



VILLAGE OF
Johnson Creek
WISCONSIN

The Creek

NEWS FROM THE CROSSROADS - DECEMBER 2025



John L. Swisher
Village President

2025 Year in Review: Strengthening Johnson Creek for Long-Term Success

2025 has been an exceptional year for Johnson Creek—a period defined by robust economic growth, transformative infrastructure projects, and key staffing transitions across Village departments. Together, these milestones have strengthened our community's foundation and set the stage for long-term success.

This year marked significant strides in expanding Johnson Creek's economic base. In August, the Village approved two new Tax Incremental Districts (TIDs 5 and 6), complementing the existing TID 4. These new districts are targeted to support essential infrastructure improvements and foster long-term tax base growth.



Kyle Ellefson
Village
Administrator

In fact, soon after these approvals, global manufacturer Abet Laminati USA selected a site in TID 5 in Johnson Creek to establish its new North American headquarters. The company is investing in a 230,000-square-foot office and industrial facility that is expected to bring roughly 120 new jobs to the community. Site grading is underway, with portions of the building anticipated to rise in early 2026.

In the healthcare sector, Orthopaedic Associates of Wisconsin (OAW) secured approval in May for a 46,000-square-foot clinic and outpatient surgery center, projected to employ more than 75 medical professionals. Construction is ongoing, and has progressed rapidly, with much of the metal superstructure already complete.

The Village also celebrated renewed ownership interest in the historic Gobbler Theater, which obtained approvals for all necessary liquor and zoning permits. This paves the way for its reopening as a venue for concerts, comedy, and community events.

Additionally, several new local businesses opened their doors in 2025, including The P.R.I.D.E LLC, an adult day program for individuals with disabilities, and Massage Day, both adding valuable services for residents.

Housing development continued at a strong pace. The Ponds at Johnson Creek, a 128-unit market-rate apartment complex, moved steadily toward a full build-out, with several buildings now completed and occupied. Loos Homes also broke ground on Pleasant Park, an 18-unit twin-home neighborhood on Resort Drive, where infrastructure installation and home construction are well underway.

With limited single-family inventory, the Village was pleased to see significant progress on Centennial Fields, a new subdivision offering 70 single-family home lots. The developer recently updated plans to build in phases, and grading and utility installation for Phase 1 could begin within weeks.

Infrastructure improvements were another highlight of the year. The Gosdeck Bridge project—which included new curbs, gutters, sidewalks, paving, and street lighting—was completed weeks ahead of schedule. The Village is also preparing for demolition and site preparation for the sludge dewatering facility upgrade at the Wastewater Treatment Facility, which will replace outdated equipment and reduce waste transport costs.

Several roadways—including Linmar Lane, Glover Lane, Lincoln Street, and Sanctuary Court—were repaved in 2025. The Village was also able to leverage grant funds to defray project costs on the Linmar Lane project.

A key community project of 2025 was the installation of a new flagpole at Centennial Park. Through strong community support, the project was fully funded by donations. On July 3, members of each branch of the armed forces participated in a moving flag-raising ceremony—the first time the flag flew above the park.

In collaboration with the State of Wisconsin Historical Society and the local Historical Society, the Village also placed a historical marker near Fireman's Park commemorating Wisconsin's first train wreck in 1859, which occurred right here in Johnson Creek.

The Village launched a long-awaited update to its website at vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov. The redesigned site improves accessibility, offers enhanced features for residents, and gives staff more flexibility to share timely information with the community.

2025 brought several notable staffing changes. The Village thanked Administrative Assistant Laura Canales for 20 years of service upon her retirement, welcoming Mykala Manning as her successor. In March, Cameron Day joined the team as Director of Tourism, Marketing & Promotion.

Public Works welcomed Jason Warner as the new Director, bringing extensive experience in facilities and safety management. The department also added three new team members: Thomas Koch and Mason Borchardt in Water & Wastewater Utility, and Marc Waugh in Streets & Parks.

