



JOHNSON CREEK
Crossroads With A Future

The Creek

News from the Crossroads

June 2019

CELEBRATING OUR YOUTH IN JOHNSON CREEK

Youth involvement benefits the communities they live in as well as the youth themselves. Involving youth as partners in making decisions that affect them increases the likelihood that the decisions will be accepted, adopted, and become part of their everyday lives. In addition, empowering youth to identify and respond to community needs helps them become empathetic, reflective individuals, setting them on a course to potentially continue this important work in their future.

We are excited to share with you some highlights of Johnson Creek's youth and their wonderful projects, activities, and accomplishments.

EAGLE SCOUTS: There were four Scouts from Johnson Creek who earned the rank of Eagle this year. Micah Garvey, Dillon Grenz, Jon Karczewski, and Vaughn Neidert who each completed a community project including the building of a foot bridge connecting the Village of Johnson Creek with the new Johnson Creek Middle/High School, the design and building of trash and recycling stations for the Farmington Ball Park, leading the design and installation of a competition cross country course at Johnson Creek Middle/High School, and the creation of a middle school robotics club for Johnson Creek Middle School students respectively. Micah Garvey was also awarded the 2019 Robert F. Smart Eagle Scout Scholarship.

BADGER STATE: Johnson Creek High School will be represented at Badger State this summer by Hannah Constable and Justin Swanson. Selected participants are students who display qualities of leadership within their community and school. Typically, these students are in the top third of their class and well represent their community. Both will attend a week-long program that provides the opportunity to learn

Young people play an important role in our community. They can be great entrepreneurs and are extremely resourceful. Not to mention they are our village's future community builders, business owners, public servants, and families. Working with young people creates stewardship, ownership, respect and a great sense of pride in our community, and can influence future community leaders.

more about civic processes of our state's government and the leadership that is required to build a community.

HUMANE SOCIETY: Three middle school students wanted to help the community. They contacted the Jefferson County Humane Society to determine needs, met with their principal and district superintendent, organized, set goals, and advertised for their fundraisers. They surpassed their goals and presented a \$1,000 check to the Humane Society, making Johnson Creek Middle School a platinum sponsor for the Furry Friends 5K on

May 18th. Elementary school students also organized a collection of nearly 400 items as well as blankets and towels to give to the Humane Society.

STUFFED ANIMAL DRIVE: When 5th-grader Justin Schnarsky learned police departments give out stuffed animals to children at the scenes of emergencies, he felt moved to action. He organized a stuffed animal drive to benefit local police and fire departments, the county sheriff's office, and other emergency responders to enable them to offer comfort to more children. His drive went schoolwide, and the Student Council got involved as well. The drive garnered so many donations within the first few days, Schnarsky is considering expanding the area his donations will help.

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WATER TREATMENT PLANT & SEWER RATE UPDATES

The Village is happy to say the project remains on schedule. There are only about two more months until the substantial completion deadline arrives.

Starting May 28, the new Johnson Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant will undergo the standard startup procedure with biological treatment organisms being added to the plant. As such, you may notice something in the air.

"Due to the start up nature in running a wastewater treatment plant, you need to create an ecosystem balance of the treatment biological organisms," stated Village Engineer Kevin Kimmes. "While there may be more odor than normal coming from the plant during this process, don't be alarmed. This is a natural and expected part of the process and should subside over time when the process reaches an equilibrium," assured Kimmes.



2018 Rendering of the new Wastewater Treatment Plant in Johnson Creek

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As the upgrades at the Wastewater Treatment Plant enter their final stages, we are also nearing the end of the project payments for the equipment and construction materials, as well as the construction contractors and engineers working on the project. The project is being funded by a combination of cash on hand, Clean Water Fund grants, a Clean Water Fund loan, and traditional financing. To support project expenses,

the Village is implementing the final step of a 2017 plan which brings the sewer utility rate back to a rate first established nearly 20 years ago. A combination of sustained growth and strategic financial planning give us this flexibility to manage our rates without raising them above past levels.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT:

TIM LA SAGE, MARINE VETERAN & TWO-TIME PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT



When Tim La Sage moved to Johnson Creek in October of 2011, he was already an active Marine officer with a history of stellar service to this country. The move was to be closer to family in the Pewaukee area, while still being close to both Madison and Milwaukee. "Johnson Creek is really the best of both worlds,"

said La Sage. "You have the perfect location to access the bigger cities of Madison and Milwaukee, but you can find the small town charm and peace and quiet as well in Johnson Creek," continued La Sage.

