

Schuenke Snapshot

Published in the Spring 2017 Outlook Newsletter

I hope all of our residents had an enjoyable holiday season and were able to spend time with people special to them. As the signs of Winter continue to slowly dissolve and we welcome Spring, it is a good time to start to think ahead of all of the cleanup work waiting for us. The particularly mild Winter has helped the Village get a head start on some of this work. The street sweeper went out in January and tree trimming was conducted in February, usually these types of activities do not get started until the middle or end of March. A lot more attention will be needed to fix snow plow damage, clean streets, and other general maintenance around the Village. As we give way to the ice rink and say hello to the brush pile, please be patient as we work through these numerous tasks in order to meet our objectives for Spring cleanup.

Summer will also bring a wide variety of public construction projects. This coming construction season brings forth a very healthy capital improvement program that was approved as part of the 2017 Budget. Project designs are currently being finalized, bids are being advertised (and opened), and all sorts of planning activity to get ready for the implementation of these projects.

The largest of these projects will be the reconstruction of Holscher Road from Siggelkow Road to Broadhead Street. The project will convert this thoroughfare from a rural cross section to an urban design with curb, gutter, parking, storm sewer, and sidewalks. This will be a welcome improvement as growth in the area requires this upgrade but will also fund the improvement over time. The next largest project will be the second phase of County Highway MN from Marsh Road to the railroad tracks on Main Street. This will not be a full reconstruction like Phase I and will focus more on paving replacement as well as spot replacement for other items such as sidewalk, curb/gutter, and other necessities. The Community Development Authority has been working with the Public Works Committee on several streetscaping items through the Downtown Area that are designed to improve the look and feel of the area. Several other street maintenance projects will take place on Siggelkow, Larson Beach, Milwaukee, Leanne, Anthony, and several other streets.

Several Parks will receive some attention or have planning work done for future improvements. Brandt Park will see new lighting for the softball fields. Discovery Garden is being designed for improvements to make it more accessible and user friendly. Jaeger Park will receive a new pier for launching canoes and kayaks as well as improvements to the boat launch. Lewis Park will receive some final touches with the completion of the shelter in 2016. The Lower Yahara Trail will be completed in 2017 and several improvements are planned in McDaniel Park including a new shelter, bathroom improvements, and several other amenities. Urso/Schuetz Park will be studied with a new master plan in order to plan future improvements at this location.

Another planning exercise already underway is the development of a Facilities Master Plan. An Ad Hoc Committee was established by the Village Board to assist the consultant in the development of this plan. This will review our existing facilities including the Municipal Center, Library, and Public Works facility in order to make recommendations on future space needs for expansion. One of the main focuses of this analysis; however, is to figure out the feasibility of a Community Center. We have a lot of ideas within the Community on this type of amenity, and now have a consultant to work with to help organize this vision. This work should be complete by the mid-way point for this year and then the Village Board can use this plan to help make decisions on our facilities going forward.

The Spring Local Election is on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 and everyone will continue to vote at the Municipal Center. A small change for this election is that it will be held in the Community Room rather than the Fire/EMS Department garage bays. There are several local offices on the ballot and you are encouraged to be involved in your local community by voting in these races to help continue to make McFarland a truly special place.

Let us know how we can be of assistance! We are happy and proud to serve this community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Matt Schuenke, Village Administrator/Treasurer