



JOHNSON CREEK
Crossroads With A Future

The Creek

News from the Crossroads

July 2020

VILLAGE EMPLOYMENT UPDATES

Johnson Creek has been busy with staffing in various departments to continue offering the high standard of services our residents and board expect to keep our small-town-charm-with-big-ideas Village a valued community. Here are some updates.

NEW ADMINISTRATOR

The Johnson Creek Board has been working diligently with Public Administration Associates (PAA) during the search for a new administrator. After a thorough search and interview process, we are happy to announce **Brad Calder** as our new Village administrator. He will start on July 6, 2020. Calder replaces Kyle Ellefson who left in late March to accept an administrator position with the City of Columbus. Chris Swartz of PPA served as interim administrator during the search.



Brad Calder

Calder brings a breadth of experience to the position, including serving as Village of Union Grove clerk, Village of Big Bend clerk/treasurer, and stints with the Village of Richfield and the Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District. Calder earned his bachelor of science degrees in public administration and environmental policy and planning from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, and his master's degree in public administration from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Calder and his wife, Jaime, have been married nearly four years and have two dogs.

"Many thanks to Chris and his team at PAA for their help with discovering Brad in our executive search," said Village Board President John L. Swisher. "On behalf of the board and staff, we thank Chris for his leadership during the COVID-19 crisis as well. We know Brad's experience and ideas will be a wonderful addition to our team and we look forward to working with him to continue making Johnson Creek the wonderful place it is to live and work," Swisher continued.

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Courtney Salov

Our new fire chief, Mike Stratmoen, has been busy working to welcome familiar faces in new roles. **Courtney Salov** is the Village's new full-time firefighter-medic. Courtney has served as a volunteer firefighter with the Village for the past three and a half years and is also on the Fire & EMS Leadership Team as an EMS Captain. She was recently married in October 2019, and she and her husband adopted two dogs. Outside of her work with Johnson Creek, Salov works part-time with the Deer Grove EMS and volunteers for the Cambridge Volunteer Fire Department.

Salov will be responsible for EMS scheduling, EMS inventory, fire inspections, assisting with administrative duties for the chief, ambulance work, and filling in on the fire truck as needed. "I'm looking forward to Courtney's positivity and drive for success," said Stratmoen. "She will be a valued team member."

The fire department has also promoted firefighter **Jeff Penna** to assistant chief of operations and fire prevention. Penna has been with the Village for 11 years. "I have been in EMS for 12 years now and I am grateful that I am able to give back to my community," said Penna. "The department is evolving and updating, and I am excited to watch the department members grow and continue to provide quality, compassionate, and competent care to our community," continued Penna.



Jeff Penna

Penna will be responsible for overseeing fire department operations, fire prevention and inspections, assisting with updating department SOG's, and assisting the chief with administrative duties. Outside of Penna's work with Johnson Creek, he is also a full-time firefighter/paramedic with the Watertown Fire Department. "Jeff has been a member for many years and offers a wide variety of knowledge. We are excited to have him in this leadership position," said Stratmoen.

Besides the additions and promotions, Chief Stratmoen has created a new chaplain position. "It was important to me to add this position to our department and team," said Stratmoen. "Firefighters and EMTs witness tragic events on a regular basis and sometimes need that added support to process what they are experiencing. A Chaplain will be able to offer counseling for those who may need to talk about issues that are heavy on their minds," continued Stratmoen.

Pastor Dale Vlastnik has accepted this new position and is currently going through classes to help him prepare for this important work. "This is really an extension of the work I already do as pastor of St. John's Church and I look forward to providing aid and comfort for those who are going through the stress of helping others through their trauma and grief," said Vlastnik. "They do such an admirable job and I am honored to be a part of the Johnson Creek Fire Department team," Vlastnik continued.



Pastor Dale Vlastnik, his wife Kelly, and their dog, Rudy

"As a board, we worked with fire department leadership to develop a new full-time position to bring added value to our community," said Johnson Creek Village Board President John L. Swisher. "With Courtney, Jeff, and Pastor Dale's appointments, these positions provide even more services our residents have come to rely on."

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has hired their summer help for the season. Be on the lookout for **twin brothers Isaac and Ian** as they mow municipal lawns and provide important help for the DPW staff as they maintain the properties and parks of Johnson Creek.

LIBRARY

The Library is pleased to welcome **Hannah Hasart** as their new library assistant. She brings a background of IT experience with the UW-Shared Services. Also be sure to say hello to **Natalie Ortega** who is their returning student employee.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: ADIENNE MEINZER & MELANIE PASTOR



Three generations: Melanie Pastor, her mother Adienne Meinzer, and her daughter Natalie

After receiving so much positive feedback from our recent Facebook post featuring Adienne Meinzer, the first resident at The View of Johnson Creek, and her daughter, Melanie Pastor (The View's new Bistro manager), we knew we had to feature them in our next resident spotlight.