La Sage currently serves as Military Affairs Manager for WPS Health Solutions, where he focuses on both military and community relations. During his tenure with WPS, he saw an opportunity to help transition veterans into the workforce after their service and partnered with other Madison-area employers to form WAVE, Wisconsin Association of Veteran Employers.

La Sage officially retired from the Marine Corps in October 2015 as a First Sergeant, after a decorated 22-year career that included the awarding of two Purple Heart Medals. The Purple Heart Medal is a combat decoration, awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy.

La Sage's first Purple Heart recognition was awarded for La Sage's combat and injuries received in a 2003 mission in Bagdad, Iraq, where the vehicle he was in as part of a convoy was hit, he was shot, and, suffered shrapnel to his head. His

second Purple Heart was awarded for his combat and injuries received in a 2004 mission in Ramadi, Iraq, where he was part of a unit that was charged with finding El Zarqawi. In that mission, he and his team were ambushed by a daisy chain that killed both the men walking alongside of La Sage. "It's a miracle I'm still here," remarked La Sage.

The History Channel and several authors have chronicled La Sage's brave story, including *The Greatest Sniper Stories Ever Told* by Tom McCarthy, *Marine Scout Snipers*, by Lena Sisco, and *Trigger Men*, by Han Halberstadt.



La Sage's daughters: Stevie Jaimes, (6th Grade) Jade (Lance Corporal in Marines & 2017 JCHS Graduate), and Kenadie (sophomore at JCHS)

La Sage has three daughters and his oldest, Jade, is a graduate of Johnson Creek High School and following in her dad's footsteps, serving in the Marines and currently stationed at Camp Pendleton in California.

La Sage receives numerous requests to speak at functions across the country to share his military

experiences, as well as leadership skills. With his military connections and status, he recently had the opportunity to serve as a driver on the presidential motorcade when President Trump visited Green Bay in April.



Tim La Sage and Joseph Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at a recent speaking engagement

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP: Johnson Creek Elementary School's Run Club spent time cleaning up our community on one of their runs in celebration of Earth Day. Students and staff of Johnson Creek High School participated in the district's first annual Bluejay Day of Service, organized by the National Honor Society. Students and staff could be seen all over town in their yellow shirts working at local businesses, parks, and residents' homes doing small projects, trash pick-up, and gardening.

HOLIDAY CHEER: The Elementary School Student Council made Christmas a little merrier for a local family in need by raising funds to provide wrapped gifts and Christmas dinner

for them to enjoy. Fourth grade students created snowmen and reindeer mason jar tea lights and cards to present to patients at the UW Cancer Center to spread holiday kindness and cheer.

We celebrate all young people who are learning to make community service a way of life rather than something expected or required of them. Through the support of their educators, parents, and community leaders, they are expressing their care for others and evolving into active citizenship well on their way to becoming part of a new generation prepared to take responsibility, lead others, and tackle tomorrow's challenges.

TOURISM EVENTS & UPDATES: FIREMAN'S FESTIVAL AUGUST 10TH!

The tourism department has been busy at work developing and coordinating media around its branding campaign, *"Be Unique in Johnson Creek."*

Producers from *Discover Wisconsin* have already begun filming some of Johnson Creek's tourism assets (the program will air at the end of April 2020), and crews with *Spectrum* will be in town this month to begin filming our commercial which will run in mid-July (to coincide with Wisconsin Farm Tech Days July 23-25 at Walter Grains Farm) and in early December. Plus, Emmy Fink and her Channel 3 *Buzz Into Madison* teams will be filming the first of three segments in early June. The first episode will run June 12 and again June 17 on various Channel 3 news programs. It will also be featured on Channel 3's website and social media, along with posts on both the Village's main and tourism Facebook pages.

