

# Village of Schoolcraft



Preserving our Past, Enriching our Present, Planning our Future

www.villageofschoolcraft.com

## *Vision Statement*

The Village of Schoolcraft commits to building on its strong heritage while moving forward to a vibrant future as a community where all citizens are safe and secure, local businesses thrive, and residents and visitors alike are drawn to the variety of recreational and cultural activities.

## *Mission Statement*

The Village of Schoolcraft seeks to enhance the community through development that contributes to its welcoming hometown atmosphere, complements its landscape and local business environment, and reinforces its rich history and quality schools.

## *2022 Quarterly Meeting Calendar*

Village Council 7:00 p.m.

July 5	August 1
September 6	September 19

Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.

July 11	August 8
September 12	

**All meetings are open to the public.  
442 N. Grand St., Schoolcraft**

## Village President's Message Back on Track

Great News! Looks like we will finally be back on track to being the great little town that we are proud to live in.

We have a new and improved Police Chief, a third patrol car, and new body cameras. So, the Police Department is A-OK! The Chief is busy with coordinating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and doing ordinance enforcement, along with regular desk duties.

Last Wednesday was the first of three food truck rallies and live entertainment in Burch Park. All reports from vendors, neighbors and participants were positive. So, this may become a regular thing at the park.

As everyone already realizes, we will be having the 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities here again. The parade through town will follow the same route as in the past and will begin at 11:00 a.m. Many of the businesses and churches will have special items and sales to the public. The American Legion has put on a new front entrance and will be open to the public and having the barbeque chicken again.

The elementary school will be used by the Lions Club for a pancake breakfast 7:00-11:00 a.m. The fire department will give fire truck rides beginning at Noon, at the early elementary. Also, the annual car show at Burch Park will begin at 8:00 am.

The best fireworks show in southwest Michigan will be here again at the new location, on the school grounds between VW and Clay streets.

It's looking like pre-Covid happy days again for the Village and it's 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities, which is great news for all of us.

Please come out and join in the activities and make this 4<sup>th</sup> of July our best ever.

Sincerely,

Keith Gunnett  
Schoolcraft Village President  
1-269-569-6057

Dear neighbors,

Thank you for your great company in the good times and for your support during trying times over the last 40 years.

Thank you to all who have given freely and generously of their time, talents and resources.

Thank you for the opportunity and privilege to serve on the Village Council and the library board as an appointed trustee and as an elected trustee. It's been an honor to serve.

I am very grateful that we've been able to raise two generations of our family in Schoolcraft. Our next adventure will be to help raise our twin granddaughters at their home.

It is my fervent hope that you & yours will enjoy a future with good health, prosperity, and peaceful times and that you will work together to assure that Schoolcraft will become even more of a welcoming place to live, visit and do business.

John D Stodola 20 June 2022

## News from the Village Manager's Desk

Hello and Happy Summer to all of you! As many of you know, the Village of Schoolcraft hosted our first Food Truck Rally and Music in the Park on June 15<sup>th</sup>, and what a great turnout we had!

Many compliments were posted on our Facebook Page, and it sure looks like you are all waiting for our next event(s) which will be held on July 20<sup>th</sup> and August 17<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. We plan on adding one or two more food trucks along the way. It is a bit of a guessing game, we want to make sure that we have enough variety, but not so much that they are not meeting their quotas in terms of how many meals they need to serve in order to be profitable.

I would also like to thank the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee for all their hard work in putting together the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration. It takes a lot of teamwork, coordination and positivity, and boy, did they pull it together to do all those things. There have been some comments made as to why the Village has to be involved in their activities, and that fact is we don't. However, if we are not kept up to date and in the loop, we would not be able to donate funds, coordinate the car show, provide information to people who call in with questions, accept donations on behalf of the 4th of July committee, coordinate the closure of Grand Street for the parade, and coordinate Police Patrol with other agencies. In conclusion, it really does take a lot of people and a lot of communication to make this huge event work. So, a big shout out to all involved for all you have done to make this 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration the best ever!

