



The Creek

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JOHNSON CREEK PASSES 2017 BUDGET



By Village Administrator Kyle Ellefson

Johnson Creek's 2017 budget, and the corresponding property tax bills will contain great news for Village residents and businesses. For the second year in a row, the Johnson Creek Village Board adopted a budget that reduces the Village mill rate without cutting services or eliminating staff. The Village property tax mill rate fell from \$6.7039 to \$6.5533, a reduction of more than 2.2%!

The ability of the Village Board to reduce the Village portion of the property tax levy in consecutive years while improving parks, replacing equipment, and maintaining the highest quality emergency services in Jefferson County is something to be proud of. During 2016, we welcomed several new businesses like AutoZone, Badgerland Financial, and Kearns, purchased new lawn mowers and increased summer help to better maintain Village properties, improved the safety of the Milwaukee and Aztalan Street intersection, and improved Centennial Park by paving the parking lot and installing drain tile in both baseball fields to help with longstanding drainage issues. In fact, the budget adopted for 2017 continues this trend with plans for improvements in Bell Park; new, more efficient HVAC equipment for the Library and Village Hall; street improvements on Aztalan Street and new equipment to make emergency services safer, as well as more effective and efficient.

Additionally, mill rates for Jefferson County, the Johnson Creek School District, and the State of Wisconsin are less than last year, and will result in the combined mill rate for all jurisdictions decreasing by 4.62% before calculating any Lottery or First Dollar credits. An average home valued at \$170,000 could see an annual decrease in their property tax of about \$188.

You've likely heard the marketing term, "Something Special from Wisconsin." While you probably already know that our community, businesses, and location make Johnson Creek someplace special in Wisconsin, I think it is fair to say that other people are noticing, too. Our population has continued to increase at a robust and sustained rate, increasing 23% between 1990 and 2000, followed by an astounding increase of 73% between 2000 and 2010. During those two decades, the Village doubled its population. In fact, Johnson Creek ranks among the 25 fastest-growing municipalities of any size in the entire state of Wisconsin, ranking higher than 575 other communities.

Businesses are noticing too; bringing jobs, commercial activity, and property tax base. The amount of new construction in Johnson Creek during 2015 surpassed any other municipality in Jefferson County by more than \$7 million, and was greater than any municipality in Dodge and Walworth County. Johnson Creek's rate of new construction was higher than 6%; greater than any municipality in Jefferson, Rock or Waukesha County.

What is Mill Rate?

The mill rate is a term used to represent the amount of property tax paid per \$1,000 in property value. A mill rate of 5 applied to a home valued at \$120,000 (120 thousands) would result in \$600 of taxes. You can also consider that each "mill" is the equivalent of one tenth of a percent, or 0.1%. Using the previous example the rate of 5 mills would convert to 0.5%, which is then multiplied by the full value of the property.

To figure your Village portion of the 2016 property tax bill before any credits are applied, multiply the assessed value of your property by .0065533

JC CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

The Johnson Creek Historical Society will be celebrating its 11th year offering the JC Children's Festival on Saturday, December 3rd, from 9:30-12:30 at the JC Community Center. Our goal is to celebrate the Holidays with a community gathering free of charge for local children and families. The festival has always included caroling, crafts, face painting, free snacks, horse drawn wagon rides throughout the downtown area and most importantly, a visit from Santa arriving on a fire truck. Yearly we serve about 250 children. Children may bring a food item for the Food Pantry.

The Festival has always been free of charge in part due to the generous support from local merchants and businesses. This year we are in need of supporters to continue the tradition and are asking kindly for your contribution in donations. Contact 699-2325 to make a donation. Festival workers are graciously volunteering their time and talents to share with our youth and spread Holiday cheer. Sincerely, Johnson Creek Historical Society

JOHNSON CREEK CHRISTMAS DINNER

NEW LOCATION! Sunday, December 25th, 2016 at Johnson Creek Community Center, 417 Union Street. Parking is off of Maple Street. Dinner is served from 11:00 til 1:00. Serving turkey, ham and all the trimmings along with coffee, milk or water. Enjoy a piece of pie to make your meal complete! Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. This is a **FREE** meal for anyone wanting to enjoy some holiday cheer! Take outs are available. We are also offering **FREE** delivery. Please contact **Regina Hohmann** at **920-728-2935**. Please leave a message and your call will be returned. Happy Holidays to everyone and hope to see you there!



Village of Johnson Creek

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IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

HOLIDAYS:

Village Hall and Library will be closed December 23 and 26 for the Christmas holiday and January 2 for the New Year holiday.

GARBAGE/RECYCLING:

There will be no changes to the regular collection day in December and January. The 2017 garbage collection schedule is available on the village website.

MEETINGS: The Plan Commission (if needed) and Committee of the Whole will meet at 5:00 pm and 5:30 pm respectively on Monday, December 12, 2016.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

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DOG LICENSES

Dogs age five months or older must be licensed each year. Existing licenses expire December 31, 2016. If a dog is not licensed by March 31, 2017 a \$25.00 late fee will be charged and a municipal citation may be issued. To obtain licenses bring proof of rabies vaccination and proof of spay/neuter to Village Hall. License fees are \$10 if spayed/neutered and \$15.00 if unaltered.

Village ordinance 96-3 F(1)(2) states residents are permitted two dogs by right on their premises. For each additional dog over the two allowed, an additional \$25.00 fee is due with the licensing fee.