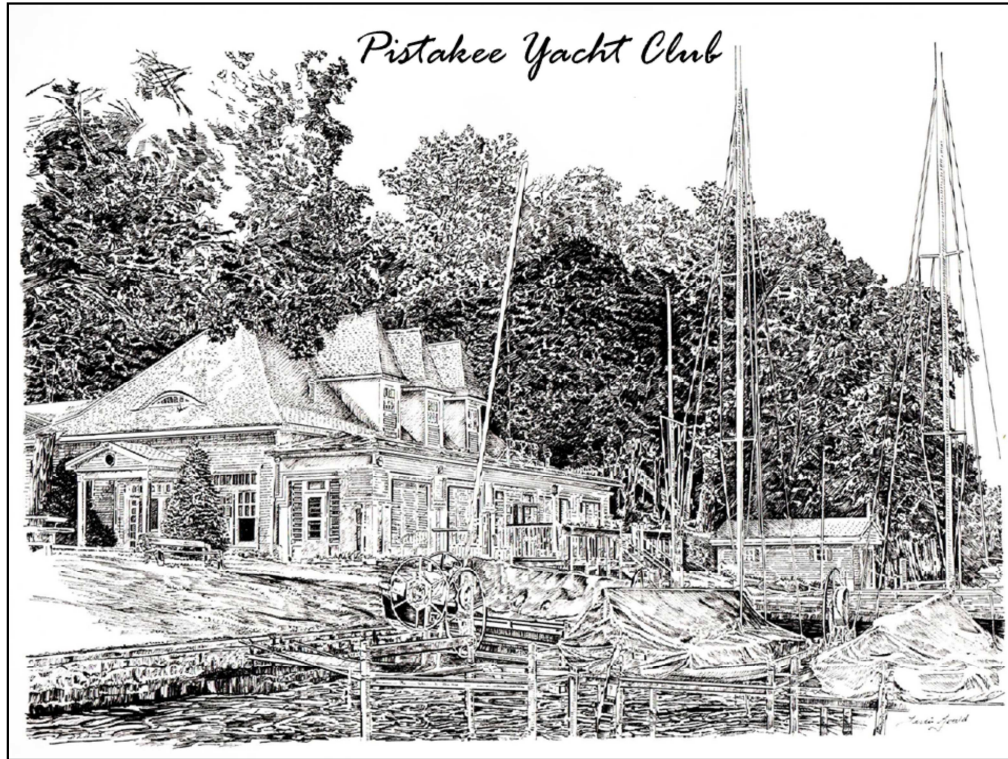




Welcome to this year's State of the Village Address and Dinner. Thank you for granting me the opportunity to speak with you tonight. As I have said in the past, of all of the events each year, the State of the Village is one I look forward to the most. I truly appreciate the opportunity to spend time with all of you talking about something very near and dear to me - this great community we call home.



Before we begin, I would like to recognize the Johnsbury Area Business Association for hosting this 9<sup>th</sup> Annual State of the Village event and extend a special thanks to JABA's **President Mark Adams, Vice President Laura King** and the organizing committee consisting of **Josh Hagen and John Huemann** for their efforts in coordinating all of the arrangements.

I would also like to thank **Debi Stuckwisch and her team at Stucky's Bar & Grill** for preparing our dinner tonight, the **Pistakee Yacht Club** for the use of their historic facility and both **Cheryl and Joe Twomey** for their help this evening. Let's please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

This year a program has been provided and at your table, which I will refer to throughout the presentation.