The last thing that I would like to mention is ordinance enforcement. There are two kinds of ordinances; Regulatory Ordinances and Zoning Ordinances. I would like to first focus on Regulatory Ordinances. These ordinances are enforced by our Police Department, and many of our residents are being contacted regarding various issues such as front yard parking, parking in the right-of-way, parking against traffic, noxious weeds, barking dogs, flowers and landscaping in the right of way, etc. Many residents are also being contacted regarding Zoning Ordinance violations. These include site plan approvals, permits for additions, sheds, fences, and a multitude of other violations. These violations are enforced by our Zoning Administrator Bert Gale of Associated Government Services.

Please understand that ordinance enforcement is not our favorite job. Taking corrective action is low on the list of fun things to do for myself, and for the Police Department. We would much rather be your friend than your foe. That being said, ordinance enforcement is a job that has been assigned to me, the Village Manager, the Police Department and the Zoning Administrator. So, if you are contacted by any of the above, we would much rather work with you to take corrective action, but there must be progressive activity done to bring whatever the issue is into compliance.

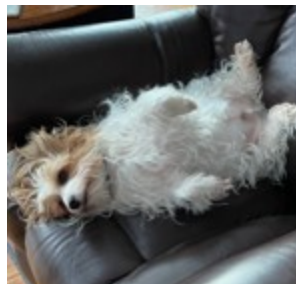
If you recognize that you are not in compliance, please take the time to make the correction(s). It will save many hard feelings, and will make the community a much more attractive place to live, work, and play. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 679-4304.

In closing, the Village of Schoolcraft wishes you a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and a wonderful summer.

Cheri M. Lutz  
 Village Manager  
[cmultz@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:cmultz@villageofschoolcraft.com)

## Teddy's Perspective

Well, I am not sure about you, but I am glad it is summer! Mom gives me summer's off from work, so I wanted to share some fun ideas for kicking summer back and chilling out on these hot days.



Besides doing all these fun things, please be sure do provide your dogs with fresh water every day, and a place they can cool off.

Have a great summer everybody!

Teddy

## Schoolcraft Police Department



To the residents of the Village of Schoolcraft, I want to take a moment and introduce myself. My name is Scott Smith, and I am honored to have been selected as your new Police Chief. As your Police Chief, I believe it is important for you to know a little bit about me. I was born in Saginaw, Michigan, but at a very young age my family moved to Traverse City where I was raised. After graduating high school, I enrolled at Saginaw Valley State University. I spent a couple years at SVSU, and during that time earned a scholarship for playing football. After my time at SVSU I attended North-western Michigan College, where I finished my degree in Criminal Justice, and also attended the police academy. At the completion of the police academy, I was hired by Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety in 1995.

During my 27-year career working for Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety I served as a Public Safety Officer, a Zone Sergeant, a Shift Lieutenant, and an Executive Lieutenant. Additionally, I was involved with the Field Training Program, an Engine Operator for the fire trucks, and a Community Policing officer. My time and experiences at KDPS have given me a wealth of knowledge, fostered many relationships in the community, and has allowed me to build a solid platform of mutual trust and respect. After serving 27 years at KDPS, I found myself looking for a new opportunity to take my experiences and knowledge and put them to good use elsewhere. Well, the door opened and that was the position for the Schoolcraft Police Chief. I was offered the job and now I am here serving this wonderful community. It is an honor to be a part of this community.

With the summer months here, I would like to remind residents of the following ordinances.

***Allowing a Dog to Run at Large:*** Any person who owns or keeps a dog within the limits of the Village, must keep the dog under immediate control, leash or chain when the dog is not on the owner's property.

***Junk Vehicles:*** Any vehicle which is not licensed and insured for operation on the highway or is inoperable is in violation. The fact that a vehicle may be for sale does not matter. The vehicle in question cannot be on a person's property for more than 10 days at any time within a calendar year. A vehicle which meets the criteria of being a junk vehicle may be kept on the property if it is in an enclosed structure (garage).

