

## Schuenke Snapshot

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Welcome to 2020 and I hope everyone in our Community and beyond had a nice holiday season. While we trudge on through the heart of winter, there are many good things going on now that will take us into a very active year. The Village Board has been working on creating our first Strategic Plan to help as a resource in decision making regarding our priorities into the future. Several goals and objectives have been established with a corresponding action plan to help monitor progress in achieving these priorities. The first draft of the full plan has been completed and published on the Village website for review. Individuals may review the plan in order to evaluate its elements and make comments on what has been prepared thus far. The Village Board intends to complete this work in February in order to shift gears towards working on implementation of its elements over the long term.

One of the key elements of this Strategic Plan is to construct a new Public Safety Center that will serve the needs of our Fire/Rescue, Municipal Court, and Police Departments well into the future. There are several constraints the project is meant to address for each Department by providing for efficient, suitable, and safe space in order to operate these essential services. Furthermore, this provides for the opportunity to develop a Community Center within the Municipal Center complex within the space they will vacate. The Village has worked out a land swap with the McFarland School District that avoids from having to spend additional funds to buy land for this purpose. An architect is in the process of being hired this Winter/Spring to assist in the planning, design, and bidding services for this project. While it gets underway to move this project forward, the Village will be reexamining planning efforts on how best to reuse the Municipal Center as a Community Center. There is a tremendous opportunity to add space for meetings, events, socialization, and other active uses that can benefit all involved.

The Village will continue to be active in planning as well as improving our Park System in 2020.

McFarland Park as well as the newly acquired Community Park land will undergo a master planning effort to study their future land uses. This type of effort serves a guide for their development in the future based on the amenities that are desired for implementation at these areas.

Furthermore we will continue to study the implementation of outdoor aquatics in the Village. The Aquatics Feasibility Study was completed in 2019 and suggested several ideas that will continue to be evaluated by the Parks Committee in 2020 for possible implementation in the future.

Urso/Schuetz Park will be receiving a newly construct Frisbee Golf Course this Spring and we are also looking to add a shelter facility to support the dog park with bathrooms and dog washing.

While we have not determined a location, a multi-court development of pickleball courts is in the works as we begin the planning/design work to add this active use to our park system within a location to be determined.

Finally, the Village Board established as one of its priorities the planning and design work of a park focused on individuals with special needs. We hope this work will receive lots of input from the Community and come to fruition in 2021.

While the Outlook Newsletter is printed and delivered 3 times per year, there are many ways to stay informed about what's happening in McFarland. Consider subscribing to the Lookout Newsletter that is an electronic source of information delivered to your email twice per month. You can sign up for this at [www.mcfarland.wi.us/enewsletter](http://www.mcfarland.wi.us/enewsletter). Additionally, Administrator Staff Report provides a twice monthly summary about various activity in the Village through the year. You can view those reports at [www.mcfarland.wi.us/adminreport](http://www.mcfarland.wi.us/adminreport). Finally, all of our meeting agenda, minutes, and packets are online for public viewing at [www.mcfarland.wi.us/agendas](http://www.mcfarland.wi.us/agendas). Also new will be a Community Calendar to help consolidate and organize local events, activities in our Community. Look for more information on that tool very soon!. All of this information and many more on our website can be helpful resources about what is going on in our Community and the different services provided.

Thank you again for being part of this Community, and we look forward to continuing to serve our residents for what will be another active year in McFarland.

Sincerely,

Matt Schuenke, Village Administrator