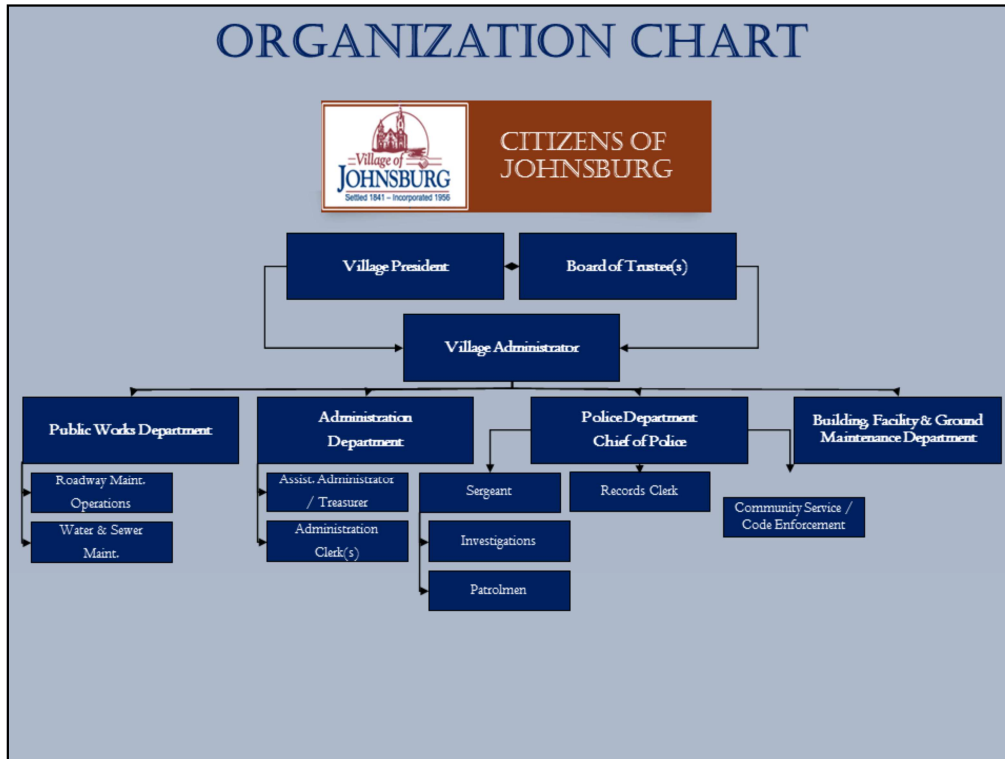
This year marks the 10th year I have had the honor of serving as your Village President and prior to that as a Village Trustee. As a lifelong resident of Johnsburg, I have seen the Village grow in so many incredible ways. I am proud of our accomplishments and excited about the great opportunities we have ahead of us.

In Johnsburg history, hospitality and natural beauty come together to create a community that is proud of its past and excited about its future.

We offer well-planned diversified housing, progressive economic development opportunities and abundant open spaces. We are proud of our great schools and excellent municipal services.

Johnsburg has frontage along two of Northern Illinois' most desirable corridors – the Fox River/Chain of Lakes waterway system and the fast developing Route 31 corridor making it a great community for both recreational opportunities and business development.

Our hardworking citizens volunteer much of their time and efforts, both individually and through organizations, to make Johnsburg a community we are proud to call home, which is why Johnsburg is “A Hometown with Spirit”



As you may know, the Village of Johnsburg functions as a non-home rule municipality under a President and Trustee form of government

Our Board consists of me and six trustees that are elected at large to staggered four-year terms. Several of those members are in attendance tonight. Will the board members present please stand.

Despite being a smaller community with limited resources, we accomplish a lot thanks to their hard work and the support of our talented staff and dedicated committee members.





Each trustee serves as a chair on various committees made up of volunteer citizens who discuss specialized issues and make recommendations to the Village Board. We are fortunate to have many committed residents that generously donate their time and talents by serving on one of our committees. Tonight's program includes a list of committee members to whom we are truly grateful, for without them, our successes would not be possible. Several of our committee members are in attendance tonight. Could you please stand.

Thank you for your service to the Village.



I would be remiss if I did not also recognize the many local organizations listed in tonight's program whose members generously volunteer their time to make Johnsbury the community we are proud to call home. I see some members of those organizations here tonight. If you serve as a volunteer through one of our local organizations, please take a moment and stand.

I am truly grateful for all that you do.



A couple of years ago, I spoke about USMC Colonel George Braun at the State of the Village event after he was recognized by the Northwest Herald as an Everyday Hero. As many of you know, Colonel Braun has served our community for many years through organizations such as the Johnsburg Community Club, Johnsburg Lions Club and the Johnsburg VFW. For more than a decade, George has coordinated and conducted the annual Memorial Day event with the help of his fellow VFW members and the support of organizations and businesses in Johnsburg. This year, I was informed that George will be stepping back from his leading role in coordinating the event and handing the reigns over to VFW member Tony Violet. In recognition for his years of dedicated service to the Village, I would like to present George with this plaque on behalf of the citizens of Johnsburg.



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.

