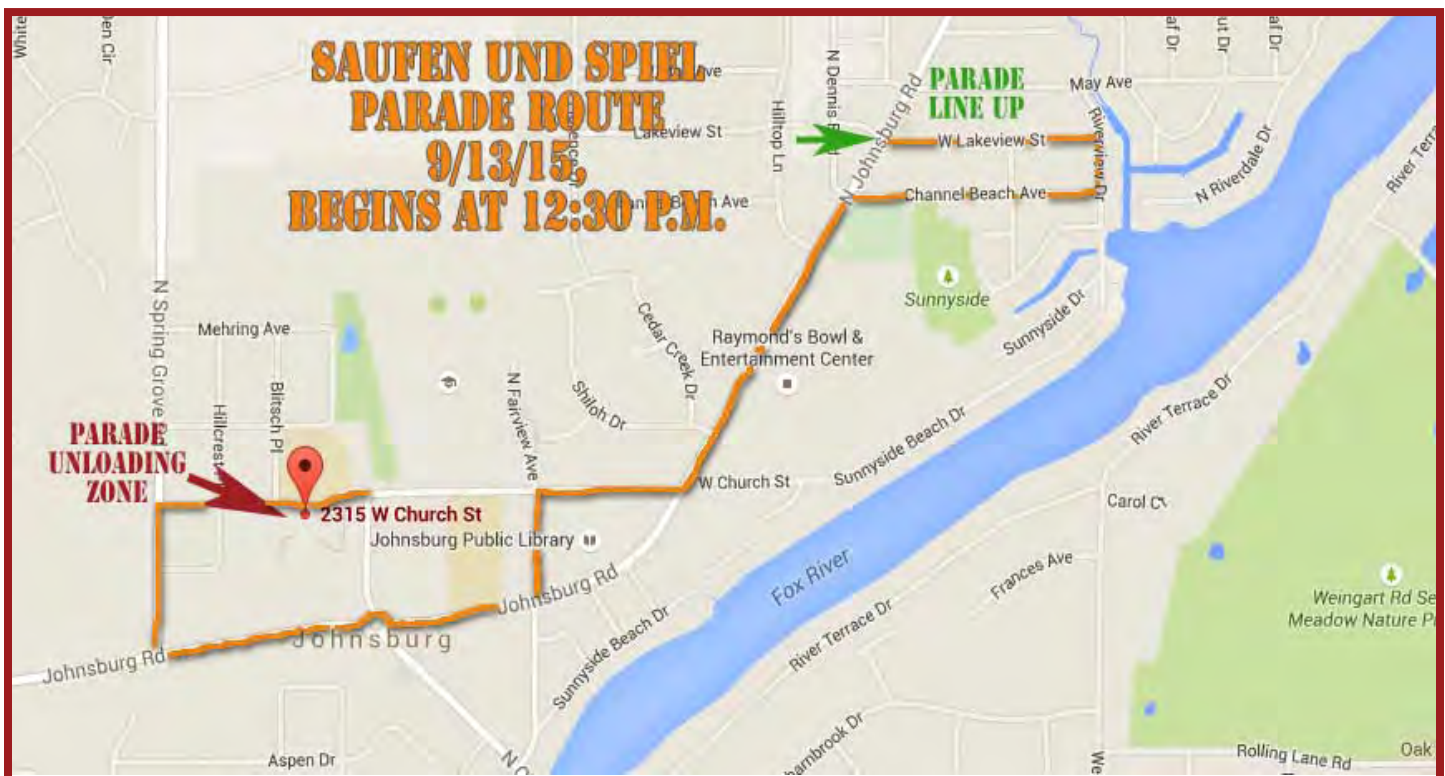
The Johnsburg Community Club, the Johnsburg Community Men's Club and the Johnsburg Lions Club present Saufen und Spiel 2015. Starting Friday evening, September 11th thru Sunday, September 13th, Johnsburg is the place to be for food, music, games and good old fashion fun!

Festivities kick off on Friday evening, Sept. 11th with the Johnsburg Community Men's Clubs 8th Annual Black Light Bean Bag Tournament. Registration is at 5:00 p.m. and the cost is \$10.00 per person payable at registration. The tournament starts at 7:00 p.m. with a double elimination format. Rules will be passed out at registration. For more information or to sponsor a board, please contact Brian at bubbarich63@yahoo.com. Your musical entertainment will be provided by Stupidville starting at 8:00 p.m.

The Johnsburg Lions Club takes over on Saturday, September 12th for the 9th Annual Banjo Beer Night. The festivities will start at 5:00 p.m. Your feet will be tapping to two bands this year - Valentine at 5:30 p.m. and kick it into high gear with Hot Rocks for the rest of the evening. Don't forget to bring your appetite as there will be plenty of burgers, brats and hot dogs and fresh sweet "corn on the cob" roasting on the grill. The event includes a raffle and some frosty beverages to beat the heat.

On Sunday, Sept. 13th the 43rd Annual Saufen und Spiel Parade will start at 12:30 p.m. See parade route below. All parade entries will line up in the parking lot at Sunnyside Park. Find yourself a good seat along the route and enjoy all the various entries, then head over to the Community Club for a fun filled day. As always there will be a variety of food and beverages provided by our area restaurateurs and local organizations. There will also be GAMES for kids of all ages, dancing to the live music of Hans & the Hormones outside on the main stage, and Die Special Exports playing inside - providing a neighborhood atmosphere for socializing and having fun.

