



Welcome to this year's State of the Village Address and Dinner. Tonight's event marks the 8th time I've had the honor to address you on the state of your Village. I applaud the Johnsburg Area Business Association for sponsoring this event and extend a special thanks to JABA's **President Lori Boyle** and the organizing committee consisting of **Josh Hagen, Kim Giovanni and John Huemann** for their efforts in coordinating all of the arrangements.

I would also like to thank **Maravela's** for preparing our dinner tonight, the **Pistakee Yacht Club** for use of their historic facility and both **Cheryl and Joe Twomey** for their help. Let's please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Of all of the events each year, the State of the Village is one I look forward to the most for it provides me the opportunity to spend time with some of Johnsburg's hardworking business owners and residents talking about something very near and dear to me - this great community we call home.

I am very excited about the future of our community. Today we are doing better than ever before. We are financially strong and successfully accomplishing our goals. It is so rewarding to work with the talented and committed people that help make this all possible.



We are spending this evening at the historic Pistakee Yacht Club which has been a part of our community for the past 120 years. The Club was incorporated in 1897 to develop and encourage an interest in yachting and boating and to provide wholesome amusement and recreation for members.

Today the Club provides sailing lessons for all ages throughout the summer and competitive racing on weekends. The Pistakee Yacht Club is also open for social events from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

We hope you will enjoy your time at the Yacht Club this evening.



I would like to take a moment to recognize the Johnsborg Board of Trustees that are here tonight. Could you please stand.

Committees

<u>Public Works</u> Kevin McEvoy* Wally Steffens Tom Benck Len Bathje Chuck Schaefer Jim Blackowicz Bill Rudzena	<u>Finance</u> Greg Klemstein* Laurie Cwerenz John Wolf Matthew Colby James Barrett Rich Hrabak Andrew Klos	<u>Dev & Gov Affairs</u> Kyle Frost* Len Keil Dick Doyle Bruce Bennett Mark Adams Daniel Loud Eric Block	<u>Planning and Zoning</u> Kim Husby* Mark Niggemann Curt Larsen Bobbie Wiltse Scott Letzter Beth Foreman Tom Benck
<u>Ordinance</u> Mary Lou Hutchinson* George Kessler Justin McAndrews William Gebis Clark Bierman David Miller Joseph Remeke	<u>Community Affairs</u> <i>(Events)</i> <i>Tom Curry*</i> Jill McEvoy Lisa Kuna Jessica Johnson JoeDee Hettermann Dawn Barrett Laurie Peters	<u>Community Affairs</u> <i>(Fields & Facilities)</i> <i>Tom Curry*</i> Cherri Dory John O'Brien Ken A. Calhoun Steve Link Scott Thorton Scott Diedrich	<u>EDC</u> Josh Hagen* Pearl Schnur Lynn Kinast Richard Bierman Bill Swenson Mark Wolter Laura King
<u>Appeals Board</u> Dick Huemann Joe Huemann Rick Bierman Ken Schaefer	<u>Police Commission</u> Tony Grunder Dick Seaborn Patrick McAndrews	<u>Police Pension</u> Jeff Vorisek Tom Harrison	

*Denotes Chairperson

In addition to our hardworking Board of Trustees, we are fortunate to have many committed residents that generously donate their time and talents by serving on one of our many committees. Our successes would not be possible without their help.

Our unique committee structure provides for input from more than 50 residents and business owners throughout the community. These volunteer committee members are appointed by me with the advice and consent of the board and contribute countless hours which enables stakeholders throughout the Village to have considerable input in Village decisions.

We are truly grateful to each and every one of our committee members.

Mission and Vision Statement

Mission Statement

The Village of Johnsburg will provide responsible governance and services to all residents, property owners and stakeholders through comprehensive planning and effective resource management while maintaining a positive community environment that reflects resident input and concern.



Vision Statement

Johnsburg is a village where history, hospitality and natural beauty come together to create a community that is proud of its past and excited about its future. Our prosperity depends upon engaging our residents to be integral participants in Johnsburg's unique community while protecting our assets and preserving our natural resources.

In order for any organization to be a success, it is important that a clear direction and purpose is established and understood by all. To that end, the Village holds strategic planning sessions from time to time to identify goals and to strategize on how to achieve those goals. A crucial part of that process is to identify a mission and vision for the community. For those of you who have attended the State of the Village in the past, you know that our Mission and Vision statements are included in the presentation each year so that we remain mindful of our goals when making decisions.