I often refer to our Village staff as the Village's A-team. They get the job done. We are fortunate to have a blend of veteran employees with years of experience as well as new employees that are eager to learn and share new ideas. That balance serves the Village well and will continue to do so into the future. They make up a small but very effective team consisting of both full-time and part-time individuals dedicated to serving our community. Some members of my A-team are here tonight. Please stand and be recognized.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the Village. Please look to tonight's program for a list of all of our employees.



# Dedicated Services



Tonight I would like to give special recognition to two individuals who do more than provide contracted services to the Village. **Attorney Michael Smoron and Engineer Tim Hartnett** have been serving our community for more than 25 years. What makes them special is more than just their excellent professional contributions through the work they do. It's their dedication to our community, which they exhibit through both monetary contributions towards our local fundraising efforts and the donation of services they provide in support of our endeavors.

If they would both please join me at the podium, I would like to present each of them a plaque in recognition of their commitment to our community.

# History Matters



The theme of tonight's presentation is ...proud of our past and excited about the future. A very smart man, former Trustee John Huemann once told me that you have to know where you've been to understand where you are going. Very wise words.

As we work to improve our quality of life, we must embrace our past and use that as a foundation for our future. Celebrating our history fosters community pride, provides a sense of identity and demonstrates what makes Johnsburg unique.

Johnsburg was originally settled in 1841 by German emigrants who came from the Eifel region in Germany in search of freedom, personal liberty and opportunity. Over the years those settlers worked hard to make a home in a new land and they did so by working together.

Throughout Johnsburg's history, residents came together and pooled their resources for the betterment of the community. The Johnsburg Community Club accomplished a lot over the years with that determination and we continue to do so today.

We are a community of neighbors helping neighbors, a philosophy that was emphasized during the 1991 Sunnyside/Johnsburg annexation. Many people came together to carry out that initiative and it is an excellent example of how much we can accomplish by working together.

Today that "neighbor helping neighbor" philosophy persists and is exhibited through the generous efforts of our citizens and civic organizations.



Moving forward to a more recent past, fiscal year 2019 was another great year in the Village of Johnsburg. Trustee Greg Klemstein and the Finance Committee helped us kick off the year with a balanced budget that set us on a path to accomplish our goals. In addition to providing for our operational needs, this past year's budget incorporated the necessary funds to make capital purchases, pursue projects and set aside funds for future projects, improve our infrastructure, and provide new amenities for all to enjoy. Anticipating today's needs and planning for the future is a large part of what has made us successful.



The new sled hill at Sunnyside Park is a great example of what we've been able to accomplish through good fiscal planning. Although the hill was constructed from soils removed from the Church Street Road Improvement Project, it was through the use of funds set aside through the Capital Plan that enabled us to properly shape the hill and install security fencing to insure the new feature would be safe for families to enjoy. By setting aside funds, we were also able to pursue electric improvements at Sunnyside Park and add a pier extension at the Alfred May Park and Boat Launch . Capital improvement fees supported the new neighborhood park in Running Brook Farms subdivision which is now ready for children to enjoy.



# Regulate



Insuring that our regulations are current and developed in a way that helps us achieve our goals is crucial to our success. Chairman Kim Husby and the Special Zoning Commission as well as former Trustee Mary Lou Hutchinson and the Ordinance Committee spent the past year updating several of our codes so that they serve the communities best interests. Their efforts resulted in the adoption of amendments to codes regulating business districts, traffic control, liquor licensing and building permit fees. Ms. Husby and the Planning and Zoning Commission are currently working on amendments to the Village's sign ordinance and newly elected Trustee Beth Foreman will be working with the Ordinance Committee updating other regulations affecting our community

# Invest



Investing in our community is another important component need to achieve success. This past year we invested in human resources. We brought on a Parks and Facilities employee, and replaced two open positions in the police department and one in our administration department. Investing in our A-Team is always a smart bet because without the right people in place to carry out our directives, nothing will get accomplished.



Over the past few years, we have experienced monumental improvements that completely changed the completion of our community. Many of us have already forgotten what Johnsborg Road was like before the improvement project began in 2013 and the roundabout has become commonplace in our lives. Our roadways and other infrastructure are the backbone of our community. Maintaining and improving them has a direct impact on our success. The implementation of the PASER road rating system last year changed the way we manage our road infrastructure by improving the way we monitor and plan for timely improvements to our roadways so that we can anticipate and control their costs.