***Blight:*** Building materials, junk, trash, rubbish or refuse of any kind may not be kept outside for a period to exceed 30 days. Furniture typically found inside a residence may not be kept outside.

***Lawn, Noxious Weeds:*** Weeds or grass may not exceed 9 inches. When a violation occurs, the property owner will be given 48 hours to take care of the violation.

***Right of Way:*** With the exception of decorative flowers around mailboxes, a resident may not place any structure, sign or other object within the right-of-way (33' from the center of the roadway). Basketball hoops can be placed off the roadway on the right of way in a cul-de-sac from March through October.

***Parking:*** There will be no parking in the right-of-way, including, but not limited to, no parking against traffic, or perpendicular or angled parking in the right-of-way, except as permitted in the ordinance. Transitional parking, as defined in the ordinance, shall be permitted.

***Curfew:*** Any person 16 years or younger may not be out between the hours of 10pm and 6am. There are some exceptions. The curfew ordinance is meant to curb juveniles from being out in public in the Village during the before-mentioned hours.

Chief Scott Smith

## Brush Pick Up

Brush pick up is done on the last Monday of each month. It begins in April and ends the last Monday in October. If the last Monday of the month falls on a holiday, brush will be picked up the following business day.

- **Brush may be taken to the right-of-way no sooner than the Wednesday before the pick up day.**
- **Brush must be out to the curb by 7:00 a.m. on pick up day.**
- Brush should be less than four inches (4") in diameter and eight feet (8') in length.
- All cut ends of brush should be placed in the same direction, toward the road.
- Brush piles should be placed between the street and sidewalk when possible.
- **Brush piles should be no larger than can be picked up by any one person.** If you have multiple piles, spread them out with space in between, along your property.
- Small sticks and twigs must be put into a container that can be emptied by one person.
- Unacceptable material include leaves, yard waste (grasses, weeds, plants or vines), root balls, dirt, building materials and any brush generated through a removal of a tree, bushes or hedgerow.
- **Brush placed out in violation of the restrictions will not be picked up.**
- There is a limit of one dump truck load per month.

## Storm Damage Brush Pick Up

- Storm damage pick up has to be declared by the Village Manager.
- Use same guidelines as for regular brush pick up.
- Only storm damage brush will be picked up.
- Check the ticker on the Village of Schoolcraft website ([www.villageofschoolcraft.com](http://www.villageofschoolcraft.com)) after a major storm to see if the DPW will be picking up brush.

## Drop Off Site for Brush and Grass Clippings

The DPW Drop Off Site is not open during the week.

Now through November 26, 2022 you may take your brush or grass clippings to the drop off site on Saturday mornings between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. If you plan on dropping something off, please contact the Village Office at 679-4304 during the hours of Mon-Thurs 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and Friday 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**You must call by 3:00 p.m. on Friday if you are going to use the drop off site the following Saturday.**

## ELECTIONS

If you are interested in running for Schoolcraft Council President or Council Trustee, call Schoolcraft Township at 269-649-1276 to get forms. **Deadline to turn in forms is July 26, 2022.**

## OFFICE CLOSURE

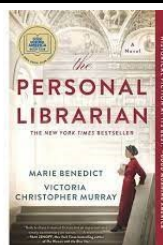
July 4, 2022

## Summer Reading at the Schoolcraft Library!

### OCEANS OF POSSIBILITIES

Sign up at:

**<http://schoolcraftlibrary.readsquared.com/>**



- July 6 @2pm Adult Book Club
- July 7 @12 Nailed It! Cupcake Wars Teens Grade 6 and Up
- July 11 @1 Ocean Wood Craft Kit Grades 4 and up
- July 13 Family Interactive Movie Disney's *Finding Dory* @11am All ages
- July 20 Aquarium Sensory Craft Grades 2 and up
- July 22 Family Movie on the Lawn 8:30pm
- July 27 BenJammin' at Burch Park 11am
- Wednesdays in July Adult Diamond Painting 6-7:15 pm

## LADIES LIBRARY

Happy Summer! Hope everyone is taking advantage of the glorious weather; and, of course, gardening opportunities!

