



**JOHNSON CREEK**  
Crossroads With A Future

# The Creek

**News from the Crossroads**

October 2019

## VILLAGE UPDATES

**By: Village Administrator Kyle Ellefson**



As we have written about several times in the past few years, growth and development continue to be prominent themes in our community. The JWR expansion project continues to take shape, and The View at Johnson Creek is becoming a very visible and impressive symbol of growth in Johnson Creek.

In addition to present and ongoing development, there are exciting things happening at existing businesses and several potential projects that may be coming soon. Comfort Suites has recently come under new ownership, and they have indicated they will be investing in several improvements for the hotel. Taste on 26 Food & Drinks will be opening soon in the former Midpoint Pub & Eatery location. The new operators have been busy selecting staff members and filling out their menu with some great offerings like burgers, Chicago-style hotdogs, wings, gyros, ribs and other barbecued meats, as well as pizza and delivery options. We continue working with a developer who is working to get leases secured and other details finalized to construct a light industrial building on Resort Drive that could exceed 100,000 square feet.

We are anticipating additional multi-family construction to come before the Plan Commission and Village Board in the coming months, and we have begun working with a company on their proposed commercial development that may be presented for approval in the coming months.

Progress on the 2020 budget continues, and the Village Board has been working hard to deliver a budget that limits any increase that may be necessary, while also maintaining the level of service our residents have come to expect. We have been fortunate to experience several years with no increase in the Village tax rate, so we do not take the possibility of a minimal increase lightly.

We are continuing to negotiate terms of the contract increase for garbage and recycling, evaluating several changes to the contract design as well as changes to the general garbage and recycling pickup practices. Employment costs are also putting pressure on the budget, with a health insurance increase of more than 6%, and a tight labor market that has increased costs to attract and retain high quality employees, including significant wage increases for our dedicated emergency medical services staff.

We have also been writing about the village-wide revaluation that occurred in 2019, and how that may impact your property

taxes. One component that is important to understand is the proportional value by property type, and how that has changed from 2018 to 2019.

In the 2019 revaluation, residential properties amounted to 55% of the property value, and commercial properties accounted for 45% of the overall assessed value. This is a shift from 2018, when residential properties were more closely valued to commercial property, at a 52% residential/48% commercial split. This change occurs for a variety of reasons, including new construction and changes in land use, as well as the market value of each class increasing at different rates. With this shift of additional value to the residential properties, even if the tax collected by the Village stayed the same as last year, the residential properties would generally pay a larger portion of the tax collected as a whole, and the commercial properties would pay less. These valuation shifts change over time as the market conditions change. So while the residential market reflected larger increases this assessment year, other years will show a larger increase in the commercial market.

## NEW TREATMENT PLANT OPEN HOUSE



*Wastewater Treatment Plant located at 200 Aztalan St*

The Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades have been successfully completed with project costs coming in under budget. The Village of Johnson Creek is now running on upgraded treatment equipment with increased capacity to accommodate estimated growth for the next few

decades. Additionally, it has been designed to accommodate expansion in the future if the Village grows more quickly than projected.

To commemorate this accomplishment, the Village is hosting an open house on **Saturday, October 19 from 11:00am – 1:00pm** at the

treatment facility. Staff will be available to give quick tours of the facilities and answer questions about the system.



## VAPING DANGERS



You probably have heard the news about skyrocketing vaping deaths and illnesses. But with often conflicting information from various sources, it's hard to know the facts. We have obtained reputable information and resources from the CDC, Mayo Clinic, Surgeon General, and medical professionals we want to share to help our residents be informed and safe.

**For facts about E-cigarettes, their health effects, and risks of use.**

[www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic\\_information/e-cigarettes/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/index.html)

**Information from the Surgeon General on the risks of e-cigarettes that includes free tools such as a parent tip sheet for talking to teens about e-cigarettes.**

[www.e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov](http://www.e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov)

**Information from the Mayo Clinic regarding using e-cigarettes as a quit smoking aid.**

[www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/quit-smoking/in-depth/electronic-cigarettes/art-20204330](http://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/quit-smoking/in-depth/electronic-cigarettes/art-20204330)



**PICTURED LEFT:** Dylan Nelson of Burlington, Wisconsin was put into a medically induced coma when his body started shutting down after vaping.

Source: NBC News and Today

Talk to your child or teen about why e-cigarettes are harmful for them. It's never too late. Let your child know

that you want them to stay away from all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, because they are not safe for them. Seek help and get involved.

Set up an appointment with your child's health care provider so that they can hear from a medical professional about the health risks of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes. Speak with your child's teacher and school administrator about enforcement of tobacco-free school grounds policies and tobacco prevention curriculum. Encourage your child to learn the facts and get tips for quitting tobacco products at [www.Teen.smokefree.gov](http://www.Teen.smokefree.gov).