The finale of the day's festivities will be the ever popular Cow Drop Raffle (down wind of the rest of the activities). Raffle tickets will be limited and are available by contacting Brad Schwagerman at 815-790-9530, or Mike Koeshall at 815-341-7627. Get them early...they go fast. For more information on the parade route and Saufen und Spiel, go to www.johnsburgcommunityclub.com or call Brian Rich at 815-482-4594.





Fall Brush Pickup

The Johnsburg Public Works Department will be conducting its annual fall brush pickup beginning September 21, 2015. All brush must be placed by the road no later than 7:00 a.m. on Monday, the 21st of September. Crews will make one pass through each subdivision therefore any branches that are not placed by the road when they go by will not be picked up at a later time. Branches should be a minimum of 4 feet in length to be safely placed in the chipper and no greater than 6 inches

in diameter. They must be placed with their cut ends pointed towards the road in a neat and orderly pile. Branches that cannot be put through the chipper safely will not be taken. Evergreen cuttings must be kept separate from other tree branches and will be picked up separately. This service is being provided for larger branches generated from trimming or storm damage and is not intended for disposal of whole trees that have been removed.

2015 Road Maintenance Program

Each year, the Village pursues a road resurfacing program with the use of Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) dollars it receives. Roads are resurfaced predicated upon a priority list developed upon annual inspections performed by the Public Works Foreman, Village Engineer and members of the Public Works Committee. Last year, the Village pursued a Village wide road patching program to address the abundant potholes that resulted from the previous year's harsh winter. This year MFT funds are being utilized to resurface the roads in Cotton Estates and Johnsburg Farms subdivisions. Funds will also be utilized to pursue patching on the northern section of Johnsburg Road and on Riverside Drive.

Once again, the Village also set aside some General Fund revenues this year to help patch private roads. This is a departure from past practices, but one that is greatly needed. Despite the maintenance efforts pursued by private road residents, many of these roadways have significantly deteriorated to the point of becoming nearly impassable at times. The Village continues to work with the residents on private roads to provide them opportunities to bring their roads up to Village standards so that they may be fully maintained by the Village however skyrocketing paving costs have made this endeavor very challenging. To insure that emergency vehicles are able to access our residents in time of need, the Village provides some general road maintenance to these roadways. Upon completion of a cost benefit analysis, it was determined that the cost impact was minimal and the community benefit, significant.



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Fall Back: Home Preparedness Checklist for Time Change Sunday, November 1, 2015

Autumn is right around the corner and Time Change Sunday is on the way!

On the first Sunday in November, we come to the end of Daylight Saving Time. As you circle the house, resetting clocks, take time for this short safety checklist to make your home safer.

Change the clocks and the batteries. Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors save lives ... if they're powered on by a fresh battery. Safety experts recommend replacing smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries twice a year--so celebrate Time Change Sunday with fresh batteries all around.

Energy savings hint: don't toss the replaced batteries just yet. While they're likely not fully charged, replaced batteries can still do duty in children's toys, media players or electronic devices. Squeeze the last drop of power out of them before you recycle!



Replace light bulbs. Long dark winter evenings call for a little illumination! Since you'll have stepladders out to reach smoke detectors and clocks, double up on safety (and energy savings) by checking for light bulbs and fixtures. Consider replacing conventional bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent or LCD bulbs.

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Johnsburg PD Supports Special Olympics

On September 12th, 2015 the Johnsburg Police Department will be hosting the 5th Annual “Hometown with Spirit (Chief’s Challenge) 5k Fun Run/Walk” event. The Department invites you to show your support to the nearly 20,000 Special Olympics athletes in Illinois by participating in this event. All proceeds go to support the Illinois Special Olympics. For more information on how to contribute or participate in this event please visit the police department’s page at www.johnsburg.org.

Earlier this year Johnsburg Police Department members joined more than 300 departments in Illinois participating in the “Law Enforcement Torch Run”. This is the single largest fundraising event benefiting Special Olympics Illinois. It is an annual intrastate relay fundraiser conducted by officers representing every branch of law enforcement from local police officers to FBI agents. The Torch Run has two goals - to raise money year-round and to gain awareness for the athletes who participate in Special Olympics. The Law Enforcement Torch Run has raised more than \$28 million over the past 29 years. To date, the Johnsburg Police Department has raised more than \$15,000 for Illinois Special Olympics through fundraising events including the “Cop on Top” event which was held in May at the Dunkin Donuts located at Rt. 31 and Diamond Dr.

We appreciate all the support and contributions made to the Special Olympics by the Johnsburg community. For more information find us on Facebook under Johnsburg Police. If you have any questions please contact Officer Kelly Schmitt at 815-385-6024, or kschmitt@johnsburg.org



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Johnsburg Lions Club Events

The Johnsburg Lions Club will be having free hearing testing for anyone who is interested at the Johnsburg Library on August 15th from 9:00 – 1:00. The Lions Club will also be sponsoring a Basketball game between the Harlem Ambassadors and some of our local basketball stars. Keep the evening of October 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. open to enjoy this fun filled evening at Johnsburg High School. All proceeds will go to local charities.

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