

UPDATES FROM THE VILLAGE

Thankful for a great year



John L. Swisher
Village President

As 2024 draws to a close, we want to extend our holiday greetings from the Village President, Village Trustees, and all village staff! It has been an exciting year of growth and planning, which sets the stage for important public and private projects across Johnson Creek in 2025 and beyond.

The project that has been talked about for more than a year and has become the most prominent project the village has seen in some time is the National Management apartment complex being built at Highway 26 and Highway B. This project, known as “The Ponds at Johnson Creek,” will include 128 apartment homes across 16 buildings when it is complete, and it will provide a variety of 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom apartments at market rates. These apartments will ease some of the housing shortage in our area while creating a larger workforce and customer base for local businesses.



Kyle Ellefson
Village Administrator

Another project that is approved but not yet under construction is the industrial warehouse off Resort Drive, east of the TREK property. The approved warehouse proposed by Briohn Corporation exceeds 140,000 square feet and will accommodate up to four tenants, depending on their space requirements. The flexibility of the project design allows a larger company to occupy the entire space, or a combination of users could fill the building in a subdivided format. The design may also allow companies to grow in place and occupy larger portions of the building over time. This project is shovel-ready and on a limited list of properties available for immediate construction in our area.

We spent time reviewing our budget in the last newsletter, but it is worth noting that we had another successful budget year, meeting targets for fiscal restraint while also investing in core services and amenities for our residents. This is highlighted during the fall and especially as tax bills hit your mailboxes, but the work takes place year-round. The village staff is diligent in their use of resources while the Village Board establishes financial plans and makes strategic decisions in the interest of the entire community, now and into the future. Solid management throughout the year facilitates better outcomes at year end, creating positive budget momentum year after year.

The village made some notable capital equipment investments in 2024 to remedy challenging problems. Over the past several years, the Fire/EMS Department has worked with the manufacturer and other companies to evaluate issues with the frame on both fire engines. Ultimately, with recommended repairs not lasting and a lack of certainty that other steps would provide the safety, security, and longevity we were seeking, the Village Board replaced one engine with a brand new fire engine that has upgraded extrication tools. The remaining fire engine was reframed and had a variety of pump and other mechanical repair and maintenance work performed. This was a significant capital investment, but it provided an excellent combination of equipment at a reasonable price within a short time. The Police Department has also added a new squad to their fleet, bringing the total fleet to three vehicles. With the addition of a full-time position in the 2024 budget and the potential for vehicles to be out of service for maintenance or out of the area on a transport, this vehicle allows us to remain available. To preserve the longevity of this new fleet addition, command staff will use this vehicle in the course of their duties, and it will not be placed in the regular patrol rotation unless needed. This should provide a squad that can serve for several years before needing replacement.

In terms of capital projects, the Gosdeck bridge project has made excellent progress to date, and crews even gained a few weeks of work because of favorable fall weather. If spring weather cooperates and everything goes smoothly, we should see the project completed as planned — and potentially ahead of schedule! With our water and wastewater utilities, we are also working on capital investments and have two significant projects in various stages of planning. The wastewater utility is in the final stages of design for the sludge dewatering improvements, which will also include replacement of the backup electric generator to make certain the essential functions of the plant can continue even during power outages. This project is expected to begin in 2025 and continue into 2026. The water utility is continuing design and review work for Well #4, including the associated building and treatment processes. The timing for this project has yet to be determined, but once work begins, it is likely to span more than a year. Each of these projects represents an investment in the future of our community.

Finally, looking back at the great things that have happened in the past year, we can't help but think of all of the great people we have working for the village, volunteering on the Fire/EMS Department, or serving on our Village Board or one of our many committees or commissions. The village has been blessed to find dedicated, highly-qualified staff, including those full-time employees that joined us in 2024, like Director of Tourism, Promotion, and Economic Development Abby Bauer; Police Officer Jordan Rittmeyer; Fire Chief Ben Patterson; and Firefighter/Paramedic Fateh Brennan. We cannot overlook the importance of all the individuals that contribute to the ultimate success of the organization, including the dozens of part-time and paid on-call volunteer Fire/EMS members. We are thankful for the collective success we have had and are proud to serve an excellent community of wonderful people. We hope that everyone has an outstanding holiday season!

REMARKS FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

November saw a slight decrease in call volume, although a few of those incidents were significant to say the least. We responded to a very large multi-vehicle accident on I-94 that resulted in the interstate being shut down for nearly four hours. Luckily only minor injuries were sustained. As we prepare for the winter months, we want to remind everyone to pay careful attention to road conditions.

This month we focused on training with our newly acquired self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). We covered familiarization and general use, as well as Rapid Intervention Team techniques. These SCBAs were placed into service and are now on each of our frontline apparatus.

We have continued with our recruitment efforts and conducted more interviews. New employees will likely join our ranks in December. We also hosted a promotional process early in December with the intent of promoting three of our personnel to the rank of Lieutenant. Department leadership attended the final 2024 Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) meeting and will be finalizing our MABAS cards for 2025 in the next few weeks.

We participated in two different holiday events in the Village this month. We drove Santa and Mrs. Claus to the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in Veterans Park. In addition, Engine 8561 delivered Santa and Mrs. Claus to the Johnson Creek Historical Society's Christmas event and even gave rides in the fire engine to families attending the event. This was exciting for folks of all ages!

DETAILS FROM DPW

Christmas tree pick up will begin the first week of January and will continue weekly throughout the month. Residents can place their tree curbside for free pick up. Trees can also be dropped off at the compost site any time during the week.



Please note that the salt used on village streets to melt ice is not effective when the temperature falls below 15°F. Use caution when driving in winter weather conditions, especially when it is too cold for salt to do its job.

