

### UPDATES FROM THE VILLAGE

#### A story of gratitude

Sometimes, people are simply in the right place at the right time. During a recent encounter between Police Officer Jay Leonard and long-time Johnson Creek resident John Wirkus, timing and location meant everything.

One night a few days before Christmas, Officer Leonard's evening shift had technically ended, but he was still out wrapping up a call. As he was driving back into the village, he heard a 9-1-1 call come in for someone who was bleeding. Officer Leonard was not far from the scene, so he rushed over to the house. There he found a very serious situation, where John was bleeding from his femoral artery.

Earlier that day, Wirkus had an out-patient procedure on his knee. He was discharged from the hospital late that night and was only home about an hour when his femoral artery burst. When that happens, it is only a matter of minutes before a person loses too much blood.

John's wife, Judy, called 9-1-1, and Tiffany Cole was dispatching for the Jefferson County Sheriff's office. Tiffany stayed on the line and gave instructions to Judy over the phone, but the situation was dire.

By sheer luck, Officer Leonard was able to reach the house within a minute of the call, and with Judy's help he was able to apply a tourniquet and use pressure to stop the bleeding. Johnson Creek EMS arrived just a few minutes later and transported John to the hospital.

When it was all said and done, John had lost about 22% of his blood, and if the bleeding had continued much longer, he would not be here to tell this story. While it will take a few weeks for his body to replenish the blood it lost, overall John is feeling great – and grateful.

"He didn't have to respond," said John about Officer Leonard, "but he did." If it had been a few minutes earlier or a few minutes later, Officer Leonard would not have been as close to the house as he was, and that fact is not lost on John. "He saved my life," he emphasized.

Officer Leonard knew the situation was serious when he heard the 9-1-1 call. He is thankful he was there for John, but he said that he was just doing his job. "Any other officer would have done the same," Leonard noted.

Officer Leonard did appreciate the chance to talk with John after the incident when he, his wife Vanessa, and Jefferson County therapy dog Moose Tracks visited John and Judy in their Johnson Creek home. Leonard said most of the time, emergency personnel never learn the fate of the people they help.

To show his gratitude for the emergency services in Johnson Creek, John made a donation to the Johnson Creek Police Department and to the Jefferson County Police Officers Support Team (P.O.S.T.). You can read more about that program in a future newsletter.

With a servant heart of his own, John volunteers for Rainbow Hospice Care, visiting with patients and their families. He encouraged others to find ways to volunteer and get involved in the community.

This was a life-threatening moment, but John said everything that has happened since then has been good. From the people who responded that night to those who cared for him in the hospital, John is so grateful for the teamwork that helps save lives.

"There are so many good people in the world, but we often don't hear about what they do," John said. That is why he chose to share his story.

We are so glad this story had a happy ending for John and his family. We are also very thankful for our local emergency responders who use their time and talents to take care of people in this community.



Pictured are Judy Wirkus, John Wirkus, Johnson Creek Police Officer Jay Leonard, and therapy dog Moose Tracks.

## REMARKS FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

This month we focused on wrapping up fire inspections and yearly training. This month's training revolved around inventory and wrapping up loose ends for the year. We ensured that all equipment remained operational and began planning for next year. We also completed our quarterly training with our medical director.

Three of our members participated in the promotional process and were all promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. This is a tremendous achievement for these members, and we look forward to what each of them will bring to our department.

We continue to recruit new employees and are moving forward with the hiring process for a handful of prospects.

Our leadership team sat down this month with the goal of making 2025 our best year yet. We began planning for upcoming training, development, and operational readiness. Last year was a very busy year for us, and we learned quite a bit. The most important lesson was the value of teamwork and dedication.



*Willie Jacobson, Craig Cahill, and Amanda Kraayvanger were promoted to the rank of Lieutenant during a ceremony before a Village Board meeting.*

## THE CLERK'S CORNER

### Spring Election

The Spring Primary Election will be Tuesday, February 18, and the Spring General Election will be Tuesday, April 1. The polling place for Johnson Creek residents on Election Day is the Community Center at 417 Union Street. In-person absentee voting takes place at Village Hall and will be held February 4 to 14 for the Primary Election and March 18 to 28 for the General Election. View sample ballots, check registration status, or request absentee ballots by mail at [www.myvote.wi.gov](http://www.myvote.wi.gov).

