



JOHNSON CREEK
Crossroads With A Future

The Creek

News from the Crossroads

August 2019

CHANGES AT THE JOHNSON CREEK FIRE DEPARTMENT



Johnson Creek Fire Chief Jim Wolf

Starting out as a spirited fire-fighter in 1964, to becoming interim chief in 2013 and full-time chief in 2014, Jim Wolf has been a part of the Johnson Creek Fire

wonderful team,” said Wolf. “They work hard and are terrific people,” added Wolf.

With the challenges of finding talent to fill roles in the fire department, Wolf and the Village worked together to successfully secure wage increases to promote opportunities.

Department for 55 years. And during that time, he has seen a lot of changes.

“Back in the day, we were a community fire department of volunteers. Then as the Village grew, we became a part of Village operations and were able to offer part-time positions,” Wolf recalled.

And the change to Village operations meant more funding



1966 photo of Johnson Creek Fire Department (Jim third from left, bottom row)

Wolf grew up in Johnson Creek and is a proud 1961 graduate of Johnson Creek High School. While Wolf has been dedicated to the fire department, he also pursued a career at Ladish Malting Co. as a malt house supervisor in Jefferson Junction, Wisconsin for 25 years. After that, Wolf took his talents and love of metal to open his own full-time business, JWR, along with his son, David. Wolf stayed with JWR until taking the fire chief position and

his son buying him out from the business in 2013.

In the late 1990s, Wolf pursued a racing team sponsorship with JWR called Kin-X Motor Sports. This ended when Wolf wanted to spend more time with family. “I loved the excitement of racing, but when the time came to put the brakes on racing, I knew it was the best for family time,” Wolf recalled.



JWR Kin-X racer

Upon retirement on August 31, 2019, Wolf will again be able to spend more time with family and friends. “I look forward to helping my wife with her honey-do list,” Wolf smiled.

The Village is happy to share Jeffrey R. Roemer, CPM will serve as interim chief. He has an extensive background in the public safety area with more than 35 years serving municipal governments, including fire chief for Menasha, Green Bay, and Palmyra.

“I think the choice to work with Jeff is a good one and I look forward to helping him with the transition,” Wolf remarked.

“We are grateful to have found someone with such a strong background to help us achieve our goals,” said Swisher. “Jeff will be an excellent ambassador for the fire department and the Village,” Swisher continued.

Capital Improvements to the Fire Department under Chief Wolf’s tenure working with the Village Board:

- New fire station built in 2015
- New ladder truck in 2015
- New computers, hoses, radios, turnout gear and parking lot sealant in 2015
- New heart monitors, radios, and additional turnout gear in 2016
- Repairs to ready house, protective equipment supplies, auto crib, radios, computers, and turnout gear in 2017
- New Rapid Deployment Craft, helmets, boots, gloves, training equipment, and updates to the fire house in 2018
- New Ambulance in 2019
- An overall 76% wage increase for EMS since 2015

was available to update the mechanics and tools the fire department needed to successfully address the needs of our growing community; and Wolf was there to help facilitate that growth.

And as change is the only constant...Wolf has decided to hang up his gear and retire.

“Jim has provided a dedicated service to the fire department and we thank him for all he has accomplished,” said Village President John L. Swisher. “His leadership can be seen in the fine work his team has done and continues to provide to our residents,” Swisher continued.

“My proudest moments with the department have been working with my

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BENCHMARK SUMMARY



The Village of Johnson Creek Comprehensive Plan is intended to help guide short- and long-range development in a controlled manner that will enhance the Village's ability to retain its small-town character, while still allowing for the kinds of growth and development that will keep the streets vibrant and the economy healthy.

This summary of some important benchmarks demonstrates the progress achieved since 2017, when the original comprehensive plan goals were adopted. And now, nearly two years later as we analyze our progress toward those goals to date, we want to share this update.

Prioritize east-west road connections.

The Village engineering firm, Stantec, conducted a study to evaluate basic possibilities for roads improving the east-west connectivity in our Village. The study quickly determined that prior to deciding the path of possible roads, the railroad crossings were a more important consideration. Current railroad policy is that if we are granted a new at-grade railroad crossing, we would need to abandon three other at-grade crossings. We currently have at-grade crossings on River Drive, Lincoln Street, and Depot Street. If we were not able to find a neighboring town or city willing to abandon their railroad crossings, we would need to close all of them to through traffic, which is at least impractical if not impossible.

