



VILLAGE OF  
*Johnson Creek*  
WISCONSIN

*The Creek*

## NEWS FROM THE CROSSROADS - FEBRUARY 2026

### Community Engagement



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

To build on the momentum of the past year, we are expanding our commitment to community engagement in 2026. These gatherings and shared experiences play a vital role in strengthening connections among neighbors, preserving the traditions that define us, and creating new opportunities for people of all ages to connect, collaborate, and grow together. By coming together, we not only celebrate who we are as a community, but also ensure that our local culture remains vibrant and continues to thrive for generations to come.

In 2026, the United States will celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of American Independence. The Village has proudly presented fireworks for several years to commemorate our American Independence around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July each year, and this year you can expect to see fireworks again. However, in recognition of this significant anniversary, the Village would like to improve the overall experience for everyone participating. We are hoping to have live music again this year in Centennial Park, and we would like to have additional youth activities as well. Our fireworks show has been well received, and we hope to make this year's display even more special. We anticipate local businesses or individuals may lend support for the fireworks show, helping our community honor our patriotism on the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. For those interested in helping with or donating to the event, please contact Village Clerk/Treasurer Elissa Friedl or Village Administrator Kyle Ellefson.



**Kyle Ellefson**  
*Village Administrator*

New in 2026, we are exploring the option of hosting Music in the Park events, paired with food vendors and food trucks. Our preliminary plans include hosting a couple of these gatherings throughout the year to bring the community together in a fun, casual setting. These events will be open to everyone and those who wish to enjoy food and beverages will have a variety of items available for purchase from vendors. These relaxed evenings will offer people of all ages the opportunity to connect, experience live music, and enjoy our parks as the welcoming community spaces they are. Families and friends can simply bring a blanket or lawn chair, settle in, and enjoy time together.

*Independence Day Fireworks 2025*



The Village water utility is currently reviewing its rates in preparation for a required rate case with the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC), the state agency that regulates public water utilities and has sole authority to approve water rates. On January 26, 2026, the PSC formally directed the utility to submit a rate case application this year.

Because a full PSC rate case has not been completed since 1998, and because operating costs, infrastructure needs, and regulatory requirements have increased significantly over time, the PSC may require a substantial rate adjustment to align rates with the true cost of providing safe and reliable drinking water.

The amount of any increase is determined entirely by the PSC under state law and is not set or controlled by the Village. We understand rate increases can be challenging and will continue to provide updates as the PSC process moves forward.

# Development Updates

## Wright Road

Vacant land along Wright Road between County Highway B and Menards Lane is now being developed after many years of inactivity. Steve Kearns of Kearns Motor Car has been leading development efforts on parcels at both the northern and southern ends of this corridor. The northern parcel, closest to Menards Lane, is being developed for an automotive showroom and storage facility. The southern parcels, near County Highway B, are proposed for business or commercial condominiums. Grading activity on these sites has been substantial, and these projects will help complete development within this section of the community.



## The Spot

The Spot remains in the early stages of redevelopment, but demolition and related activities are underway to prepare the former school building for reuse.

Phase One of the project includes converting the building into a mixed-use development that may feature several retail or commercial spaces, three restaurants, a coffee shop with a drive-thru, and banquet space. Phase Two, which will require separate approval, is anticipated to include multifamily housing. Earlier this month, Phase One received a recommendation for approval, subject to several conditions.

## ABET Laminati

The ABET Laminati office and production facility site has undergone significant preparation work in anticipation of primary construction activities. The company continues to coordinate with the Wisconsin DNR to finalize permitting details. Once completed, the building will total approximately 238,000 square feet.

ABET purchased the entire development site from MSI to accommodate its building design and allow room for future expansion. To facilitate the project, the Village also approved the abandonment of Crossroads Way to better align with the company's site needs.



## Orthopaedic Associates of Wisconsin

The outpatient surgery center and clinic is located at the intersection of Hartwig Boulevard and North Watertown Street. The 46,000 square foot facility continues to take shape, with several exterior building components now in place.

Since receiving approval in May 2025, construction has moved forward at an impressive pace. The facility is anticipated to open to patients in late summer or early fall 2026, providing improved access to comprehensive orthopedic care in Jefferson County.



## Residential Developments

Preliminary construction activities have begun for the **Centennial Fields** neighborhood, including grading and excavation. The project will include 70 single-family lots. Construction will occur in two phases to limit the size of the active work area and better control dust and erosion. Even with phased construction, the development may be substantially complete in 2026.

The **Pleasant Park** twin-home development, located just off Resort Drive, is substantially complete. Four twin-homes have been constructed, and additional lots are available immediately, with utilities already in place.

*At left: Centennial Fields site, At right: Pleasant Park*



## DETAILS FROM PUBLIC WORKS

### COMPOST & BRUSH SITE CARDS

Compost and brush pickup begins in April; dates will be released soon. If you are cleaning up the yard during unseasonably warm weather, the compost and brush site may be used year-round with an access card. Access cards cost \$15 (one time fee) for access to the site any time of day. Cards are available at Village Hall during normal business hours.