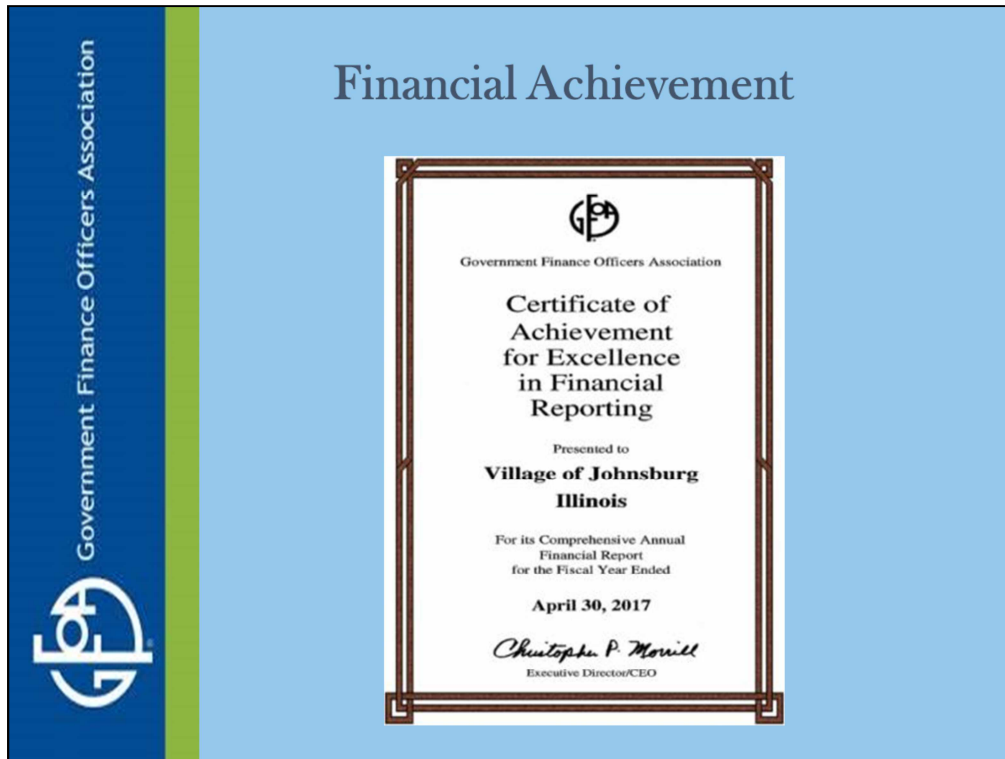
The Year In Review

- Finance and Operational Improvements
- Planning, Engineering and Funding
- Infrastructure and Facilities
- Capital Purchases and Donations

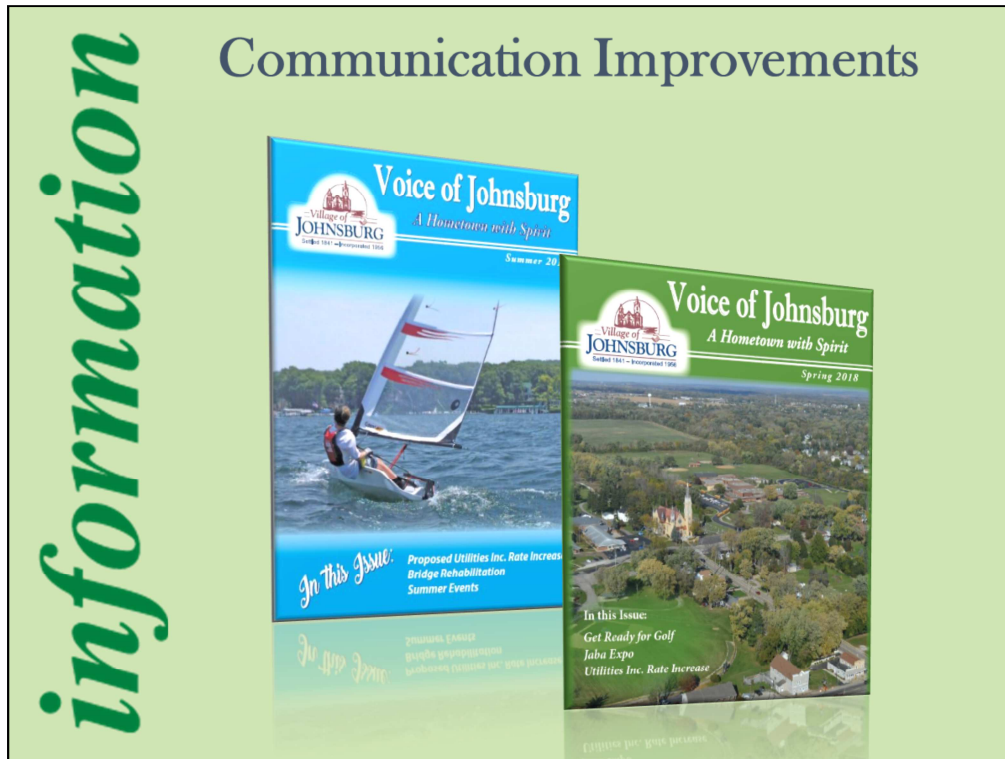


This past year has been an exciting year for the Village. We have so many positive things happening in our community and I look forward to sharing them with you.

I cannot emphasize enough that all of this would not be possible without diligent planning and financial preparations made over the past years. Today we are able to experience the benefits of those efforts and capitalize on opportunities as they come about.

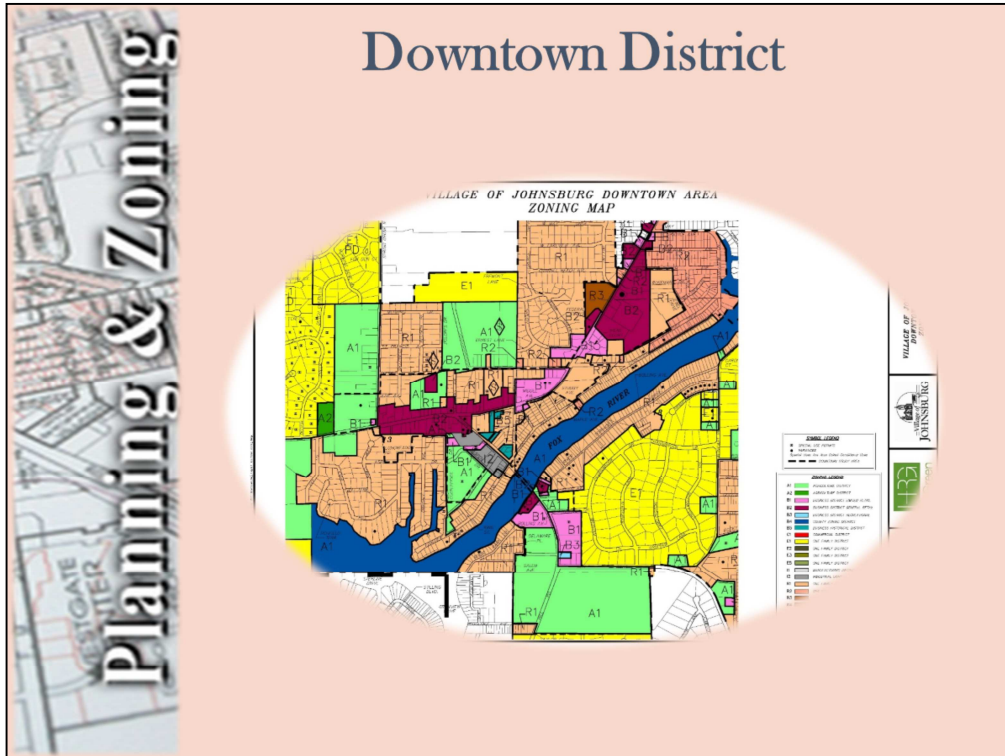


To begin with, I am honored to once again report that for the second year in a row the Village received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). I would like to thank Village Administrator Claudett Peters and Village Treasurer Kim Giovanni for their efforts in making the award possible. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and it's attainment represents a significant accomplishment by the Village and its management.

