

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROVIDES A VISION MOVING FORWARD by John L. Swisher

As your Village president, I respect the responsibility of providing residents with the stellar services our community has come to expect and value the hard work that goes into maintaining our budgets. Addressing the needs of the Village is at the forefront of every decision we as a board make. Since October 2017, your dedicated Village board, experienced Administrator Kyle Ellefson, engineers, accountants, and I have diligently worked together to provide a smart strategic plan to forecast Village needs in the upcoming decades.



With the TIF (tax incremental finance) expenditures closed, and the two TID (tax incremental districts) slated to close in 2022, Village leadership has been proactively anticipating the impacts on the mill rate.

It is our duty to investigate all options to honor and respect the tax dollars of our residents. To achieve our goal of maintaining a flat mill rate, while also addressing much needed capital expenditures, Village leadership will balance the one time levy increase with other levy strategies. This plan allows us to be fiscally responsible by mitigating financial impacts while continuing to offer the quality of life services Johnson Creek is known for.

My vision for the plan was proactive planning; marrying capital expenditures with mitigating tax increases, in one major plan. Through committed teamwork with our board, and expert facilitation from Village Administrator Kyle Ellefson, I am proud to share our past year of purposeful work produced a strategic plan that addresses and prioritizes how major projects will be financed for the next 20 years at a flat mill rate.

By viewing the plan as more than capital improvements, but also as a comprehensive financial plan, we may now proactively anticipate funding the types of projects needed to continue offering the quality services our residents enjoy now and with future growth. The Village is in a position to move forward with making the Johnson Creek vision a reality: making Johnson Creek the "Crossroads With A Future."

Some capital expenditures addressed in the 20-year strategic plan include much needed fire trucks, ambulances, plow trucks, loaders, as well as utility improvements to south side neighborhoods, and improvements to Jefferson Street.

The ability to purchase new equipment and maintain our Village streets and utilities is critical to sustaining the valuable quality of life our residents have come to expect and deserve. Having a plan with the means to deliver quality services, while mitigating tax increases was a major goal of mine. I am proud of the teamwork from the board and skilled guidance from Administrator Kyle Ellefson to make this happen. As always, my door is open for conversations and to listen to resident feedback and ideas.

John



Colorful library renovation

LUCI BLEDSOE CHILDREN'S CORNER: SEPTEMBER 12TH

The Luci Bledsoe Children's Corner and Mrs. B Reading Nook dedication ceremony is Wednesday, September 12, at 5:30 p.m. The project honors former Library Director Luci Bledsoe who retired after more than 25 years.

"Having spent 25 years watching Luci interact with children, I can't think of a better way to honor her than with the children's area remodel," said Library Assistant Katie Martin.

The corner was constructed by volunteers and funded entirely by donations, including \$2,500 donations from: J&L Tire, MK Cellular, Premier Bank, RJ Roehl, Jammie Trapp, and Pine Cone Restaurant & Travel Plaza.

Visitors may now see the renovated space featuring new carpet (by JM Carpets), paint (donated by Purdy and Dutch Boy paint at Menards), custom book bins and benches (by Fuzz's Country Workshop), and a custom light (donated and installed by Troy Naatz).

"I designed the space to be more functional for kids," said Library Director Abby Armour. "The book bins promote easier searching and our moveable seating in various heights and shapes offer fun and flexible arrangements for learning," said Armour.

Look for photos on both the Library and Village Facebook pages, as well as johnsoncreeklibrary.org and visitjohnsoncreek.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Saturday, September 15: 2nd Annual Timothy Johnson's Founders Float, benefiting the Johnson Creek Historical Society. Canoe & kayak events for both experienced and beginner paddlers. Tickets are required.

Wednesday, October 31, 4:30-6:30 pm.: Trick or Treating at the Johnson Creek Outlet. Costumers younger than 12 may collect candy and treats from participating stores. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The event is free and open to the public.

Wednesday, October 31, 5:30-7 pm: Trick or Treating in Johnson Creek. Please note the new end time verses last year. All residents are encouraged to participate.



For the latest on all events, check out our new tourism webpage: www.visitjohnsoncreek.org and our Facebook page: [@visitjohnsoncreekwisconsin](https://www.facebook.com/visitjohnsoncreekwisconsin)

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: RUTH JACKSON



Ask anyone and they'll tell you, Ruth Jackson is as nice as they come. "Ruth has always been one of my favorite ladies and has a smile on her face every time you see her," said Johnson Creek Fire Chief Jim Wolf.

Jackson grew up on a farm across the street from the now Jefferson Dog Park and went to the Country Day School before attending and graduating from Johnson Creek High School in 1944.

"Some of my favorite memories are helping my dad take his milk deliveries to the processors in Johnson Creek," Jackson recalls.

"I also enjoyed going to Tuttle's Drug



Village of Johnson Creek

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RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: RUTH JACKSON (CONT.)



Jackson holds photos of her multigenerational family

Store for ice cream after school, and hearing bands play every Memorial Day," Jackson continued.

Jackson has lived in her current Johnson Creek home since the early 1950s where she raised five children and is visited by her 11 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Many may recognize Jackson as a poll worker during the elections. Although she retired at the end of 2017, she misses seeing folks in the Village. "I don't miss getting up early, however," Jackson chuckled.

"Ruth is the kind of person anyone would be lucky to look up to," said Village Board President John L. Swisher. "Although we miss her smiling face come election time, we know we can always

see her around town and at church," said Swisher.

Now Jackson has a full schedule and keeps herself young by working out three days a week, attending monthly legion auxiliary meetings, volunteering at her church (St. John's), weekly shopping visits with her daughter, and meeting with her friends for their regular lunches and card games twice a week. She's also been known to mow her own lawn.

"Sure, I mow my lawn," Jackson said. "Some days I do the front and finish the back the next day. It all depends on how I feel."

"Ruth is a true strong and tough role model as a woman who raised her family, went to work, volunteered and kept moving forward," said long-time friend Cyndi Braunschweig. "She is definitely part of the Village that helped raise so many in Johnson Creek."

Asked about her secret for a long life, Jackson said, "I just keep myself busy and have been lucky with good health."