



**JOHNSON CREEK**  
Crossroads With A Future

# The Creek

**News from the Crossroads**

Dec 2018

## BUDGET UPDATES

by Kyle Ellefson

Johnson Creek's recently adopted 2019 budget follows the Village Board's commitment to continue providing great services to our community at a reasonable tax rate. The Village Board worked hard to develop a budget that maintained a flat tax rate while continuing normal operations, and they

### Tax Bills Mailed in December

*While we have most of the levy numbers from other taxing jurisdictions (County, School, Tech School), we did not have all of them at the publishing deadline for this newsletter.*

*While the tax rate for Village operations is being reduced, it appears the levies from other jurisdictions may result in an overall increase on most tax bills. We will be publishing more detailed information in the next newsletter. If you have questions about year-to-year changes by any of the taxing jurisdictions once you review your property tax bill, I encourage you to reach out to the elected and/or appointed officials from that entity so you can understand their budget and tax levy.*

delivered. In fact, when you look at the tax rate for the Village's portion of the property tax bill, the 2019 budget incorporates a tax rate that is the lowest in the past 5 years.

As we have noted in previous years, the Village Board's ability to reduce the mill rate over several years is something to be proud of. It is particularly impressive when you consider the Village Board has continued their commitment to provide full and part-time staff to maintain parks and public areas throughout the Village, increased staff in strategic front-line positions, increased emergency services compensation, renovated

space in Village Hall to increase staff work areas, added and replaced emergency equipment, and added a lifesaving defibrillator at Village Hall.

After several years of strong development, home

building and population growth, Johnson Creek has reached new territory in several measurements. At 2,997 residents, Johnson Creek is the largest it has ever been. With a population increase of 9.46% since 2010, we have the highest rate of population growth in any city or village in Jefferson County.

Additionally, with the rate of new construction measuring an increase of 1.76% for the entire Village, Johnson Creek has the highest total rate of growth of any city or village in Jefferson County. Our assessed and equalized values are also the highest they have ever been, with the total equalized value of all property in the Village exceeding \$352 million, an increase of \$17 million over last year's value.

In addition to the positive growth and development numbers, business is also bustling in Johnson Creek. During 2018 we were excited to see several new and planned businesses joining our vibrant business community. Hoof Health completed their new building and began operating this spring. A few months later, Qdoba opened its doors and has been joined by Starbucks and (soon) AT&T. Breathe Salt and Sauna also opened its doors this April and has been adding services since then. Finally, The View at Johnson Creek has put plans in place to develop an assisting living facility beginning late in 2018, and has opened an office to offer information and occupancy details to local residents. We also welcomed VIOS Fertility Institute and a local office of the Sinmissippi Solar Farm project.

## TAX BILLS AND DOG LICENSES

### TAX BILLS DUE JAN 31ST

The 2018 Property tax bills will be mailed by mid-December. All property taxes must be paid by January 31, 2019. If you would like to receive a 2018 property tax credit, you must pay by December 31, 2018. Payments may be made in person at Village Hall, payment box, or postmarked by December 31. A friendly reminder the Village closes at noon on December 31st.



Dog licenses for 2019 will be available for purchase at Village Hall by December 15th. Fees are \$10 for altered pets and \$15 for unaltered. After March 31st, an additional \$25 licensing fee applies.

### 2019 DOG LICENSES AVAILABLE

The Village will also offer County Park dog tags for sale thru January 31st. A \$1 processing fee applies on top of the \$15-30 licensing costs.



## HIGH VOTER TURNOUT IN NOVEMBER; NEXT ELECTION: APRIL 2, 2019

The recent general election on November 6, 2018, marked the first time the Johnson Creek Community Center was used as a polling place to accommodate our growing community.

And it was a move made just in time. With Jefferson County reporting record voter turnouts at 78%, Johnson Creek contributed to that total with 78.42% voter turnout.

"Many thanks to the entire Village team who worked through countless hours and logistics to help make this move happen. The overall feedback was positive and we look forward to improving the process even more for the next election," said Village President John L. Swisher.

And that next election is April 2, 2019, where three Village trustees and Village president are on the ballot. Should a primary be necessary, it will be held on February 19, 2019.

If residents are interested in running for office, the first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1. And the deadline for filing nomination papers is 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 2, 2019, in the office of the Village Clerk. For additional information, please see our website, <https://www.johnsoncreek-wi.us/>.

Here are the results from the two referendums on the recent ballot:

**Dark Stores:** Jefferson County voters voted 60% for the state legislature to enact proposed legislation that closes the 'Dark Store' property tax loophole.