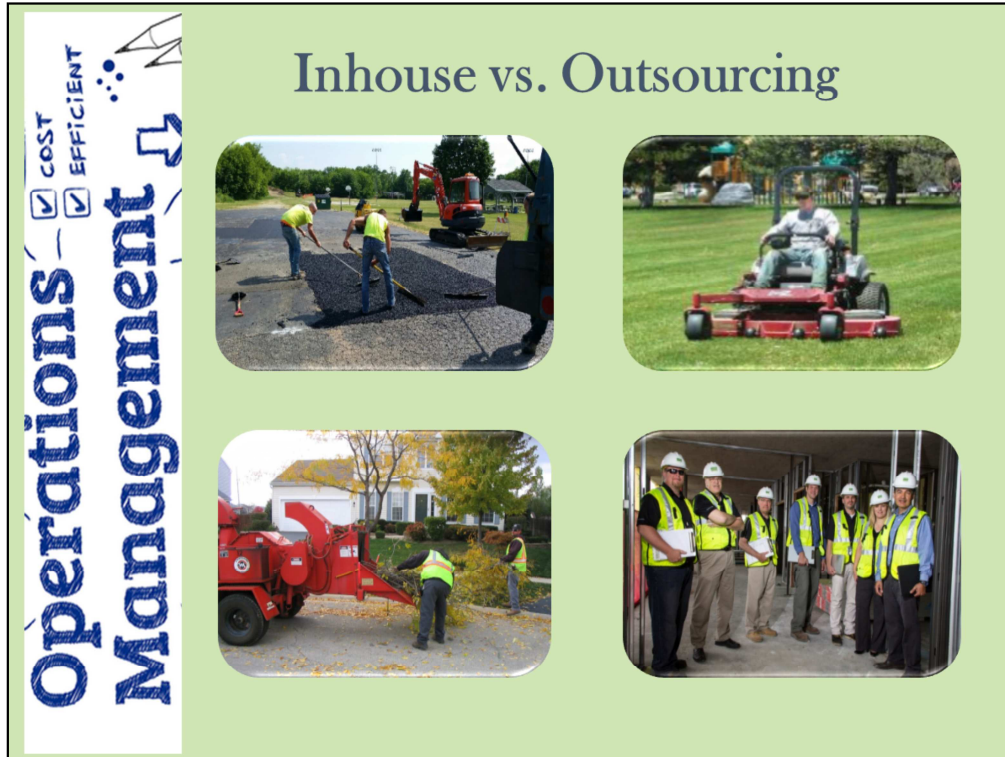


In order for a business to succeed, it needs to effectively communicate with its target market. The same applies to the Village. We are always looking for ways to improve communications so that we can keep the community informed. This past year, the Administration staff create a new eye catching newsletter design that has been very well received. Some of our articles relate to annual events or are reminders which tend to be repetitive in context. Staff's goal was to draw renewed interest in the newsletter and in what the Village has to say. The new design has been a big hit and we are pleased with the response we've had from the community.

Another important communication tool we use is our Message signs. This past year, our administration staff incorporated interesting new graphics and motion settings so that the messages are interesting and easy to read while not creating an unsafe distraction to passing motorists.

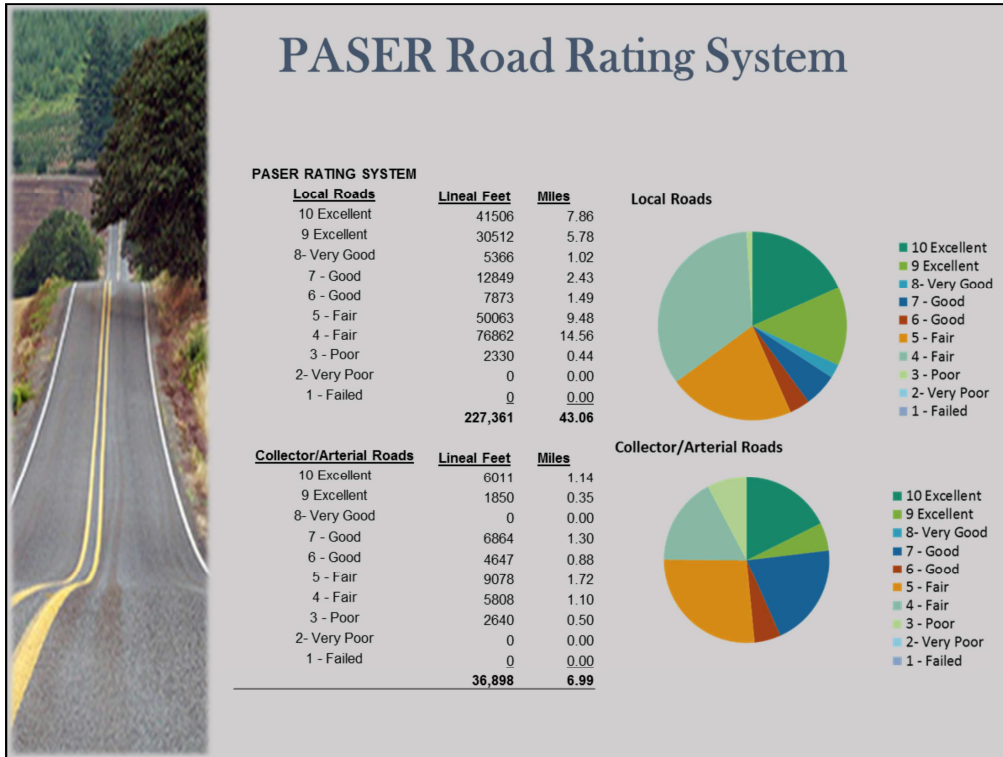


After several years of gathering data, obtaining public input and researching what makes a successful downtown, the Village Board adopted the Downtown addendum to the Comprehensive Use Plan, but that did not signify the completion of the project. This past year the Planning and Zoning Commission worked with Village Administrator Claudett Peters to develop updated language in the Village's Zoning Ordinance specific to the Downtown District. This was a crucial next phase of the process. The language establishes regulations to shape development in our downtown which will protect current uses while providing sufficient flexibility to encourage positive growth in the district.