At the Johnson Creek Public Library, Katie Martin retired after an incredible 32 years of service. The Library welcomed Jacki Haberman as a Library Assistant and Ella Bachim as a Circulation Clerk.

On April 14, Village Trustee Michael Saindon retired after more than six years of dedicated service. Lisa Schicker was sworn in the following day and now serves on the Protection & Welfare Committee and the Community Development Authority. Later in the year, Trustee David Rousayne concluded his service, and Neil Vandenhouten was appointed to the Village Board.

Johnson Creek's achievements in 2025 reflect a community committed to thoughtful growth, responsible stewardship, and strong civic engagement. With major projects underway and new opportunities on the horizon, the Village is well positioned for continued success in the years ahead, and we are excited to be part of it!

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY - NOVEMBER 30



The Village of Johnson Creek welcomed the holiday season on Sunday, November 30, as residents and visitors gathered in Veterans Park for the annual Tree Lighting Celebration. With a fresh layer of snow on the ground and festive lights shining throughout the park, the event created a true Hallmark-style holiday atmosphere.

Guests enjoyed horse-drawn wagon rides, hot chocolate, warm apple cider, cookies, popcorn, and candied pecans, while carolers filled the park with seasonal cheer. Santa and Mrs. Claus visited with families and posed for photos, bringing joy to children and adults alike.

Each year, we invite Tree Lighting attendees to bring non-perishable items for the Johnson Creek Food Pantry. This year, we launched our new Stuff the Truck initiative with the goal of filling the truck bed as much as possible. Thanks to the generosity of our attendees, we collected over 79 lbs of food to support local families.

A special moment of the evening included the presentation of the Christmas Star Award, given this year to Pastor Dale Vlastnik for his enthusiasm and continued support of community programs and events during the holiday season and beyond.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

Badger Bank, Compeer Financial, Doosan Bobcat, Gallitz Grading, J&L Tire and Service Center, JPAL LLC, MasterMold, Orthopaedic Associates of Wisconsin, Pine Cone, Premier Bank, Trapp Real Estate REMAX Preferred



Pictured in the photo (L-R): John L. Swisher - Village President; Donna Rodenkirch - Food Pantry Coordinator; Cameron Day - Director of Tourism & Marketing; Kyle Ellefson - Village Administrator



Pictured in the photo (L-R): Pastor Dale Vlastnik; John L. Swisher - Village President; Kyle Ellefson - Village Administrator

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS FOR
NEXT YEAR'S TREE
LIGHTING:
SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 29,
2026**



DETAILS FROM PUBLIC WORKS



SLUDGE BUILDING PROJECT BEGINS DECEMBER 15

The Village will begin the first phase of the Sludge Building Project on December 15. This phase will include:

- Demolition of existing sludge dewatering equipment
- Demolition of concrete walls and flooring
- Modifications to Sludge Feed Pump #1
- Electrical system updates
- Modifications to Sludge Feed Pump #2

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

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. Residents with access cards to the yard waste site may also drop natural trees and boughs (with all inorganic material removed) there at any time.

CLERK'S CORNER

LOCAL OFFICES UP FOR ELECTION

The offices of three Village Trustees are up for election in spring. The term of office for all positions is two years and will run from the third Tuesday in April 2026 through the third Tuesday in April 2028. The Spring Election date is April 7, 2026 and if a primary is necessary it will be held on February 17, 2026.

All necessary forms to run for office are available on the Village website www.vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov or can be picked up at Village Hall. Nomination papers and other required forms to run for office are due to the Village Clerk by January 6, 2026 at 5pm. Questions? Contact the Village Clerk at elissaf@vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov or 920-699-2296, ext. 102.

2026 DOG TAGS AVAILABLE NOW

Dogs over 5 months of age must be licensed annually. To license a dog, provide rabies vaccination copy, proof of spay/neuter (if applicable), and license fee: \$10 spayed or neutered, \$15 unaltered. License forms are available on the Village web site. 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 & PAYMENTS

Property tax bills have been mailed. If you have not received your property tax bill, please contact Village Hall at 920-699-2296. The entire tax bill or first installment is due by January 31, 2026 to avoid interest and penalties. Payments by check are accepted at Village Hall in person, by mail or 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. An additional processing fee of at least 2.95% applies to card payments.

