



The Creek

January - 2017 Volume III, Issue I

REFLECTING ON 2016, EXCITED FOR 2017

by Village President John L. Swisher



The Village has many exciting things planned in 2017, and we are pleased with all we accomplished in 2016. Our last newsletter reviewed the annual budget, so if you missed it please check out the December issue of *The Creek*. If you remember last year's January newsletter, I reflected on 2015, and noted that teamwork had been the predominant theme throughout the year. Building on that theme, the thing I noticed most during 2016 is the incredible people that serve the Village, and how they put the team in teamwork.

At Village Hall, Joan, Lisa, and Laura continue providing outstanding service, managing the financial operations of the Village, helping with utility and other payments, coordinating the use of our parks and facilities, answering questions, finding solutions to problems, and facilitating the meetings and implementing the policies of the Village Board, Plan Commission and other committees. In August, we welcomed Kyle Ellefson and his family back to Johnson Creek as we selected Kyle to be our Village Administrator. On a sad but exciting note, Village Clerk/Treasurer Joan Dykstra recently announced that she plans on retiring on March 17th of 2017, after more than 21 years serving the Village. Joan will be missed tremendously, but we are thankful for all of the years she gave the Village.

Library Director Luci Bledsoe along with Katie, Linda and Ashley offer books, programs, and services that enrich the community and provide unique opportunities for fun, growth and learning for people of all ages. Ranging from Toddler Time reading events, the Children's Safety Fair, public access computers, Sip & Swipe Café (an opportunity for adult learners to use a tablet), book discussions, and opportunities to make or build things, our Library has everything you expect, and so much more!

The Police Department has done an excellent job during 2016, and I think their effectiveness can sometimes cause people to forget how hard they work to keep our community safe every day of the year. Police Chief Gary Bleecker leads our Police Department with Gary Steinhorst and Darrin Holcomb serving as our full-time Officers, and Gail Bielinski serving as the Department's assistant. Sergeant Gosh and several part-time Police Officers help fill out our coverage.

Water and Wastewater Superintendent Aric Mindemann, Annie and Joe keep our water and wastewater utilities running smoothly, maintaining our distribution and collection systems, and connecting new customers as they join our community. They recently received a perfect score on their annual report from the Wisconsin DNR.

Street Superintendent Lee Trumpf along with Matt and Josh and just a few part-time staff kept the parks and public areas mowed and maintained, painted curbs and marked the roadways, maintained all of our buildings, kept our storm water systems flowing, and have been busy plowing and salting our streets. As we wrote about previously, we made a significant investment in Centennial Park this year, improving the parking lot and installing drain tile in both baseball fields.

Our Fire Department and Ambulance have always been a point of pride, and Fire Chief Jim Wolf has exceeded all expectations in serving a growing community with as much quality and professionalism as you will find in any department. Chief Wolf has developed several great leaders in the department and promoted several members to officer positions during 2016. The Department added to its strength by promoting Jordan Powell an EMS Lieutenant, Mike Stratmoen a Fire Lieutenant, and Jeff Penna to be the Assistant Chief of EMS.

I am so grateful for the people serving the Village, the teams they work with, and the accumulated personal efforts that make the teamwork seem natural. I am even more excited about what we have in store during 2017, and I look forward to tackling new challenges and enjoying our successes in 2017 and beyond!

John

SNOW REMOVAL

Now that winter is finally here. The Village Department of Public Works clears and maintains all public streets in the Village. Please help maintain the streets and right of ways by not shoveling, blowing or plowing snow back into a Village street. Remember snow must be removed from all sidewalks and ramps to crosswalks within 48 hours of any snow event.

Clear all snow from outside gas meters, furnace and dryer vents to prevent fire hazards. Adopt a fire hydrant by shoveling a path to the hydrant to maintain access in case of fire.

VILLAGE BOARD UPDATES FOR DECEMBER

At a special Village Board meeting the board approved extending the reduction of impact fees to December 31, 2017 to encourage new home construction.

At the regular Village Board meeting, the Board took the first steps to join the Lake Country Municipal Court System, based in Oconomowoc. Membership in this Court System should reduce overall fees for those receiving citations, increase revenue recoveries for the Village, and avoid annual operational expense charges to the Village.

The board also approved Resolution 147-16 for a donation exchange for services to Centennial Park for banners on the ball field.

The Plan Commission and the Committee of the Whole meet on the second Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.



Village of Johnson Creek

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IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

HOLIDAYS: Village Hall and Library will be closed January 16.

GARBAGE/RECYCLING: There will be no changes to the regular collection day in January. The 2017 garbage collection schedule is available on the village website.

DOG LICENSE: The 2017 dog tags are available for licensing. Applications can be found on our website or at Village Hall. The fee is \$10 spayed/neutered or \$15 if unaltered. If a dog is not licensed by March 31, a \$25 late fee will be charged. The Village also sells the Jefferson County Dog Park tags.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

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ELECTION INFORMATION: Election dates: **February 21 (if needed) and April 4.** Voting hours are 7 am to 8 pm. State law now requires a valid Photo ID before you can vote. The ID needs to have your picture and current name but does not have to have your current address. This is different than the proof of residence. When registering to vote or changing a name and/or address you will need to provide proof of residence. You can register prior to election day by stopping at Village Hall, 125 Depot St, Monday through Friday 8 am to 4 pm until Friday before the election, or by mail until February 1st if there is a February Election. Registration is allowed on election day, however, be prepared to wait in line. If you are unsure if you are registered, visit: <https://myvote.wi.gov/>