We constantly challenge our employees to find new and innovative ways to improve our operations. Our management staff consistently evaluates operational activities to determine how they can best be accomplished. In doing so, they weigh the benefits of performing the work utilizing in house staff versus outsourcing the work through contracted services.

We continue to find that outsourcing our mowing and general park maintenance activities best serves the Village. It frees up our public work's employees so that they can instead focus their attention on infrastructure maintenance activities such as road patching, ditching, culvert replacement, tree trimming and sidewalk repair. We have also determined that outsourcing plan review and inspection services is more cost effective for the Village.



Maintaining our roadways and other infrastructure is crucial. By monitoring our infrastructure and establishing timely maintenance plans we can manage those cost effectively. This past year, Village Administrator Claudett Peters and Village Engineer Tim Hartnett introduced the PASER road rating system into the Village’s maintenance program. The PASER system utilizes industry acceptable criteria to provide for better management of our road infrastructure. All of our roads were rerated utilizing the PASER system which provides a formal structure to address roads with emphasis on safety, sustainability and ride-ability. The program enables the Village to operate more efficiently and economically. It serves as a great planning tool and establishes a basis for decision making. Through the system we can track costs, maintain an accurate inventory and record historical data.



The Village, Community Affairs Committee and representatives from local sports organizations have been working together to identify current and long term field needs for the community.

This past year, improvements were completed in partnership with Johnsbury School District on the ball fields at Hiller Park to improve their condition and make them more versatile to serve the needs of the organizations utilizing them.

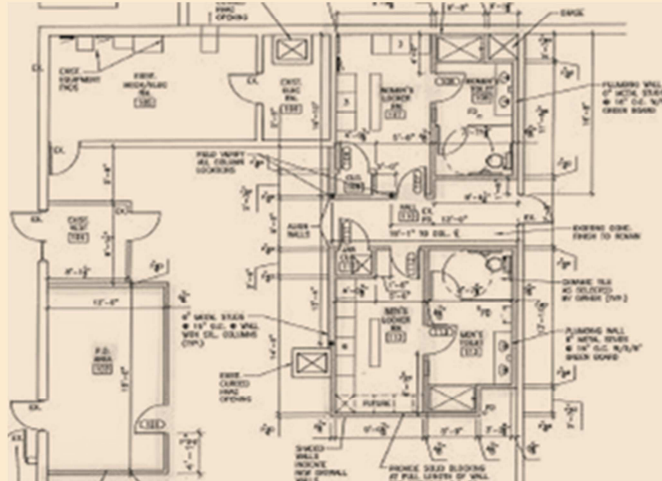
This Spring, the Johnsbury Boys Baseball League purchased a portable pitching mound in conjunction with the Village and donated it for use at Hiller Park.

Also this Spring the Johnsbury Jr. Skyhawks donated a scoreboard at Hiller Park and is working to secure the donation of an irrigation system.

Partnerships like these make it possible for us to improve our parks for the children of the community.

IMPROVEMENTS

Facilities



In follow up to the parking lot improvements completed at the Public Works facility, last year we completed the construction of new bath and locker rooms as well as a squad room to temporarily accommodate our police officers. With the improvements now complete, our officers are able to check in at the facility and pick up their assigned squad prior to their shift.

Additionally this past year we put the finishing touches on the newly repainted Village Hall. The walls of our lobby, board room and conference room are now finished with displays of historical pictures, maps and plaques. Even the bare walls in my office were dressed up a bit. Our last challenge seems to be finding the appropriate wall clock large enough for our aging eyes to see across the board room, but I am confident we will find one shortly.



Last year the first of the new street name signs were installed along Johnsburg Road, Chapel Hill Road and in the downtown district. The blue and white signs with the Village’s logo and decorative black powder coated posts have truly made a positive aesthetic impact in our community. I receive regular compliments from both our residents and from people visiting our community. We just received 28 additional posts that will be installed this year and we will continue to replace signs throughout the Village until all subdivisions are equipped with new more visible signs.

When traveling around the community you may have also noticed the replacement of other standard signage. Our public works team has been inventorying the signs throughout our community and replacing older, less visible signage with new signs constructed of engineer grade highly reflected material making them more visible both day and night. Additionally we identify signage that is not necessary and remove it in an effort to prevent sign pollution from occurring.

When entering the Village, you will notice the placement of flags at some of the completed entry sign locations. Working with volunteers, we will continue to dress up the remaining entry signs with landscaping and flags. This year we will also be replacing a couple of the last wooden entry signs originally donated by the Johnsburg Community Club and Johnsburg Lions Club.

Sewer Extensions



Our ongoing sewer extension project took another step forward this past year with the extension of sewers along Church Street, St. Johns Avenue and Johnsburg Road. The project was completed in conjunction with the long awaited Church Street Improvement Project. The project provides for an additional 24 connections to the system bringing the total possible connections in our downtown area to 145. These improvements enable the Johnsburg Jr. High, Johnsburg Library, St. John the Baptist Church and School and the Johnsburg Community Club along with 105 homes and 35 businesses to connect.

Church Street Improvement Project



As you know, the long planned for Church Street Road Improvement Project is complete. Our construction manager, Mike Hastings, is busy working with representatives of Curran Contracting to complete the final punch list items. I receive many compliments regarding the project. The additional streetscape enhancements truly put a finishing touch on the project. When traveling along Johnsburg Road, thru the roundabout and up to St. Johns Avenue and Church Street, the enhancements define the area consistent with what was intended in the Downtown Plan. It is very rewarding when you not only plan for things to happen, but are actually able to experience them as well. It's amazing for me to finally see this project become a reality after more than 20 years in the making.



Adequate parking is fundamental to the success of any downtown. This past year, plans were completed to develop a municipal parking lot on the Village’s property at the roundabout. The plans provide for 42 parking stalls along with lighting, security cameras and a pedestrian/bike path that will tie into our path network. We hope to be out to bid on the project in the near future.

