



# Village News

## September 2018

### NEWSLETTER & NEW FACES

In order to help Johnson residents and ratepayers have a better understanding of the work we do, the Board of Trustees have decided to start a Village newsletter...and this is the first edition! Our aim is to send out an update on our activities approximately every three months. If you have any suggestions on topics you would like to see addressed in a future newsletter, feel free to send an email to [vojmanager@townofjohnson.com](mailto:vojmanager@townofjohnson.com) with your ideas.

Since the beginning of 2018, we have added some new faces to the Village team. In March, Chan Bullard was hired as a full-time permanent Apprentice Lineworker in the Water & Light Department. In June, the Village signed a three-year contract with Utility Partners to staff and operate our municipal water and wastewater plants. Dan Copp is now serving as the Chief Operator, with Steve Edgerley (former long-time Village employee) and Tim Hall rounding out the team at both plants. In July, the Board of Trustees appointed Phil Wilson to fill the vacant position on the Board, with the appointment lasting until the April 2019 Village meeting.

### Board of Trustees

The Village Board of Trustees meets on the second Monday of every month at 6:00 PM at the Municipal Building and the meetings are open to the public. The agenda for each meeting is posted by the prior Friday on the municipal website and on the bulletin boards at the Municipal Building and the bulletin board between the post office and Sterling Market. Trustees pictured from left to right are: Walter Pomroy, Scott Meyer, Gordy Smith, Bob Sweetser, and Phil Wilson



### Municipal Building Repairs

In 2017, the Village and Town began a multi-year project to rehab the exterior of the Johnson Municipal Building to correct flaws in the original construction. The project includes installing durable cement board siding, replacing the windows with more energy efficient models, and upgrading the insulation in places. We anticipate the north and east-facing walls will be completed in 2018, with the remaining portion scheduled for 2019.

**Pearl Street Sidewalk Grant** This summer, the Village applied for and was awarded a grant for 50% of the cost to rebuild the Pearl Street sidewalks from the end of the Pearl Street bridge to Clay Hill. The grant will cover \$42,550 of the expense, with the remaining 50% share paid from the Village's sidewalk fund. The project is planned for spring 2019. A public meeting about the project will be held this fall - more info coming soon!

# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

## SEVERAL FORWARD-LOOKING PROJECTS UNDERWAY

### ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Village Water and Wastewater Departments provide essential public services to the Johnson community. To ensure system infrastructure and equipment is kept in good working order and upgrades can be made when needed, the Village is in the process of developing Asset Management Plans for both the Water and Wastewater systems. These plans are 100% funded using State and grant funds, meaning they will provide a benefit to the Village without having any direct impact on the water and sewer rates our customers pay.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT TRUCK

At the 2018 Annual Village Meeting, Village voters approved borrowing funds to purchase a new Fire Department rescue truck. At the July Trustee meeting, the Board authorized entering into a contract for the purchase of the new rescue truck based on the detailed specifications created by our Fire Department to meet the current and future needs of the community. Due to the need to carefully customize the truck, it will take up to 12 months for the truck to be manufactured and delivered. Delivery is anticipated in the late spring or early summer of 2019.

### WATER & LIGHT TRUCK

In August, the Water & Light Department took delivery of a used smaller-scale bucket truck, which will offer several benefits to the Village electric system. With two apprentice lineworkers on staff, the truck will enhance training opportunities, allowing the apprentices to better view the work of first class lineworkers. The smaller vehicle, which has 4WD, will make accessing certain parts of the Village electric system for maintenance and repair much easier. In some cases, this could shorten an outage duration. Lastly, the truck will serve as an important back-up in case the large bucket truck is undergoing maintenance at the time of an outage.

## Safety Tip: Watch for Poison Parsnip



Above: Poison Parsnip looks like a yellow version of Queen Anne's Lace.

The Vermont Department of Health recently issued a warning to Vermonters about the dangers posed by "poison parsnip" and advised Vermonters to steer clear of it. The plant often grows alongside roadways and unmaintained areas, including areas like trails and paths. The plant produces a sap that contains chemicals called psoralens that react to sunlight. Skin that comes in contact with the sap becomes hyper-sensitive to ultraviolet light, and can result in redness, burns similar to a second-degree sunburn, painful rashes and raised blisters. Reactions to the sap and sunlight usually begin 24 to 48 hours after contact. If you get poison parsnip sap on your skin, wash with soap and water as quickly as possible, protect the exposed skin from sunlight for at least 48 hours, and seek medical attention if a reaction occurs.



**Village Tax Rate:** The graph to the left shows the tax rate paid by Village property owners each year for the last 10 years. The Village tax rate has been essentially constant for the past few years.