

Schuenke Snapshot

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While Winter is well underway in McFarland and most everywhere else, we are all very busy planning another active year in the Village for 2019. Economic Development interest remains very strong with several projects presently under review or on the cusp of consideration. Two very large projects receiving a lot of attention are the redevelopments proposed at 4719 Farwell Street within TID #5 and 4703 Terminal Drive in TID #3.

The Farwell project is located on property acquired by the Village in 2018 and there are two proposals being considered for the site. This was following a Request for Proposal process that attracted the attention of two Developers. The proposals as they stand are their vision for the property as they initially see it and the Village is hard at work through its Community Development Authority and Village Board to ensure the property is developed according to our vision for the property. This initial effort is to select a proposal which would start a new and very detailed process to review the project to make sure it received property attention under local ordinances. So while one is selected, our work is not done to refine it to meet our needs.

The project on Terminal Drive is presented by a local developer to acquire the property at this location and then phase in residential and commercial land uses into the future. The first phase would be apartment buildings that would break ground later this year for completion next year. The second phase would begin next year about this time as a two story office building attracting new commercial interests. Future phases will bring in additional residential and office uses. The CDA, Plan Commission, and Village Board will weigh in on these projects in the first half of 2019 in hopes the project breaks ground late Spring or Early Summer.

A few studies have been underway for a short time to evaluate a few different aspects of our Community.

...the first of which was an Aquatics Study commissioned in the middle of 2018 to review and provide information about developing outdoor aquatics features in the Village. This is meant to provide objective data about the costs, operations, location, and feasibility of such improvements from the smallest of splashpads to the largest of swimming pools. It is expected in the Spring more information will come out on this effort to help better understand these improvements.

...a Public Safety Analysis was authorized by the Village Board this last Fall to study the future of our Police, Fire, and EMS services. This was to help guide future decisions about service delivery, staffing, and facilities as might be needed. The final report is to be released to the Village Board in February for their review.

...late in 2018 a Hotel Feasibility Study began as a means to see what if anything the Village could accommodate as far as a new hotel development. The Consultant met with Village Staff, local Businesses, and various Community groups to get a better feel for the Community to help assess our local need as well as that for the region. The Study is expected to be complete in the Spring and released to the CDA as part of their work on economic development.

...Urso/Schuetz Park has under gone some recent restoration of its wooded areas. Now that work is complete, Staff is studying future improvements such as the development of a disc golf course, dog park expansion, future facility development, internal trail network, and more within this area helping to improve its utilization. A new parking lot was constructed in this area and a significant majority of the underbrush cleared for better access to the property. More to come as we continue to review this area.

The end of 2018 has also brought some Staffing changes to the Village. Tim Holzauer resigned his position as Advanced EMT in order to take a new position with the Hartford Fire Department. Allan Coville retired near the end of the year after serving as Public Works Director for 17 years. Marty Pilger resigned recently as Building Inspector to enjoy his retirement after serving in this role for 21 years. Also after 21 year of service, Community Development Director Pauline Boness has announced plans she intends to retire near the end of June in 2019. We wish everyone well in these future endeavors and thank them for their service to the Community.

As a reminder, there is only one election in 2019 and that is for the Spring Local Election where we elect many local individuals to office. Within the Village the positions of Village President and three Village Trustees are up for election. Information about this election can be found at our website at www.mcfarland.wi.us.

Enjoy the remainder of Winter (assuming no more record low temperatures), and the remainder of 2019 looks to be another prosperous and enjoyable year.

Sincerely,

Matt Schuenke, Village Administrator