



VILLAGE OF  
*Johnson Creek*  
WISCONSIN

# The Creek

## NEWS FROM THE CROSSROADS - MARCH & APRIL 2026

### From the Village President & Administrator



**John L. Swisher**  
*Village President*

As we transition into spring, the Village is looking ahead to a season full of activity, progress, and opportunities to connect as a community. With warmer weather on the horizon, our parks, events, and local spaces will once again become gathering places for residents, families, and visitors alike.

Planning is already underway for this year's Independence Day celebration, which will be especially meaningful as we approach the 250th anniversary of the United States. Building on the success of past years, the Village is exploring ways to enhance the overall experience, including the return of live music and additional activities for all ages. We look forward to sharing more details as plans continue to develop.

The Village has also seen strong engagement from our local business community. A recent business breakfast had one of the highest turnouts to date, reflecting the continued investment and collaboration that help Johnson Creek thrive. We appreciate the energy and ideas being shared as we work together to support local growth and opportunity.

Behind the scenes, important work continues across multiple areas. Development and infrastructure projects are moving forward, and we are currently recruiting for key roles, including a Director of Public Works and Administrative Assistant. These positions play an important role in maintaining the high level of service our community relies on.

We would also like to recognize and thank our Public Works team for their efforts throughout the winter season. Their dedication ensured that roads remained safe and accessible during challenging weather conditions, and their work is greatly appreciated.

As always, thank you for being an engaged and valued part of the Johnson Creek community. We look forward to a great spring and summer ahead!



**Kyle Ellefson**  
*Village Administrator*

**Eagle Scout Court of Honor** – The Village congratulates Aaron Bigsby on earning the prestigious Eagle Scout rank through the Boy Scouts of America. We especially thank Aaron for his contributions to improvements at Firemans Park and for installing a bench at Crossroads Landing Park. Your hard work and dedication are truly appreciated, Aaron. Congratulations on this outstanding achievement!

**Arbor Day Tree Planting** – The Village will celebrate Arbor Day this year by planting a tree as part of our recognition as a "Tree City USA" for more than 20 years. Please join us at Crossroads Landing Park (500 Resort Dr) at 10:00 AM on April 24 (weather permitting) to help us celebrate this milestone.

### NEW VILLAGE STAFF

**Tourism Director** - Mykala Manning, previously the Administrative Assistant in the Clerk's Office, has been promoted to Director of Tourism. "I am excited for the opportunity to work with the Village in new ways," Mykala shared. She will now focus on promoting Village events, increasing community engagement, and highlighting local opportunities for residents and visitors. She hopes to build stronger connections with community partners and support continued growth in Village programming. Mykala looks forward to stepping into this new chapter!

**Village Board Trustee** - The Village is pleased to welcome Gary Weaver to the Village Board as he begins his term as Trustee. Gary brings a strong commitment to community involvement and a desire to support the continued progress of the Village. We are excited for him to join the Board and look forward to his contributions in upcoming meetings. The Village also extends its appreciation to Trustee Neil Vandenhouten for his time serving in the role and wishes him well. Gary's election marks the next step in continued local leadership and engagement.

## WATER UTILITY UPDATES



**Water Utility Rate Case Update** - The Village's Water Utility continues to move forward with a required rate case as directed by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC), the state agency that regulates public water utilities. This process is a comprehensive review of the utility's financial and operational needs, including infrastructure, maintenance, and the cost of providing safe and reliable drinking water. Since the last conventional rate case with the PSC in 1997, water utility rates in Johnson Creek have increased just 14%. Any rate changes resulting from this application will apply only to the water utility portion of the bill, not the sewer charges.

Over time, the cost of providing water service has risen dramatically due to inflation alone. Data based on the Consumer Price Index shows that prices have increased by roughly 100% from 1997 to 2025. This increase affects everything a water utility depends on, including pipes, treatment chemicals, energy, and labor. Even routine maintenance is now significantly more expensive, while large-scale infrastructure replacement projects can cost millions more than a few decades ago.

When viewed against a backdrop of long-term cost increases and continued community growth, any adjustment reflects the reality of maintaining a critical public service in a changing economic environment.

It is important for residents to know that any rate adjustments are determined entirely by the PSC under state law. At this stage, the utility is close to submitting required information to the PSC. Once the application is reviewed, there will be opportunities for public awareness and updates as the process continues. We understand that potential rate changes can be challenging and we are committed to keeping residents informed every step of the way. Additional updates will be shared in future newsletters and on the Village website.

