

Schuenke Snapshot

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This article probably finds people pretty wet and tired of the rain amounts we have received in the first part of Summer. We hope that the weather has not caused too many hardships, but we know not everyone has been as fortunate. There have been stories heard and actions seen to demonstrate the strength of our Community at large with neighbors helping neighbors, and these actions are commendable. My hope is that in time the water will recede and we can work together to make improvements where possible to help against these threats in the future.

There is plenty to be thankful for this Summer as there has been a lot of activity in the Village on many different fronts. The Parks/Trails Unite Festival was held on June 2nd in McDaniel Park in the Village as well as Lake Farm Park in the City of Madison with the Lower Yahara Trail connecting the two areas. While this was a one-time event, it demonstrated the best McFarland has to offer through this park combined with the trail that opened last year. It also provided a new look for people visiting our Community who were not previously familiar with it before. Opening these doors to new opportunities is a great accomplishment and demonstrates the potential for prosperous times ahead. Thank you to the McFarland Fire and Rescue, Police, and Public Works Departments for your work on the event day, and to Dane County Parks staff for coordinating many of the fun times that were experienced that day.

Speaking of parks, has everyone had a chance to experience the brand new Discovery Garden Park? This park is adjacent to the Library and was totally reconstructed as of June 1st offering a whole new area for accessible play. While it did displace the train equipment and additional landscaping is in the works, this area has already been shown to be very popular for kids of all ages. The Parks Committee is working on repurposing the train equipment into an existing park, so more information to follow. We encourage everyone to stop on by and experience the new equipment as well as check out your local Library in the process.

Not only did Discover Garden Park get overhauled, more improvements are coming to other parks in the Village. Thanks to a generous donation from Edwin and Elizabeth McConnell, new equipment will be added for older kids at Egner Park in addition to the replacement of the swings. This work has been approved and is scheduled for installation at the end of July. McDaniel Park has a brand new reconstructed parking lot ready for use. Later this year the Village will be working on a new gateway sign, second shelter, internal paved network of trails, and other improvements. Urso/Schuetz Park continues to be evaluated for a Disc Golf Course and dog park expansion. A new parking lot will be constructed in 2018 to support further use of this area.

Road construction within McFarland continues to remain strong as we look to enhance our local network of transportation. Siggelkow Road is complete and ready for use after finishing up a joint paving project with the City of Madison. Farwell Street (County Highway MN) is more than halfway complete with its third phase of construction in 2018 adding several streetscaping amenities. One item of note would be the burying of the overhead power lines from USH 51 to the Lift Store and introducing new decorative lighting in this Farwell West corridor.

The Village has also entered into a Development Agreement with TDS Telecom to conduct a fiber overbuild within our Community. In doing so it will offer new competition to the existing market to help provide people options for expansive and cost effective solutions both for residential and commercial customers. Further, the Village has been working with Hoyos Consulting to offer wireless based internet within the Village. This was first introduced last year off of the Burma Road water tower and will be expanding to the Holscher Road water tower helping to expand the service capability within the Village. While the Village has limited ability to control the addition of these services, it does attempt to leverage our current resources to add value back to the community with these types of quality of life amenities.

Enjoy your Summer!

Sincerely,

Matt Schuenke, Village Administrator