



NEWS FROM THE CROSSROADS - JUNE 2025



John L Swisher
Village President

Housing Expansion Brings New Opportunities to Johnson Creek

Housing has long been a growing concern across the region, and a recent report has confirmed a significant shortage of all types of housing in Jefferson County — including right here in Johnson Creek. This shortage can drive up housing costs, limit population growth, strain the local workforce, and stall economic momentum.

Despite these challenges, Johnson Creek is well-positioned to address the housing crisis through several major residential developments planned over the next few years.

"With careful planning, we can balance growth with quality of life to ensure Johnson Creek remains a great place to live," said Village President John Swisher.



Kyle Ellefson
Village Administrator

One of the most notable projects underway is *The Ponds at Johnson Creek*, a multi-building apartment complex being developed by National Management. Construction is progressing steadily, and the first residents are expected to move in by July. The remaining buildings will open in phases as they are completed. Earlier this month, National Management also introduced a conceptual plan for a second project, *Shadow Ridge*, located at the far north end of Rimmel Drive. This new development would follow a similar design to The Ponds but may include more units and expanded amenities, depending on the site layout. Both apartment communities will offer market-rate units with one-, two-, and three-bedroom floor plans.

In addition to apartments, other housing types are also being introduced. Loos Homes is partnering with the Village to develop *Pleasant Park*, a neighborhood of 18 twin-home (duplex) units on Resort Drive, near County Highway Y/Union Street. Each unit will be divided by a zero-lot line, allowing individual ownership of each side. The development is ideally located just a short walk from Crossroads Landing Park, a recreational trail, and the highway bike route. It will also include a large greenspace designed to enhance the neighborhood's appeal and livability.

For those looking to build or buy single-family homes, Kaerek Homes and its partners are planning *Centennial Fields*, a new subdivision located just east of Centennial Park and north of Midge Street. This development will expand the residential area that began with Morse Farms and extend it north toward the interstate — an area already designated for single-family housing in the Village's growth plans. Upon completion, Centennial Fields will offer 70 new single-family home lots.

The Village's Comprehensive Plan highlights the importance of housing as more than just shelter: "Neighborhoods help to establish a community's sense of place." Consistent with this vision, Village leaders have prioritized balanced housing types, thoughtful neighborhood design, and community-oriented planning in support of long-term growth.

With these developments on the horizon, Johnson Creek is poised for meaningful growth — growth that supports the local workforce, attracts new businesses, provides housing options for residents at different stages of life, and invites new neighbors to become part of our community.



TOURISM & COMMUNITY PROMOTION

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Celebrate Independence Day early in the heart of Johnson Creek! Come out to Centennial Park on Thursday, July 3 for an evening of community fun featuring family-friendly activities, food, live blues music by The Danny Miller Band, and a spectacular fireworks display under the stars. As part of the celebration, we'll proudly raise our new flag for the very first time — a meaningful moment for our community. Activities, live music, and concessions begin at 7:00 PM, followed by the flag raising ceremony at 8:00 PM. Fireworks will begin at dusk. Find more event details online at VisitJohnsonCreek.org.

GOSDECK BRIDGE DEDICATION

The Village welcomed over 200 attendees and enjoyed a fantastic day filled with community fun, family-friendly activities, and local pride. It was a true celebration of our past, present, and future. We received tremendous support from local businesses and organizations, who generously provided free activities for families during the event.

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

As we move into the warmer months, the Johnson Creek Police Department would like to share a few seasonal reminders to help keep our community safe and informed — from vehicle parking regulations to keeping pets safe in the summer heat.

If a vehicle is left unattended on any public street, highway, or property in the Village of Johnson Creek for more than 72 hours (3 days) without permission from the Village, it is considered abandoned and may be treated as a public nuisance.

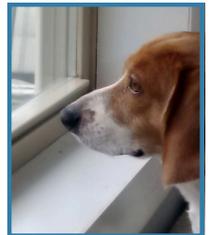


Parking of Motor Vehicles with a weight class exceeding 8,000 pounds and trailers exceeding 10 feet in box or cargo area length, whether attached or detached from a Motor Vehicle, is prohibited on all Village streets between the hours of 9: 00pm and 8: 00am. This prohibition shall not apply on those Village streets designated and posted as permitting the parking of Motor Vehicles with a weight class exceeding 8,000 pounds, together with any attached trailer.

