



## VILLAGE OF JOHNSON

Meredith Birkett, Village Manager

PO Box 603

Johnson, VT 05656

Phone: 802-635-2611

Fax: 802-635-2393

[vojmanager@townofjohnson.com](mailto:vojmanager@townofjohnson.com)

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### *Johnson Boy Scouts Assist with Beautifying Village Gateway from LVRT*

Johnson, VT – After a cool and wet spring, the warm weather on Father’s Day weekend provided an opportunity to spruce up Johnson’s Railroad Street sidewalk area and prepare for the active summer season. As the gateway to the Village of Johnson from the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, Railroad Street is seeing increased pedestrian and bicycle traffic. On Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, the Johnson Boy Scouts Troop 894 graciously took on the task to make sure this area is ready for a long summer of walking, biking, and other recreation fun.

Throughout the winter, Village sidewalks are plowed, sanded, and salted to ensure access for residents and visitors is maintained during the coldest and snowiest months. As spring arrives, remnants of winter need to be cleared. Earlier this spring, Village of Johnson Water & Light Department staff completed the annual Village sidewalk sweeping to remove sand, gravel, and salt debris. To complete the spring clean-up, the grass area between the sidewalk and roadway needed attention, which was accomplished through a cooperative effort between the Village of Johnson, the Johnson Boy Scouts, and the Johnson Fire Department.

Seven boy scouts and three troop leaders from Johnson led the effort to spread topsoil, grass seed, and hay in the grass areas from Main Street to the Railroad Street bridge. Assistant Scout Master Tim Sargent offered the following perspective on the project "The Boy Scouts is all about cheerful service. Through Scouting, boys learn to be responsible, respectful, and active members of our community. Troop 894 is happy to give back to our community with service projects like this one to help beautify Johnson." The boy scouts were assisted by members of the Johnson Fire Department, who were on site to water the grass seed. Gordon Smith, Village Board of Trustees Chair and Fire Department member, noted “On behalf of the Village Trustees, I would like to thank the Boy Scouts for their community service. They saw a need and took action to improve it with very little expense to our Village taxpayers, but a great improvement to our downtown."

Reflecting on the project, Village Manager Meredith Birkett noted “The Village is lucky to have committed and generous volunteers like the Boy Scouts and Fire Department members who will take on an important project such as this on a holiday weekend to ensure the Village is ready to welcome visitors all summer long.”



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