To further our downtown development plans, we are working to secure additional funding for the much needed pedestrian/recreational crossing of the river. With the temporary closure of the Chapel Hill Road bridge, we are all painfully aware that our community is separated by the Fox River and the current bridge is the only means of crossing the River within our community. It is crucial that we provide pedestrians, cyclist and even those traveling via golf carts and snowmobiles a safer means to cross. We believe this improvement will help promote “healthy” transportation alternatives and also encourage development on both sides of the river by tying these two areas together.

Land Sales



From time to time, the Village Board analyzes its inventory of properties to determine if they continue to meet our needs or are more beneficial to the Village sold and placed on the tax rolls. The Village Board sold two such properties this last year.

The first was a small vacant waterfront lot on Riverview Drive that did not serve a current or future purpose for the Village. The property was sold and funds were set aside for future land acquisitions that can better serve the Village.

The second property is the facility currently housing our police department. Earlier in the presentation I reported on the improvements done at the Public Works facility on Route 31 to temporarily address our housing challenges at the Police Department. In addition to pursuing those temporary solutions, the Village pursued an analysis of long term solutions, part of which includes selling the existing facility. Recently an opportunity to sell the property came about and upon going through the required bidding process, the Village was able to sell the property with terms that provide for the Police Department's continued use of the facility while the Village pursues facility alternatives.

I will discuss more about our future facility plans later in my presentation tonight.



Land Acquisition

The most talked about land related matter this past year is one that I am especially proud of. When it became known that the Chapel Hill Golf Course was being considered for development, much concern was expressed throughout the community. It was quickly determined that something needed to be done to protect this valuable recreational open space in our community. Last Fall, the Village Board unanimously approved the acquisition and secured bonds to finance the purchase. Revenues derived from the course's operations are being used to pay back the bonds so the purchase of the course does not result in any tax increase to Village residents.

Overall, the course was in good condition. Our public works team has been removing dead trees, cleaning up the overgrowth along the Chapel Hill Road fence line, replacing signage and clearing miscellaneous brush. Efforts are currently underway to relocate utilities and clear out the old clubhouse in preparation for its demolition this fall. We are working in partnership with the McHenry Township Fire Protection District to demolish the structure through controlled burns, which will provide training exercises for the District and help the Village keep demolition costs down.

This summer, maintenance will take place on the entry road and the parking lot will be patched and striped. The Village's goal is to provide a golf course facility that is well maintained yet affordable for our residents. We are pleased that we were able to preserve this important amenity in our community.

Dredging & Land Reclamation



Despite limitations on available funding, the Village continues its dogged pursuit of funding for our dredging and land reclamation project. We are working with the Army Corp of Engineers and the Rock Island District in an effort to secure as much as \$100,000 in planning assistance and \$10,000,000 for reclamation efforts.

Last fall, Trustee Frost, Ms. Peters and I met with representatives of Congressmen Hultgren, and Senators Durbin and Duckworth in an effort to obtain their support for this very important project. We will continue to pursue whatever means are available to get this project funded. By partnering with these agencies we hope to pursue land reclamation activities in the Dutch Creek Bay area, the river front, and adjacent channels which will help to restore and protect this very important natural resource and provide passive nature areas and a future river front park that will greatly benefit our community.

2017 Flood



Floods and other natural disasters are not pleasant events to experience but when they occur, we truly see the best come out in our community. I was overwhelmed by the generosity I witnessed and heard about in response to last summer's flood. During the event, Mitch Brick, Manager of Cabana's on the Chain participated in an interview with Steve Cochran of WGN radio and spoke about the many volunteers that came out to help protect his business from the fast approaching flood waters. He also thanked me for all of the help that the Village provided. That thanks should truly be directed to the Village's A-team of employees, the student volunteers from the Johnsburg High School Athletic program and our very generous residents who proactively jumped in bagging sand and helping those in need throughout the community. If not for these selfless individuals, I would not get compliments like those expressed by Mr. Brick.

As the flood waters receded, a veteran-led disaster response organization known as Team Rubicon was kind enough to come here and help conduct damage assessments and provide muck out operations and debris removal. I cannot thank them enough for their help. My thanks also goes to School Superintendent Dan Johnson, the Johnsburg School District 12 school board, and its staff for providing Team Rubicon a temporary home at the Johnsburg Junior High.

I am truly grateful to everyone who helped in one way or another. You are fine examples of why I am honored to serve as your Village President and proud to call Johnsburg "home". We truly are a community of neighbors joining hands and coming together – a motto showcased during the 1991 annexation, but one that is certainly not foreign to the Johnsburg community

Events

- Movies in the Park
- Dancing Under the Stars
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Celebration in the Park





- Holiday Magic
- Shop With a Cop
- Cop on Top
- Pistakee Bay Fireworks

Our Community Affairs Committee, chaired by Trustee Tom Curry, did a fantastic job once again, planning and coordinating several community events this past year. These events are very important as they encourage family and friends to gather together and experience what our incredible community has to offer.

Last June we held the 3rd Annual Dancing Under the Stars event. The Committee is wrapping up plans for this year's event scheduled for Friday, August 3rd. See Tom Curry or Jill McEvoy for tickets if you are interested in attending.

In September, the community came together again for the annual Celebration in the Park event and in December the Committee hosted a well attended Holiday Magic event with a surprise visit from Santa. This year the committee is planning to add a Christmas parade leading up to the event.

Due to inclement weather the 4th annual Easter Egg Hunt was held in the Village Hall this year but despite the weather, children still had an opportunity to "collect" Easter eggs and visit with the Easter Bunny.

Last summer, despite challenging weather, we were able to hold three Movies in the Park events. This summer the committee is again planning for three events in response to the positive response we continue to receive from the community.

In May we again participated in the Johnsburg VFW's annual Memorial Day Event to honor the many men and women who served our country. Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the generosity of Tom Fuchs and his many volunteers at Oak Park Lounge who sponsor the incredible fireworks display over Pistakee Bay. The event is scheduled for Saturday, July 7th this year so make sure to come out and enjoy the show.

