

# Voice of Johnsburg

*A Hometown with Spirit*



Village of  
**JOHNSBURG**

Settled 1841 – Incorporated 1956

Winter 2016

## Save The Dates

### Holiday Magic

On Friday, **December 2nd**, from 6pm to 8pm 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 6:30pm. There will be crafts, balloons, music, refreshments and a tree lighting ceremony at 7:45pm. This event is free to residents of Johnsburg. 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 21st** from 4pm to 6pm (weather permitting) at Rescue Squad Memorial Park. The event will include a bonfire, hot chocolate and cookies.



# PRESIDENT'S LETTER



## 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](mailto:villagehall@johnsburg.org)  
Website: [www.johnsburg.org](http://www.johnsburg.org)

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

While writing this letter on an unusually warm fall day, I reflect back on some of the wonderful things that have been accomplished this past year and the many new opportunities before us. I am very excited to announce that the Village just received word that we were awarded a \$1,072,100 ITEP (Illinois Transportation Enhancement Project) Grant. A total of 241 applications were received by the Illinois Department of Transportation for the grant. The Village was one of 33 communities awarded the grant and the only community in McHenry County to receive it. The grant will enable the Village to install pedestrian lighting, sidewalks and other streetscape enhancements along Church Street and St. Johns Avenue. The work will be done in conjunction with the Church Street Road Improvement project scheduled to begin this spring for which we also received a \$1.5 million grant. I would like to give a special thanks to Village Administrator Claudett Peters and Village Engineer Tim Hartnett for their efforts in securing both of these grants, enabling the Village to take a vision and turn it into a reality. Thank you also goes out to Senator Pamela Althoff, State Representative Jack Franks and Congressman Randy Hultgren for their letters of support which helped us secure the ITEP grant.

The fall is always a busy season in the Village starting out in September with the 45th Annual Saufen und Spiel event which has grown over the years into a weekend full of family friendly activities. Thank you to the Johnsburg Community Club, the Johnsburg Community Men's Club and Johnsburg Lions Club for all of their hard work in making it a success. Once again, through the efforts of Village resident, Len Keil, who also serves on our Development & Governmental Affairs Committee, Village officials had the honor of riding in several classic Thunderbird convertibles in the Saufen und Spiel Parade provided by Classic Thunderbird Club of Chicagoland. I would like to thank Mr. Len Keil for coordination of this effort and for driving in the parade along with Bill Axelsen, Art Hahl, Ed Levin, Dan Mrozek, Lloyd Schellin, Liz Werth, Jim Wilson, Dan Anderson, Lee Bakakos, and Bill Balogh. It was also inspiring to see the members of the Meadowland Church showing up and pitching in to clean up at the Johnsburg Community Club grounds. It was especially inspiring to see Evelyn, the daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Stu Erickson, working several hours after the event picking up and cleaning up the grounds. I cannot say thank you enough for her help in making our community clean and proud of the place we call home. Additionally in September the litigation between the Village and the State Bank Group regarding Whispering Ridge subdivision was resolved in a mutually beneficial manner to both parties.

*(continued on page 3)*

*(continued from page 2)*

On October 1st family and friends came out to enjoy the Village's 10th annual Celebration in the Park event at Sunnyside Memorial Park. I would personally like to thank all of the generous contributors who made this event possible. See the article on page 7 for more about the event and our generous contributors.

The Village Board moved forward with several capital projects over the summer. The parking lot at the Village Hall has been resurfaced and the lot at the Public Works Facility has been expanded and paved. A replacement message board has been ordered and will soon be installed by the Library and a new sign will be erected at the Public Works facility on Route 31. Village entry signs have been ordered which will be installed on Bay Road and Ringwood Road and new street name signs and posts will soon be installed along Johnsburg Road and Chapel Hill Road. The Village's administrative staff is working diligently on the Village's new website scheduled to go live in December and work just began to improve the Village's boat launch on Riverview Drive. A pedestrian warning signal will soon be installed at the intersection of Johnsburg Road and Channel Beach Avenue, which will help alert drivers to the pedestrians attempting to cross the road to get to the Village Hall and Sunnyside Memorial Park. Lastly, additional security improvements are being finalized at both Hiller Park and the Public Works facility. These projects would not have been possible without the foresight and efforts of Village's management staff, Finance Committee and Village Board who were instrumental in establishing a well thought out and effective Capital Improvement Plan. By planning for new capital pursuits and the maintenance and replacement of existing capital items, we are financially prepared to accommodate their impact.

