

Schuenke Snapshot

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What an amazingly active Summer of 2018 in the Village of McFarland. One of the most significant accomplishments was the opening of the Lower Yahara River Trail in August. This magnificent bike trail has opened up so much opportunity into our Community both from our ability to benefit from the amenity as well as for many new visitors it has brought. Such an amazing accomplishment for Dane County and all of its partners to bring this plan to fruition after the idea originated in the Village almost a decade ago. The planning and design work for the next phase of the project from McFarland to Stoughton will begin next year as funds were included in the County's budget for next year to continue this effort. Thank you Dane County for this work as I believe it is well appreciated within the Village.

We were busy in our own right with several large projects of our own. The long awaited completion of Holscher Road converting from an older rural road to an urban street with sidewalks, parking, bike lanes, etc. This helps to connect Siggelkow to Broadhead Streets while also serving to support adjacent new development. While the Village initially borrowed for this project, over time the project will be paid for through the new housing created in the adjacent subdivisions through impact fees. The second phase of County Highway MN was also completed which included new pavement and streetscaping through the Downtown on Main Street. Many other streets and paths saw repaving as well with the Village Board committing additional funds to improve and further enhance several local roads. Equipment needs were also taken care of as well. A new Fire Engine will be put into service near the end of the year as well as a new plow truck to keep streets clear of snow, among other things. All good progress and commitment to capital projects in order to put our best foot forward with service delivery.

Lots of good park planning took place in 2017 as the Village studied changes to McDaniel, Urso/Schuetz, Discovery Garden, and McFarland Parks. Now is a great time for park development as impact fees collected through new development have never been higher. This allows for existing parks to be updated, expanded, and offer new amenities without having to solely expend borrowed money supported by the tax levy. Changes being discussed include a new shelter at McFarland Park, Frisbee golf course and dog park expansion at Urso/Schuetz Park, parking lot expansion at McDaniel Park, and a complete reconstruction of Discovery Garden Park. The Village Board working in conjunction with the Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee will continue to plan and discuss these improvements in order to implement as is feasible. Opportunity also exists within the fund for general equipment replacement and playground upgrades if conditions warrant. If you have ideas for park improvements, please let us know. We would love to hear from you.

Development amongst many different spectrums continues to advance in the Village comparable to that of the City of Madison and several surrounding communities. Juniper Ridge initiated three phases for new home construction in 2017 with public improvements for Phases 3 and 4 complete, and Phase 5 underway. This project will be halfway complete when Phase 5 has finished. The public improvements for the first

phase of Prairie Place Subdivision is complete and new homes will be constructed by Tim O'Brien Homes. Urso Brothers are also in the process of finishing up there last phases for the Prairie View Subdivision. The second phase for Waubesa Village has been approved as a 27 unit apartment project off of Siggelkow Road. This follows the first phase that was completed in 2016 as a mixed use facility. Waubesa Shores has also been approved as a 29 unit condominium project at the site of the former Beach House Restaurant. Lots of progress in development helping to increase value and provide new housing opportunities within the Village.

Two petitions for annexation have come forward this year as well. One ordinance for annexation was approved in June that annexed about 360 acres followed by a second in October that brought in over 70 acres in the Village. This extends the Village's municipal boundaries along Siggelkow Road all the way to County Highway AB. This additional land adds new residents to the Village as well as opportunity as most of the property is presently undeveloped. Future changes and land uses will be determined locally as requests are made and conditions permit. Both actions are the culmination of an agreement with the City of Madison that was approved 20 years ago and set to expire in 2018.

Last but not least the 2018 Budget process carried on in the Fall as it normally does. The Village Board and Staff worked very hard to put forth a spending plan for the coming year that continues to provide good service and expand in areas considered in need. The 2018 Budget was submitted by Village Staff at a 0% increase in the tax rate from the previous year the same as last year. Review by the Village Board will conclude in November of this year and the tax rate will likely be less than it was the previous year. This is attributed to higher than expected growth in the assessed value, favorable increases in revenue that is not taxes, and good management in expenses. Look for more information for the budget on the Village website or with the insert provided with the tax bills.

Please enjoy the upcoming holiday season! We are happy to help and proud to serve this community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Matt Schuenke, Village Administrator

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