Explore a Gosdeck Lane bridge

Stantec also conducted a preliminary analysis of several options related to building a bridge to complete the Gosdeck Lane connection to Hwy B/Aztalan Street. The basic differences between the plans involved the length of bridge span versus amount of fill needed, as well as if the road should continue in line with the current trajectory, or if it should angle towards the current Public Works campus, potentially reducing costs. Cost opinions from their analysis ranged from \$1.73M-\$7.84M, depending on the option.

Reserve lands around I-94/HWY 26 for high-quality development

For many years, the Village has recognized the value of the land surrounding State Highway 26 and I-94, and how important it is to support high-quality developments in that high traffic, high-visibility area. Since the plan was adopted, we have supported several developments in that area, including the Qdoba/Starbucks building, The View at Johnson Creek, and the JWR expansion near North Watertown Street and Hartwig Boulevard.

Continue to address needs for a local grocery store and pharmacy

This goal has been present in our plans for many years, and we continue to work towards securing a grocery store and/or pharmacy for our community. In the past, we have sent out letters to every grocery chain in the region, spoken directly to the real estate development staff from an expanding grocery/retail chain, and made it clear that Johnson Creek is a great location, delivering access to a much larger customer base than our population might indicate. Our TIF District limitations also reduce our opportunities to provide incentives to a grocery store or pharmacy, but we are working with our legislators to address the obstacles.

Support reuse of the former high and middle school buildings

Since this plan was adopted, we have already supported the transition of the old high school to The Crossroads, who are using the building as a church and group daycare center. During this transition, the Village approved the conditional use as well as a land division to separate the old high school building from the current elementary school. We continue to work with the School District and their relator to ensure developers looking for commercial parcels are aware of the potential for developing the remaining parcel.

Address the growing need for senior housing

The Village adopted the goal of encouraging a wide variety of housing options, including nursing care, assisted living, age-restricted housing, independent living retirement communities, and traditional multi-family developments that tailor activities to seniors. The View at Johnson Creek assisted living facility is already under construction, and we welcome developers to pursue all forms of senior housing as we identified a significant desire for seniors to remain in Johnson Creek as they age and require additional support and services.

Work with existing local businesses to promote economic growth and advance development in the MSI Business Park

The Village continues to support our local businesses in expanding their operations, while also welcoming new businesses to join our community. In just the past month, JWR began a major expansion project, their second project since 2017. Another local business is working with the Village to potentially expand their business operation with their first building or buildings. As economic development opportunities present themselves to the Village, we provide information regarding both Village-owned and privately-owned properties, letting the developers determine which properties best suit their needs. Our lack of TIF resources limits our ability to provide incentives for development, but as we mentioned earlier, we are working with our legislators to find a solution to this limitation.

TOURISM UPDATES & EVENTS

The *Be Unique in Johnson Creek* campaign is in full swing! Our *Spectrum* commercial, featuring a local Johnson Creek family, recently aired on targeted networks from July 18-25 to coincide with visitors to Wisconsin Farm Tech Days. Our next *Spectrum* airing will be in late November/early December to tie into the holidays. Stay tuned for more information!

You may have also noticed *Discover Wisconsin* film crews around the area. We are currently in production for our show airing April 25 & 26, 2020. More information and updates will be featured on our Visit Johnson Creek Facebook page, so please "like" us if you haven't already!

And we've been featured twice on *Buzzed Into Madison*; showcasing different attractions and residents in Johnson Creek. Our last filming will be December 1 at the Johnson Creek Tree Lighting.

Upcoming Events: www.visitjohnsoncreek.org

- August 1: Johnson Creek Child Safety Fair
- August 10: Fireman's Festival
- September 14: Timothy Johnson's Founders Float
- October 1: JC Historical Society Open House



AUGUST 10TH

Johnson Creek Centennial Park
620 Midge Street
11:00am-11:00pm

11:00am Face Painting and
- 5:00pm Kiddie Tractor Pull

11:00am - Wrecking Ball Inflatable
- 7:00pm Bounce House, Kraken Super Slide, Lil' Builders Toddler Zone

11:30am - Horseshoe Registration
Corn Hole Registration
Games Begin at 1pm

Noon - 7:00pm - DJ

2:00pm - **TRI-COUNTRY PULLERS, INC.**

3:00pm - **BADGER TRUCK PULLERS**
\$10 Admission

6:30pm - Bike Raffle Announcement

7:00pm - LIVE MUSIC - **Zack Mathews Band**

9:30pm - **Fireworks**

*Refreshments and Food

EVENT SPONSORS:

TREK-RIDE

8:00 - Bike ride registration
9:00 - Start 40 Mile Ride
10:00 - Start 10 Mile Ride





@Johnson Creek Fireman's Festival







NEW VILLAGE TRUSTEE

We want to take the opportunity to introduce you to our newest trustee, Rooney Freimund who was sworn in at our July 22, 2019 Village Board meeting.