TOURISM TOPICS

New Business: Natural Carnivore Pet Food & Supplies

We celebrated the grand opening of Natural Carnivore Pet Food & Supplies with a ribbon cutting ceremony this fall. Nathan Gray and Tina Miller own the store located at 540 Village Walk Lane (Suite A). Welcome to Johnson Creek!



THE CLERK'S CORNER

Local Offices up for Election in 2025

The offices of Village President and three Village Trustees are up for election next spring. The term of office for all positions is two years and will run from the third Tuesday in April 2025 through the third Tuesday in April 2027. The Spring Election date is April 1, 2025, and if a primary is necessary, it will be held on February 18, 2025.

The deadline to file all the forms and signatures required to be on the ballots is January 7, 2025, at 5 p.m. The forms are available at www.johnsoncreek-wi.us or can be picked up at Village Hall. Contact the Village Clerk Elissa Friedl at elissaf@vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov or 920-699-2296 (ext. 102) if you have questions.

Dog Tags for 2025

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

Tax Bills and Payments

Property tax bills were mailed on December 9. The entire tax bill or first installment is due by January 31, 2025, to avoid interest and penalties. 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. If you wish to pay by credit card, visit www.allpaid.com and use code a000tp. Please note an additional processing fee of at least 2.95% applies to card payments.

Village Hall Holiday Closures

The Village Hall will be closed the following days:

December 24 and 25, 2024

December 31, 2024 – Closing at noon

January 1, 2025

January 20, 2025

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Please remember our local snow removal ordinance. Within 48 hours of each snowfall or accumulation of ice, property owners are responsible for removing snow and ice from all sidewalks in front of or adjoining their house, business, or lot. Violations may result in the village removing the ice or snow at the property owner's expense.

If there is a snow accumulation of one inch or more, vehicles cannot be parked, stopped, or left on any village street or alley from 2:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. the following day or until the street or alley has been completely cleared.

In an emergency, every second counts. If there is a fire hydrant near your property, please clear that area after a snowfall as well. Remove snow and ice from the hydrant and shovel the ground about 3 feet around the hydrant plus a path from the hydrant to the sidewalk.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony – Sunday, December 1



Our Eighth Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony was a great success! Thank you to all who attended and helped us spread holiday cheer to the village.

Another big thank you goes to our volunteers who helped with set up, serving food, and take down after the event. Your efforts are appreciated! Generous sponsors also help make this event fun for all. Thank you to these businesses and individuals for supporting our community!

Mark your calendars for next year's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony: Sunday, November 30, 2025.



Our "Christmas Star" of the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony was Lyle Wuestenberg, owner of J & L Tire. Lyle has supported many events in the community during the holiday season and beyond, and it was our honor to have him light the village Christmas tree this year! Presenting Lyle with this award were John Swisher, Village Board President, and Kyle Ellefson, Village Administrator.



Attendees of the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony donated nonperishable food items, and we were able to present the Johnson Creek Food Pantry with 124 pounds of food and \$20 to help families in need this holiday season. Thank you to all who participated!

Pictured with the donation are John Swisher, Village Board President, and Donna Rodenkirch, coordinator of the Johnson Creek Food Pantry.

Letters to Santa

If your child put a letter to Santa in the mailbox at the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, please let them know that the letters were sent to the North Pole!



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

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Premier Bank

Trapp Real Estate- RE/MAX Preferred

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Kwik Trip

Ben Boutelle & Sonya Garza

Holly Schmidt & Family

Christmas Tree Lighting
Ceremony 2024



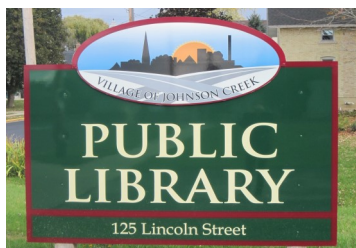
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LIBRARY HAPPENINGS



The library will be closed December 23 to 25, 2024, and January 1, 2025. The library will close at 2 p.m. on December 31, 2024.

Family Fun at the Library:

Second Saturday of the month at 10 a.m.
January 11— *Pete the Cat Party*

Legos: Third Monday of the month from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (No meeting in Jan.)

Storytime: Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Homeschool Craft Buffet:

January 27 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Red Cross Blood Drive: January 17 (NEW DATE) from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Register at www.redcross.org.

T(w)een New Year's Eve Party!

Friday, December 27 from 6 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. New Year's Eve games, food and New Year's Resolutions! Permission slips are available at the Circulation Desk.

Noon Year's Eve Party!

Holiday Family Fun Event!

Tuesday, December 31 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Kids of all ages are invited to celebrate the new year early with games, crafts, and a countdown at 12 noon!

Common Scams and Frauds Targeting

Seniors: January 8 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Presented by the Bureau of Consumer Protection. Learn the warning signs of common scams and frauds and what to do if you or someone you know falls victim to a scam. Bring your questions!

Johnson Creek Seniors Club Card Meetings

The Johnson Creek Seniors Club gets together to play cards at the Community Center most Tuesday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The first meeting of the year will take place on January 7, 2025.

Please join the fun or share this information with family or friends who might be interested in some card games during these cold winter months!

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: January 13 @ 5 p.m.

Committee of the Whole: January 13 @ 5:30 p.m.

Board Meeting: January 27 @ 5:30 p.m.

Johnson Creek Public Library

920-699-3741

125 Lincoln Street

www.johnsoncreeklibrary.org

Library Board Meeting: Jan. 21 @ 4 p.m.

Friends of the Library: Jan. 14 @ 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

stjohnsjc@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.