



VILLAGE OF
Johnson Creek
WISCONSIN

The Creek

NEWS FROM THE CROSSROADS - JUNE 2026



John L. Swisher
Village President

As we transition into summer, projects are in full swing across the community.

One project that got off to a strong start but then experienced an unexpected delay is the Abet Laminati facility. This approximately 220,000-square-foot office and manufacturing facility will occupy a portion of the parcel, with additional land already designated for future expansion. The building and technology will allow Abet Laminati to manage its manufacturing process from start to finish in a single location, complemented by office space and a product showroom showcasing its decorative laminate products.

After initial grading and site preparation work was completed, construction stalled while the project awaited a permit from the Department of Natural Resources. That permit process has now been completed, and construction crews have returned to the site with renewed momentum, working diligently to make up for lost time. We remain excited to welcome Abet Laminati to our community and look forward to the start of operations later this year or in early 2027.



Kyle Ellefson
Village Administrator

As The Ponds development nears completion of its final buildings, National Management's next project is moving closer to full construction mode. Shadow Ridge, located on the north end of Remmel Drive, will be similar to The Ponds and will offer high-quality, market-rate apartments. Preliminary grading and land clearing have already taken place, but major construction activities and underground utility installation are not expected to begin until around August 1.

Developers anticipate completing the public utility portion of the project by late September, though significant work will remain throughout the site. Depending on weather conditions and construction progress, the first residents could begin occupying apartments at Shadow Ridge by the spring or summer of 2027.

Another project many residents have been eagerly following is the historic Gobbler Theater. New owners and operators applied for a liquor license and conditional use permit in 2025 with plans to reopen the establishment and begin a new chapter in its storied history. The long-awaited grand opening took place on June 6, when Terri Clark, a nationally touring country music artist, headlined the first major event.

The parking lot was full, and the theater welcomed a large crowd eager to experience the excitement of live entertainment in this one-of-a-kind venue. We look forward to many more successful events at the Gobbler and wish the owners and operators continued success as they bring new life to this community landmark.

IN MEMORY OF ASSISTANT CHIEF MATTHEW ANDERSON

The Johnson Creek Fire Department is mourning the loss of Assistant Chief Matthew Anderson, who dedicated more than 32 years of his life to serving others through Fire and EMS.



Matt was a respected leader, mentor, educator, and friend whose impact

extended far beyond the communities he served. Throughout his career, he touched countless lives through his commitment to public service, his willingness to share knowledge with others, and his unwavering dedication to the profession.

Even while courageously battling colon cancer for more than seven years, Matt continued to serve his community and support fellow firefighters and EMS providers. His strength, resilience, and devotion to helping others left a lasting impression on everyone who had the

privilege of working alongside him.

His legacy will continue through the many firefighters, paramedics, and community members he mentored and inspired over the course of his career. The values he upheld will remain a guiding example for the department as it continues its mission of service to the community.

The department extends its deepest condolences to Matt's family, friends, and loved ones. His legacy of service, leadership, and compassion will not be forgotten.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

As summer gets underway, the Johnson Creek Fire Department continues to train, prepare, and respond to the needs of the community.

With warmer weather comes an increased risk of grass, brush, and wildland fires. To stay ready, firefighters and paramedics have been participating in specialized training focused on wildland fire response and seasonal emergency preparedness.

The department has also conducted walkthroughs of new businesses in Johnson Creek, allowing first responders to become familiar with building layouts, access points, and safety features before the facilities open. These proactive efforts help improve emergency response and enhance community safety.

The Fire Department is also pleased to welcome a new full time and a new part

time firefighter/paramedic to the team. Their experience and dedication will help strengthen emergency services and support the department's ongoing commitment to serving residents.

As the summer season continues, residents are encouraged to use caution with outdoor burning and recreational fire activity, especially during dry or windy conditions.

WATER UTILITIES



Several important utility projects have been completed, including upgrades to the Midge Street lift station and repairs to an abandoned water service line on Stonefield Drive. In addition, the Village has begun the Lead Service Line inventory and replacement planning process, an important step toward ensuring safe, reliable water service for the future.

