



JOHNSON CREEK
Crossroads With A Future

The Creek

News from the Crossroads

Feb 2020

CELEBRATING OUR LIBRARY

By John L. Swisher

Your Johnson Creek Public Library Board of Trustees

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With February being Library Lovers Month, I can't help but reflect on how grateful I am that Johnson Creek is able to provide a high-quality public library for our community, and how incredibly thankful I am that we have an exceptional library director like Abby Armour leading the way. It was only two years ago that Abby joined the library, but she has continued to strengthen our library as a critical public institution. I think the proof is truly in the numbers, as there was a 20% increase in library visits between 2018 and 2019, library staff issued 190 cards to new patrons, and the circulation of library items increased by more than 1,200 in 2019. Abby has continued to tweak the educational and programming options to ensure we

provide the most service we can at the times it is most needed. She creatively repurposed one of the under-used areas of the library to create a dedicated space perfect for studying, projects, or meetings.

I am proud to support our public library, and I think everyone in Johnson Creek should be thankful for the valuable work done by Abby, Katie, and other library staff members. I also want to recognize the contributions of the Library Board and the Friends of the Library, who each provide support and guidance for the library. If you want to learn more about the Johnson Creek Public Library, donate resources, or volunteer your time, please give the library a call at (920) 699-3741, send them an email at requests@johnsoncreeklibrary.org, or just stop in to see Abby. I would encourage everyone to visit our library and experience it for themselves. You might be surprised to learn how much we have to offer!



RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: CJ O'NEIL

Carol, or CJ, O'Neil has been a Johnson Creek dynamo since moving here with her late husband, Tom, in 1973 to support Tom's work with a local law firm.



CJ O'Neil at Village Hall

And by dynamo, we are in awe of her ability to give her time to so many Johnson Creek organizations. Although she is now retired from her full time position as an elementary librarian, she has always given back to her community. Even when she juggled her schedule working full time, raising two kids (and now an active grandmother), and going back to school for her masters degree, O'Neil was committed to serve. "I have always been the type of person to get involved," said O'Neil. "I have to know what's going on because I don't believe in complaining that nothing's happening unless I'm involved in making change happen."

And O'Neil has been involved. With her library science background, O'Neil's commitment to the Johnson

Creek Library is constant. She was the original grant organizer to secure federal funding to move the library from the old village hall (which is now AMC Artistry) to its current location in the early 1990s. Her name is actually on two plaques at the hall/library to celebrate these achievements.

When recounting the change seen in Johnson Creek over the years, O'Neil is optimistic. "I am excited to see the growth and services expanded because when I moved here there really wasn't anything," said O'Neil. "We just need to continue doing it right and follow the rules." Most recently, O'Neil was one of three local leaders who were instrumental to create the Christmas In The Village event. The partnerships created with Berres Bros., the Johnson Creek Historical Society, and with O'Neil's work with the Friends of Johnson Creek Library, spearheaded the event to create a wonderful holiday weekend in the Village. "A community is only as good as the sum of its active community members," said O'Neil. Thank you for all you do for the Village, CJ. We couldn't agree more.

O'Neil's impressive list of accomplishments begs the question what didn't she do?

- * *President of the Johnson Creek Library Board: 1976-1990*
- * *Village Board Trustee: 1990-96, 1997-2003*
- * *Plan Commission member: currently*
- * *Johnson Creek School Board member & clerk: 2010-19*
- * *Johnson Creek Friends of the Library member: current*
- * *Started Johnson Creek's first summer reading program: 1977*
- * *Started Johnson Creek's first preschool story hour: 1977-79*
- * *Served as member (one year as chair) of the Jefferson County Library Board*
- * *Girl Scout leader: 1976-96*
- * *Johnson Creek Food Pantry volunteer*
- * *Meals on Wheels volunteer*
- * *And the list goes on...*

HELP WANTED: FIRE & EMS



Paid part-time and on-call positions are available for EMT, paramedics, and firefighters. Johnson Creek also offers training for firefighters to achieve their certificates and has a fully stocked and supplied ready house for EMS and firefighters to stay while on call to be comfortable.

Interested to join a flexible and family-friendly team to help serve others and promote safety? Please stop by the fire house and/or contact the Johnson Creek Fire & EMS Department directly at (920) 699-3456 where team members will be happy to help.

HEALTHY STEPS



The Healthy-Steps program improves overall wellness, range-of-motion, balance, strength, endurance, as well as emotional well-being and self-image.

Due to popularity, Healthy-Steps is now offering two 1-hour sessions per week here in Johnson Creek.

LOCATION: Johnson Creek Community Center

DATES/TIMES: Mondays at 12:45 p.m. Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.

HOW TO SIGN UP: Online at www.forthhealthcare.com/class/healthy-steps or via phone at (920)568-5299.



TOURISM & EVENTS

The Johnson Creek Tourism Department has updated their logo to incorporate more of the wonderful outdoor activities here in Johnson Creek, as well as adding a colorful Wisconsin map to show our convenient location.

The Johnson Creek Tourism Department, under the direction of the Johnson Creek Tourism Commission has new room tax marketing grant guidelines and applications available for qualifying events. If you're planning a corporate or leisure event, please consider coming to Johnson Creek and applying for a marketing grant. 2020 Room Tax Marketing Grant guidelines and applications may be found at both our tourism website: www.visitjohnsoncreek.org and our Village website: www.johnsoncreek-wi.us.

UPCOMING FEBRUARY EVENTS

2/1: Easton's Cause Presents: Women of Country, An Acoustic Show at Gobbler Theater

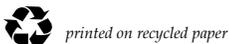
2/14: Valentine's Day Dinner at Milford Hills

2/14: Sara Evans with special guest Angie Keihauer at Gobbler Theater



Village of Johnson Creek

www.johnsoncreek-wi.us



GET TO KNOW THE PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Shaping the Future of
YOUR
Johnson Creek



The Village of Johnson Creek has dedicated and giving residents who have a love for our community and the desire to make it the wonderful place to live, work, and play that it is. Our residents' generosity and commitment to our community are what makes Johnson Creek so unique. The investments of time, talent, and treasure of so many help ensure the continued success and growth of our community. We want to thank and remind such individuals of how important they are to the Village.

Kelly Vlasnick

- Serves on Johnson Creek Library Board & the Library's Strategic Planning Committee
- Serves on St. John's Christian Education Board
- Substitute teacher for science & math in Johnson Creek Schools
- Sunday school teacher and serves in the WELCA Women's Group at St. John's Church
- Frequent blood donor

Nick Ansay

- Member, Johnson Creek's Planning Commission
- Member, Johnson Creek's Board of Review
- Chair, Johnson Creek's Zoning Board of Appeals
- Owner & Attorney, Miller & Ansay, LLC in Jefferson, WI
- President, Jefferson County Bar Association 2015-16
- Director & secretary, Kuehn Charitable Golf Foundation, Inc.

Katie Martin

- Head of Circulation and 27 year employee, Johnson Creek Public Library
- Member, Friends of Johnson Creek Library
- Started as library volunteer in 1991
- Johnson Creek resident since 1990
- Co-Planner for Johnson Creek Public Library's summer reading kick off event on 6/6 and new finale event to be announced soon!