Ladies Library has just wrapped up another wonderful program season, and is moving forward with a summer packed with restoration projects in our beautiful historic building. We all are so excited for the upcoming 4th of July celebration. Not wanting to miss out on the fun, we will be hosting a Bake Sale, Plant Sale, Crafts, and Games for Kids on the 4th!

We will have our building open from 10am to 3pm. Please stop by for some treats. We would love to show off our restoration progress too.

If you would like more information about Ladies Library, please feel free to contact me.

Looking forward to the 4th!

Kelly Bergland  
LLA of Schoolcraft  
[kassyb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kassyb@sbcglobal.net)  
269-552-8436



**95th  
Independence Day Celebration  
Schoolcraft, Michigan  
Monday, July 4th, 2022**



**Festivities include:**

- 6:30-7:30      Late registration for Firecracker 5 mile and 5K  
Schoolcraft High School, 551 E. Lyon St.
- 7:30-10:00      5 mile firecracker road race & 5K walk/run  
Expect road closure at 14th, U Ave., and E. Lyon St.
- 7:00-11:00      The Lions Club Pancake Breakfast  
Schoolcraft Upper Elementary, 611 E. Clay St.
- 8:00-3:00      25th Annual Car Show  
Burch Park, W. Clay St.
- 9:00-2:00      Ice Cream Social  
Schoolcraft United Methodist Church, 342 N. Grand St.
- 11:00 AM      95th 4th of July Parade**  
**Starts on the corner of 14th and E. Eliza, West on Eliza,**  
**North on Grand, East on Clay, ending at 14th and East Clay**
- 12:00-2:00      American Legion BBQ  
American Legion Hall, 425 E. Clay St.
- 2:00-6:00      American Legion Dance and festivities  
425 E. Clay St.
- 12:00-3:00      Underground Railroad Tours  
503 E. Cass St.
- 12:00-?      Fire Truck rides. Schoolcraft Elementary School
- 11:00-?      Several Delicious Food trucks  
School parking lots, 611 E. Clay St.
- Dusk      \*\*FIREWORKS\*\* NEW LOCATION: Will be displayed  
behind elementary school. Parking for fireworks at high school  
and elementary/middle school.**

## Village Directory

Administrative Office 269-679-4304  
Police Department 269-679-5600  
Department of Public Works 269-679-5658  
Associated Government Services 1-800-627-2801

## Village Council

President: Keith Gunnett  
Trustees: Russell L. Barnes  
Kirk Bergland  
Todd Carlin  
Kathy Mastenbrook  
Mike Rochholz  
John Stodola

Messages for the Village Council can be left at the Administrative Office or on Village Staff email.

## Village Staff

Manager: Cheri Lutz, [cmlutz@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:cmlutz@villageofschoolcraft.com)  
Finance Director/  
Assistant Manager: Tammi Youngs, [tyoungs@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:tyoungs@villageofschoolcraft.com)  
Clerk/  
Treasurer: Theresa O'Leary, [toleary@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:toleary@villageofschoolcraft.com)  
Police  
Chief: Scott Smith, [ssmith@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:ssmith@villageofschoolcraft.com)  
Sergeant: Jamie Edwards, [jedwards@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:jedwards@villageofschoolcraft.com)  
Officers: Joe Bippus  
Matt Britton  
Joe Geiser  
Henry Kite  
Eric Ray  
Aux. Officer: Dick Simon  
DPW Super: Rob Coffman, [rcoffman@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:rcoffman@villageofschoolcraft.com)  
Water  
Super: Adam Wood, [awood@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:awood@villageofschoolcraft.com)  
Office Dog: Teddy

PERMITTED NO. 16  
SCHOOLCRAFT, MI  
US POSTAGE PAID  
ECR  
PRESORTED STANDARD

Summer 2022 Newsletter  
Village of Schoolcraft  
P.O. Box 8  
Schoolcraft, MI 49087