It takes many dedicated men and women in our community to make these events possible and to each of them we are truly grateful.



Community Organizations

- Johnsburg Moose Lodge
- Johnsburg Lions Club
- Johnsburg VFW
- Johnsburg Community Club/Johnsburg Community Men's Club






Each year, I take a moment to recognize the many organizations that contribute much of their time and efforts to make Johnsburg the community we are proud to call home.

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

The **Johnsburg Lions Club** contributes greatly to the community through their monthly meat raffles - the proceeds of which are donated to many local organizations. Over the past 17 years, the Lions Club raised more than \$65,000 for the Johnsburg Shop with a Cop program. They sponsor the annual Banjo Beer night during Saufen und Spiel weekend and also continue to sponsor free hearing and eye screenings.

The dedicated members of the **Johnsburg VFW** do an incredible job honoring our fallen veterans through the Memorial Day festivities they organize each year. We are very grateful to those who have served to protect the freedoms we enjoy today and we greatly appreciate all that the Johnsburg VFW does to honor our veterans.

The **Johnsburg Community Club** and **Johnsburg Community Men's Club** also contribute much to our community. In addition to sponsoring the annual Saufen und Spiel activities, they have also assisted the Village at our annual Celebration in the Park event. Both of these organizations have donated funds to support a food distribution organized by the former Johnsburg Rescue Squad Retired and also sponsor an annual scholarship for a Johnsburg High School student, a local boy scout troop, boys baseball, pigtail softball, soccer teams and other organizations.



Honor

During Memorial Day weekend, McHenry Township hosted The Wall that Heals Vietnam Veteran Memorial Replica at the Township Park. I had the privilege of speaking at one of the events held that weekend. Before speaking at the event, I took some time to learn more about the Vietnam War Memorial and its origins and would like to share some of what I learned. In the late 1970's, Jan Scruggs, a wounded and decorated veteran of the Vietnam War began studying the negative social and psychological impacts associated with serving in the War. His studies inspired him to want to find a way to help. He felt that a memorial could help our Veterans heal by providing a symbol that the country cared about them while recognizing that their sacrifices were honorable.

It took more than a decade and the help of many people to make his vision a reality. Dedicated on November 13, 1982, the Vietnam War Memorial is visited by more than 5.6 million people each year, but not everyone can make the trip to Washington D.C. to pay their respects. The Wall that Heals Vietnam Veterans Memorial replica brought the Wall to Johnsburg so that we may honor and remember the more than 58,000 men and women whose names are inscribed on the wall in recognition of the ultimate sacrifice they made for our country. Thank you to McHenry Township for bringing The Wall that Heals to our community. The experience truly was an honor.

Each year during this presentation, I take a moment to recognize individuals and organizations that have made a difference in our community. This year I want to recognize an organization whose charter was to support local business. Over time, the organization grew to support not only Johnsburg businesses but the community at large. They are also responsible for bringing us all here together tonight. Yes, I am speaking about the Johnsburg Area Business Association.

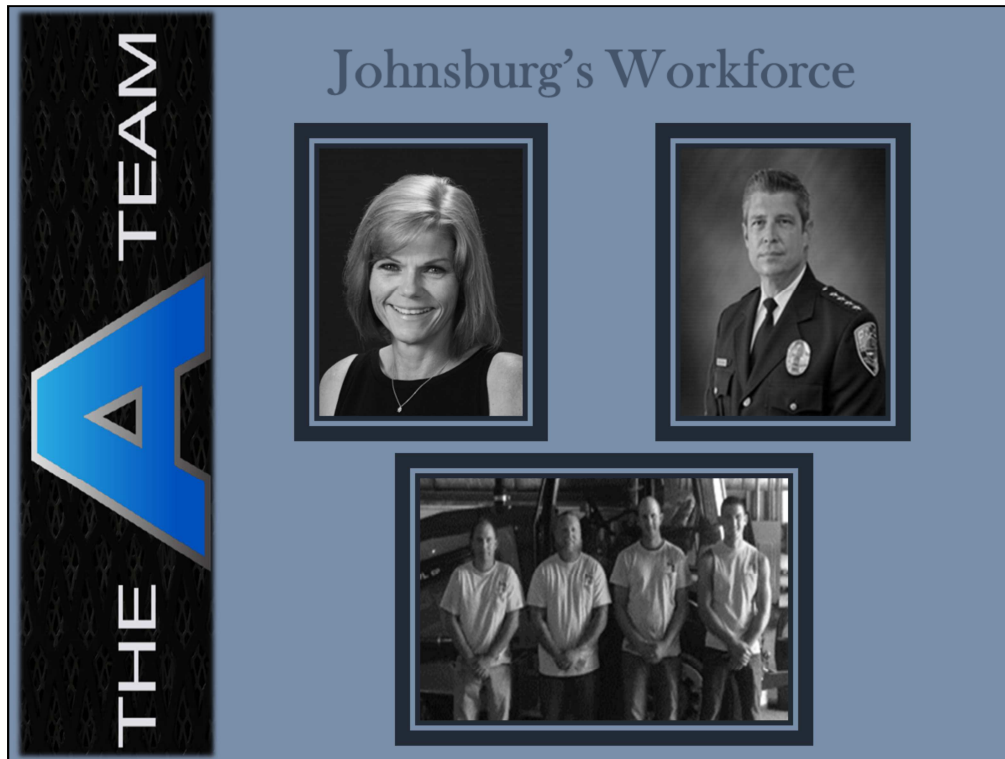


The Johnsburg Area Business Association (also referred to as JABA) was established after a Village wide strategic planning meeting identified the need for a symbiotic relationship with local and area businesses. Under the leadership of Roger Liston and his wife Anne, JABA became a reality in 1994. Small monthly meetings were held with a focus on business mentoring and sharing of information on local issues that could help influence business growth and sustainability. During the next phase of JABA, outreach events were developed and Roger and Anne started the Johnsburg Area Business Expo. The immediate success of the Expo was the foundation for the economic sustainability of JABA which continues to grow and prosper today.

JABA's support of local businesses and their support of the community can be seen all around town including the new JABA banners placed on Johnsburg Road and Church Street. Another example occurred during Saufen und Spiel last year, when JABA's entry in the parade recognized Raymond's Bowl and congratulated them on their 40th anniversary in Johnsburg.