Adienne Meinzer, 91, grew up in Nokomis, Illinois, where she and her twin sister, Adele, had an idyllic childhood. Their dad, Lewis Myers, was an adoring father and taught science and German in their local high school; their mom, Freda, was a loving stay-at-home mom. Meinzer remembers summers at her uncle's farm in Iowa as being a childhood haven. "Uncle Enoch was a doctor, but had help tending his farm," recalled Meinzer. "He would shear sheep and my cousins and I would ride in his Shetland pony cart all around town with the neighborhood girls. We loved it there."

After high school, Meinzer went to college to study nursing in Decatur, Illinois, and retired from the profession in 1993. She met her husband, William, in 1954 after she went to California to visit a friend and attended a church-sponsored dance for singles. The pair hit it off and were married in 1955. The couple traveled a bit with William's Navy career, but settled down in Estes Park, Colorado, where William became a real estate appraiser.

The couple then moved to Orange County, California and their daughter Melanie was born in 1964. Soon after, the couple moved to Denver, Colorado, after visiting William's sister in Evergreen, Colorado, and seeing an opportunity for more real estate appraisal business.

The couple loved to travel, having visited all 50 states and jaunts overseas a number of times. As Melanie grew up and moved to Germantown, Wisconsin, to begin a family with her husband, Adienne and William moved to infamous "The Villages" in Florida in 1994.

Back then the senior community was projected to have 35,000 residents. Today they have over 150,000.

When William passed away in 2011, Adienne moved to an assisted living facility in Lady Lake, Florida. But after going through some health issues that limited her mobility, Meinzer moved back to Wisconsin in 2017 to be closer to her daughter and family. Pastor had been working at Three Pillars Senior Living Communities in Dousman where she was able to secure placement for her mom. So the dynamic mother/daughter team could be close to each other during the day again.

Melanie Pastor and her husband, Tom, moved to a 40-acre farm in Johnson Creek two and a half years ago. While renovating their farmhouse, Pastor noticed the work going on to build The View and admired their siding.



Melanie & Tom Pastor recreating the Grant Wood painting on their Johnson Creek farm

Wanting to investigate for her own home, Pastor took a chance and went into the The View's business office where she met Sales Coordinator Janeal Fullmer. The two struck up a conversation about more than just siding and hit it off. That's when Pastor learned of The View's offerings and thought about how much easier and nicer it would be for Meinzer to be closer to her home in Johnson Creek.

At one point during the conversation at The View, Fullmer asked Pastor what she did for a living. "When I told Janeal I was in banquet services at Three Pillars, she asked if I wanted a job," laughed Pastor. "And when I realized she was serious, I thought maybe this could be a great fit for both my mom and me," continued Pastor.

Soon after, Pastor accepted the position of Bistro manager at The View and Meinzer was scheduled to move in once the building was ready.

Continued on pg 4

GET TO KNOW THE PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Shaping the Future of
YOUR
Johnson Creek



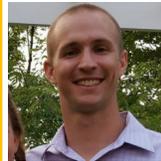
Our residents' generosity and commitment to our community are what make Johnson Creek so unique. The investments of time, talent, and treasure of so many help ensure the continued success and growth of our community. We want to thank and remind such individuals of how important they are to the Village.

Deb Brown



- At St. John's Lutheran Church, she was a Sunday school teacher, superintendent for 27 years, plus 36 years of interior decorating among other positions.
- In Johnson Creek Schools, she was a member of Friends of our School, Booster Club, and was stage manager of the school musicals for 21 years building sets, costumes, and hair styling.
- Served as a 4-H leader, is a Chief Inspector for Johnson Creek's elections, and has led the Johnson Creek Historical Society and Museum and it's many events, sharing her knowledge and love of Johnson Creek with so many over the years.

Josh Braunschweig



- Assists in maintaining and improving the presentation of Fireman's Park baseball field, a service provided by 3 generations of the Braunschweig Family.
- Has been serving as a volunteer firefighter with Johnson Creek Fire & EMS Department since 2014.
- Is the General Manager of the Johnson Creek Pioneers Baseball Team, one of Wisconsin's amateur baseball teams that is part of the Rock River League's southern division.
- Treasurer and council member at Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church just east of Johnson Creek.

THE VIEW

Opening a senior living community in the middle of a pandemic was challenging. But The View's leadership team and front line workers were continually updated on a weekly (sometimes more) basis through email, webinars, conference calls, and memo updates from the DHS and opened June 1.



Great room at The View

Along the way, The View team learned the only thing constant right now is change, but they're rolling with it. "We often talk about all the struggles our seniors have endured in their life: wars, depressions, suffrage, civil rights, revolutions, you name it - so if our residents can endure everything they've been through, we can get through this pandemic," said Jackie Foti, community relations director at The View. "They are giving us hope and light for better days ahead," continued Foti.



Bistro

Tours and the public opening of their Bistro are currently on hold, but those interested in learning more should contact Sales Coordinator Janeal Fullmer at 920-309-8480 or janealf@theviewcommunities.com.

"Johnson Creek is a perfect community for our assisted living and memory care community to cultivate because of the parallel mission and vision we both have for the future. We are a captivating family-focused organization which thrives in small towns rooted in kinship, empathy, and connections."

-Community Relations Director Jackie Foti.

