

UPDATES FROM THE VILLAGE

Explore the parks of Johnson Creek



John L. Swisher
Village President

I recently had the opportunity to spend some time in Pioneer Park while our Public Works crew was roofing and painting the pavilion, and it reminded me why it is one of my favorite places in the Village. In fact, when I think of our parks, each of them has something in them or about them that puts them on my list of favorite places in Johnson Creek. Some of our residents may not be aware of the options for recreation we have within the Village. While we all enjoy different activities and pastimes, we hope our parks offer unique features that will spur interest in almost everyone.

Pioneer Park sits just off Union Street between the interstate and Fireman's Park Baseball Field. There are tennis and pickle ball courts, and it's just a short walk to



Kyle Ellefson
Village Administrator

reach the pavilion where you can eat the lunch you brought with you or spend time preparing your own picnic on one of the grills. Pioneer Park also has a pond where you can fish or sit down on one of the benches found around the water's edge and relax. Pioneer Park might be one of our most overlooked natural spaces in the Village with a great view of the water, the Community Center, and Braunschweig Field off in the distance and plenty of birds and other wildlife from the wetlands to the east.

We mentioned in the last newsletter that the Village Board had just invested in repairing the roof on the Community Center to ensure the building continues to serve residents for years to come. That investment is significant because Fireman's Park, Braunschweig Family Field, and the Community Center are important to our community. They are memorable places to catch some of our local teams playing baseball, enjoy a community event, or celebrate a special occasion. People may first think of visiting the Community Center for events like Nickel Night or the safety fair, or for celebrations like weddings or graduation parties. But Fireman's Park has a long history in the community, and baseball has been a significant part of that history. When you see the quality of the baseball field and the meticulous care that is put into maintaining and preparing the field, the love of the field and the game shine through. The naming for Braunschweig Field was dedicated in 2023 to recognize the decades of commitment the entire Braunschweig family has put into the field and the community. Look for the bronze plaque on the wall of the Community Center near the concession area for more information about Jim Braunschweig and his dedication to volunteering in the community. Jim's story isn't only about how much has been given in the past, but it should serve as an inspiration for those who want to make a difference in the future by finding ways to give back to the community.

Veterans Park is right in the heart of the Village near the Library and Village Hall. In addition to hosting memorials for our veterans, it has truly become a gathering place for the community. We've enjoyed coming together here for several years to celebrate our holiday tree lighting event, and each year the American Legion hosts a special Memorial Day event at the park. Throughout the year you'll see pick-up basketball games, families enjoying the playground or having a picnic, or friends spending time together in the gazebo.

Bell Park is located off Wright Road, south of County Highway B on the east side of State Highway 26. The Village Board voted to add a new building with bathroom facilities, and a sidewalk was installed to increase accessibility. This park has been used for a variety of activities over the years. Soccer and flag football teams have spent time developing their skills there, and the playground is heavily used by families from the neighborhood as well as those attending other recreation activities.

Centennial Park is one of our largest parks, located along the Interstate near the Morse Farms subdivision, or near the intersection of Gosdeck Lane and Midge Street. Centennial Park is home to many baseball, softball, and t-ball activities, and it has a pavilion area with seating and concessions. You can often find families enjoying the playground equipment and using the



Pavilion at Pioneer Park.

MORE VILLAGE UPDATES

volleyball courts as an oversized sandbox! Since Centennial Park is a naturally low-lying area, the Village Board voted to install drain tile in the fields about eight years ago to improve the drainage. It was a significant investment at the time and required extensive follow up maintenance and restoration, but the Board's capital spending improved the fields dramatically.

We've written about Crossroads Landing before, but there are still improvements happening in the park. Crossroads Landing was originally made possible by a state grant the Village received, but we have continued to dedicate resources since that time to improve amenities and enhance features of the park. There are bathroom facilities and a multi-use path that winds through the trees, stretching from Rainbow Lane all the way down to the canoe and kayak launch. At the launch, we've added a system to help safely launch a kayak and assist people of all ages and skill levels feel comfortable getting their craft into the water. Crossroads Landing is also our only pet-friendly park, so you can come enjoy the park with your leashed dog, bring the kids to the playground, and sit and enjoy the view of the water from the pergola which was handcrafted by a local Eagle Scout. This month the Department of Public Works is beginning a project to expand the current playground area with additional pieces of equipment.



