

## New resident favors Schuetz purchase

I would like to comment on our recent move to the village of McFarland and then comment on the purchase of the Schuetz Parkland.

My wife, Julie and I did quite a bit of research before relocating from Rockford, IL to the Madison/Dane County area.

We searched the tri-state area around Chicago O'Hare airport where I work and the Dane County area was noticeably stronger in education than most areas in Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin.

When we were looking at different communities and housing this past summer, not one realtor recommended McFarland despite the fact that the results on *psk12.com* and *greatschools.net* showed that the McFarland school district ranked pretty well overall.

When we decided to look at McFarland on our own intuition, we were pleasantly surprised. We saw children riding bicycles all over town and unlocked by the dozen outside the bowling alley and excellent law enforcement for speed control to protect these children.

The new library and village government building caught our eye along with all the new school buildings.

My wife and I would like to commend the trustees in the past

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and present for the work they have done to make village life so enjoyable. We would also like to thank the police for keeping speeds under control to protect so many children.

The McFarland school district also deserves many accolades for the work and involvement they have with the youth in this town. This place really cares for its kids and the families that live here. What you have in McFarland is what many people all over the world would love to have in their own country, places I frequent every month.

I have lived in other countries in Europe and traveled every continent on this earth which qualifies me to say, what you have in McFarland village is a gift of resources and people that I consider a gift from the Divine. This is no exaggeration.

When I walk the streets of Shanghai or Delhi, I groan for their populace because there is nowhere they can find privacy other than the four walls of their own home. They do not have clean air or water and they don't have parks where they can get away from it all.

You might find places like this every now and then in North America and in Europe, but the rest of the world does not have it all...as

we do here in this village.

I attended the presentation last night given by Sheila Plotkin at our beautiful library and I do believe she is on the right track. We need to preserve places where we can breathe in the resources that keep people sane, in a world that is starting to experience population growth and congestion.

This is a great village to walk around and having nature trails and open space close at hand will definitely enrich this community for years to come. Putting big homes on one of the best pieces of real estate in McFarland will spoil a view that thousands can enjoy instead of a select handful of people that have the big bucks.

I would encourage you to purchase this land with the express intent that it not be a playground type of park but a place where you could take your family for a picnic, hike some trails or hold community events in a natural surround environment. You have a Boy Scout troop with an excellent program that produces a lot of Eagle Scouts.

This could be a starting point for volunteer work to develop the park after it is purchased. I would be willing to donate my own time to keep such a treasure for the village and people of McFarland.

**Greg Sparks**  
McFarland