### Tax Bills and Payments

Property tax bills (full payment or first installment) are due January 31, 2025. Payments by check are accepted at Village Hall in person, by mail, or in the drop box. Tax payments must be on a separate check from any other Village payment such as a dog license or utility bill, and no post-dated checks are accepted.

### Dog License Deadline

Dogs over five months of age must be licensed annually. A late fee of \$25 applies if the license is obtained April 1 or later. To license a dog, provide a copy of the rabies vaccination documentation, proof of spay or neuter (if applicable), and the license fee, which is \$10 for animals that are spayed or neutered and \$15 if unaltered. Village ordinances limit the number of dogs per household to two. To exceed this limit, a multiple dog statement is required (forms are available at Village Hall) and a fee of \$25 per dog is added to the license fee.

### Increased Credit Card Processing Fee

Effective January 1, 2025, the AllPaid system currently used to process credit card or e-check payments to the Village of Johnson Creek increased their service fees significantly. It will now cost a minimum of \$3.99 to pay items such as utility bills, dog licenses, permits, and other payments with a credit card. The Village offers a no fee ACH withdrawal for utility bills. Through this payment option, the full amount of the bill is drafted from a bank account of your choosing (checking or savings) on the due date each month. Forms to enroll are available at Village Hall or on the Village of Johnson Creek website ([www.johnsoncreek-wi.us](http://www.johnsoncreek-wi.us)).

## DETAILS FROM DPW

### When It Snows In Johnson Creek

Miles to plow: 21.2

Tons of salt used per outing: 8

Hours to clear streets curb to curb: 6

Number of DPW vehicles plowing: 3

Parking lots plowed: Village Hall, Library, Police Station, Fire Department, Community Center, Park & Ride, Well #3, & DPW Campus

Many thanks to our DPW staff who are out at all times of day and night during a snow event to keep the roads clear and everyone safe!



"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."

Mother Theresa

### **Johnson Creek Food Pantry Fundraiser**

**Saturday—February 22, 2025**

**Noon until 5pm**

**Johnson Creek—American Legion Post 305**

**223 1<sup>st</sup> St, Johnson Creek, WI**

**\$5.00 Entrance fee!!**

**Poker players and kids 5 & under are free.**

#### **With entrance you receive:**

- Free food until gone
- 1 free silent auction ticket for everyone over the age of 18
- 1 free silent auction ticket per family food donation(s)

**Free food until gone**

#### **Silent Auction items divided into 3 groups**

- Group drawings taking place at (2pm, 3pm, 4pm)
- Need not be present to win
- **Signed Packer Football**



#### **Lottery Board**

- Possibility of winning \$1000s
- Roll dice to win lottery board tickets
- Drawing will be at end of event or 5pm.
- Need not be present to win

#### **Raffle Tickets**

- Prize Winnings: **\$500, \$200, \$100, \$50**
- Last chance to purchase tickets
- Drawing at 5pm



#### **Texas Holdem-Poker**

- Registration Noon to 1pm
- BuyIn: \$40—Starts at 1pm
- 2 each Rebuys or Addons \$40 each time until 2<sup>nd</sup> break
- 1<sup>st</sup> place: \$100 cash + gift card, 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> gets gift cards.
- Extra \$100 chip with your food donation



Contact Info: [JohnsonCreekFoodPantry@gmail.com](mailto:JohnsonCreekFoodPantry@gmail.com)



## LOCAL GROUP SPOTLIGHT



*Members of the Johnson Creek Senior Club.*

The **Johnson Creek Seniors Club** got its start about 20 years ago under the leadership of former resident Jeanette Wenzel. She's also the person who crafted the beautiful quilt that hangs on the wall at the Johnson Creek Community Center.

The group first gathered at Culver's, then the Johnson Creek Public Library, before settling at their current location at the Johnson Creek Community Center. The group meets on Tuesdays throughout the year, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., to play cards and visit with each other.

Current games played include poker, euchre, and sheephead. Other card games or board games are also played depending on interest of attendees. The group has some other activities available as well, such as cornhole.

In the past, the group has also done some outings, including picnics, meals at a restaurant, and a baseball game. These events are scheduled based on interest and availability of members. The group will also have parties to celebrate the holidays, including a catered lunch for Thanksgiving.

The group maintains officers. Dues are just \$12 annually, which covers coffee and snacks.