Playground at Crossroads Landing.

We have great parks, and over the past few years the Village Board has made some critical investments to preserve and improve them. Each park has its own unique character and attributes to enjoy. If you haven't had a chance to explore each of our parks, we can't wait for you to find some of your favorite places!

THE CLERK'S CORNER

ARE YOU READY FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTION?

The State of Wisconsin MyVote website (myvote.wi.gov) is a one-stop resource for voters. The site may be used to:

- Register to vote (online registration ends October 16)
- Update the name or address for your voter registration
- Request an absentee ballot be mailed to you
- See a sample ballot (available by September 19)

If you need to register to vote or update the name or address on your registration, we urge you to do so prior to Election Day. This will be a very busy election and waiting until Election Day to do this causes longer wait times. Register online at myvote.wi.gov or at Village Hall during regular hours. The Clerk's office will also be open Saturday, October 12 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. for voter registration.

Those wanting an absentee ballot may make a request at myvote.wi.gov or send a written request or a completed form EL-121 WI Application for Absentee Ballot to the Village Clerk. A copy of your photo ID must accompany the application or request. In-person absentee voting will be offered at Village Hall beginning October 22. Hours for in-person absentee voting are October 22 to October 25 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, October 26 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., October 28 to 31 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and November 1 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON ELECTION DAY

On Election Day, residents vote at the Johnson Creek Community Center (417 Union Street) and the polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. We anticipate high turnout, so please bring your patience and be prepared for lines to be longer than during an April or August election.

Johnson Creek now uses electronic poll books called

Badger Books on Election Day. Faster voter check-in without a need to split the line by last name, reduced errors in assigning voter numbers, and streamlined post-election reconciliation are just a few advantages of using electronic poll books. These are used only for checking in voters, checking in absentee ballots, and registering voters on Election Day. The rest of the voting process hasn't changed! Voters still choose at the ballot table whether they wish to mark a ballot using pen and paper or with an electronic ballot marking device. Either way, the paper ballot still must be cast in the tabulator. The tabulator is not connected to the Badger Books and the Badger Books are NOT connected to the internet. The Village has solid backup plans in place in case of an emergency or power outage.

WHY DID YOU SEND ME THIS FORM?

Various organizations mail voter registration forms and/or absentee ballot applications to voters. These often appear to come from your local clerk, but they likely did not. The Village Clerk's office only sends voter registration forms or applications for an absentee ballot upon voter request or when there is a specific issue, in which case we will explain the reason for sending the form in a letter on Village stationery. It is perfectly acceptable to use the forms sent by these organizations, but keep in mind that proof of residency must be sent in with a voter registration form and a copy of a photo ID must be sent in with an application for absentee ballot.

QUESTIONS ABOUT VOTING

Info about voting in Johnson Creek is available on the Village website: johnsoncreek-wi.us. We also welcome your questions at elissaf@vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov or 920-699-2296 ext. 102.

REMARKS FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

In August, we saw an increase in call volume with numerous incidents, including a very significant gas leak within the Village. This month we trained on “reading” smoke and fire conditions within a structure to better understand water application and victim survivability profiles.

We have had numerous inquiries into the department and are actively reaching out and contacting these prospective new employees. Fire Chief Ben Patterson set up interviews for September, and we have already welcomed two new employees to the department. We have also had one of our members complete their paramedic training and begin the transition into their new role.

We attended Nickel Night at the Community Center and had so much fun letting the community view our equipment and learn about our operations. We have been preparing for fall activities such as sporting events and Fire Safety Education Week.



POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Meet Moose! You may have seen a new dog around town hanging out with Johnson Creek Police Officer Jay Leonard. Moose is a member of the Jefferson County Post Officer Support Team (P.O.S.T.), and he is in training to become a certified therapy dog for first responders. Moose will also be available for victim advocacy throughout Jefferson County. Moose lives with Jay and his wife, Vanessa, a Fort Atkinson Police Officer. We will feature the valuable work done by P.O.S.T. and the role Moose will play in a future newsletter!