At the completion of the Johnsburg Road Improvement Project, the Village received funds from the County for the trees that were removed to accommodate the construction. Those funds were to be set aside to plant new trees in public areas throughout the Village. A portion of the funds were utilized to plant trees along the berm at the Public Works facility to create a wind block and help visually screen the wastewater treatment plant, and also along Running Brook Farms Boulevard.

After years of coordination, sewer construction will soon begin in the 1900-2000 block of Sunnyside Beach Drive. This project is being pursued at the request of the residents. Construction will continue throughout the winter with hookup tentatively planned to be available beginning in late spring/early summer of 2017.

I would like to take a moment to thank the many generous and hardworking members of the Moose Lodge. Throughout the year, the Lodge sponsors many events to help those less fortunate in and around our community. Over the Thanksgiving holiday, they sponsor Thanksgiving dinners for the sailors from Great Lakes Naval Base and for area senior citizens. They've been sponsoring these events for more than 15 years.

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,

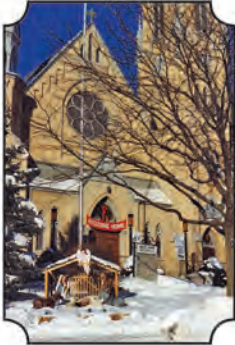
Edwin Hettermann  
Village President

## JOHNSBURG'S NEW WEBSITE

We are excited to announce that we are currently in the process of designing a new website. Our new website will be faster, easier to navigate and features a fully responsive design to provide an optimal viewing and browsing experience across multiple platforms. This new site will reflect our community and be a valuable tool for our residents and visitors. Watch for the launching by the end of this year.

# PHOTO SHOTS WANTED

Capture the beauty of Johnsburg and enter your amateur photos into our photo challenge. Submit photos to the Village at 1515 Channel Beach Avenue, Johnsburg or electronically to [villagehall@johnsburg.org](mailto:villagehall@johnsburg.org) no later than February 2, 2017. Make sure to include your contact information with your submittal. Photos may be utilized in future Village of Johnsburg newsletters and other publications or on our website. Some ideas for photos include nature, sunrise, sunset, architecture, recreational and/or community events. For more information contact the Village Hall at 815-385-6023.



## 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 in the Village lim-

its, McCullom Lake Road, Miller Road and Old Bay Road were repaved. Road patching occurred on Channel Beach Avenue, Florence Drive, Rolling Lane, Shiloh Drive, River Terrace Drive, Linden Avenue, Church Street, Buchanan Road, Garfield Road, Claremont Road, Coolidge Avenue, Sweetwater Lane, Dakota Ridge, Amber Way, Farmington Lane, Pitzen Road, West Lakeview, Aspen Dr and Countryside Drive. The Department also pursued tree trimming throughout the Village to remove branches impacting line of site and safe travel along our roadways. Tree trimming shall continue throughout the winter months. By taking a proactive approach to infrastructure maintenance we can prevent having to pursue more costly repairs and rebuilding of our infrastructure in the future.



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## FALL EVENTS AT THE JOHNSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY



### **DECK THE HALLS CRAFTS**

**FOR AGES 7-11**  
*Thurs., Dec. 1, 4:30 p.m.*

Create a variety of festive ornaments and decorations. All materials will be provided. Advance registration required.

**SANTA BINGO FOR AGES 6-10**  
*Sat., Dec. 17, 2:00 p.m.*

Win prizes straight out of Santa's sack. Advance registration required and begins Nov. 20.

### **OH WHAT FUN! TEEN HOLIDAY PARTY FOR GRADES 6-12**

*Thurs., Dec. 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m.*

Get ready for a Marshmallow Meltdown with games, challenges, goodies, a \$5 gift exchange (optional) and more. Advance registration required and begins Nov. 20.

### **MOVIE SHOWINGS WITH FREE MOVIE TREATS!**

*Fri., Dec. 23, 1:00 p.m. - Pete's Dragon*

*Fri., Dec. 30, 1:00 p.m. - The Secret Life of Pets*

Advance registration required and begins December 1.