After the passing of JABA's founder, Roger Liston, a scholarship was established in his memory to recognize and support the achievements of a local high school student who exhibits exceptional involvement in community and school. JABA supports many other community events including Shop with a Cop and Celebration in the Park.

Today JABA proudly has more than 80 members and continues to grow. The value the members provide to local businesses and the community at large is to be commended. JABA, I thank you for once again hosting this State of the Village dinner and for your constant presence and support of the Johnsburg community. Please join me in recognizing JABA and congratulating them for their extraordinary impact on our community.



Many of you have often heard me refer the hardworking men and women who make up our dedicated workforce as our “A” team. I would like to acknowledge some of those individuals that are here tonight.

First I would like to introduce our **Village Administrator Claudett Peters** who has been serving the Village for the past 27 years. As Village Administrator, she manages all departments – directing and coordinating services and operations. In addition to these responsibilities Ms. Peters pursues and manages grants and is the Village’s representative in interactions with County, State and Federal agencies. She serves on local boards on behalf of the Village and is well respected by her peers and other government officials. Through her leadership we do more with less and are able to tackle any challenge.

Next I would like to acknowledge **Police Chief Keith VonAllmen** - Chief VonAllmen has been serving the Village for the past 22 years and is well respected by his officers and the community. He has done much to broaden and enhance the department’s role in our community. Along with directing the safety of our community, Keith has also implemented several events to educate and inform the community such the Citizen’s Police Academy which just completed its 8th year. Additionally, the department holds regular CPR training classes for employees and the public. They have also successfully raised more than \$20,000 for Special Olympics.

Public Work’s Foreman, Dave Walsh is a real asset to our team. Dave has been with the Village’s Public Works Department since 2002, initially hired as a part time snow plow driver. He now serves as our Public Work’s Foreman. Dave is an exceptional equipment operator and is a truly knowledgeable and effective individual. We are fortunate to have Mr. Walsh leading our public works department. Steve Boswell, Anthony Wallin and Joe Kleinhanzl work alongside Dave, making up our full-time force, complimented by several seasonal employees all of who make sure our roads, parks and infrastructure are maintained.



Rick Quinn is another long timer with the Village having served first as a trustee and committee member on both the Public Works and Finance Committees and now as our Special Projects Coordinator. Rick has been very helpful in coordinating road improvement and neighborhood sewer SSA's at the request of residents. This past year he also served on our Building Team analyzing long term facility options for our Administration and Police operations. We are very fortunate to have him on our team.

I would like to also acknowledge our **Village Attorney Michael Smoron** who we've been fortunate to have him as part of our team for the past 25 years. Operating the Village in accordance with the laws and regulations we are bound by is of utmost importance. Michael and his firm can be depended upon to provide the Village sound legal advice and representation.

Village Engineer Tim Hartnett is also a valuable member of our team. Tim is unable to join us tonight but his years of experience both in his profession and the Johnsburg community make him uniquely qualified for his role with the Village. Tim's been serving as the Village's engineer for the past 25 years. In addition to serving as the Village's engineer, Tim is an active member of the Johnsburg community serving as a lector at St. Johns the Baptist Catholic Church and a member and director of the Johnsburg Community Club.



Our dedicated administrative support staff, **Debbie Swetz** and **Timothy Haynes** are fundamental in carrying out the Village's goals and objectives. Debbie will be celebrating her seventh year anniversary with the Village this August and Timothy joined the Village more than a two and a half ago as our newest administrative support staff.

Kim Giovanni serves as our Village Treasurer and Assistant Administrator in Claudett's absence. Kim is celebrating her third year anniversary with the Village in July. Her knowledge and experience are truly an asset to the Village.

These individuals form a small but dedicated group that are the "face" of the Village and the conduit through which everything flows. We rely upon them greatly.

Looking Ahead



- Opportunities**
 - New Business Development
 - Land Acquisitions
- Projects**
 - Downtown Improvements
 - Sewer Extension Project(s)
 - Field Improvements
 - Park Enhancements
- Challenges**
 - Infrastructure Improvements and Maintenance







In wrapping up our presentation tonight, I want to take a few moments to share with you some of the exciting opportunities in our future.

Looking ahead we are diligently working on new business development and land acquisition opportunities that will help strengthen the future of our community.

Improvements are planned in our downtown district which will enable us to market our downtown in a fashion that will attract new shopping and dining opportunities to compliment our existing businesses.

Park expansions, field improvements and other enhancements to serve the needs of our community are also a high priority in the coming year

We will also continue to develop innovative ways to overcome the challenges we face funding infrastructure improvements and maintenance such as the extension of our sewer system and road resurfacing.



Members of the Village’s sewer group will be working with representatives from several neighborhoods throughout the sewer service area in an effort to find affordable ways to extend the wastewater treatment collection system to the many areas in desperate need of the service. This year the Village is analyzing options to extend to additional riverfront neighborhoods and north to serve our businesses along Johnsborg Road such as Raymond’s Bowl and Angelo’s.

We are committed to keeping the cost for new single family home connections to \$21,000 whenever possible. To do so, the Village is subsidizing these programs so that they are more affordable to our residents. Residents in project areas not served by an SSA can pay the full \$21,000 up front and avoid incurring interest costs or alternatively the Village will permit residents to finance the amount on their utility bill, paid back over a twenty year period.

The cost of these projects continues to rise, nevertheless they are a high priority for our community. One of our biggest challenges is trying to find new funding sources and creative ways to keep these projects affordable.



The park improvements in Running Brook Farms subdivision are about to get underway. Within a couple months, children in the subdivision will have a new tot lot, swings and basketball court to enjoy. Parents will be able sit on the newly installed park benches taking in the beautiful landscape while they watch their children play. This project is funded through park impact fees collected from each new home in the subdivision. The three regional parks that serve our community are a great benefit to the community however, neighborhoods like Running Brook Farms are situated too far from these parks for children to enjoy on a regular basis. This neighborhood park has been long awaited and will greatly benefit the residents in Running Brook Farms subdivision.