**Annual Hydrant Flushing** - The Water Utility will conduct its annual hydrant flushing from April 13 through May 4. Work will begin near the water tower and move outward throughout the system. This routine maintenance helps keep our water system clean and reliable by removing sediment, checking hydrant function, and improving water quality.

During this time, residents may notice temporary discoloration or lower water pressure. If your water appears discolored, run cold water from the faucet nearest your water meter for a few minutes until it clears. Please also check water before using hot water or appliances.

We appreciate your patience as we complete this important maintenance. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Village Water Utility at 920-699-3341.

## PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

**Park Restrooms** - Park restrooms at all Village parks are now open for the season. As temperatures rise, our parks are a great place to get outside and enjoy everything the Village has to offer. From casual walks and picnics to community gatherings, there are plenty of ways to make the most of these spaces. We encourage residents and visitors alike to explore and enjoy our local parks this season.

**Compost & Brush Site Cards** - Spring yard cleanup? Get an access card for the compost and brush site on Aztalan Street for just \$15. Cards remain active while you're a Johnson Creek resident, with no annual fee. Pick up a card at Village Hall, 125 Depot St.

**Bulk Pick-Up** - Residents can schedule one bulk item per month on the designated collection day (see the 2026 Garbage & Recycling Calendar). Call at least 48 hours ahead at (920) 387-0987 or email [horiconwi@gflenv.com](mailto:horiconwi@gflenv.com). Items must be under 50 lbs and manageable by one person to ensure safe collection.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

The Police Department continues to stay active in training, enforcement, and community safety efforts. In recent weeks, officers have participated in specialized training to strengthen hiring practices and ensure the department continues to bring on qualified, professional staff.

Recent police activity included an isolated robbery between known individuals, retail theft arrests, and a drug-related investigation conducted with the Jefferson County Drug Task Force. All suspects were taken into custody, and there is no ongoing threat to the public. Officers also assisted in a pursuit that went outside the Village.

**National Drug Take Back Day** - The Police Department is participating in National Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This event offers a safe, convenient, and responsible way to dispose of unused, unwanted, or expired prescription medications. Simply empty all medications into a sealed baggie before dropping them off at the Johnson Creek Police Department during the event hours.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

The Johnson Creek Fire Department responded to 43 calls this past month and is on pace to exceed last year's total call volume. Approximately 30 percent of calls were fire-related.

Crews responded to a small fire at the MasterMold facility, where swift action by on-site personnel and responding agencies helped bring the situation under control quickly.

Firefighters also continue to prioritize training, recently utilizing the former elementary school for hands-on exercises. Ongoing training in areas such as communication, scene management, and situational awareness ensures the department remains prepared as call volumes increase.

The department is also in the planning stages of purchasing a new ambulance and continues to strengthen staffing, with a new member joining soon and a current team member transitioning to a full-time role.

### Do you follow us on social media?



@Visit\_Johnson\_Creek



@visitjohnsoncreek



@Visit Johnson Creek  
Wisconsin



Visit  
**JOHNSON CREEK**  
LET'S MEET IN JOHNSON CREEK

## TOURISM TOPICS

**Tourism Grants** - Got an idea for a fun event in Johnson Creek? We love helping brainstorm ways to promote it, and we may be able to provide limited funding through our Tourism Grants for qualifying, commission approved events!

Upcoming Tourism Grant Application deadlines:

- May 4
- August 3
- October 5

Find guidelines and applications on the Tourism webpage [vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov](http://vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov), and send questions to our Tourism Director at [jctourism@vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov](mailto:jctourism@vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov).

**Social Media** - We're working to make our social channels more engaging and fun, highlighting local events, businesses, and community initiatives. Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok to see what's happening and share your favorite Johnson Creek moments!

## CLERK'S CORNER

**Open Book & Board of Review** - The Open Book meeting to discuss your property assessment with the Village Assessor will be held by phone on May 4 from 10 am to 12 pm. Call 920-749-1995 to make your appointment at least 24 hours in advance. To enter a formal appeal before the Board of Review, contact the Village Clerk at [elissaf@vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov](mailto:elissaf@vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov) or visit Village Hall to obtain an objection form. Notice of intent to appeal must be received by the Clerk at least 48 hours prior to the Board of Review meeting to be held May 14 from 2 pm to 4 pm.

