



VILLAGE OF
Johnson Creek
WISCONSIN

The Creek

NEWS FROM THE CROSSROADS - OCTOBER 2026



John L. Swisher
Village President

The Village Administrator presented the proposed 2027 budget at a special Village Board meeting on October 12, outlining the Board's draft financial plan for municipal departments and specialized funds in the year ahead.

The proposed budget continues the Village's focus on fiscal stability, public safety, and long-term community development. Despite inflation and growing service demands, the estimated property tax mill rate is projected to remain flat. For property owners whose assessed value has not changed from the prior year, the Village portion of their property tax bill should remain relatively consistent.

Although property values in the Village grew by more than 3%, the proposed General Fund property tax levy is \$2,382,000, an increase of only 0.4% over the previous year's levy.

PUBLIC SAFETY INVESTMENTS - The Village is preparing for an anticipated Police Department retirement in early 2027. An additional officer has already been authorized and is scheduled to begin the Police Academy in January. Hiring in advance is intended to reduce the gap between the retirement and having a new officer ready for independent patrol. The budget also increases wages for part-time officers to support recruitment and retention.

The Fire/EMS budget reflects a 3% increase in revenue from the Village and Townships, including nearly \$15,000 in additional funding from the Village. It maintains the full-time Fire/EMS Chief and three full-time Firefighter/Paramedics, while increasing wages for part-time and on-call Firefighter and EMS personnel.

Planned public safety equipment investments include a new police squad vehicle, extrication struts, multi-gas meters, PPE and gear washers, and a video laryngoscope.



Kyle Ellefson
Village Administrator

UTILITIES, PUBLIC WORKS, AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS - In 2027, the Sludge Dryer Project is expected to wrap up, while the final stages of the long-planned Well #4 project, more than 20 years in the making, will get underway. The Public Service Commission (PSC) is continuing its work on the mandatory water rate case, with more specific information expected in the coming months as the PSC makes final decisions on the tariffs.

Once the Sludge Dryer Project is complete, the Village anticipates a significant reduction in hauling and related operating expenses. It may take a year for operations to stabilize and establish a normal trend for operation and maintenance costs under the more efficient system.

Other planned investments include resurfacing Deer Crossing, purchasing two mowers as part of a new DPW mower replacement program, and repairing the road salt storage shed roof and drive apron. At Fireman's Park, the baseball field is planned for resurfacing. At Centennial Park, planned work includes planting and restoration near the flagpole and memorial monuments, as well as fencing for an additional ball diamond.

Village leadership will continue refining the budget in the coming weeks. The Fire/EMS budget is expected to receive formal approval later in October, and the Village Board is scheduled to consider the overall budget for approval on November 9. The Board may make changes or amendments before adoption.

MILKRITE | INTERPULS BREAKS GROUND - milkrite | InterPuls broke ground September 22 on a new, state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Johnson Creek, continuing a local legacy that began in 1964 with Hi-Life Rubber Products. The new facility will expand manufacturing capabilities with modern equipment and technology, supporting local jobs and the company's continued growth. The investment marks another chapter in the longstanding partnership between milkrite | InterPuls and the Johnson Creek community.



milkrite | InterPuls Ground Breaking



Visit
JOHNSON CREEK
LET'S MEET IN JOHNSON CREEK

TOURISM TOPICS

HOLIDAYS IN THE CREEK

Celebrate the holiday season in Johnson Creek with a festive weekend of community events, local shopping, family activities, and hometown traditions!

Christmas in the Village

Johnson Creek Historical Society

Friday, November 27 | 4-6 PM

Saturday, November 28 | 9 AM-2 PM

110 Aztalan St.

Fresh-cut Christmas trees, wreaths, holiday swag, porch pots, free cocoa & cookies, and more!

Holiday Market

Friends of the Johnson Creek Public Library

Saturday, November 28 | 9 AM-3 PM

Johnson Creek Middle/High School, 455 Aztalan St.

Enjoy a festive day filled with holiday shopping, handmade goods, seasonal treats, unique gifts, and community cheer. Whether you come for the vendors, the atmosphere, or to kick off the holiday season with friends and family, this is truly a not-to-be-missed Johnson Creek tradition. Questions can be emailed to friendsofjcplibrary@gmail.com.

10th Annual Tree Lighting Celebration

Village of Johnson Creek

Sunday, November 29 | 3-5 PM

Veteran's Park, 121 Lincoln St.

Enjoy Santa's visit, horse-drawn wagon rides, caroling, warm beverages and seasonal snacks, free gifts, and of course, the tree lighting tradition. The event is free for attendees.

