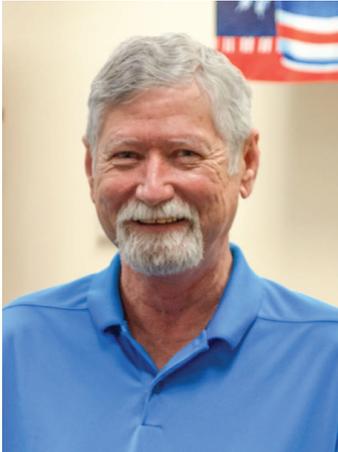


THE OUTLOOK

Volume XXX, Number 1 • February - May 2021

McFarland Newsletter

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



McFarland's Volunteer Program is delighted to recognize Tim McDowell for his ongoing commitment to volunteering for McFarland Senior Outreach Services. Tim has become an integral member of the volunteer team of drivers for the Meals on Wheels program, delivering meals to homebound older adults five days per week for the last two years.

Tim grew up in the Madison area, attended MATC and started his career as a printer working on Madison's northside. Yet, he found that he gravitated towards work in the social services arena and embarked on a new career path working with people with disabilities. Since the 1980s, Tim has dedicated his time and energy supporting individuals with cognitive disabilities and hearing impairments. Tim worked with organizations that prioritized the independence and dignity of people with disabilities including St. Coletta, Bethesda, and Opportunities Inc. He became fluent in American Sign Language and has established many meaningful connections with members of the hearing-impaired community, and he continues to volunteer with individuals to provide support and assistance. Tim was able to dedicate his free time as a volunteer EMT in Milton and expanded on that role to work in the community as a CPR instructor.

Upon retirement, Tim relocated to McFarland in 2011 to be closer to family. He has taken up the mantle of "key keeper" at his apartment complex and is there to assist his neighbors when needed. He helps to plan events, potlucks, and holiday celebrations. This past Thanksgiving, residents were unable to gather due to COVID-19, but Tim was on hand to package up and deliver Thanksgiving meals with all the trimmings to their doors.

Tim was introduced to McFarland Senior Outreach when he attended a Christmas party a few years ago. He began attending regular senior meals and inquired about taking on a volunteer role. He proved to be versatile, picking up volunteer shifts as a kitchen helper until he settled into his steadfast role as a regular delivery driver for one of the rural Meals on Wheels routes. Tim has a gentle, easy-going manner and, although we cannot see his ever-present smile under the required face masks these days, his eyes radiate his good humor and kindness all the same. Tim enjoys volunteering as it allows him an opportunity to meet new people, but emphasized that more than anything he, "likes making people smile." The folks on his delivery route are happy to oblige and look forward to seeing him every day.

McFarland Senior Outreach continues to recruit volunteers for the Meals on Wheels program, including delivery drivers and kitchen helpers. Meals are provided to homebound older adults living in McFarland, Dunn, and Pleasant Springs over the lunch hour Monday through Friday. If you are interested in volunteering for McFarland Senior Outreach, please contact Katie Gletty-Syoen at 608-838-7117 or katie.gletty-syoen@mcfarland.wi.us for opportunities to get involved.



Community Service Day - Save the Date!

The Volunteer Program hopes to return to the tradition of the annual McFarland Community Service Day on **Saturday, April 24, 2021**. In celebration of Earth Day, there will be opportunities for outdoor volunteering to clean up our community's parks, roadways, waterways, and other public spaces.

With the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis, precautions will be implemented for the safety of participants. The event may be postponed if the public health crisis worsens. Updates will be posted on the Village of McFarland website (www.mcfarland.wi.us) and social media pages.