### QUICK FACTS ON RISKS OF E-CIGARETTES

- The use of e-cigarettes is unsafe for kids, teens, and young adults.
- Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine. Nicotine is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development, which continues into the early to mid-20s.
- E-cigarettes can contain other harmful substances besides nicotine.
- Young people who use e-cigarettes may be more likely to smoke cigarettes in the future.

## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



In a fire, mere seconds can mean the difference between a safe escape and a tragedy. Fire safety education isn't just for school children. Teenagers, adults, and the elderly are also at risk in fires, making it important for every member of our community to take some time every October during Fire Prevention Week to make sure they understand how to stay safe in case of a fire.

### Home Fire Escape Planning and Practice

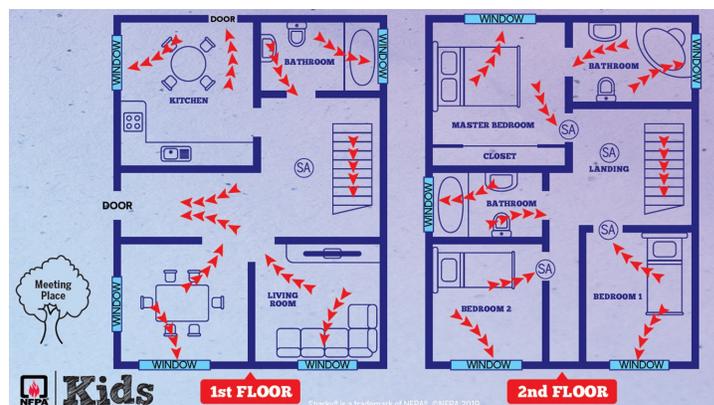
Home fire escape planning and drills are an essential part of fire safety. A home fire escape plan needs to be developed and practiced before a fire strikes.

**Home fire escape planning should include:**

- Drawing a map of each level of the home, showing all doors and windows
- Going to each room and pointing to the two ways out
- Making sure someone will help children, older adults, and people with disabilities wake up and get out
- Teaching children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them
- Establishing a meeting place outside and away from the home where everyone can meet after exiting
- Having properly installed and maintained smoke alarms

**Home fire escape practice should include:**

- Pushing the smoke alarm button to start the drill
- Practicing what to do in case there is smoke: Get low and go. Get out fast.
- Practicing using different ways out and closing doors behind you as you leave
- Never going back for people, pets, or things
- Going to your outdoor meeting place



Sample Escape Plan

# RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: ANGELA CAMINATA TOURISM UPDATES & EVENTS



Angela Caminata

Angela Caminata is an entrepreneur, a proud mother of three kids, wife, Johnson Creek High School graduate, and local beauty expert.

Angela started her career in the beauty industry in 2000 and created her own business and brand, Unique Reflections, in 2010. Since then, Caminata's business has grown and through the help and support of her family, the Caminata's purchased the now Unique Reflections Hair Studio building (located at 112 Milwaukee St.) in 2016. The building has some historic roots.

"I love that this used to be Village Hall," said Caminata of her location. "It used to house the police department, fire department, and the treasury. The vault is still here," Caminata continued.

Angela rebranded her business to AMC Artistry in 2016 to reflect her expanding beauty skills. "When we purchased the building, I called it Unique Reflections because that's how my clients knew me. I changed my business name to AMC Artistry to differentiate all the services I

now offer including microblading, LI-FT Tattoo Removal, Henna, as well as great hair styling," said Caminata. "Plus other stylists rent space in my studio, so I wanted to keep the building as one brand and my business as another," Caminata continued.



Unique Reflections Hair Studio

Caminata also shared that she and her husband, Tony, are renovating the basement space to allow more stylists to rent space.



AMC Artistry Logo

When asked about her favorite part of being in Johnson Creek, Caminata shared it's the friendly small-town charm and convenient location to I-94 and Highway 26. "It really is the Crossroads," Caminata smiled. "I have clients that come from as far as

Palmyra and Oconomowoc. The location can't be beat," she continued.

Caminata moved to Johnson Creek in 1997 and met her now husband Tony at Johnson Creek High School. "We didn't start dating right away, but when we did, all our friends and even teachers said it was about time," Caminata chuckled. "I have always loved how Johnson Creek is a place where everyone knows one another and is so friendly," she remarked.

"All our parents knew one another and that is an atmosphere we replicated with our kids," continued Caminata.