AROUND THE CREEK

KIDS FISHING DAY - Johnson Creek's inaugural Kids Fishing Day at Fireman's Pond was a great success! A special thank you to Mike Yokofich, our certified angler instructor, who taught young anglers how to bait hooks, tie knots, cast, and handle their catches. The DNR Fishmobile also provided an educational experience and fishing gear. Many kids caught their first fish, and we're already looking forward to bringing the event back in 2027! "It was great to see the kids out there having fun and learning how to fish, and I think it was a great first year for the event." - John L. Swisher, Village President

WELLNESS IN THE CREEK - Despite challenging weather, Wellness in the Creek brought residents together for an afternoon focused on health, wellness, and community. When rain forced several planned outdoor activities indoors, vendors and participants adapted and made the most of the Community Center space. Thank you to the vendors, sponsors, volunteers, and community members who helped make the event a success. We're already looking forward to next year's event on Saturday, September 18, 2027!



Wellness in the Creek & Kids Fishing Day

YOUR
SOURCE
FOR
VILLAGE
EVENTS &
UPDATES



@visitjohnsoncreek



POLICE DEPARTMENT

HALLOWEEN SAFETY - Johnson Creek Trick-or-Treat will take place on Saturday, October 31 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please follow the tips below to ensure everyone has a fun and safe Halloween:

- Children under 12 should be accompanied by a trusted adult. Older children should go in groups.
- Visit well-lit homes and never accept rides from strangers.
- Carry a flashlight or glow stick and consider reflective tape on costumes and treat bags.
- Adults should inspect treats before children eat them.
- Choose costumes that fit properly, provide good visibility, and are flame resistant.
- Drivers should slow down and watch carefully.

DRUG TAKE BACK DAY - Proper disposal of unused and expired medications helps prevent accidental ingestion, misuse, and medications falling into the wrong hands. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of Drug Take Back Day to safely dispose of unwanted medications and help protect their families and community.

Saturday, October 24, 2026

9 AM - 3 PM

Johnson Creek Police Department;
119 Depot St

For information about participating collection sites and items accepted, visit dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/drug-take-back-day.htm.

CLERK'S CORNER

ELECTION UPDATES

VOTER REGISTRATION - Anyone who has moved or changed their name since they last voted OR has not voted in the last four years likely needs to register. Check to see if your registration is up to date at myvote.wi.gov. Although the deadline has passed to register online or by mail, you can register in the Clerk's office at Village Hall now through October 30th. Although Election Day registration is available, we encourage registration in advance to avoid a longer wait on Election Day.

IN-PERSON ABSENTEE VOTING - In-person absentee voting will be available in the Clerk's office at Village Hall, 125 Depot Street on the following dates:

- October 20-23 8am-4pm
- October 26-29 8am-4pm
- October 30 8am-5pm

ELECTION DAY - Village of Johnson Creek residents vote at the Johnson Creek Community Center, 417 Union Street on Election Day. The polls will be open from 7am to 8pm.

QUESTIONS? Email the Village Clerk at elissaf@vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov or call 920-699-2296.

WATER UTILITIES

RATE CASE UPDATE - The Johnson Creek Water Utility continues to work with the Public Service Commission (PSC) on the Village's Conventional Rate Case (CRC) application. As previously communicated, the Village submitted the application to the PSC on April 14, 2026. A CRC is the process Wisconsin water utilities must follow to adjust water rates.

The final size of the rate change is not determined by the Village; it is established by the PSC using its rate-setting methodology for Wisconsin utilities. Based on an audit of the water utility's upcoming and past revenues and expenses, the PSC sets a required rate of return for the utility.

The PSC current benchmark rate of return is 6.5%, but the Village requested the required rate of return be reduced to mitigate the impact of the rate increase on present customers. The PSC has agreed that, based on the financial information the Village provided, that the Village's rate of return may be reduced to 5%. To meet this rate of return, the PSC is estimating the water rate increase to be approximately 58.30%. This increase will apply only to the water portion of the monthly utility bill. For an average household using 4,000 gallons of water per month, the estimated percentage increase amounts to approximately \$13.16 monthly. This estimate may change as the application progresses.

In the coming months, the PSC is expected to open a public comment period and hold a public hearing on the Village's rate case. Following the hearing, the PSC will issue a final order, with new rates implemented within 90 days. The Village anticipates rates being applied during the first quarter of 2027, though the final timeline will be determined by the PSC process.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT



CJ O'Neil

CAROL (CJ) O'NEIL - For more than 50 years, CJ O'Neil has been part of the Johnson Creek community. Her connection to the Village began in 1973, and she moved here in 1976 after her husband accepted a job with an attorney in the community. Not long after arriving, CJ was invited to attend a Library Board meeting and was eventually appointed president, a position she held for 13 years. She was also involved in the development of the current library building. At the time, the library occupied just 750 square feet. As Johnson Creek grew, CJ and others recognized the need for a larger space and more amenities. The Village ultimately received a grant toward the new library building.