Utilizing the new rating system last year aided Trustee Kevin McEvoy and the Public Works Committee in determining which roadways were in the greatest need of repair. Mr. McEvoy and the committee worked with HR Green and Village staff to pursue 3.5 miles of road resurfacing last year along with large patch repairs along Johnsborg Road and Riverside Drive. Our public works crew also performed patch repairs in numerous locations throughout the Village and replaced culverts that were negatively impacting the flow of stormwater.

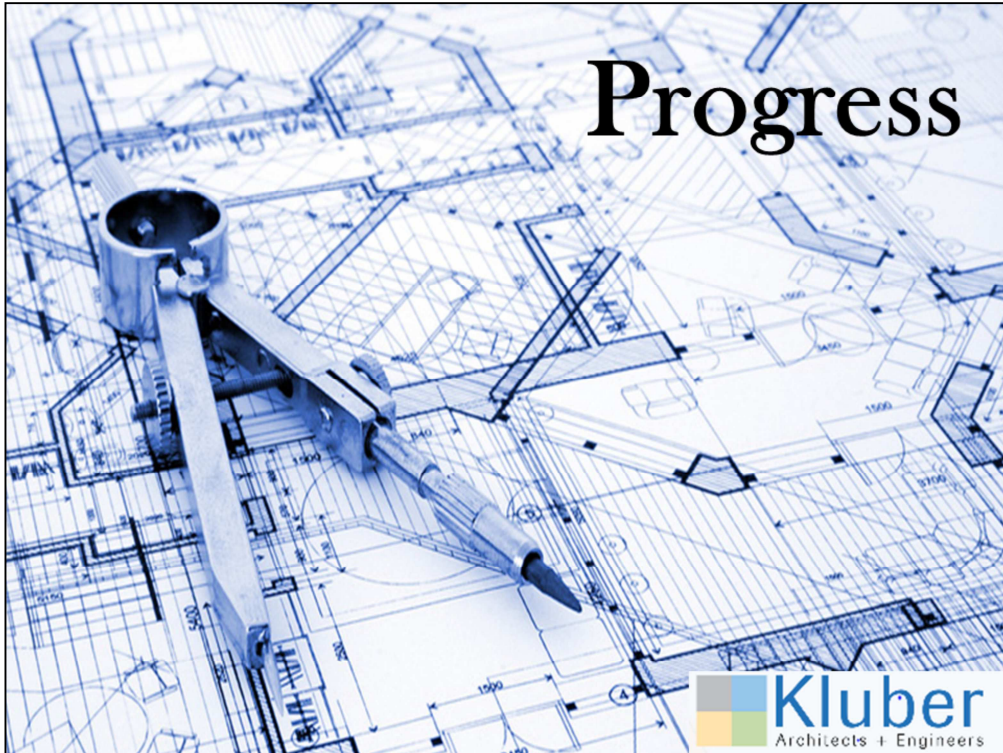
In addition to roadway improvements, we furthered our streetscape enhancement efforts this past year with the installation of additional decorative street name signs along our major arterial roadways and replaced regulatory signs throughout the Village.



Early in the presentation, I spoke about the need to know where you've been to know where you are going. Reflecting on our past is important, but we also need to recognize when we need to **move forward**. This past year we did just that at the Village's Chapel Hill Golf Course. When we acquired the property we realized that improvements were going to be needed. Part of those improvements included the demolition of the old Clubhouse and groundskeeper's house. Both of these structures were beyond reasonable repair and unsightly. In order to remove them, utilities needed to be relocated which proved to be a task requiring much coordination. Representatives from HR Green worked with Village employees to facilitate the utility relocations, making sure to not adversely impact GolfVision's operations as well as the surrounding neighbors.

By late winter the relocations were substantially complete and the McHenry Township Fire Protection District began conducting training exercises at both facilities. They concluded their training with the complete burn of the club house on March 15th. Demolition crews then came in to tear down the groundskeeper's house and clean up the debris. Rain delayed the final grading of the site, but the transformation is already truly amazing.