### **REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS**

at [www.johnsburglibrary.org](http://www.johnsburglibrary.org), or call the library. A complete listing of events for children and adults can be found on the library's Calendar of Events page.

**Johnsburg Public Library**  
3000 N. Johnsburg Rd.  
Johnsburg, IL 60051

**Phone: 815-344-0077**  
**FAX: 815-344-3524**  
**[www.johnsburglibrary.org](http://www.johnsburglibrary.org)**

## 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.



# JOHNSBURG AREA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

**"On the way to SUCCESS"**

2016 has been an extremely successful year for our Johnsburg Area Business Association under the leadership of President Richard Bierman (R.B. Custom Design), Vice President Lori Boyle (BWB Graphics), Secretary Suszan Worzala (Insurance by Suszan) and Treasurer John Huemann (Village EDC Chairman).

- 2016 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, Kristin Rawlings who is attending Lake Forest College with a 3.85 GPA.
- A very positive networking event was held at Sunnyside Park with refreshments and grilled sandwiches being served to current and prospective members.
- Membership had the largest growth spurt in our history to just over 100 members in 2016 because of the hard work of JABA President Richard Bierman, Vice President Lori Boyle, Secretary Suszan Worzala, and Treasurer John Huemann.

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 also provided a \$500 donation to the 2016 Celebration in the Park event and invested over \$4,000 towards new banners in the newly refurbished downtown.

As our membership has grown to over 100 members, JABA looks forward to 2017 with improved services and activities to help local businesses grow and improve.

If you have a business, no matter what size, come to our meetings and get to know other business owners in and around Johnsburg. For information about membership visit the JABA website at [johnsburgjaba.com](http://johnsburgjaba.com) or call John Huemann at 815.482.8724.

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# CELEBRATION IN THE PARK

On Saturday, October 1, 2016, the Village of Johnsburg and the Community Affairs Committee held the 10th Annual Celebration in the Park event. Friends and family came out to enjoy a fun filled evening of live music, food donated by Sunnyside Tavern and prepared and served by the Johnsburg Jr. Skyhawks Football; coffee and hot chocolate served by Johnsburg High School CARES; and beverages served by the Johnsburg Lions Club. Despite the chill and mist in the air, children enjoyed the moon jumps, face painting, games balloon art and everyone was wowed by the incredible fireworks display at the end of evening. We would like to thank the following generous contributors who made this event possible:

## EVENT SPONSORSHIP

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Sunnyside Company  
The Doggie Depot Spa Inc.  
Wilmot Medical Associates  
Yogeeze Frozen Yogurt  
Sunnyside Tavern

The event would also not have been possible without the hard work of the Community Affairs Committee, Johnsburg Jr. Skyhawks, Johnsburg Lions Club, and RKM Fireworks. The Johnsburg High School Football team, McHenry Township Fire Protection District, and the Village of Johnsburg staff also donated their time.

**Thank you to all!**

## SNOW SEASON REMINDERS

Please remember that it is hazardous to shovel, plow or blow snow onto any public street. All shoveled, plowed, or blown snow should be piled in your yard or parkway.

**Shovel snow to the right-hand side of the driveway**, as viewed from the house, and clear a pocket of snow on the opposite side of your driveway. This simple procedure will help minimize the amount of residual snow being plowed from the street into your driveway.

Be sure not to shovel, plow or otherwise remove snow from sidewalks, parking lots, driveways or other private property in such a manner as to block or otherwise impede the access to public sidewalks adjacent to the property.

Every winter fire hydrants become buried by the snow. This creates a situation where it becomes difficult for the Fire Rescue Department to locate and use the hydrants. You can help by ensuring the hydrant near your home or business is kept free from snow on all sides. Please keep a clear path from the street to the hydrant as well.

# 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 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 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 others.

The Academy begins the last week of January, 2017 and will meet once per week for a total of 9 two to three hour sessions. 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 Citizens as well as business owners and employees. Anyone 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 the class will fill quickly, so please visit [www.johnsburg.org](http://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](mailto:police@johnsburg.org).

