



JOHNSON CREEK
Crossroads With A Future

The Creek

News from the Crossroads

February 2025

UPDATES FROM THE VILLAGE

Exciting projects in our future



John L. Swisher
Village President

The Village Board has been committed to the advancement of key projects that will shape the future of our community, and 2025 will be an important year. With major work set to begin in just a few months, we want to keep you informed about the timeline, details, and impact of these initiatives. Read on to learn more about the exciting improvements ahead!

The Gosdeck Bridge project has been underway since spring of 2024, and the project will be in its final phase when work begins again this year. The progress to date has been tremendous, and we expect the rest of the work will go quickly once crews can return this spring. Work remaining on the project includes installing concrete curbs and gutters, pouring sidewalks, paving and lane markings, installing street lights and street signs, and integrating the new street into the Hwy B surface. A rough schedule has the project nearing completion in mid-June, but that schedule is highly variable based on the weather, particularly how quickly spring arrives, and how wet the spring is this year.



Kyle Ellefson
Village Administrator

In just a few months, the Wastewater Treatment Facility will be undergoing the most ambitious upgrade since the Oxidation Ditch project began in 2018. With the existing sludge processing system largely out of service, the village needed to find a replacement that would lower costs and provide long-term benefits such as reduced biosolids with greater flexibility for disposal. The advertisements for bids are currently out for this project, and we anticipate awarding bids in March. If everything progresses well, the project could be completed and in operation by the middle of 2026.

Since 2004, the Village has investigated the next source of water, including drilling a well and conducting extensive testing on the supply and characteristics of the source. Now that demand is reaching the point where action is necessary, the Village Board has implemented a strategy to make preliminary upgrades needed for Well #4 while the final design is creating a facility to meet our needs now and into the future. With anticipated growth in the area and Well #4 improvements being planned, the Midge Street lift station capacity must be upgraded to provide capacity when the improvements occur. A contract for the project should be in place within the next month or two. In addition, the final design will be built around a base flow and treatment capacity, but it will also accommodate a planned addition of flow and treatment capacity to be added later without renovating or expanding the building. This strategy will limit the near-term exposure of operating with more capacity than is needed, while limiting the long-term risk of underbuilding and needing to construct additional facilities. With this plan, including all permits and plan reviews, our engineering firm estimates construction could begin in 2026 and conclude in 2027.

As we discussed in the August newsletter, the village has been pursuing the goal of securing a grocery store for more than 20 years. To continue and redouble our efforts, the Village Board recently engaged a firm to conduct a new Grocery Store Study. The comprehensive study the Village Board requested will include site characteristics of potential locations, an identification of the primary trade area that the store would draw customers from, an identification and analysis of the competition a grocery store would face in this area, as well as demographics, estimated spending patterns, and projected sales forecasts. While there are several companies that can perform some of these tasks, the village engaged with a firm that will perform a 3-day field visit to the area in order to evaluate conditions first-hand. This study will be invaluable as we continue promoting ourselves to grocers, adding current data and estimates to the Johnson Creek story. Because of the complexity of the study, it can take between 90 and 110 days to develop the full report.

The village remains committed to maintaining and improving our roads each year to ensure safety and quality driving conditions for all residents. In 2025, our largest road project will take place on Linmar Lane, partially funded by a grant from the State of Wisconsin. Additionally, we will be making improvements to Glover Lane, Lincoln Street, and Sanctuary Court. These investments help preserve our street ratings and keep our community's infrastructure in top condition. We recognize there are many streets that will need attention over the years, and we will continue to fund road improvements annually.

As we have mentioned before, 2025 will be a busy year with progress on several very important fronts. The Village Board continues to execute their strategic plans, and the results have been very positive. We look forward to providing additional updates on each of these projects as the year goes on!

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: CNC SOLUTIONS, LLC

Playing with Legos or tinkering with small machines can be a pastime for children, but individuals who love to design and build could very well turn that passion into a career. That's why Johnson Creek business owner Ron Roehl is committed to supporting the next generation.

Ron owns **CNC Solutions, LLC**, a one-stop shop that utilizes mechanical design, electrical engineering, programming, and control engineering to design and assemble fully automated robot systems. CNC Solutions has been located at 260 Grell Lane in Johnson Creek since 2014.

After working in automation and then helping a start-up company in Illinois, Ron was ready to develop his own business, and CNC Solutions was established in 2000. In those early days, it was just Ron and his laptop setting up shop in a spare bedroom at his house. His first customer was not a small one, though. With his former employer, he established a relationship with Harley Davidson, and when they heard Ron started his own business, the company continued to work with him and still does to this day.