Speaking of moving forward, progress was made on the Village of Johnsburg David G. Dominguez Municipal Center this past year. The building team solicited qualifications for architects from nine firms, two of which were local. Seven firms responded to the RFQ and upon review of their qualifications, the building team chose three firms to interview. At the conclusion of the interviews, the team recommended Kluber Architects and Engineers for the project and the Village Board accepted the recommendation. They were chosen because of their experience and cost containing approach to design. The building team will be working with Kluber on the first phase of the project, which consists of gathering data and developing schematic design alternatives. We will then proceed with design development and the preparation of construction documents in hopes of going out for bid at the beginning of the new year. Our goal is to provide a facility that will provide Administrative and Police Services to the community in an affordable manner.

**Visit McHenry County**

**Johnsburg**  
Waterfront Fun on the Fox

The Chain O' Lakes and Fox River bring thousands of boaters to McHenry County every summer. Join in the fun and hop on your boat to explore what the locals affectionately call "The Chain". The best way to experience the area is a cruise through Johnsburg. Begin your journey on the beautiful Pistakee Bay, admire the stunning homes along the shore, or give water skiing a try! Continue through to Pistakee Lake and make a stop at Bald Knob Marina, gas up your boat, shop for the latest in apparel and boating accessories or even rent a slip for the season.

Looking for the ultimate Fourth of July experience? Don't miss the **Pistakee Bay Fireworks** on July 4, 2019. Hundreds of boats fill Pistakee Bay for the best fireworks show of the year. **Oak Park Lounge**, a fixture on The Chain for more than 40 years, proudly hosts this annual event.

Ready for lunch? Stop at **Cabana's on the Chain**, take in the lake breeze as you sip a cool beverage and dine outdoors with a selection from their daily menu featuring daily food and drink specials. You can also travel down the Fox River to the **Wave Bar & Grille**, a great place to enjoy all the classics and some unique menu selections. They also serve a variety of beers, wines and craft cocktails to enjoy on the patio along with stunning views of the Fox River. The Wave Bar & Grille is located in the **Waterfront Hotel & Marina** so extend your stay with a night at the only hotel situated directly on the Fox River. Park your boat, catch some Z's and hop back on the water in the morning. Exploring Johnsburg via the Fox River & Chain O' Lakes is a one-of-a-kind experience!

**Insider Tip:** Johnsburg is home to the **Pistakee Yacht Club**, which has been part of the community for more than 120 years.

Come in off the water and enjoy all that Johnsburg has to offer including 18 holes of magnificent golf at the **Chapel Hill Golf Course**. The community, proud of its German heritage, celebrates **Sauren and Spiel Festival** annually in September. Visitors and residents enjoy authentic German fare and entertainment at the **Johnsburg Community Club** located across from the historic **St. John the Baptist Catholic Church**. This striking gothic-style church pays homage to the German emigrants who planted roots in this town in 1841.

For more information about the Village of Johnsburg and all you can see and do while you're there visit [Johnsburg.org](http://Johnsburg.org)

**Grow**  
visitmchenrycounty.com

**THE ARTS IN THESE PARTS**  
McHenry County is home to music, theater, dance, paintings, sculpture and all things artsy

**NATURE AND ADVENTURE**  
Hike, bike, or camp in the great outdoors  
pg. 14

While we plan, regulate, invest, improve, move forward, and make progress we also look for ways to grow. In order to boost our local economy, it is important that our community grows and evolves. With that goal in mind, this past year we invested in marketing the Village in an effort to entice development that will compliment our community. To help achieve this, we partnered with *Visit McHenry County* to showcase the Village in their Insider's Guide and electronic marketing communications. Additionally, Trustee Josh Hagen and the Economic Development Committee implemented website enhancements to the Village's Economic Development page which includes property search feature to direct viewers to available properties within the Village.

Trustee Kyle Frost and the Development and Governmental Affairs Committee are instrumental to development. This past year they provided guidance on the Bush School development proposal and sought opportunities for the development of vacant parcels within the Village. The Committee also regularly reviews regulations affecting development and monitors building permit activity to identify trends in the market.



In order for our community to grow successfully, we need to provide for the right type of development. Our community is in need of more diversified housing. The recession brought about a drastic lull in development activity and to help spark new interest, the Village obtained support from Johnsburg School District #12 and the Johnsburg Library District to join the McHenry Township Fire Protection District in a suspension of impact fees.