The Village is also preparing for the arrival of a new sludge dryer, a significant investment in wastewater treatment operations that will support long term efficiency and sustainability.

NEW VILLAGE STAFF

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR - Lucas Jenkins brings six years of experience as a water and sewer laborer and was inspired to pursue a career in public works by his father, who worked in the field throughout his life. He is excited to take on his first administrative role and learn more about the behind the scenes work that supports the community.

Outside of work, Lucas enjoys fishing and spending time with his wife, one year old son, and their two Labrador Retrievers. He looks forward to becoming part of the Johnson Creek community and continuing to learn and grow in his new role.

POLICE, FIRE & EMS COMMISSION - Lyle Wuestenberg is welcomed to the Police, Fire & EMS Commission. Lyle was recently appointed to fill the vacancy created by Michael Jordan's departure from the Commission, and brings a strong commitment to serving the Johnson Creek community. We look forward to his contributions and thank him for stepping into this important role.



Visit
JOHNSON CREEK
LET'S MEET IN JOHNSON CREEK

TOURISM TOPICS

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION - Join us as Johnson Creek celebrates the 250th Anniversary of the United States with our biggest Independence Day celebration yet!

The festivities begin at 5:00 PM on Friday, July 3, at Centennial Park and feature family-friendly activities, inflatables, yard games, food and concessions, a beer tent hosted by the American Legion, community vendors, raffle opportunities, and a historical reenactment of the signing of the Declaration of Independence presented by the Johnson Creek Historical Society.

Enjoy live music throughout the evening with the Danny Miller Band performing upbeat harmonica-powered blues and classic favorites from 5:00-7:00 PM, followed by Depot Express, a high-energy classic rock and funk band, from 7:00-9:00 PM. Guests can also enjoy a special patriotic performance by a local mother-daughter duo.

The celebration concludes with an enhanced fireworks show at dusk featuring nearly double the fireworks from previous years.

Free Admission • All Ages Welcome

July 3 • Centennial Park • Begins at 5 PM • Fireworks at Dusk

Special thanks to our presenting sponsors: Loos Homes, Kearns Motor Car, Kaerek Homes, and MasterMold.

FIREWORKS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

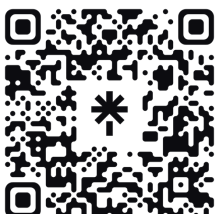


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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: NEW OWNERSHIP AT COMFORT SUITES

A new chapter is underway at Comfort Suites Johnson Creek Conference Center as experienced hospitality owner Shyam Patel and his team officially step into ownership of the property.

Located at 725 Paradise Lane just off Interstate 94, Comfort Suites has long-served travelers visiting Johnson Creek for shopping, business, events, and family gatherings. Under new ownership, the hotel is now placing a renewed focus on customer experience, community involvement, and rebuilding strong local relationships.

During a recent meeting with village staff, the new ownership team shared a clear goal: they want Comfort Suites to be more than just a hotel. They want it to become a trusted local gathering space and a first choice for community events, celebrations, and visitor accommodations.

"We want to be the first call when someone is planning an event," the ownership team shared.

With 10 flexible meeting and banquet spaces, Comfort Suites can accommodate everything from weddings, bridal showers, graduation parties, family reunions, business meetings, conferences, and training sessions to community events and nonprofit gatherings such as blood drives and fundraisers.

In addition to event space, the hotel offers amenities including:

- Indoor pool access with community swim options
- Free hot breakfast for overnight guests
- Complimentary WiFi
- Fitness center
- Pet friendly accommodations
- Business and concierge services

The ownership team also brings years of hospitality experience throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest. In addition to Johnson Creek, Shyam Patel currently owns and operates several hotel properties including locations in Janesville, Burlington, Portage, and Rockford.

Village staff are excited to welcome the new ownership team and look forward to continued partnership opportunities that support tourism, local events, and community engagement in Johnson Creek.