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**RIVERVIEW DRIVE BOAT LAUNCH IMPROVEMENTS**-Funds were included in this year's budget to pursue improvements to the Alfred May Boat Launch located on Riverview Drive. The improvements include a new seawall and 50' pier as well as the installation of a new 40' concrete ramp. The launch is currently closed for excavation and construction and is expected to remain closed until the end of the year. Note that the current boat launch stickers will expire at the end of the year. New boat launch stickers are available at the Village Hall. Anyone wishing to use the Village's boat launch on Riverview Drive is required to purchase a sticker and display it on the vehicle used to launch the boat. The two year sticker cost for Village residents is \$20 and non-residents may purchase a sticker for \$100.

**VOLUNTARY VEHICLE STICKER RENEWAL** - In 2014, the Village Board eliminated the requirement for residents to purchase and display a vehicle sticker on all vehicles housed in the Village. The decision was made after pursuing a detailed cost analysis which reflected that the vehicle sticker program was not cost effective. Although the Village no longer requires the use of vehicle stickers, we do have them available for residents who wish to display one. New two year stickers are now available and can be purchased at the Village Hall for a cost of \$20. Display of this sticker also enables Village residents to utilize the Riverview Drive Boat Launch.

## GET INVOLVED



The Village welcomes all residents to get involved in 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 [johnsburg.org](http://johnsburg.org) or contact Village Hall at 815-385-6023.

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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 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 snowmobiler 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](http://www.johnsburg.org).

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# Winterizing Your Vehicle

The winter months are hard on your vehicle. Cold temperatures, dirt, and road-salt residue can all cause problems. However, there are some simple checks and maintenance items that will help your vehicle stay in top condition.

## Good Visibility is Vital



If your wipers are leaving streaks of water on the windshield, or if the wiper-blade rubber shows any signs of cracking or stiffness, replace them with a new set. Use a brush and a scraper to remove ice and snow from the windshield rather than your wipers; a heavy load of snow (or ice sticking the blades to the glass) can overload the motor. If the vehicle is parked outside, lift the wipers off the glass before an overnight snow to keep them from freezing to the windshield.

With dirt, mud, and salt residue being kicked up off the road, it's likely that you'll be using your windshield washers a lot. Be sure to keep your windshield washer reservoir filled with a washer solution that contains an antifreeze agent.

Finally, check that all the vehicle's lights are working properly and clear of snow and ice, so that you'll have optimum visibility at night and other motorists will be able to see you.

## Consider a Switch to Winter Tires

If you drive a lot in slippery conditions, it's a good idea to replace summer or all-season tires with a set of dedicated winter tires, which have tread patterns and rubber compounds specially designed for optimum traction on slick roads. Winter tires typically have shorter tread life and generate more road noise than the all-season tires that your vehicle came with, but the extra safety they provide is generally worth the compromise.



## Keep the Battery in Good Shape



Cold temperatures reduce your battery's cranking power—in fact, at about zero degrees F, your battery only has about half the cranking power it has at 80 degrees. At the same time, the thickened oil in a cold engine makes it harder to turn over. Following are a few easy checks to make sure it's in as good condition as possible.

On conventional batteries, remove the plastic caps on top of the battery and check the fluid level (see your owner's manual). If the fluid is low, add distilled water. On maintenance-free batteries, check that the window at the top of the battery indicates a fully charged state (check in your owner's manual).

## Protection for Inside and Out

The dirt and salt of winter can attack your car's paint finish. To help protect it, give the car a fresh coat of wax before the snow flies and wash it regularly during the winter months. With modern vehicles, rust isn't as big a problem as it used to be, but it's still a good idea to have the wheel wells and underbody washed regularly to prevent road salt from building up.

## Let the Engine Warm Up

In years past, cars would cough, stumble, and stall if not given sufficient time to warm up. Modern cars can be put in gear and driven away as soon as they are started, but that doesn't mean you should skip the warm-up entirely. A brief bit of idling time before you drive gives the oil a chance to heat up, thin out and flow more smoothly, and you'll want that to happen before you ask your engine to do any serious work. Letting your car idle while you brush the snow off of it should be sufficient. (By the way, there's no need to rev the engine; it'll warm up just fine at idle.) If your car idles higher than normal when first started, waiting until the idle speed drops before putting the car in gear will save wear and tear on your automatic transmission.

Drive gently until the temperature gauge starts to move off the bottom peg or until the cold engine light (usually blue) goes out. Remember, cars can still overheat in winter, especially if the radiator grille is clogged with snow.



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