Much of our housing stock is in the form of single family homes primarily serving families with children. We are constantly being approached by residents who desire other housing options as they wish to stay in Johnsburg, but do not want to be burdened with the upkeep of a single family home. Taking the first step in addressing this need, this past year the Village Board approved the development of an active adult community in the former Bush School facility. This development is an incredible opportunity for the Village for several reasons.

First, the 78 unit facility will provide affordable housing to persons 55 years of age and older - a housing product not currently available in the Village. Additionally, the plan makes use of the existing school facility but incorporates façade improvements which will make the facility more visually appealing. The sale of the property will provide funds to Johnsburg School District both through the sale itself and through the elimination of ongoing maintenance costs. The project also takes a blighted property in the center of our downtown and makes it viable and valuable. Lastly, the increased residency in the downtown area is exactly what we need to entice new business development and the new residents will also help support our existing businesses.

Developing a well balanced community is important to our success.





Tonight I've been discussing several components of a successful community, but a healthy and vibrant community is more than just parks, buildings, roads and development. It is also about celebrating our culture and community. We do this through several events held each year. The annual Saufen und Spiel event sponsored by the Community Club and the Lions Club in September provides us an opportunity to celebrate Johnsburg's German Heritage. This event has been going on for 47 years and continues to be one of the highlights of our community.

Trustee Tom Curry and the Community Affairs Committee have done an excellent job building upon the Community Club's success through the planning and coordinating of several community events such as our annual Easter Egg Hunt, Celebration in the Park and Holiday Magic events which provide us more opportunities to gather together with friends and neighbors in celebration of our community.

This year they are coordinating the first ever Burgers in the Burg event which is sure to be a hit.





In wrapping up our presentation this evening, I want to take a few moments to share with you some of the exciting opportunities on the horizon.

Improvements are planned in our downtown area that will enable us to market the area in a fashion that will attract new shopping and dining opportunities to compliment our existing businesses. New housing projects such as the recently approved Berkshire development, provide the populace needed for those businesses to be successful. This year we secured a Safe Routes to School grant to extend sidewalks along Chapel Hill Road to the bridge. We are also seeking funds to extend sidewalks along Fairview Avenue and to pursue a pedestrian/recreational bridge across the Fox River.

Efforts will continue with the Army Corp of Engineers to obtain funding for the Dutch Creek Bay Reclamation project so that we can protect this important natural resource and provide passive nature areas and a future river front park for all to enjoy.

Facility expansions, park improvements and other enhancements needed to serve our community are also a high priority in the coming year. We will complete the design and go out to bid on the Village of Johnsborg David G. Dominguez Municipal Center with plans to begin construction in the Spring of 2020. We will also proceed with the construction of a cold storage building at our Public Works facility and pursue shoreline stabilization at the Alfred May Boat Launch. Pedestrian lighting will be placed throughout Rescue Squad Park and three PACE bus shelters will be installed along Johnsborg Road.

# BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



Several new businesses will be opening this year which will provide additional services and dining opportunities in our community. Progress is being made on the new Discount Tire facility on Route 31 and the Village Board has been approached by persons seeking to open new restaurants in the old Raymond's Bowl facility and at the Pizza House. New owners are expected to take over the Cabana's on the Bay restaurant next month and preliminary discussions have taken place about marketing for new business development in the downtown area.



Funding major improvement projects continue to be our greatest challenge. Despite planning and setting aside funds, less and less funding is available to help us achieve our goals. To overcome this we constantly look for ways to make less go far and seek whatever grants may be available to us. I am often approached by representatives of other McHenry County communities that comment on how much grant money we have been able to secure for our projects. My response to them is that we have a great team in place always looking for opportunities and doing the hard work and it has paid off.



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 experiencing them with you. I cannot emphasize enough that all of this would not be possible without the 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.

You are here this evening because you are a part of this great community and are excited about its future. I thank you for your support and urge you to join us as we work to make sure Johnsburg continues to be the place we proudly call home.





I always close my presentation reinforcing Johnsbury's bright and successful future. All of our past efforts have made it possible for us to experience today's successes. Good planning, constructive regulations, sound investments, and supportive improvements, help us move forward, progress, develop and grow. All of these things are key to our continued success and for that we celebrate.



I thank the Johnsburg Area Business Association for the opportunity to present to you this evening and all of our residents and business owners who have given me the honor of representing them as your Village President.

Thank you for sharing your time.