Residents planning weddings, graduations, reunions, or hosting family and friends for upcoming summer events such as Independence Day celebrations are encouraged to keep Comfort Suites in mind as a local option for both event space and overnight accommodations.

For reservations, event inquiries, or additional information, contact Comfort Suites Johnson Creek directly at (920) 543-3034 or www.choicehotels.com.



CLERK'S CORNER

While much of the Clerk/Treasurer's Office work happens behind the scenes, it's all part of keeping Village services running smoothly and efficiently.

This spring, staff have been busy completing required state reporting, participating in professional training, and preparing for annual liquor and tobacco license renewals.

The Village also recently completed its annual Open Book and Board of Review process, helping ensure property assessment information remains accurate and transparent for residents.

As summer activities ramp up, staff are coordinating baseball and softball schedules for Village parks, helping local teams, families, and visitors enjoy another great season on the fields.

The Village recently welcomed a new Administrative Assistant to the team. We are excited to have Lisa Topel on board, and encourage residents to introduce themselves when visiting Village Hall.

From managing finances and licenses to supporting community programs, the Clerk/Treasurer's Office remains hard at work helping keep Johnson Creek organized, connected, and ready for a busy summer ahead.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE 2026 ELECTIONS?

Remaining elections this year are:

- Partisan Primary on August 11th
- General Election on November 3rd

If you plan to vote in August or November, please check your registration status at myvote.wi.gov. Registering to vote and updating your address before Election Day will save you time and keep lines shorter at the polls. Online registration is available at myvote.wi.gov until three weeks prior to an election. After that deadline, voters may still register in person at Village Hall or on Election Day at the polls.



The August Partisan Primary narrows candidates for each political party for the November ballot. Voters may vote in only one political party for the August Partisan Primary. In-person absentee voting for the Partisan Primary will be available from July 28th to August 7th at Village Hall, 125 Depot Street.

For questions about voting in Johnson Creek, please contact Village Clerk, Elissa Friedl at elissaf@vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov or 920-699-2296.

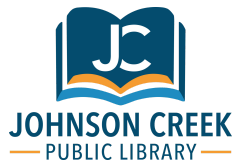


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LIBRARY HAPPENINGS



There's still time to join the Summer Learning Program. Participants of all ages can complete challenges, earn prizes, and enjoy a summer of reading and learning. The program runs through July 31, so register today and join the fun!

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

Storytime: Thursdays at 10 AM through July at the Gazebo at Veteran's Park

(NEW!) Teen Book Club: 2nd Tues 5:30 PM
Next: July 14

Teens, join Ms. Heather and bring the book you're currently reading and 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: July 11

"A Novel Bunch": 3rd Thurs 3 PM

Next: July 16 (Book: Sisters in the Wind)
Stop by the library to pick up a free copy.

Lego Club: 4th Tues 3:30 PM
Next: July 28 (Theme: Mystery Challenge)

STEAM: Tuesdays at 2:30 suggested ages 5-12 | June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28

Wisconsin's Most Haunted Locations
July 13 | 5:30 to 6:30 PM
Presented by Chad Lewis

Friends of the JCPL: July 14
Social at 5:30 PM, meeting begins at 6 PM

Red Cross Blood Drive: 9 AM - 2 PM
Next: July 17
Your donation can help save more than one life! Visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment.

Family Programs at the Community Center: 417 Union St. | 10:00am June 24, Wildlife in Need Center | 10:00am July 15
Mark Haywood-Yo-Yo Guy

Upcoming Library Closures:
July 3-4 – Independence Day Weekend

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: July 13 at 5 pm
- Committee of the Whole: July 13 at 5:30 pm
- Village Board: July 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:

July 21 at 4 pm

[@JohnsonCreekPublicLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/JohnsonCreekPublicLibrary) [@johnsoncreeklibrary](https://www.instagram.com/johnsoncreeklibrary)

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

Senior Exercise

FREE Senior friendly exercise is held each Monday and Thursday from 9-10 a.m. in the gym at Crossroads Church.