Ron started out in Pewaukee, then in Watertown, before finding the right location to bring the business back to the village where he grew up. He considers this to be a good location, centrally located between Milwaukee, Madison, the Fox Valley area, and Chicago, and he knew there was talent in this area for his workforce.

Ron's brother, Randy, has been the company's sales manager for more than 15 years. Ron's son, Cory, has also been involved in various roles. He worked for the family business following high school before furthering his education at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. He then worked in California and Minnesota before rejoining CNC Solutions 15 years ago. Today, Cory supports sales and heads up marketing, among other responsibilities.

When a company contacts CNC Solutions, the team goes to work creating a concept. Once approved, they build the automation system, incorporating robotic technology imported from Japan. All the engineering, machining, wiring, and safety measures are completed in the shop. Then the system goes through a test run. People from the purchasing company come to watch the mock run. The automation system is then torn down and shipped to its destination, where CNC Solutions' team members will travel to re-assemble and then test it. Ron said the process, from concept to finish, can take anywhere from 16 weeks up to a year.

CNC Solutions has completed projects for companies across the U.S. and in Canada and Mexico. They are also a contractor for the Department of Defense. Cory said they receive requests for interesting projects, and they are typically up for the challenge, which keeps their work exciting. "We are producing things here that have never been made before," Cory stated.

The duo said that automation in manufacturing used to be a premium. Now, it has become a necessity for companies to stay in business and bring manufacturing back to the U.S.

Cory said they like to support trade and manufacturing interests in the future labor force. Ron works with technology programs at local high schools and is actively involved with the Skills USA program at Watertown High School. The Roehls open their doors to students for tours, and they provide job shadowing opportunities. These connections have often led to future employees; in fact, six of their current team members were individuals Ron met they were freshman in the Skills USA program.

"If kids get involved as youth, they are more likely to pursue this as a career," Ron stated.

Ron was one of those children who liked to pull items apart and put them back together, and decades later, he still enjoys it. He noted that it is rewarding to see parts their machines made out in the real world. "We have fun here," he shared. "If I didn't do this for a living, I'd do it for a hobby." It is Ron and Cory's goal to support others who feel the same way in finding a career in this field.



Ron Roehl and Cory Roehl operate CNC Solutions, LLC.

REMARKS FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

It has been a busy year so far. Our members reviewed water rescue techniques this month along with officer development. Recruiting efforts have continued into the new year with several new prospective employees moving forward in the hiring process. Our command staff met and developed a well-rounded training plan for 2025, and we are very excited about things to come.

January was a busy month with service calls, including numerous structure and brush fires, and our personnel continue to provide excellent service to our village and surrounding communities. I have personally received multiple calls, emails, and letters of gratitude from members of the community. Thank you, and as always, please reach out with any questions or comments.

Spring ahead!

Daylight savings time starts Sunday, March 9.
Remember to shift your clocks ahead one hour!



POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Support for those who support us all

We are so grateful for the individuals who work in our village and the surrounding area as police officers, fire fighters, emergency medical technicians, and in other safety roles. These people are essential elements of our community.

First responders witness many scary situations, but they don't always have the time or resources to help them process what happened after the fact. That is what led Jay and Vanessa Leonard to start the Jefferson County Police Officer Support Team (P.O.S.T.) after they went to a peer support training in 2019. P.O.S.T. offers mental and emotional support to police officers, firefighters, EMTs, dispatchers, and other first responders.

Their small group grew to 35 members from almost every department in Jefferson County. Their group includes police officers, firefighters, EMTs, coroners, retired officers, chaplains, and a mental health therapist. They also have connections to agencies for more mental health assistance. Members of P.O.S.T. go to specialized trainings to remain on the team.

Jay and Vanessa know the stress that comes from the job as they both worked for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. Following his retirement, Jay took a part-time police officer role in our village. Vanessa now works as a police officer in Fort Atkinson.

First responders are seeing more and more critical incidents, and the trauma affects everyone differently, but it continues to build if it is never dealt with.

"Just because someone is struggling, it doesn't mean they can't do their job. There's a stigma around that," Vanessa noted. "But we want to mitigate stress and trauma before they get to that point."

Members of the P.O.S.T. team will reach out to first responders who went through a critical incident to see if they need support. Even if they don't need anything right now, it helps to know that someone is willing to listen, said Jay. On the other hand, with their work through P.O.S.T., they have been able to save people who were in a devastating mental space.