**ATV (non-binding):** Johnson Creek voters voted 55% against the Village board enacting an ordinance authorizing and permitting All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) to be operated on Village streets. The board then met on November 12, and provided a motion for a vote to listen to the voters and decline to enact an ordinance. The vote was 5-2 in support of declining to enact an ordinance.

With the majority 5-2 vote, with Trustees Steve Wollin and Steve Brown voting in minority, the majority of trustees felt it was important to listen to Johnson Creek residents and adhere to what they wanted with their vote regarding ATV's on Village streets. Minutes from all board meetings are available on the Village website.

### Johnson Creek Community Center Election Day: November 6, 2018



*Thank you to all Village employees  
and volunteers who helped make  
the polling place move to the  
Johnson Creek Community Center a success!*

## JOHNSON CREEK'S MAGICAL HOLIDAY EVENTS

BY JOHN L. SWISHER

This time of year is always special for so many families. And in Johnson Creek, our community is the perfect backdrop for family gatherings and holiday events.

This holiday season, Johnson Creek is host to some new events, along with updates to some long-standing favorites that reflect our growth and motto of having small-town charm with big ideas. The 14th Annual Children's Fest on Saturday, December 1, will continue to be hosted by the Johnson Creek Historical Society at the Community Center, but has changed their hours to also host the new Vintage Christmas exhibit at the Johnson Creek Historical Society. This exhibit will feature trees decorated with vintage ornaments, and visitors may choose to have their photo taken with a festively decorated 1946 Chevy pick up for a small fee. Both events are free and open to the public.

New this year to Johnson Creek is the Something Special from Wisconsin Holiday Market, hosted by Berres Brothers at the Johnson Creek Comfort Suites on Sunday, December 2. This event features vendors offering dozens of Wisconsin-made products, with free brewed coffee and vendor samples. This event is also free and open to the public.

And the 2nd Annual Johnson Creek Holiday Tree Lighting will also take place on Sunday, December 2, in Veterans Park. Updates this year include a festive Mr. and Mrs. Claus cottage, along with their wagon rides and the tree lighting at 5 p.m. As always, this event is open and free for the public to enjoy. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holiday season!

## RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: MIKE LUND, "A LIFE OF SERVICE"



*Mike & Ardys Lund  
(with their dog Mandy)*

"I jumped at the chance to serve this wonderful community," said Mike Lund when asked about what brought him to Johnson Creek.

Lund currently serves as president of Johnson Creek's police and fire commission, but came to Johnson Creek 13 years ago to be closer to family after a long and prestigious career in law enforcement, including a three-year tenure as a sergeant in the Marines.

"Even as a kid, I knew I wanted to join the Marines when I was able," said Lund. And he joined in 1958 after high

school in Hollandale, Wisconsin. Upon his return home after being stationed in various cities in California, he married his high school sweetheart, Ardys. They recently celebrated 56 years of marriage.

"He's been a great husband and provider," said Ardys Lund when asked what has been their secret to a long marriage. "Some people think it's 50/50. But really it's 100%. Thinking about your partner and being there for them 100%. And that's what Mike does; he is dedicated and gives 100% towards everything he does," Lund continued.

After the Marines, Lund took a position with the Brookfield police department where he served for more than 30 years and retired second in command as inspector.

During his time in Brookfield when Lund had the opportunity to attend

and graduate from the FBI Training Academy in Quantico. Here he learned SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) techniques for the first time.

"These were brand new policing concepts and training and I appreciated learning new techniques," Lund recalled.

"I believed in this new technique so much that I addressed the Chiefs Association and then Waukesha County Technical College, where I taught the very first SWAT classes in Wisconsin," Lund said.

Lund continued his passion for service and giving back by serving on a volunteer basis, on Pewaukee's Fire and Police Commission for four years after retiring from Brookfield.

Lund says he enjoys and values his team, Chief Bleeker, Chief Wolf, Administrator Ellefson and Village President Swisher. "I truly enjoy the people I work with. They are dedicated and respectful of community. And with our growth, there isn't a more perfect team to guide Johnson Creek. I am happy to contribute and serve."



*Mike's police badges  
and Marines rank*

## TOURISM: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JOHNSON CREEK



Check out our tourism website: [visitjohnsoncreek.org](http://visitjohnsoncreek.org), as well as our Facebook page for all updates and event photos!