### JOIN THE SUMMER DPW CREW

Applications are being accepted for temporary, seasonal Public Works positions, \$17.25/hr. Must be at least 18 with valid driver's license. Mowing or general maintenance experience is a plus. May consider qualified 16-17 year-old applicants, \$16/hour.



### THINK YOU MAY HAVE A LEAK?

Water leaks can be difficult to detect. Start by watching for signs of a leak, such as damp spots on walls or ceilings, musty odors, or the sound of running water when no fixtures are in use. Turn off all faucets and water-using appliances, then check your water meter. If it continues to move, that usually indicates a leak somewhere in the system.

Next, inspect common trouble areas like under sinks, around toilets, near washing machines and dishwashers, and along any exposed pipes in basements. Look for pooling water, corrosion or loose connections. If you still can't locate the source, it's best to contact a licensed plumber.



## CLERK'S CORNER

### PARK & COMMUNITY CENTER RESERVATIONS

Reservations to use the Community Center or Centennial Park Pavilion may be made in the Clerk's office at Village Hall. Use agreements are available at Village Hall or on the Village website at <https://vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov/how-do-i/forms-permits/>. Full deposit and fees are due when making a reservation and vary by facility rented and length of rental. Contact Mykala at Village Hall for more info: [mykalam@vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov](mailto:mykalam@vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov) or 920-699-2296 ext. 104.

### SPRING GENERAL ELECTION

The Spring General Election is Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, with polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Election day voting** takes place at the Community Center, 417 Union Street.

**In person absentee voting** will be available March 24<sup>th</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. In person absentee voting takes place at Village Hall, 125 Depot Street.

*View sample ballots, check registration status, or request absentee ballots by mail at [www.myvote.wi.gov](http://www.myvote.wi.gov).*

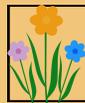
### ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Myvote.wi.gov is a convenient way for those who have moved or changed their name since they last voted to register to vote with their current information. Please note that the online option is only available until three weeks prior to any election. The last day to register online prior to the Spring General Election is March 18<sup>th</sup>. After that deadline, you can still register in person in the Village Clerk's office or at the polls on Election Day (extra wait time possible).

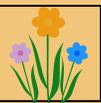
### DOG LICENSE DEADLINE

Dogs over 5 months of age must be licensed annually. A late fee of \$25 applies if the license is obtained after March 31. To license a dog, provide rabies vaccination copy, proof of spay/neuter (if applicable), and license fee: \$10 spayed or neutered, \$15 unaltered. Village ordinances limit the number of dogs per household to two. To exceed this limit, a multiple dog statement is required (forms at Village Hall) and a fee of \$25 per dog is added to the license fee.

### SPRING AHEAD!



Daylight savings time starts Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>; remember to shift your clocks ahead one hour!



## WELCOME HEATHER RAABE!

We are excited to welcome Heather Raabe to our team as our new Associate Youth Services Librarian. Heather brings 26 years of experience in childcare and a genuine love for Johnson Creek, making her a wonderful addition to our library family.

Join Heather for Storytime every Thursday at 10:00am. We are thrilled to have Heather as part of our team; stop by the library and say hello!





## LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

### **New Evening Hours coming March 30!**

We made a schedule change with you in mind to offer more flexibility and convenience for your busy schedules. Beginning Monday, March 30 the library's hours will be Monday-Thursday 10am-7pm, Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 9am-12noon. Closed on Sunday.

### **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. March 21 & April 18

### **PAWS and READ**

Visit and read with your favorite pup, Ollie! March 23, April 6, May 4, 3:30pm-4:30pm.



### **Family Fun at the Library**

2nd Saturday of the month 10:00-11:00am  
March 14-Leprechaun Hunt  
April 11-Easter Egg Hunt

### **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: April 14

### **Legos**

3rd Monday of every month from 3:30pm-4:30pm.  
March 16-Leprechaun Trap  
April 27 (4th Monday)-Minecraft

### **Adult Craft Night**

March 19, 5:30pm-6:30pm  
Join Mindy for a relaxing and fun evening making diamond art bookmarks. We will provide all supplies thanks to a grant from Bridges Library System. Registration is required through our website: [www.johnsoncreeklibrary.org](http://www.johnsoncreeklibrary.org) under Events, or call us at 920-699-3741.

### **Johnson Creek Village Hall**

920-699-2296 | 125 Depot Street  
Monday to Friday: 8 am — 4 pm  
[vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov](http://vi.johnsoncreek.wi.gov)  
**Plan Commission:** March 9 @ 5 pm  
**Committee of the Whole:**  
March 9 @ 5:30 pm  
**Board Meeting:**  
March 23 @ 5:30 pm

### **Johnson Creek Public Library**

920-699-3741 | 125 Lincoln Street  
[www.johnsoncreeklibrary.org](http://www.johnsoncreeklibrary.org)  
**Library Board Meeting:**  
March 17 @ 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

### **JC FOOD PANTRY**

129 N. Watertown St.  
[JohnsonCreekFoodPantry@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:penelopesclosetjc@gmail.com)