Another park improvement that has been “growing” since the start of the Church Street improvement project is the new sled hill at Sunnyside Memorial Park. Last week the final shaping of the hill was completed and Curran Contracting will be bringing in top soil and seed blanket to finish the project shortly. This winter, children will be able to come out and enjoy some great out door fun. I expect that the Community Affairs Committee is already planning some winter events in the park that will include sledding, a warm bonfire and hot chocolate.



Earlier in my presentation I remarked that the police department has outgrown their facility on Chapel Hill Road. To temporarily address this challenge, we pursued improvements last year at the Route 31 Public Works Facility to provide our officers a place to park and clock in each day.

To develop a long term solution, we established a building team consisting of myself, Trustee Kyle Frost, Village Administrator Claudett Peters, Police Chief Keith VonAllmen, Special Projects Coordinator Rick Quinn, Village Engineer Tim Hartnett, and Village Building Commissioner and Architect Frank Urbina. This past year, the Building Team developed a needs analysis and confirmed our previous thoughts that housing the police department and administration in one location provides for improved efficiencies in both operations and shared space.

As part of our due diligence, the team also pursued cost estimates for three different alternatives. The first was to build a new municipal facility on our property located by the McHenry Township Fire Protection District facility. Another alternative looked into the possibility of renovating the old Bush School facility. Lastly, the Team considered renovating and adding on to the existing Village Hall. Upon completion of their analysis, the team made a recommendation to the Village Board that the best alternative was to renovate and add on to the existing Village Hall for several reasons. The first, was that the option at just over \$2 million was far more affordable than building new or renovating the old Bush School facility both of which would cost more than \$7 million. Secondly, the Village could make good use of an existing space that would need little or no renovations to include considerable parking already in place. Lastly, the community is familiar with the location and many residents in the adjacent neighborhoods do not want Village operations moved from the facility.

This year the building team will be soliciting design proposals and work with the selected architect on the design for the building addition to present to the board.



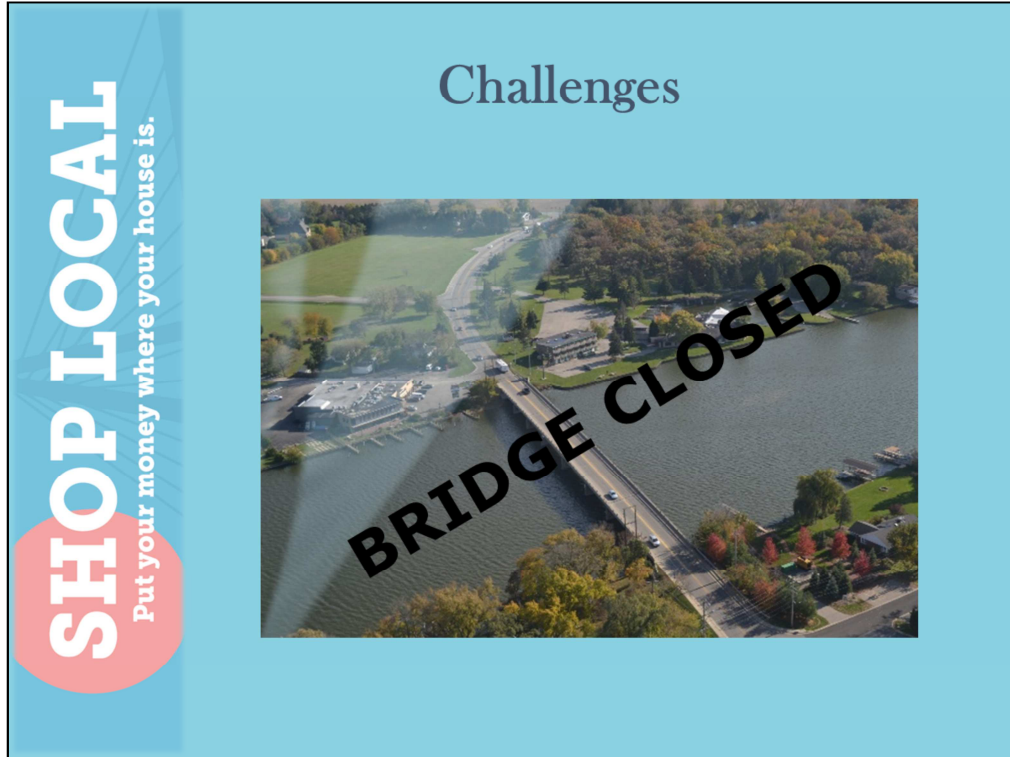
This year the Village has identified more than 3.5 miles of roadway slated for resurfacing. Additionally we have an aggressive road patching program planned and we will continue to stabilize road shoulders and trim trees to help extend the life of our roads.



We are improving the Economic Development web page to assist our existing businesses and market the Village for new business opportunities.

We closely analyze our business corridors for marketing opportunities which will increase our sales tax base, create new jobs and bring about desired businesses to the area to compliment our existing business base. We also continue to work with Metra officials to further our cooperative efforts at developing the Johnsburg Metra station which will provide additional transit oriented development opportunities in the western region of the Village.

We are developing important contacts to help bring new business development to our community which will compliment our existing business base.



In any organization, there are always challenges, but in Johnsbury we see challenges as a reason to work harder and smarter. Some challenges are temporary and some are ongoing. This year we are experiencing a temporary challenge that could potentially have long term consequences with the temporary closing of the Chapel Hill Road bridge. We are all being inconvenienced by the closure, but our businesses are being most impacted. It is more important now than ever that we support our local businesses. The Village has developed a marketing campaign to try and assist. Each week we are spotlighting business specials through our social media outlets to remind the community to support our local businesses. Please help us get the word out by reminding your friends and neighbors to “Go the extra mile and Shop Johnsbury”.



The Village of Johnsburg continues moving towards a bright and successful future. Sound planning and decision making over more than 25 years have made it possible for us to experience today's successes. Continued investments in infrastructure and sound fiscal planning are key to our future.



I thank the Johnsburg Area Business Association for the opportunity to present to you tonight and our residents who have given me the honor of representing you as your Village President.

Thank you for sharing your time with us.