### DECEMBER EVENTS

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>December 1:</b><br>9:30-11:30 a.m.                                  | Children's Fest: Johnson Creek Community Center                               |   |
| <b>December 1:</b><br>11 a.m.-3 p.m.                                   | Vintage Christmas: JC Historical Society                                      |   |
| <b>December 1, 8:</b><br>& 15; 1-4 p.m.                                | Santa Event : Johnson Creek Premium Outlet                                    |   |
| <b>December 2:</b><br>9 a.m.-3 p.m.                                    | Something Special From Wisconsin Holiday Market: Johnson Creek Comfort Suites |   |
| <b>December 2:</b><br>3-5 p.m.   | 2nd Annual Holiday Tree Lighting: Veterans Park                               |   |
| <b>Mondays</b><br>8:45 am-2 pm<br>Quilters Club<br>JC Community Center | <b>Tuesdays</b><br>12-4 pm<br>Seniors Club<br>JC Community Center             | <b>2nd &amp; 4th Wednesdays</b><br>1-2:30 pm<br>Crafting & Coloring Club<br>JC Public Library |



## VILLAGE AND LIBRARY HOLIDAY HOURS



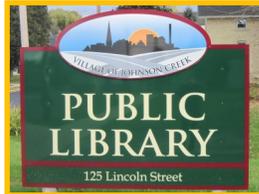
### Village Holiday Hours

Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.

*Closed Christmas Eve*

*Closed Christmas Day*

*8 a.m.-noon New Year's Eve*



### Library Holiday Hours

Mon. 10-6, Tues. 10-7, Wed. 10-7,

Thur. 9-7, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-Noon,

Sun. Closed

*Closed December 22*

*Closed Christmas Eve*

*Closed Christmas Day*

*Closed New Year's Eve*

## CLERK SEARCH

The search for the new Johnson Creek Village clerk is currently underway. We look forward to sharing information on the person who ultimately takes the position in the next newsletter.

In the meantime, know our very capable and trusted Village staff is here and able to help with any resident need, and will be on hand to help welcome the new person once the position is filled.

Please contact Village Hall if you have any questions, (920) 699-2296.



## Village of Johnson Creek

[www.johnsoncreek-wi.us](http://www.johnsoncreek-wi.us)

**PRSR STD**

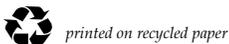
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Johnson Creek, WI

53038

Permit No. 10



## LIBRARY EVENTS

### LEGO CLUB

for ages 6 to 12  
second Monday of the month @ 3:30

MARCH 26  
APRIL 9  
MAY 14  
JUNE 11  
JULY 9  
AUGUST 13  
SEPTEMBER 10  
OCTOBER 8  
NOVEMBER 12  
DECEMBER 10

**BUILD YOUR  
SOLUTION TO A  
NEW CHALLENGE  
EACH MONTH!**



Johnson Creek Public Library

125 Lincoln Street, PO Box 130  
Johnson Creek, WI 53038

(920) 699-3741  
johnsoncreeklibrary.org

### BUSY FINGERS

CRAFTING & COLORING CLUB

Bring your knitting, needlework, crocheting, or crafting to the library and socialize with other crafters or just relax and color!

2nd and 4th Wednesday  
of the month  
1:00 - 2:30

September 12 & 26  
October 10 & 24  
November 14 & 28  
December 12 & 26

Johnson Creek Public Library

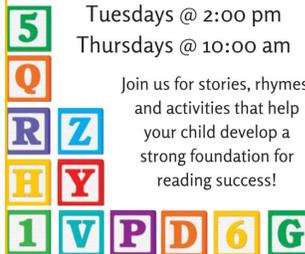
125 Lincoln Street, PO Box 130  
Johnson Creek, WI 53038

(920) 699-3741  
johnsoncreeklibrary.org

### Early Literacy Storytime

For ages 3 through 5

Tuesdays @ 2:00 pm  
Thursdays @ 10:00 am



Join us for stories, rhymes, and activities that help your child develop a strong foundation for reading success!

Johnson Creek Public Library

125 Lincoln Street, PO Box 130  
Johnson Creek, WI 53038

(920) 699-3741  
johnsoncreeklibrary.org



### YOGA for Kids

ages 6 to 12

Learn mindfulness techniques and enjoy a fun workout with certified instructor Nancy Bauer

**second Friday of the month @ 3:45 pm**  
Sept. 14 - Oct. 12 - Nov. 9 - Dec. 14

**third Saturday of the month @ 10:00 am**  
Sept. 22 - Oct. 20 - Nov. 17 - Dec. 15  
(this is actually the fourth Saturday)

Funded by a Spark! Health Grant from the  
The Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation

Johnson Creek Public Library

125 Lincoln Street, PO Box 130  
Johnson Creek, WI 53038

(920) 699-3741  
johnsoncreeklibrary.org



Johnson Creek Public Library \* 125 Lincoln Street \* Johnson Creek \* WI \* 53038