Trustee Freimund sought to serve on the Village Board as a means to contribute to the leadership team in shaping the future of our village while acknowledging and learning from our past. Freimund brings a plethora of experience and knowledge to the board table including:

- Four years of experience at the Vice-President level of a not-for-profit hospital as one of the non-voting management representatives on the Board of Directors, managing \$63 million in annual budgets
- Three years of service on the Marinette Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Two years of service on the Board of Directors for a Chamber of Commerce
- Two years on the Board of Directors for the Marinette & Menominee Healthy Youth Coalition



Trustee Freimund being sworn in by Village Clerk, Sam Bell

- Service on various community task forces such as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE), the Every 15 Minutes program, and Emergency Medical Services drills and outreach

In addition to Trustee Freimund's experiences above, he is a registered nurse holding a Master of Business Administration in Health Care Management degree. He is a Fellow in the

"I seek to understand issues before a rush to judgment...seek[ing] an understanding of perspectives different from my own through active listening and respectful dialogue."

- Trustee Freimund

American College of Healthcare Executives, a US Navy Veteran of Operation Desert Storm, and currently working as a Nursing Chief (Service Line Leader) with the Department of Veteran's Affairs.

As a community-minded father of three, Freimund is excited to put his experience to work for our village, willing to diligently serve in any capacity he is able.

DPW PROJECTS SCHEDULE

This month, you will see some scheduled street projects going on in parts of the Village.

Currently, streets are being painted downtown and well as in the Chapel Hill, Morse Farms, and Highland subdivisions.

Fire hydrants are also being repainted downtown as well as in Grey Hawk and the southeast neighborhoods.

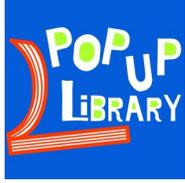
In mid-August, crack filling will start on Wright Road and in the Hunters Glen and Pheasant Run subdivisions.



LIBRARY UPDATES

The Johnson Creek Public Library has had an incredible Summer Learning Program (SLP) this year! They had 409 adults, teens, and youth sign up for summer reading which is a 13% increase over last year. Participants can choose either coupons or a free book as prizes when they reach their reading goals. Everyone who reaches their goal (adults need to read 8 books, teens need to read for 20 hours, and youth need to read for 40 days) will get their name put in for the grand prize drawing for their age group. Winners will be announced on the stage at the Fireman's Festival.

The SLP is entirely funded by donations and so the library would like to thank all the generous donors in the community, too numerous to name, who made it possible. The library received over \$2,000 this year which went toward materials for programs and free books as reading prizes. Additionally, the Bridges Library System paid for three professional performers including Little Miss Ann, Snake Discovery, and Mad Science.



Upcoming: Look for the NEW Pop Up Library around town! Abby and her mobile library will "pop up" in various parks throughout August and September. You can check out books, get a library card, or ask questions. Check Facebook www.facebook.com/JohnsonCreekPublicLibrary and the library website www.johnsoncreeklibrary.org for times and locations. Thank you to the Friends of the Johnson Creek Public Library for buying the equipment so we can provide this outreach service!



Village of Johnson Creek

www.johnsoncreek-wi.us



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AUGUST COMPOST & BRUSH PICKUP DATES



Compost Pickup will be August 5 and 19

- Must be in biodegradable bags or open containers not weighing more than 35 lbs.

ALL COMPOST & BRUSH MUST BE AT THE CURB BY 6:00AM!

Brush Pickup will be August 12

- Place at the backside of the curb.
- Ends MUST face the flow of traffic.
- No branches/trunks over 8" diameter or stumps will be picked up.
- NOTE: the Village will not pick up brush left by contractors resulting from tree removal.



VILLAGE HALL & LIBRARY CLOSINGS FOR LABOR DAY

In observance of Labor Day, the Johnson Creek Village Hall and Johnson Creek Public Library will both be closed on Monday, September 2nd.



REMINDER: Due to holiday, garbage pickup will be on Friday the 6th for the first week of September.