

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.

2023 Quarterly Meeting Calendar

Village Council 7:00 p.m.

October 2	October 16
November 6	November 20
December 4	December 18

Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.

October 9	November 13
December 11	

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

Village President's Message

IT'S FALL

Well, we're here! It's Fall already! Some of the pretty colors are starting to show, which brings a smile, but also sets off the alarm for all the projects that we still have to do before the cold weather comes. It appears as though September and October are always filled with projects yet to do and places to go.

Fall is my favorite time of the year and I believe most of you like me, appreciate the colors and camping, fishing and hunting that seems to peak at this time of year. A last trip north is something that many look forward to. Back to School! Some love it and some, not so much. Football, and other sports are big items for the kids and their parents and don't forget Halloween and Bonfires. Don't forget, this fall you can check out the new School and Athletic Field.

Fall is a time to assess what we have accomplished during the year. Our Village has been very active with Projects, Ordinances, Staff changes, Council and Staff Education, new Protocols for conduct, planning for Infrastructure, Water Wells, not to mention lots of inter-governmental and agency meetings etc. The Council at times, seems to overload the Manager and Staff, but in the end, the Staff, DPW, Manager and Police Department always seem to get it all handled and within the Budget constraints. There are some nice larger projects underway in the Village and a few problem areas. However, all things are under control. Some Roadwork will be starting soon, and the US 131 project looks to all be on schedule.

The Villages Main Goals, moving forward are, lead pipe leads abatement, Water Mains replacement, new Wells and Road Repairs. There's not much time left in this year's Construction Calendar, so look forward to lots of road activity next year.

I hope that everyone has a beautiful Fall and gets a few days off to enjoy it.

Sincerely,

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

News from the Village Manager's Desk

Happy fall to all of you! It seems like the fall season is the favorite season for most people. We all seem to enjoy to beautiful colors, crisp air, some fall traditions such as chili and apple pie, and football!

As the fall season winds up, the summer work for the DPW winds down. Mowing and watering stops, and the DPW staff begins their work of preparing their equipment for the fall and winter seasons.

The Administrative Staff is beginning to work on the upcoming year's budget which encompasses much thought and work. Of importance in this process is the fact that all staff are involved in working on the budget. The Department Heads give us a "Wish List", and with any kind of luck, they are able to get what they need in order to run their departments with the best equipment and technology.

If you are like me, you might be looking around your garage or house to find things that could be for disposal. I would like to remind you that the Village of Schoolcraft does participate with the Kalamazoo County Hazardous Waste Program. The drop off site is located at 1301 Lamont Ave. Kalamazoo, MI. Accepted materials including batteries, computers, cleaners, gasoline, mercury, oil-based paints, garden chemicals, and used motor oils and televisions. For hours of operation, call 375-5211 or visit their web site at www.kalcounty.com/hhw.

The Village of Schoolcraft would like to welcome new employees Kristina Lafferty, Finance Director, Michelle Crawford, Part-Time Office Assistant, Emily Munson, Building and Grounds Maintenance, Dan Lewis, Water Department Operator. This is the first time in many years that most of our positions have been filled. The Schoolcraft Police Department is looking for part-time Police Officers, so if you know of anyone who may be interested in this position, please help spread the word.

You will see detailed information regarding the US 131 Road Project in the 2024 Winter Newsletter along with other important information as well.

In the meantime, be safe and Happy Fall!

Cheri M. Lutz
Village Manager
cmlutz@villageofschoolcraft.com



Schoolcraft Police Department

SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS

Another summer has come and gone. The Schoolcraft Police Department in conjunction with the Schoolcraft Public Schools would like to welcome all the districts kids back for another school year. Below are some tips to help make this next school year a safe one.

TRAVELING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Map out with your children a safe way for them to walk to school or to the bus stop. Avoid busy roads and intersections. Do a trial run with them to point out places they should avoid along the way, such as vacant lots, construction areas, and parks where there aren't many people.

- Teach children to follow traffic signals and rules when walking or biking. Stress that they should cross the street at crosswalks or intersections with crossing signals when they can.
- Encourage children to walk to school or the bus stop with a sibling or friend, and to wait at bus stops with other children.
- Teach children not to talk to strangers, go anywhere with them, or accept gifts from them without your permission. Tell them that if they see a suspicious stranger hanging around or in their school, they should tell an adult.
- Help children memorize their phone number and full address, including area code and zip code. Write down other important phone numbers such as your work and cell phone on a card for your children to carry with them.

ON THE BUS

- Have your children arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to pick them up.
- Make sure children know to stand on the sidewalk or on the grass while waiting for the bus.
- Teach children to make sure they can see the bus driver and the bus driver can see them before crossing in front of the bus. Tell them to never walk behind the bus.
- Be aware that often bullying takes place on the school bus. Ask children about their bus - who they sit with, who they talk to, and what the other kids do. Let them know that if they see someone being bullied, or are bullied themselves, they can talk to you, the bus driver, or another trusted adult.

Chief Scott Smith

ssmith@villageofschoolcraft.com

SepticSmart

Did you know that there are almost 700 septic systems in the Village of Schoolcraft serving homes and businesses? Proper septic system use, and routine care are vital to protecting public health and preserving our highly valued groundwater, lakes, streams, and waterways. Learning about septic systems can help you avoid costly repairs.



Protect our groundwater by getting educated about maintaining your septic system and save yourself money by prolonging its life.