Vanessa went to another county to offer support after an incident, and they brought in two dogs to help relieve stress. She decided that would be a good fit for their Jefferson County team. A little while later, Jay and Vanessa attended the Wisconsin Peer Support Conference, and someone had a support labradoodle. A conversation with the dog's breeder led to a donation of a dog to P.O.S.T., saving the team that expense.

Moose Tracks, named following a survey conducted on social media, was born on May 25 and was picked up by Jay and Vanessa in July. He will receive two years of training and will be utilized in one-on-one peer support, victim advocacy, and much more. Moose has already been hard at work, supporting first responders, visiting schools, spending time with families with loved ones in hospice care, and beyond.

"When the vest is on, he knows its work time," Jay said. He's on call 24 hours a day and provides service across the county. "Moose doesn't have a day off," Jay noted.

As his caretakers, that means Jay and Vanessa are on

call as well, but it is a role they feel passionate about. Jay has been in this line of work since high school and always knew it was what he wanted to do. Meanwhile, Vanessa said she had this "innate desire to help people." She first worked as a 9-1-1 dispatcher before becoming a police officer so that she could be part of the outcome in helping people.

Now, she and Jay are helping people in another way, by leading P.O.S.T. It is their hope to build awareness for this service so when we retire, others will have the capability to continue the program for future generations.

"People deserve support and mental health treatment," Vanessa said. "Everybody deserves it."



Police officers Vanessa and Jay Leonard are caretakers of Jefferson County's peer support dog, Moose Tracks.

THE CLERK'S CORNER

Spring Election Information

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. for the spring election on April 1. The polling place for Village of Johnson Creek voters is the Community Center at 417 Union Street. Absentee ballots by mail may be obtained by using www.myvote.wi.gov. In-person absentee voting will take place at Village Hall from March 18 to March 28 during regular business hours.

Dog License Deadline

Dogs over five months of age must be licensed annually. A late fee of \$25 applies if the license is obtained on April 1 or later. To license a dog, provide a copy of rabies vaccination, proof of spay or neuter (if applicable), and a license fee of \$10 for spayed or neutered animals and \$15 for unaltered animals. Village ordinances limit households to two dogs. To exceed this limit, a multiple dog statement is required and a fee of \$25 per dog is added to the license fee. This form is available at the Village Hall.

Compost and Brush Site Cards

An access card is required to use the compost and brush site located on Aztalan Street. Cards may be obtained at Village Hall for \$15 and remain active while you are a resident of Johnson Creek.



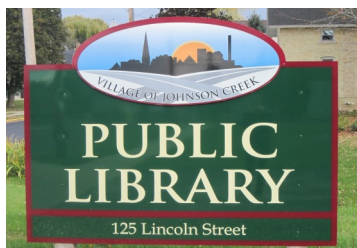
Village of Johnson Creek

www.johnsoncreek-wi.us



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LIBRARY HAPPENINGS



The library will be closed on Monday, March 3 for a staff in-service day.

Family Fun at the Library:

Second Saturday of the month at 10 a.m.

March 8– St. Patrick's Day Party

April 12– Wonders in the Garden

Legos: Third Monday of the month from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

March 17– Over the Rainbow

April 21– April Fools

Storytime: Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Homeschool Craft Buffet:

Last Monday of the month from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

March 31

PAWS and READ Returns!

Second Monday of every month from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

March 10 and April 14

Oliver and his human, Sam, will be at the library to visit and listen to stories. Youth of all ages are invited to join this relaxing, stress-free program!



SENIOR EXERCISE CLASS

An exercise class for seniors is held each **Monday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the gym in Crossroads Community Church** (111 South Street). Instructors Phyllis Schicker and Barbara Schmitt lead the group through exercises designed for senior adults.

There is no cost to attend. All are welcome!

Johnson Creek Village Hall

Monday to Friday: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m.

920-699-2296

125 Depot Street

www.johnsoncreek-wi.us

Plan Commission: March 10 @ 5 p.m.

Committee of the Whole: March 10 @ 5:30 p.m.

Board Meeting: March 24 @ 5:30 p.m.

Johnson Creek Public Library

920-699-3741

125 Lincoln Street

www.johnsoncreeklibrary.org

Library Board Meeting: March 18 @ 4 p.m.

Friends of the Library: March 11 @ 4 p.m.

LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday to Wednesday: 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m. — 7 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. — 12 p.m. (Closed Sunday)

JC FOOD PANTRY

129 N. Watertown Street

920-699-2471

JohnsonCreekFoodPantry@gmail.com

Open Monday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and every fourth Thursday of the month from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.