Many club members have been attending for years, but new faces are always welcome! If you are retired or partially retired and available on Tuesday afternoons, consider stopping by. It's a great group of people, and the members say they most enjoy the fun and fellowship of the group. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Dennis Rodenkirch at (608) 438-8768.

### Healthy-Steps Fitness Class

Fort Health Care holds a Health-Steps Fitness Class at the Johnson Creek Community Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. The next session starts February 25.

For more details and to register, please visit the Fort Health Care website:

[www.forthhealthcare.com/class/healthy-steps](http://www.forthhealthcare.com/class/healthy-steps)

## LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Dr. James Milford hoped to create a different kind of clinic environment, one that benefited both patients and staff members, when he started **Three Oaks Health** in January 2017. With his son Jackson as the business manager, the clinic's footprint grew from 1,200 square feet to 2,400 square feet to 3,600 square feet in their rented space on Village Walk Lane in Johnson Creek.

In 2023, the Milfords broke ground at their new location, and on April 29, 2024, they officially opened the doors to their new clinic at 5 Hartwig Drive. This location gave them the space needed to add more exam rooms, and the lower level of the building is available for lease.

Today their staff includes Dr. Milford and three other providers who manage their own patients and schedules. Although their new location allows room for growth, their business is still small enough to pivot when changes are needed, which Jackson considers one of their strengths.

"We are the quarterback of people's care," said Jackson. "We want to foster genuine relationships with engaged patients and employees." While Dr. Milford is seeing patients, Jackson handles the business side of Three Oaks Health, including human resources and technology management.

"We want to do primary care really well," said Jackson of their goals. They offer general care for patients from newborns to senior citizens.

Jackson said patients are willing to travel for quality care, and he believes Johnson Creek's central location right off Interstate 94 is a benefit to their clinic. They currently don't do any marketing or advertising, but personal recommendations bring new patients through their doors every day.

He feels this is a unique area with a lot of potential. "As Johnson Creek grows, we hope to grow with it," he said. Once Three Oaks Health becomes more established in their new location, Jackson said they hope to get more involved in the community.

Right now, they are focusing on maintaining a sustainable business that meets the needs of their patients.

"Working in healthcare is rewarding, but it is not without its challenges," Jackson noted. "You hope at the end of the day, your efforts made a difference."



*Dr. James Milford and Jackson Milford of Three Oaks Health.*



# Village of Johnson Creek

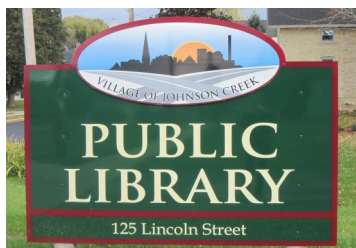
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## LIBRARY HAPPENINGS



*The library will be closed the following days:*

*January 20- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
March 3- Staff in-service*

### Family Fun at the Library:

Second Saturday of the month at 10 a.m.  
*February 8- Valentine's Day Party  
March 8- St. Patrick's Day Party*

**Legos:** Third Monday of the month from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*February 17- Build from the heart  
March 17- Over the rainbow*

**Storytime:** Thursdays at 10 a.m.

### Homeschool Craft Buffet:

February 24 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
March 31 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

### PAWS and READ Returns!

Second Monday of every month from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
February 10 and March 10

Oliver and his human, Sam, will be at the library to visit and listen to stories. Youth of all ages are invited to join this relaxing, stress-free program!



## Johnson Creek Village Hall

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

125 Depot Street

[www.johnsoncreek-wi.us](http://www.johnsoncreek-wi.us)

**Plan Commission:** February 10 @ 5 p.m.  
**Committee of the Whole:** February 10 @ 5:30 p.m.

**Board Meeting:** February 24 @ 5:30 p.m.

## Johnson Creek Public Library

920-699-3741

125 Lincoln Street

[www.johnsoncreeklibrary.org](http://www.johnsoncreeklibrary.org)

**Library Board Meeting:** Feb. 18 @ 4 p.m.  
**Friends of the Library:** March 11 @ 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](mailto: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.

## JCPL Strategic Plan Survey

The Johnson Creek Library's Strategic Planning team will have a survey out between February 1 and February 17. Paper copies will be available at the library and Village Hall. Electronic copies will be on the library's website and Facebook page. All residents are encouraged to participate. Completing a survey will enter you into a drawing to win a \$25 Culver's Gift Card!