The library was just one of many ways CJ has given her time to Johnson Creek. She served as a Girl Scout leader for 20 years, worked as a school librarian for 30 years, served 12 years on the Village Board and 9 years on the school board, and has remained active with organizations including the Friends of the Library and the local food pantry. She has been involved with other community organizations and boards over the years as well. Even after retiring, CJ continued finding ways to stay involved. "I just have to stay busy," she says.

Having watched Johnson Creek grow from a much smaller community, CJ has seen tremendous change over the years. When she first moved here, the Village did not have local doctors, there were far fewer homes and businesses, and even basic community amenities were limited. Today, Johnson Creek has more retail, healthcare, manufacturing and other services. CJ appreciates having those things within the community and enjoys seeing other people recognize Johnson Creek for what it has to offer. She also hopes residents will take advantage of the amenities available to them and become more involved.

When asked what makes Johnson Creek special, CJ's answer comes back to its people. She describes residents as kind and appreciative of the community. She believes being part of a small community gave her opportunities to discover leadership skills she didn't know she had. Although she is now trying to ease back from some of her commitments and hopes others will learn to take on leadership roles, her desire to make a difference remains strong. "I'm most proud of hopefully making a difference in this community."

CJ was recently recognized by the Village for her many years of service, a recognition she says made her feel appreciated. Her connection to Johnson Creek runs deep. After her husband passed away, people asked whether she would consider moving, but CJ knew she was invested in the community. Her years of service have helped shape the community around her, and her hope is that others will continue to step forward, get involved, and help make a difference, too.



VILLAGE OF

Johnson Creek

WISCONSIN

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS



JOHNSON CREEK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Follow us on social media!



@JohnsonCreekPublicLibrary

@johnsoncreeklibrary

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

Lego Club: 4th Tues. at 3:30 PM
Oct. 27 - Build a Monster
Nov. 24 - Balloon Car Races
Dec. 22 - Six Bricks

Storytime: Thursday's at 10 AM
Join us for stories, songs and activities.
Oct. 22 - Fire Safety with JC Fire Dept.
Oct. 29 - Halloween
Nov. 5 - S.T.E.M.
Nov. 12 - Dinosaurs

Family Fun: 2nd Sat. at 10 AM
Nov. 14 - Turkey Fun
Dec. 12 - Holiday Crafts & Gifts

"A Novel Bunch": 3rd Thurs. at 3 PM
Next: Nov. 19
Book: *Mailman*. Stop by the library to
pick up a free copy!

Community Book Talk: 2nd Tues. at
5:30 PM
Next: Nov. 10 | Dec. 8
Refreshments served!
A relaxed gathering where readers of all
ages share what they're reading, hear
recommendations, and connect over a
love of books.

Busy Fingers: 3rd Sat. at 10 AM
Next: Nov. 21
Calling all knitters, crocheters, needle
artists, and hand crafters! Busy Fingers
is the perfect place to learn and create.

Adult Rock Painting: Oct 28 at 5:30 PM
Adults, join local artist, Leslie Krueger,
for a fun and relaxing rock painting
session! Learn how to prep and paint
beautiful rocks in a stress-free
environment, perfect for all skill levels.
All supplies will be provided.
Register online or call the library 920-
699-3741.

Upcoming Office Closures:
Staff Development Day: Nov. 20
Closing Early: Nov. 25 at 2 PM
Thanksgiving Weekend: Nov. 26-29

Red Cross Blood Drive: Nov. 13 from
9 AM - 2 PM
Your donation can help save more than
one life! Visit RedCrossBlood.org to
make an appointment. Present to
donate and receive a FREE pint of
Culver's famous frozen custard! Thank
you, Culver's of Johnson Creek!

VILLAGE INFORMATION & RESOURCES

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: Nov 9 at 5 pm
Committee of the Whole: Nov 9
at 5:30 pm
Village Board: Oct 26 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

Upcoming Meetings:

Library Board: Nov 17 at 4 pm
Friends of the JCPL: Nov 10 at 5:30 pm

Job Openings

Firefighters & EMTS wanted!
Serve your community and make
a difference while working
alongside a dedicated team.
Apply at: vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov

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.

Penelope's Diaper Closet

111 South Street Open the 1st
and 3rd Wednesday of the month
from 1-6pm
penelopesclosetjc@gmail.com