For information on all tourism efforts and events, be sure to check out our website, www.visitjohnsoncreek.org, and stay up-to-date with our Facebook pages as well.

Mark your calendars: August 10th 2019

Johnson Creek Centennial Park

11:00 am - 11:00 pm



UPCOMING EVENTS IN JOHNSON CREEK

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| June 8: Summer Reading Kick Off | June 26: Summer Reading Performance | July 23-25: Farm Technology Days |
| June 12: Summer Reading Performance | July 10-14: Jefferson County Fair | July 28: 16th Annual AIDS Ride WI |
| June 22: Tour Da Goose | July 17: Summer Reading Performance | August 1: Child Health and Safety Fair |

JOHNSON CREEK CELEBRATING 13 YEARS AS A TREE CITY USA



TREE CITY USA

The Village of Johnson Creek has been recognized as one of the more than 3,400 communities throughout the country that have made the commitment to become a Tree City USA. But what is a Tree City USA, and what is the benefit of being recognized as one?

Tree City USA is a national recognition program that is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters. It's a nationwide movement that provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees. Tree City USA status is achieved by meeting four core standards of sound urban forestry management: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on

ECO-BENEFITS

Trees are part of a community's infrastructure, providing valuable benefits:

Stormwater Reduction
Prevent rain from burdening infrastructure

Natural Gas Savings
Block wind, reducing winter heating costs

Property Value
Add real estate value

Energy Savings
Cool buildings, reducing air conditioning costs

Air Quality
Remove pollutants and prevent power plant emissions

Carbon Sequestration
Capture and store CO₂

urban forestry, and celebrating Arbor Day.

The people who live in a recognized Tree City USA enjoy the valuable benefits of having a greener, healthier community. "Everyone benefits when elected officials, volunteers and committed citizens in communities like Johnson Creek make smart investments in urban forests," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Trees bring shade to our homes and beauty to our neighborhoods, along with numerous economic, social, and environmental benefits."

Trees are assets to a community when properly planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.

LIBRARY UPDATES: SUMMER READING!



The Summer Learning Program Kick-Off Event is Saturday, June 8, from 9:00 to 1:00 pm in front of the library. There will be a giant inflatable sports game, snacks, yard games, and dogs pulling carts for kids to take rides.

When signing up for summer reading during the kick-off, teens and kids will receive a FREE book, and adults will be entered to into a drawing to win a Starbucks gift basket. The deadline to sign up for the reading program is July 13. To participate, kids, teens, and adults need to fill out their reading logs and turn them into the library for prizes (such as coupons and free books).

Programs for all ages happen throughout the summer. Pick up a calendar at the library, or visit www.johnsoncreekpubliclibrary.org

EMS WEEK: May 19-25



With the theme, "Beyond the Call," Johnson Creek recently celebrated National EMS Week at various locations throughout the

Village by offering blood pressure screenings and information on the services they offer the community.

If you are a licensed EMT or paramedic, or are interested in becoming one, call 920-699-3456, or come to Station 1 at 120 S. Watertown Street during weekday business hours to learn the satisfaction that comes in helping others with the Johnson Creek EMS Department.



Village of Johnson Creek

www.johnsoncreek-wi.us



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

In observance of Independence Day:



Village Hall will be closed July 4th

The Library will be closed July 4th—6th

Garbage pick-up will be on Friday, July 5th that week

Johnson Creek Compost/Brush Site - 110 Aztalan St

Mondays 7am - 2:30pm
Tuesdays 7am - 2:30pm
Wednesdays 7am - 7pm
Thursdays 7am - 2:30pm
Fridays 7am - 2:30pm
Saturdays 7am - 7pm
Sundays 11am - 4pm

Automated gate at site works during scheduled hours year-round. If raining or snowing heavily, the site will be closed.

Johnson Creek Library's upcoming Summer Reading Performances!

