

UPDATES FROM THE VILLAGE

A Commitment to Success



John L. Swisher
Village President



Kyle Ellefson
Village Administrator

In our usual newsletters, we highlight the achievements of the past year or upcoming projects in the village. However, for this edition, we wanted to take a step back and reflect on the broader progress and numerous accomplishments we've experienced over a longer period. While many local boards and councils across the state face regular turnover and struggle to maintain consistent goals and direction, Johnson Creek has benefited from a stable Village Board, with an average tenure of over seven years. The current Village Board consists of seven members, including Village President John Swisher and Village Trustees Erik Burns, Bev Deppe, Rooney Freimund, David Rousayne, Mike Saindon, and Tim Semo. This continuity has enabled our dedicated board members to focus on steady infrastructure improvements, equipment upgrades aligned with a strategic borrowing plan, and prioritizing public safety — all while keeping the village tax rate at a reasonable level.

Over the years, the Village Board has successfully planned and executed several large, impactful projects, while also maintaining consistent funding for ongoing maintenance efforts. One of the significant achievements was the southeast neighborhood project, which completely overhauled several streets, addressing some of the oldest infrastructure in the village. Additionally, the Gosdeck Bridge is now in place and nearing completion, many years after the need for a north-south connection was first identified. The village's utilities have also benefited from key improvements, including the removal of a bottleneck in the wastewater system near the three-way stop at the railroad bridge, increased capacity in the main line leading to the treatment plant, and the introduction of more efficient treatment technology. In addition to these major projects, maintenance efforts such as paving on Aztalan Street, Jefferson Street, and Hartwig Boulevard have been completed, while other streets have been treated with crack filling and surface treatments to extend their life until a full repaving is required. Furthermore, the roofs at both the Police Department and Community Center were replaced after many years of service, ensuring these facilities are well positioned for the future.

In addition to the infrastructure improvements, the Village Board has made significant investments in the equipment necessary to support the work of our various departments. The Public Works Department has replaced pickup trucks that served for 20 years, acquired a new dump truck/snow plow, purchased new lawnmowers, and replaced the front-end loader. The Fire Department has recently added a brand-new fire engine, secured and outfitted a new UTV (with assistance from Rob's Performance Motorsports), purchased a dealer's show ambulance, and replaced critical equipment such as heart monitors, vehicle rescue tools, and SCBAs (self-contained breathing apparatuses) for our firefighters. Meanwhile, the Police Department continues to refresh its fleet by rotating in new squad cars, and this year, we've expanded with an additional squad car to enhance our service capabilities.

Public safety has long been a priority for the Village Board. For example, shortly after the creation of a combined Fire & EMS Department in 2007, we upgraded to a Paramedic service level, expanding the range of life-saving services available to our community. We have maintained this licensure and strengthened our workforce with full-time staff to ensure high-quality service throughout the area. Currently, our team includes a full-time Fire Chief who is also a Paramedic, as well as two additional full-time Paramedics. In addition to our full-time staff, we

VILLAGE UPDATES CONTINUED

are supported by a dedicated group of EMTs and Paramedics who provide coverage across various shifts.

The Village Board has also worked tirelessly to enhance and expand our Police Department coverage, significantly increasing the annual hours for part-time Police Officers and the part-time Sergeant. In 2024, we transitioned a portion of those hours to fund an additional full-time patrol officer position, expanding our sworn-in personnel. While part-time hours were reduced in 2024 to accommodate this change, the Village Board's commitment is evident, as they approved an 8.6% increase in part-time Police Officer hours for 2025. We are grateful for the dedicated emergency services that help keep our community safe.

In addition to the significant infrastructure improvements, equipment purchases, and public safety enhancements, the Village Board has worked to improve amenities for our community. Several of our elected officials were on the board in 2015 when Centennial Park featured a large "parking area" made of crushed asphalt, with no lighting or markings. While the fields were nice, they were often too wet in the early season or after rain, leading to many canceled games and practices. By the summer of 2016, the board had installed a new parking lot and lighting, greatly improving the park's appearance. That fall, the Village Board also took action to install drain tile in both ball diamonds at Centennial Park to improve drainage and playing conditions. Since then, the fields have been significantly more usable early in the season, and the park looks fantastic. On the east side of the community, Bell Park, a popular spot for kids playing soccer, enjoying the playground, and spending time with their families, faced challenges due to the lack of restroom facilities. The only option was a portable toilet, which was inconvenient for both parents and children. The Village Board researched various solutions, receiving high-cost quotes for pavilion-style buildings. When those options didn't fit the budget, the Board found a more affordable solution — pre-cast buildings — allowing for the installation of a sidewalk and a restroom facility, enhancing the park experience for everyone. Most recently, the Board was able to secure a grant from the State of Wisconsin, along with other funding, to develop a brand-new park: Crossroads Landing. This pet-friendly park, located on Rock River, features a kayak launch, paved walking paths, restrooms, a playground, and a small gazebo overlooking the river. It's a wonderful place to relax, whether you're spending time alone, with your pet, or with your family.

We highlighted many improvements happening above and below ground, along with the visible changes in our parks and equipment for our departments. However, one important area the Village Board prioritizes — though it may not always get the attention it deserves — is the business community. The Village Board has worked hard to establish themselves as trusted and reliable partners, fostering an environment where investments are welcomed and supported. As a result, we've seen both large and small companies building or expanding their operations in Johnson Creek. Some of these companies include JWR, Mastermold, Doosan Bobcat, TREK, Grandpa Glenn's, Qdoba/Starbucks, Taco Bell, AutoZone, Baseman Bros, Camera Source, Hoof Health, Kwik Trip, Kearns, The View, Three Oaks Health, Rob's Performance Motorsports, Rock River Power Sports, Johnson Creek Veterinary Care, and the Johnson Creek Dental Group. This level of development requires a solid commitment to maintaining the core character and values of our community while supporting thoughtful, planned growth. These successful policies can be attributed to the leadership of elected officials like the Village President and Village Trustees.