As temperatures rise, it's important to take extra precautions to protect your pets from the dangers of summer heat. Never leave your pet in a parked car, even for a few minutes — temperatures inside can soar

to 120°F quickly, putting pets at risk of heatstroke or worse. Instead, leave them at home where it's cool. Exercise should be limited to early morning or evening hours, especially for older dogs, short-nosed breeds, or those with thick coats. Be mindful that hot pavement can burn your pet's paws. Protect pets from fleas, ticks, and sunburn with vet-recommended products and pet-safe sunscreen, especially on light-colored noses and ears.

Avoid bringing pets to crowded summer events, as the noise, heat, and crowds can be overwhelming. Signs of heat stress include heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid pulse, or vomiting. If your pet shows any of these signs, move them to a shaded area, apply cool water and ice packs to the head and chest, and contact a veterinarian immediately. Taking a few simple steps can help ensure your pet stays safe, healthy, and comfortable all summer long.



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: KEARNS AUTO CAR CO.

This month, we're highlighting Kearns Auto, a family-run business that's been serving the community with pride for 26 years. Owner Steve Kearns first opened the business in 1999 in Jefferson. After finding success with tent sales in Johnson Creek, he saw the potential in the location and made the move, eventually purchasing land and building a permanent dealership here. Location played a major role in the decision to relocate, and Johnson Creek proved to be the right fit. Steve also brought his sons, Travis and Austin, into the business, making Kearns Auto a true family operation.

"We pride ourselves on cars, sales, and service," said Steve Kearns. "We're here to support our community and are proud to call Johnson Creek home."

Kearns Auto specializes in a variety of luxury vehicles, selling cars anywhere from \$10,000 to \$3 million. This attracts customers from across the country as well as from throughout Wisconsin, making the dealership a true destination. While in town, many of these visitors also support local businesses, contributing to the Johnson Creek economy.

Kearns Auto employs over 40 team members, with about half commuting from nearly an hour away. This is a testament to the strong culture and loyalty within the business. The staff take pride in their work and genuinely enjoy being part of the Kearns Auto family, contributing to a positive environment that customers notice and appreciate.



Steve Kearns pictured with sons Travis & Austin



Proud owners with their new vehicle from Kearns Auto

Steve Kearns remains actively involved in the community by continually investing in its growth and improvement. A recent example of his commitment was a generous donation to the Centennial Park Flag Project.

Kearns Auto's deep roots in Johnson Creek are evident in their continued dedication. They truly value the Village and know that if they ever need anything, the community is there to support them.

CLERK'S CORNER

PARK & COMMUNITY CENTER RESERVATIONS

Reservations to use the Community Center or Centennial Park Pavilion may be made in the Clerk's office at Village Hall. We can also accommodate email reservations with online payment (extra fee applies to pay by credit card). Use agreements are available at Village Hall or on the Village website at <https://vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov/how-do-i/forms-permits/>. Full deposit and fees are due when making a reservation and vary by facility rented and length of rental. Contact Mykala at Village Hall for more info: mykalam@vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov or 920-699-2296 ext. 104.

DATES TO NOTE:

Compost Pickup: July 7 & 21, August 4 & 18

Brush Pickup: July 14, August 11

Village Hall Holiday Closures: July 4, September 1

Garbage/Recycling for July 4th will occur on July 5th due to Independence Day holiday

CHICKEN PERMITS

A permit is required annually to have chickens on properties within the Village of Johnson Creek. Open coop permits are \$25.00 per year and allow up to four chickens. Closed coop permits are \$15.00 per year and allow up to six chickens. Permit applications are available on the Village's website or at Village Hall. Proof of registration as a livestock premises with DATCP is required with the application form and fee. Contact the Clerk's office with questions at 920-699-2296.



LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

Storytime in the Park (Thursdays July 3, 10, 17, 24 @ 10:00am) Join us at the gazebo in Veteran's Memorial Park—right next to the library!—for stories, rhymes, songs, and activities. This program will be cancelled if there is inclement weather.

Storytime will take a few weeks off in August and resume at 10:00am August 28 in the library.

STEAM Explorers - suggested ages 5-10 (Tuesdays July 1, 8, 15, 22 @ 10:00am) Explore and create with a variety of hands-on STEAM activities. Most days this will be outdoors in the front yard of the library. Many projects could be MESSY, dress appropriately! If there is inclement weather, the program will be moved inside.

T(w)een Thursdays - suggested ages 11-17 (Thursdays July 3, 10, 17, 24 @ 2:00pm). This program features games, crafts, and special events geared for Middle and High School students. Stop by to cool off with your friends. Most days this will be held in the library Community Room.

James the Magician (Wed. July 16 @ 10:00—11:00 am)
Bridges Sponsored Program at the JC Community Center
417 Union Street, Johnson Creek
Enjoy this award-winning, interactive comedy magic show and take home some joy!
James the Magician will have audiences of all ages laughing, amazed, and thoroughly entertained.

Legos – all ages (Monday, July 21 @3:30 pm) Kids of all ages are invited to join us in the Community Room at the library to build with Legos. Duplo blocks available for smaller hands. No Legos in August.

Family Fun at the Library - all ages.

Water Day Fun (Sat. July 12- 10:00am - 11:00am) All kids and families are invited to come make a splash! Water activities will include water balloon activities, water squirter activities, sponge activities and more. Event will take place on the library's lawn. Freeze Pops will be provided! In the event of inclement weather, this event will be cancelled. No Family Fun in August.

Adult Art Programs - Adults 18+

Monday, July 21 11:00am-1:00pm. Register through our website www.johnsoncreeklibrary.org under Events or call the library.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, July 18 9:00am-2:00pm. Schedule an appointment at redcross.org or call the library 920-699-3741.



*Go to the library's Facebook page or call to check on program changes due to weather!



REMARKS FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

Our Firefighters and EMTs have been actively involved in community events, including Heroes Weekend at River Bend Resort, the Spring Fair at Crossroads Kids Connection, and the Gosdeck Bridge ceremony, where we served lunch. During EMS Week (May 18–24), we celebrated our team’s dedication to providing high-quality emergency care.

Some residents may have seen a large fire at Centennial Park on May 6 — this was a live propane fire training exercise led by the Wisconsin Propane Council, FIRE LLC, and our department to practice emergency response techniques.

We’ve also secured a house on County Hwy Y for ongoing training, including live fire drills planned for August. More details will be shared soon.

Looking ahead, we’ll be at the July 3 Independence Day celebration in Centennial Park, helping ensure a safe, fun event. A reminder: please leave fireworks to the pros!

As summer heats up, stay safe by wearing protective gear and staying hydrated. Stop by the station for a visit—we’re always happy to connect with our community. Thank you for your support!



Johnson Creek Village Hall

Monday to Friday: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m.
920-699-2296 | 125 Depot Street
vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov
Plan Commission: July 14 @ 5 p.m.
Committee of the Whole: July 14 @ 5:30 p.m.
Board Meeting: July 28 @ 5:30 p.m.

Johnson Creek Public Library

920-699-3741 | 125 Lincoln Street
www.johnsoncreeklibrary.org
Library Board Meeting: July 15 @ 4 p.m.
LIBRARY HOURS:
Monday to Wednesday: 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.
Thursday: 10 a.m. — 7 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. — 12 p.m.
Sunday: CLOSED
Closed: July 4-6 in celebration of Independence Day

DIAPER CLOSET

Penelope's Diaper Closet | 111 South Street
Open the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 1-6pm
penelopesclosetjc@gmail.com

SENIOR EXERCISE

An exercise class designed for seniors is held every Monday and Thursday morning from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. in the gym at Crossroads Church.

JC FOOD PANTRY

129 N. Watertown St.
JohnsonCreekFoodPantry@gmail.com
Open Monday and Thursday from 10 am to 12 pm and every fourth Thursday of the month from 4 pm to 5pm.