The Caminata's recently celebrated their 20th anniversary and have three children: Breana, Andrea, and Michael. Breana graduated from Johnson Creek High School and is currently in the Air Force and stationed in Honolulu. Andrea and Michael both attend Johnson Creek High School. You may find more information about Angela and her services at AMC Artistry at [www.amcartistry.net](http://www.amcartistry.net).



Caminata Family



The Johnson Creek Tourism Department has been hard at work developing budgets for even more exciting promotions in 2020.

With the wonderful success and excitement of our first Spectrum commercial this summer, we are excited to share our winter version at the end of November. Be on the lookout on our Tourism Facebook page for updates and links.

You may have seen updates and photos throughout the year on our Tourism Facebook page showcasing the Discover Wisconsin crew filming various places and events throughout Johnson Creek. **Please mark your calendars for April 25 & 26th for the debut of Johnson Creek on Discover Wisconsin.** More information on celebrating this airing will be coming as the date approaches.



Host Eric Paulsen at Founders Float

Host Eric Paulsen at Lindt Chocolates at Johnson Creek Premium Outlets



## UPCOMING EVENTS IN JOHNSON CREEK

Please see [www.visitjohnsoncreek.org](http://www.visitjohnsoncreek.org) for more information on all events

October 12: 2019 Bluejay Family Fun 5K

October 25: Milford Hills Autumn Farm to Table

October 25; Sara Evans at the Gobbler Theater

October 26 & 27: Earth Wood, and Fire Artist Tour

October 31: Trick or treat at Johnson Creek Premium Outlets

October 31: Trick or treat in Johnson Creek 5:30 – 7:00pm

November 8: Lonestar at the Gobbler Theater

November 16: Terri Clark & Angie Keilhauer at the Gobbler Theater

# JOHNSON CREEK PUBLIC LIBRARY UPDATES

talkreadplay  
with your child every day



talkreadplaywi.com

**NEW!** Parents and infants will interact together with fun floor activities, songs, and books. Instructors will be using PIWI (Parents Interacting With Infants) curriculum.

**Fridays from 9:30 to 11:00  
Sept. 20 through Oct. 25**

The Johnson Creek Public Library has programs for children, teens, and adults all year round. Check out their website at [www.johnsoncreeklibrary.org](http://www.johnsoncreeklibrary.org) and follow them on Facebook to keep up-to-date on their various programs. You are welcome to just drop in to any of their programs when you are able.

## Winter hours start Monday, November 4

Mondays: 10-6  
Tuesdays: 10-7  
Wednesdays: 10-6  
Thursdays: 10-7  
Fridays: 10-6  
Saturdays: 9-5  
Sundays: closed

## CONSERVATION WEEK

in conjunction with the Wisconsin Science Festival Oct. 17-20  
presented by the Johnson Creek Public Library



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Sustain Jefferson

### GRAZING AS SUSTAINABLE FARMING

Kirsten Jurcek, Grazing Educator and Farmer from Brattset Family Farm  
**Wed., October 16 at 7:00 pm - Johnson Creek Community Center**

Learn about Kirsten's farm and hear examples about how grazing impacts the environment, wildlife habitat, human nutrition, riparian areas, and animal welfare.

### DROP IN MUSEUM: BEARS

**Thur., October 17 from 12:00 noon to 7:00 pm - Johnson Creek Public Library**

Interact with the pelts, replica skulls, and replica scat of several kinds of bears!  
Watch the IMAX movie and make a mold of bear tracks to take home.

### ALDO LEOPOLD AND CONSERVATION ON PRIVATE LANDS

Stanley Temple, Beers-Bascom Professor Emeritus in Conservation  
**Sat., October 19 at 10:00 am - Johnson Creek Community Center**

Professor Stanley Temple will discuss the evolution of Leopold's land ethic and explain why it remains so relevant today for private land conservation.



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## Village of Johnson Creek

[www.johnsoncreek-wi.us](http://www.johnsoncreek-wi.us)



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## FINAL 2019 COMPOST, BRUSH & LEAF PICKUP



### This year's final Compost Pickup will be October 7 & 21

- Must be in biodegradable bags or open containers not weighing more than 35 lbs.

**ALL COMPOST & BRUSH MUST BE AT THE CURB BY 6:00AM!**

### This year's final Brush Pickup will be October 14

- Place at the backside of the curb.
- Ends **MUST** face the flow of traffic.
- No branches/trunks over 8" diameter or stumps will be picked up.
- The Village will not pick up brush left by contractors resulting from tree removal.



## MORE NEWS YOU CAN USE

Weekly fall leaf pick-up begins mid-October and continues until the first freeze.



### Reminders:

- Please keep leaves piled in the terrace and off of the street and gutters.
- Do **NOT** put them in containers or they won't be picked up. Thank you for your help!