Follow these SepticSmart quick tips every day:

1. **Think at the Sink!** Learn what not to put down your kitchen sink (such as fats, oils, or greases), how to properly dispose of food waste and how to use cleaning supplies in moderation.
2. **Don't Strain Your Drain!** Learn about the importance of using water efficiently, staggering water use of water-based appliances and using energy efficient appliances.
3. **Keep It Clean!** Learn about the importance of testing your well water, and its relationship to your septic system.
4. **Shield Your Field!** Learn about your septic system's drainfield, including how it works, and tips to take care of it.
5. **Protect It and Inspect It!** Learn about a typical septic system inspection, how often an inspection should be performed and considerations for advanced systems.
6. **Don't Overload the Commode!** Learn about what can be flushed down the toilet, and what should be thrown in the trash.

Pump Your Tank! Learn about a typical septic tank pump-out service, and how a septic tank works.

Teddy's Perspective

Well, the Dog Days of Summer are over and we are heading into the beautiful fall season. With summer being over, I am back to work again (part-time), of course. Today, I made a new friend at work. His name is Jace, and boy does he love dogs! As you can probably tell by the look on my face, I was not overly thrilled about getting my picture taken.

Sincerely,

Teddy



Services

Do you know the Village of Schoolcraft offers the following services, free of charge, to Village Residents:

Notary Service
Dog Registration
Vacation Watch

Village of Schoolcraft
Trick or Treat
5:30-8:30 p.m.
October 31, 2023

Halloween Safety

- Make sure the pathway to your home is well lit. If you are using candles to light the way, make sure they are a safe distance from the sidewalk or driveway.
- Use clothing or a costume that allows others to see your child/children from a safe distance.
- Talk to your children about eating candy before they get home. You should inspect the candy before they eat it. Make sure you inspect all candy. Anything that looks like it was tampered with should be thrown out.
- If your child will be trick or treating without you, make sure they walk or ride with a group of children and **never** alone

Office Closures

Thursday, November 23, 2023
 Friday, November 24, 2023
 Friday, December 22, 2023
 Monday, December 25, 2023
 Friday, December 29, 2023
 Monday January 1, 2024

Brush Pick Up

The last brush pick up will be October 30, 2023. Brush must be out by 7:00 a.m. on October 30, 2023.

Leaf Pick Up

Leaf pick up begins the last week of October. Leaves must be placed out by the road by 7:00 a.m. on November 27, 2023 for final pick up.

DO NOT PUT LEAVES IN BAGS.

- Only leaves will be picked up. Please keep debris out of leaf piles.
- Do not combine leaves with sticks, root balls, trash or stones.
- Piles of leaves should be within 6 ft. of the edge of the street, but not in the street.

Drop Off Site for Brush and Grass Clippings

The DPW Drop Off Site is open between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Saturdays. 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.

The last day to drop off brush or grass clippings in 2023 is Saturday, November 25. The office will be closed November 23 and November 24 for Thanksgiving. If you plan on using the site, please call by Wednesday, November 22 at 3:00 p.m.

Gift Cards

Last year the Village partnered with local businesses, to sell gift cards to those businesses at half the cost. It was a huge success!!!

We are happy to be offering this again this year. Please check the Village of Schoolcraft's Facebook page and website, www.villageofschoolcraft.com, for details, including date and time.

Winter Streets and Sidewalks

During the snow season, we ask for your patience and cooperation regarding snow removal. It is our goal to remove it as quickly and safely as possible.

Our first priority is to open major and local streets. This can be accomplished more efficiently if vehicles are not parked along the street.

Once the snow has been removed from the streets, the DPW will remove the sidewalks of snow. Be sure your vehicles are not blocking the sidewalks. Village residents who have placed decorative fences along the public sidewalks may wish to remove them during the winter months to avoid any damage that may occur during the snow removal season.

Snow Removal

State and Local Ordinance prohibits the plowing of snow into or across sidewalks and streets as it leaves snow or slush on the roadway. This ordinance is for vehicular and pedestrian safety.

Please be sure that when you are clearing snow from your driveway, you are also keeping it off the sidewalks and roadway.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated by our winter walkers.

Fire Hydrant Flushing October 12, 2023

Be sure to run your water before doing laundry to prevent yellowing.

Water Bill Payments

Please note: to avoid a late fee on your water bill, please pay water bill by 5:00 p.m. on the due date. This includes payments using cash, check or debit/credit card.

Schoolcraft Community Library

To see the Schoolcraft Library calendar and list of activities, visit their website www.schoolcraftlibrary.org

Christmas Walk

December 2, 2023

Visit their Facebook page, Schoolcraft Christmas Walk, for more information.

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
Joe Beck
Kirk Bergland
Todd Carlin
Kathy Mastenbrook
Mike Rochholz

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
Finance Director: Kristina Lafferty, klafferty@villageofschoolcraft.com
Clerk/
Treasurer: Theresa O'Leary, toleary@villageofschoolcraft.com
Office
Assistant: Michelle Crawford, mcrawford@villageofschoolcraft.com
Police
Chief: Scott Smith, ssmith@villageofschoolcraft.com
Sergeant: Jamie Edwards, jedwards@villageofschoolcraft.com
Officers: Joe Bippus
Eric Ray
Matt Britton
Aux. Officer: Dick Simon
DPW Super: Rob Coffman, rcoffman@villageofschoolcraft.com
Water Operator: Dan Lewis, dlewis@villageofschoolcraft.com
Grounds Maintenance/
Equipment Operator: Emily Munson
Office Dog: Teddy (semi-retired)

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

Fall 2023 Newsletter
Village of Schoolcraft
P.O. Box 8
Schoolcraft, MI 49087