**Need to drop paperwork off at Village Hall?** Village Hall, 125 Depot Street, has a 24/7 drop box conveniently located just outside the front entrance for submissions outside of business hours. Otherwise, email us at [info@vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov](mailto:info@vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov).

What can you drop off? (Place payments in a labeled envelope; checks preferred)

- Utility payments
- Dog licenses (Rabies information required)
- Permits to keep and raise chickens
- Park and facility rental applications
- & More!



### Johnson Creek School District

455 Aztalan St | 920-541-4800

**Color Run** - Johnson Creek High School's National Honor Society is hosting a color run/walk on the cross country course on Saturday, May 9th at 10:30 a.m. All proceeds will benefit the Jefferson County Humane Society. Visit the School District website to register. Come join the fun and support a great cause!

**Community Gardens** - Garden plots are available! Each plot is approximately 15 x 20 ft, perfect for growing a variety of organic crops. For details and to sign up, visit the Community tab on the School District website or email [greener@uww.edu](mailto:greener@uww.edu).

For more details, visit: [johnsoncreek.k12.wi.us](http://johnsoncreek.k12.wi.us)



### Community Wide Rummage Sale

Get ready for the Spring Community Wide Rummage Sale, April 24-26! If you would like your sale listed, email [caroljo@tds.net](mailto:caroljo@tds.net) with your address (and subdivision if applicable), what you'll be selling, and your sale days and times. Don't miss this chance to clear out clutter and find some treasures!

*Note: This event is organized by community members and is not hosted by the Village of Johnson Creek.*



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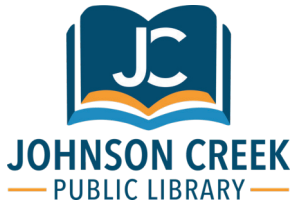
CURRENT RESIDENT

PO Box 1

111 South St

Johnson Creek, WI 53038-0001

## LIBRARY HAPPENINGS



### New Evening Hours!

Mon-Thu 10am-7pm | Fri 10am-5pm | Sat 9am-12pm

Weekly prize drawings through April!

**Teen Takeover:** Thursdays at 3:30 PM for students in grades 6-12.

**Storytime:** Thursdays at 10 AM

**Friends of the JCPL:** Annual Used Book Sale April 24 and 25 from 8am-2pm at the Community Center (417 Union St)

**PAWS and READ:** 3:30-4:30 (Next: May 4)

**JCPL Library Board:** 3rd Tues 4 PM (Next: May 19)

**Red Cross Blood Drive:** May 19 AM-2PM

### (NEW!) Teen Book Club: 2nd Tues 5:30 PM

Teens, join Ms. Heather & bring the book you're currently reading to tell the group why it's worth checking out! Discover new favorites! Meet other teen readers! Once a month & no assigned reading!

**Family Fun:** 2nd Sat 10 AM (Next: May 9 - Mother's Day)

**"A Novel Bunch":** 3rd Thurs 3 PM (Next: May 21, *Amity*)  
Stop by the library to pick up a copy.

**Busy Fingers:** 3rd Sat 10-12 PM (Next: May 16)

**Lego Club:** 4th Tues 3:30 PM (Next: Apr 28, Minecraft Edition; May 26, Famous Landmarks)

**Summer Learning Program Kickoff:** (Next: June 6 10 AM - 12 PM)

**Follow Us on Social Media!**  
@JohnsonCreekPublicLibrary  
@johnsoncreeklibrary

### Johnson Creek Village Hall

920-699-2296 | 125 Depot Street  
vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov  
Monday to Friday, 8 am to 4 pm

### Upcoming Meetings:

- Plan Commission: May 11 at 5 pm
- Committee of the Whole: May 11 at 5:30 pm
- Village Board: April 27 at 5:30 pm

### Johnson Creek Public Library

920-699-3741 | 125 Lincoln Street  
www.johnsoncreeklibrary.org

### Hours:

Monday to Thursday: 10 am — 7 pm  
Friday: 10 am — 5 pm  
Saturday: 9 am — 12 pm  
Sunday: CLOSED

### Next Library Board Meeting:

April 21 @ 4 pm

### Johnson Creek Food Pantry

129 N. Watertown St.  
JohnsonCreekFoodPantry@gmail.com

### Hours:

Mon & Thurs: 10 am to 12 pm  
4th Thurs: 4 pm to 5 pm

### Diaper Closet

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