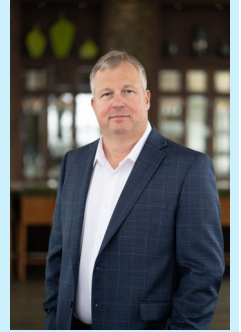
TOURISM TOPICS



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held last month at KLAR Skin and Medical Spa (480 Village Walk Lane). We welcome Crystal Gericke and her team to Johnson Creek!

NEW TRUSTEE INTRODUCTION

Our newest Village Board trustee is Erik Burns, and he is eager to serve a community that he loves. Erik works for a family-owned real estate development company based in Madison, and his team manages residential properties. He has managed properties in Chicago, Madison, Janesville, Milwaukee, and Racine.



This career path was set into motion when Erik was young. Growing up, a friend's father managed apartment buildings as a side job. Erik and his friend often went with his father while he did business, and that is how he became interested in this line of work. David, his friend's dad, served as a mentor to Erik over the years. Erik's parents also owned cottage rentals, and as a teen, Erik would help clean and prepare the properties for guests.

Erik grew up in Brookfield and attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He chose to make Johnson Creek his home for several reasons, including its central location for work and its proximity to waterways to enjoy his fishing hobby.

“I see a lot of potential for Johnson Creek and Jefferson County, and Johnson Creek has an advantage being by major roadways,” explained Erik. “Johnson Creek is in a great location, situated between Milwaukee, Madison, and Janesville. I hope to make a difference by bringing in more business.”

Erik said he and his wife, Natalija, enjoy living in the community. They find the people of Johnson Creek and Jefferson County to be friendly and down to earth. “I love my community, and this is my time to give back,” he noted. “With my experience and education, I think I can help make a difference.”

Welcome to the Village Board, Erik!

DETAILS FROM DPW

The Department of Public Works reminds residents that fall hydrant flushing will begin the week of September 30 and will continue for about two weeks.

Orders for the Village's annual tree planting program must be placed by October 1. Those ordering must place a stake in their yard where the tree is to be planted, and the Village's contractor will plant the tree in late fall. Order forms with pricing are now available on the Village website or by picking up a hard copy at Village Hall.

The last regular brush collection date (weather permitting) is October 14. The last compost collection dates (not including fall leaf vacuuming) are October 7 and 21. Brush must be placed at the backside of the curb with ends facing the flow of traffic. No branches over 8 inches in diameter or stumps will be collected. Place yard waste in biodegradable bags or open containers weighing no more than 35 pounds.



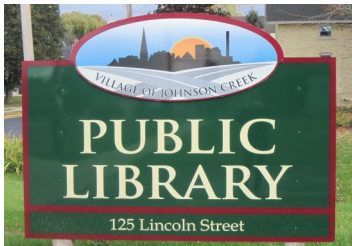
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LIBRARY HAPPENINGS



Family fun at the library:

Second Saturday of the month at 10 a.m.
October 12– Fire Prevention
November 9– Dinosaur Party

Legos: Third Monday of the month from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
October 21– Spooktacular Lego Creations
November 18– Dinosaurs

Storytime: Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Spin a Yarn: October 17 and November 21 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Open Craft Night for Adults: October 24 and November 14 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Homeschool Craft Buffet:
October 28 and November 25 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Red Cross Blood Drive:
November 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Sign-up at www.redcross.org.

Friends of the Library Annual Holiday Fair

The Friends of the Library Annual Holiday Fair will take place on Saturday, November 30 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Johnson Creek School campus. If you or someone you know would like to be a vendor, please contact Carol O'Neil at caroljo@tds.net or call at 920-342-7302 to request an application. Applications can also be found on the library's website.

Just a reminder . . .

Trick or Treat in Johnson Creek will take place on Thursday, October 31 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

Board Meeting: October 28 at 5:30 p.m.

Johnson Creek Public Library

920-699-3741

125 Lincoln Street

www.johnsoncreeklibrary.org

Friends of the Library: Oct. 8 @ 5:30 p.m.

Library Board Meeting: Oct. 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. (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 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.