



JOHNSON CREEK
Crossroads With A Future

The Creek

News from the Crossroads

Nov 2018

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

The general election is on Tuesday, November 6. As a friendly reminder, **voting in Johnson Creek has been moved to the Community Center, 417 Union Street.** To prepare residents, here are the voting categories you can expect to see on the ballot:

COUNTY: Jefferson County Sheriff, Jefferson County Clerk of Circuit Court

STATE: Governor/ Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Senator District 13, Representative to the Assembly District 38

FEDERAL: United States Senator, Representative in Congress District 5

Residents can also expect to see the following two referendum questions: **Jefferson County Dark Store Referendum** and **Village of Johnson Creek NON-BINDING ADVISORY Referendum.**

KEEPING YOU INFORMED By John L. Swisher

This election has two referendum questions on the ballot and as your board president, I want to make residents aware of what the issues are.

The first referendum question I want to discuss is a non-binding advisory question which asks residents for their opinion on ATV use within the Village.

Although this is a non-binding advisory referendum, the board has heard this issue numerous times from the Jefferson Half Mile ATV Club where some village residents are members. According to the club members, allowing this to happen would help develop further ATV routes and boost certain local businesses. Currently there is only one ATV route that connects to the Village, so ATV users will only be able to legally enter and exit the community on Jefferson Street, or ride around the Village on a route that has not yet been determined. In our contacts with the County and area Townships, none of them have expressed a desire or plans to expand ATV use on their roads. After deliberation and a split vote, the Board authorized our attorney to draft an Ordinance that would allow ATV use on Johnson Creek Streets, while also voting unanimously on the referendum wording in order to gain insight into how Johnson Creek residents feel regarding ATV use on our streets.

Residents should know ATV manufacturers are required to display safety warnings that they are not designed to be operated safely on roads and currently discourage the use of their vehicles on public streets. A Yamaha ATV owner's manual tells users: "Never operate an ATV on any public street, road or highway, even a dirt or gravel one."

Kawasaki's owner's manual goes further stating, "Never operate an ATV on a paved surfaces, including sidewalks, driveways, parking lots and streets," and "Operation on public streets, roads, and highways is not recommended and is not safe." The manual also explains that "An ATV handles differently from other vehicles

including motorcycles and cars. A collision or rollover can occur quickly, even during routine maneuvers such as turning..." and, "ATV tires are designed for off-road use. Paved surfaces may seriously affect handling and control of the ATV, and may cause the vehicle to go out of control."

Local law enforcement officials have raised several concerns and are not in favor of ATV use on public streets, noting because ATVs are not designed to be operated among other traffic on a public roadway, they lack most of the signals and safety equipment required of other motor vehicles using the road. Our Police Department has also found ATV drivers operating illegally in the village previously, but when they attempt to stop them, some ATV operators have simply fled from the officer into an off-road area that normal vehicles cannot travel.

Over the past few days, I have seen signs asking you to "Vote Yes" for the Johnson Creek ATV Referendum. The signs go on to state that there will be "no cost to the village or taxpayers." Regardless of if you vote yes or no, you should understand the signs are not correct and there will be a cost to the Village and taxpayers. There are a variety of legal and publishing costs that go along with changing this Ordinance. We will need to submit our Ordinance to the Wisconsin DNR for review and, depending on the route, the signs could cost thousands of dollars to purchase, not even considering the cost of installing and maintaining them. The DNR specifically requires the routes be signed appropriately, and warns, "Failure to sign the route, yet allowing ATVs to operate, sets a dangerous stage for litigation to follow any ATV accident that occurs on the unsigned route."

In regards to the signs and the suggestion of using grant funds to pay for them, the following passage from the DNR community official's handbook for ATV Routes says, "The cost of the initial set of route signs (to and from a trail and/or from a trail to services and back to a trail) is eligible for grant funds. However, you should know that the DNR distributes available funds using a ranking system. Most of the grant applications (for route signs) do not rank high enough to receive priority during the grant distribution setting process. Therefore, the county, town, city, or village is often left with paying for the signs completely."

The second referendum on the ballot regards **Dark Stores**, referring to an appraisal method where big box stores that are open and doing brisk business argue the value of their property should be based on the value of one of their stores that has been unsuccessful, is closed, vacant, or boarded up (i.e. dark store), even if they are located hundreds of miles away.

Johnson Creek is not immune from this issue. Menards is suing the Village to argue the previous two years of property valuation should be based on a closed Menards store in the Milwaukee area. While they legally argue the property here is not as valuable as our assessor has found, within the past few months they decided to invest hundreds of thousands of dollars in an expansion project.

The board encourages all residents to be informed and research both referendum issues prior to voting on Election Day.



John L. Swisher

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: Dr. Michael Garvey

For the last 13 years, Garvey has been at the forefront of change for schools, including the building of the new middle and high schools as Johnson Creek's school superintendent. But he is most proud of the work being done inside. "Our shift to personalized learning is one where we have seen significant improvements for our students," said Garvey. "We are now sought after by schools nationwide and will be featured on an upcoming edition of NPR. It has greatly reduced frustration at both ends of the spectrum and affords a healthier atmosphere for our students to learn," Garvey said.



Dr. Michael Garvey

Garvey grew up and graduated from Oconomowoc High School in 1983. At a very early age, he wanted to be a veterinarian and pursued his bachelors, masters, and PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in meat and animal science, agriculture (ag) education, and education administration.

It was during a student teaching stint where he felt his calling and later pursued an opportunity to teach ag studies in Cashton, Wisconsin for six years. "This was one of the best places to teach ag because they were so successful," recalled Garvey. "Students and families taught me as much as I taught them. Many of the things I learned in Cashton I still use today: time management, mentoring, supervising...I loved it!"

Many know Garvey for his leadership in schools, but may be surprised to learn of his other mentorship passion: Scouting.

Garvey is celebrating his 45th year in Scouting. He began as a cub scout, spent 13 years as a leader in scout camp, earned his Eagle Scout badge, and now serves as Vice President of the Boy Scout Council in Waukesha; which oversees scouting in parts of Waukesha, Jefferson, Dodge, Washington, and Walworth counties.



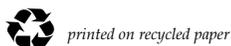
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NEW POLICE OFFICERS

OFFICER PATRICK SYKES

Johnson Creek is pleased to announce two new part-time officers to the Village: Officer Patrick Sykes and Officer John O'Reilly.



"Patrick and John bring a wealth of experience to the positions," said Johnson Creek Police Chief Gary Bleeker. "We hope all will help us welcome these two fine officers to our community."

OFFICER JOHN O'REILLY

"What drew me to Johnson Creek was knowing it is the fastest growing community in county, but still has the small town feel, which is a perfect situation to work in," said Sykes. "Plus it has the only Starbucks in the county!"



"I like small town policing, saw the opportunity, and thought why not serve the Village I live in?" said O'Reilly. "I'm also a WI State Capitol officer and happy to contribute in Johnson Creek as well."

Dr. Michael Garvey (cont)

"Scouting has provided so many wonderful character development opportunities," said Garvey. "Through my own experiences, I represented the United States at leadership councils in Australia, and am proud to now be mentoring six Eagle Scout candidates within Troop 99 on projects that have long-lasting benefits in Johnson Creek," Garvey continued.

Garvey lives in Johnson Creek with his wife of 19 years, Samantha, son (and fellow Eagle Scout) Micah, and daughter Madelin, who is an avid softball athlete.



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Be sure to visit our website and Facebook page for all upcoming November & December events