JWR

Over the past few months, many residents may have noticed the construction and opening of JWR's impressive new facility, located at the intersection of Watertown Street and Hartwig Boulevard.



JWR

JWR started in 1972 as a small welding and repair shop known as "Jim's Welding & Repair." Since then, JWR has grown and made innovations as a company which offers technology and solutions for waste and recycling for companies across the country.

The new building houses JWR's Refuse Truck Center, which allows the company to expand their services and offer a complete line of mobile refuse collection trucks, hoists and sweepers. The Refuse Truck Center ensures JWR may offer full services for all their mobile refuse lines of equipment, including shop service, emergency shop drive-in repairs, mount and remount, mobile service, winterization, and a full line of parts.

"JWR is a long-standing company that has seen tremendous growth here in Johnson Creek. On behalf of the board, we congratulate Dave Wolf and his entire team on their continued success and look forward to working with them on future projects."

-Village Board President John L. Swisher

TOURISM UPDATE



Be
unique
in
Johnson
Creek
Heally, Inwood, Johnson
Madison & Milwaukee
visitjohnsoncreek.org
Johnson Creek, WI

Due to the continuing COVID pandemic, the Johnson Creek Tourism Department continues to monitor the status of events taking place in the Village. We know the decisions to retain or cancel events are difficult ones for organizers. And we will provide updates on all events within our events calendar on our website: visitjohnsoncreek.org.

Here are some updates on events in July:



Now – Sept 30: Timothy Johnson Founder's Float-Now A Virtual Event!

Originally scheduled in June, the Founder's Float is now a virtual event to allow flexibility and convenience with social distancing. You may complete a paddle on any body of water, of any length now thru Sept. 30. Visit founders-float.com for more info on how to register.



Cancelled Events

Visit their web sites/Facebook pages for info.



UPDATE ON COMMUNITY CENTER USE

The Community Center has been reopened, but is currently following Jefferson County Health Department guidelines for social group gatherings during a pandemic, including:

- Keeping gatherings at 100 or less, and we are recommending 50 or fewer guests at the Community Center.
- Following social distancing standards of 6' (except for those residing in the same household).

A full list of policies and the rental agreement may be found at the Village website: johnsoncreek-wi.us or call 920-699-2296.

DONATING BLOOD IS ONE EASY WAY TO SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY!



Wednesday
July

22

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.

Johnson Creek Community Blood Drive

LOCATION: Community Center - Community Room
417 Union Street, Johnson Creek, WI 53038



FACE MASK REQUIRED.
Mask will be provided if without.

For more information, call 877-232-4376 or visit Versiti.org/WI

YOUR LIBRARY UPDATES & NEWS

This year's Summer Learning Program will look different because of the current public health situation; the entire challenge will be done virtually.



Reading Challenges & Prizes for All Ages!

Two ways to register for any challenge:

- 1) Register on Beanstack (online or app)
johnsoncreeklibrary.beanstack.org
- 2) Pick up a paper copy from the library

Get details on the challenges on our website at <https://www.johnsoncreeklibrary.org/summer-library-program/>

Summer Performers – Via Zoom!

Our Bridges-sponsored summer performers will be hosted on the virtual platform Zoom. Pre-register on our website to receive an exclusive code to log in and watch from home!

www.johnsoncreeklibrary.org/summer-library-program



Wendy & DB

Wednesday, July 8, 2020 @ 2pm

Sing and dance along to this Earth-friendly, upbeat children's music duo for songs about nature, diversity, and safety.

Steve Girman

Wednesday, July 22, 2020 @ 2pm

Steve combines juggling, music, and storytelling into a hilarious interactive performance for children of all ages.

We will continue to create new activities throughout the summer. Visit our website and follow us on Facebook so you don't miss out!

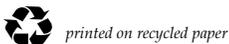
www.johnsoncreeklibrary.org

[@JohnsonCreekPublicLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/JohnsonCreekPublicLibrary)



Village of Johnson Creek

www.johnsoncreek-wi.us



VILLAGE HALL & LIBRARY HOURS



In observance of Independence Day, please note the following closures:

Village Hall Office Hours

Closed Friday, July 3

Johnson Creek Public Library Services

Closed Friday, July 3 & Saturday, July 4

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

FROM PAGE 2

But move-in plans had to shift because of a health issue for Meinzer and COVID-19. "When mom was recovering from her stroke and was going to physical therapy at the same time as COVID, she had to be quarantined along with the rest of the residents at Three Pillars for six weeks," recounted Pastor. "It was a difficult time because we couldn't see each other. So I got her a new phone and had to pass it through the facility's protocols so she could call me. Then we brought mom to our house for two months before moving into The View," continued Pastor. Meinzer shared her appreciation, "My son-in-law, Tom, was so wonderful to build a ramp for me at the house. They also moved out of their first floor bedroom and redid their bathroom to accommodate me which I so appreciated."

Meinzer is now comfortable at The View along with four other neighbors (at the time of printing). "They are great here. I've played games with their activity director, enjoyed their spa baths, got my hair done, and enjoyed the new flowers the team planted," said Meinzer. "And I get to see my daughter all the time which makes me happy."