TRASH & RECYCLING COLLECTION DAY CHANGING JANUARY 7th

The Village recently contracted with GFL for collection of trash and recycling for Village residents. GFL acquired LRS in 2025. Effective January 7, 2026 the normal collection date for trash and recycling will change to WEDNESDAY. Bulk item collection will occur with the first scheduled pickup date of the month. Some practices for bulk collection are changing:

- Calling ahead for bulk pickup is required at least 48 hours in advance, 920-387-0987
- Items must be <50 pounds and manageable by one person
- One bulk item per month
- Items normally in a set or pair are one item – ex: mattress & box spring

VILLAGE HALL CLOSURES/TRASH COLLECTION DELAYS

December 24-25, 2025 all day,
Trash/recycling pickup December 27
December 31, 2025 closing at noon
January 1, 2026 all day,
Trash/recycling pickup January 3
January 19, 2026 all day,
No delay for trash/recycling pickup

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

SNOW REMOVAL

As winter weather approaches, the Johnson Creek Police Department reminds residents that anytime there is one inch or more of snow accumulation, vehicles must not be parked on Village streets or alleys. This helps snowplows and Public Works crews safely and efficiently clear roads and apply salt or sand as needed. Vehicles left parked on the street during snowfall make it difficult for crews to plow curb to curb and may be subject to citation or towing.

Residents are also reminded that sidewalks must be cleared of snow and ice within 48 hours after a snowfall ends. Keeping sidewalks clear ensures safe passage for pedestrians, mail carriers, and schoolchildren throughout the Village.

Your cooperation helps keep Johnson Creek's streets and sidewalks safe and accessible for everyone during the winter months.





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LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

Storytime - every Thursday at
10:00am

Busy Fingers

Calling all knitters, crocheters, needle artists, and hand crafters! Join a welcoming community of crafters and benefit from the knowledge of experienced local teachers. Meets the 3rd Saturday of the month during the school year from 10am to 12 noon

December 20
January 17

Coloring Party - All Ages

Monday, December 29 - All Day - 10am-5pm
Take some time to relax with Johnson Creek Public Library! We will have a wide variety of coloring pages and materials for ALL AGES to enjoy! Drop in anytime!

PAWS & READ

2nd Tuesday, January 12 3:30pm - 4:40pm



Family Fun at the Library

2nd Saturday of the month 10:00-11:00am
January 10 - Winter Wonderland

Friends of the JCPL

Meet the second Tuesday of January, April, July, & October beginning at 5:30pm with refreshments followed by a regular meeting. Next meeting: January 13

2026 Noon Year's Eve Party

Wednesday, December 31 11am - 12:30pm

Join us for this family fun event to ring in 2026!!



Congratulations to the winners of our Puzzle Race, they set a personal best time as a team! Look for another Puzzle Race in the spring!

Johnson Creek Village Hall

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

Plan Commission: January 12 @ 5 pm

Committee of the Whole:

January 12 @ 5:30 pm

Board Meeting:

January 26 @ 5:30 pm

Johnson Creek Public Library

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

Library Board Meeting:

January 20 @ 4 pm

LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday to Wednesday: 10 am — 5 pm

Thursday: 10 am — 7 pm

Friday: 10 am — 5 pm

Saturday: 9 am — 12 pm

Sunday: CLOSED

December 24-27: CLOSED

December 31: Close Early at 2 pm

January 1: CLOSED

JC FOOD PANTRY

129 N. Watertown St.

JohnsonCreekFoodPantry@gmail.com

Open Monday and Thursday from 10 am to 12 pm and every fourth Thursday of the month from 4 pm to 5pm.

DIAPER CLOSET

Penelope's Diaper Closet | 111 South Street

Open the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 1-6pm

penelopesclosetjc@gmail.com