This look back has been somewhat lengthy, but it has been insightful for me to reflect on all that has been accomplished and how much things have improved over the years. It's clear how impactful the Village Board has been in driving these changes.

One final point worth noting — especially after detailing the ways the Village Board has allocated money and resources — is that the village tax rate remains the lowest among similar communities in the area. When comparing the municipal-only fair value mill rate (pre-credit) displayed on the tax bills of other similar communities in Jefferson County, we are significantly lower. At the same time, the Village Board is not simply maintaining the status quo to avoid expenses. They continue to make thoughtful improvements and approach projects strategically, ensuring that Johnson Creek moves forward with planned enhancements each week, each month, and each year.

REMARKS FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

Our recruiting efforts continue to bring new members to the department, and our staff currently includes 39 employees. Our training this month focused on map navigation and initial scene size up of various incidents. This type of training ensures that we can respond to an emergency in the most efficient way possible as well as identify priority information upon arrival. We also began training with our newest members to ensure that they have a strong foundation for their future in the fire service.

We continue to work diligently to provide the best service possible to our customers by setting standards within our department that are higher than the industry minimums. Thank you for your support and as always, please reach out to us with any questions, comments or suggestions you may have.



New Village Staff Alert

There is a new face to greet you at Village Hall! Mykala Manning has been hired as the Administrative Assistant in the Clerk's Office following the retirement of Laura Canales, who served the village for 20 years.

Mykala comes to us with experience in customer service, data entry, and office management. She holds an Associate Degree in Business Management from Madison Area Technical College. Outside of work, Mykala enjoys staying active through fitness, getting lost in a good book, and spending time with her boyfriend and their two cats.

"I'm thrilled to be part of the team at Village Hall," Mykala said. "I look forward to getting to know and support this wonderful community!"

THE CLERK'S CORNER

Spring Election Information

The spring election will take place on Tuesday, April 1 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The polling place for Village of Johnson Creek voters is the Community Center at 417 Union Street. In-person absentee voting is available at Village Hall (125 Depot Street) from March 18 to March 28 during regular business hours.



Dog License Deadline

There are only a few days left! License your dogs by March 31 to avoid a \$25 late fee. Bring proof of rabies vaccination, proof of spay or neuter (if applicable), and a license fee of \$10 for spayed or neutered animals and \$15 for unaltered animals.

Can't make it during business hours? Place a copy of the vaccination information with payment and a self-addressed, stamped envelope in the night box at Village Hall and we will mail the license tag to you.

Compost and Brush Site Cards

Are you cleaning up your yard this spring? An access card to the compost and brush site on Aztalan Street costs \$15 and remains active while you are a resident of Johnson Creek. There is no annual fee.

New Village Website

The village's website will transition to a new look by late March. As with any transition, we may have a few wrinkles to iron out, but our staff is hopeful that in the long run, the revised site will help us better serve the residents and businesses of Johnson Creek!

Spring Community Rummage Sales— April 25 and 26

The Spring Community Wide Rummage Sales will be held the weekend of April 25 and 26. Community members who would like their sales listed can email caroljo@tds.net the address, (subdivision if relevant), items for sale, and days and time of the sale.



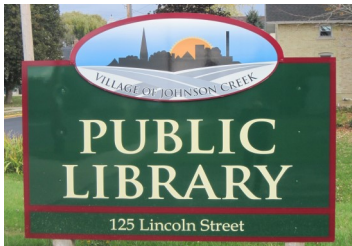
Village of Johnson Creek

www.johnsoncreek-wi.us



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LIBRARY HAPPENINGS



The library will be closed on Friday, April 18 and Saturday, April 19.

Family Fun at the Library:

Second Saturday of the month, 10 a.m.
April 12– Wonders in the Garden
May 10– Tea Party

Legos: Third Monday of the month
from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
April 21– April Fools

Storytime: Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Homeschool Craft Buffet:

Last Monday of the month from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
March 31 and April 28

Paws and Read: Second Monday of the month from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
April 14 and May 12

Puzzle Race!

Saturday, March 29 from
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Race against other teams to finish a 500 piece puzzle. Winner receives a Culver's gift card! Register your team of 2 to 4 people through the website www.johnsoncreeklibrary.org or call the library 920-699-3741.

From Scraps to Soil: Compost Basics

Thursday, April 3 at 5:30 p.m.

An overview of the dos, don'ts, and what happens to compost over winter so you can successfully recycle your lawn, garden, and food scraps from Horticulture Educator Julie Hill.

Culver's Day, Monday April 7!

In celebration of National Library Week, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Culver's will donate 10% of all ONLINE SALES to the library!

Johnson Creek Village Hall

Monday to Friday: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m.
920-699-2296

125 Depot Street

www.johnsoncreek-wi.us

Plan Commission: April 14 @ 5 p.m.

Committee of the Whole: April 14
@ 5:30 p.m.

Board Meeting: April 28 @ 5:30 p.m.

Johnson Creek Public Library

920-699-3741

125 Lincoln Street

www.johnsoncreeklibrary.org

Library Board Meeting: April 15 @ 4 p.m.

Friends of the Library: April 8 @ 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. (Closed Sunday)

JC FOOD PANTRY

129 N. Watertown Street

920-699-2471

JohnsonCreekFoodPantry@gmail.com

Open Monday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and every fourth Thursday of the month from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.