

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.

2024 Quarterly Meeting Calendar

Village Council 7:00 p.m.

January 2	January 15
February 5	February 19
March 4	March 18

Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.

January 8	February 12
March 11	

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

Village President's Message SWAN SONG

I am neither a Swan, nor can I sing, as many can attest, Lord knows that I have tried. I am, however, leaving in style. By that I mean all is well in the Village. We have great people in leadership positions. Our Village Council is made up of individuals of different backgrounds and histories but with one common denominator, they all try their best to do what is right for the people of our Village without fail.

This Council and me as President have had the privilege of working with a great, positive thinking and performing Village staff. Beyond doubt we have the very best Manager that I have seen here or in any community in my 20+ years in Village Government. Cheri Lutz is a pleasure to work with, always happy and forever invested in this Villages best interests. She is a very shrewd businessperson, but still retains a kind heart. Our manager has chosen and maintains a productive and knowledgeable staff that are always friendly, informative and willing to help everyone.

Theresa O'Leary and Rob Coffman, who have been with us most of my time here, have gained my respect and that of many others, in their performance of position and concern for their duties to our village. Persons of their stature are enviable and uncommon.

I must applaud Rob Coffman's years of working for and leading our Department of Public Works, he absolutely has done a fabulous job and has dedication beyond reproach. Any day or time, Rob will come to our rescue when things happen. Rob truly is an individual who "cares" about all that he oversees.

Our police force has changed for the better over the years as we can all attest. Scott Smith, our Chief, is a good fit for Schoolcraft and is a responsive and concerned individual for our community's safety. Sergeant Jamie Edwards, Officers Eric Ray, Joe Bippus and Matt Britton all provide professional, respectful dedication to our community, and I commend all of them for their commitment to public service.

Many others work here in our Village and need to be mentioned, as if they were not good at what they do, rest assured, they would not be here. Most have been here a short time in the scheme of things but are doing very well in serving our Village: Kristina Lafferty our Finance Director, Michelle Crawford Office Assistant, and D.P.W. employees: Dan Lewis, and Emily Munson, I thank you all for your service.

It has been my privilege to work with or around all these fine people, they truly have been great to associate with, while always mindful of their jobs and duties. I'm especially grateful to our manager Cheri Lutz, who has been my guiding and guarding angel during my 10 years as Village President. Anything I ever did that was good, she helped me on, anything I ever did that was bad, she advised me not to do, but I did it anyway, thank you Cheri!

I'll be leaving my position as Village President on January 10, 2024, but with regrets, however, all things must end. I have thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the honor of being Village President and will always look back at these last 10 years favorably. I hope that I have made some positive, albeit small, impact on this great Village.

Presidents Message Continued,

I have the privilege of leaving in style as previously mentioned, as Michael Rochholz will now assume the position of Village President. Mike is the very best candidate for President as he is very knowledgeable in all things Government and is very dedicated to making our community a better safer and desirable place to live and grow our families. For many years Mike has been my "Left Hand Man" and appropriately pointed me in the right direction when needed. Thank you, Mike. I believe in my heart, that he will be a great Village President, if not the very best ever. Mike was born and raised here in Schoolcraft, so this Village is dear to him and so are all of you! Rest assured; you will be in good hands.

Thank You, for letting me be your Village President!

Sincerely,

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

News from the Village Manager's Desk

One of the many things I love about the Village of Schoolcraft is how beautiful it looks during the holiday season. From the beautifully decorated homes to Burch Park to the businesses; they really do show the spirit of the Christmas Season. As we change from one year to the next, I would ask you to pause a moment, to reflect on some of the things that bring joy and meaning to your life. Taking it one step further, take a minute to talk to your neighbor, help someone in small ways – a simple smile or a hug, goes a long way and it only takes a second of your time.

You may have heard that I would provide specific information regarding the reconstruction of U.S. 131 Corridor scheduled for early spring of 2024. The MDOT Engineers have advised me that specific details such as timelines, alternate routes, and other information is/are not available at this time. They expect to be able to provide me with specific information in late February. The Village will provide information to you as soon as we have it made available to us by MDOT. Please keep in mind that the project could impact the businesses within the community. We all want our businesses to thrive so, please be sure to support them throughout the MDOT Road Project.

Behind the scenes there is plenty of activity taking place during the quiet and sleepy winter nights.

The Schoolcraft Police Department is out patrolling, and keeping our community safe, and the DPW crew is out and about in the early morning hours making sure our roads and sidewalks are safe for travel. Every year I hear many compliments on our cleared streets and sidewalks. This is one of the many services that we are happy to provide to you.

On behalf of the Village of Schoolcraft, I wish all of you a healthy and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Cheri M. Lutz

Village Manager
cmlutz@villageofschoolcraft.com



Schoolcraft Police Department

Below are some safety tips and guidelines to help you avoid common crimes throughout the year.

The Schoolcraft Police Department wants everyone to be aware and be safe.

Car break-in and theft prevention

- Never leave your unattended car running.
- Do not leave valuables where they can be seen; lock them in the trunk or take them with you. (Including: purses, shopping bags, electronic devices, and fire arms).
- Close and lock the windows and doors.
- Park in a well-lit area.
- Use an anti-theft device if possible

Package theft prevention

- Request signature delivery.
- Deliver packages to a lockbox, office, or trusted neighbor.
- Consider installing a camera and floodlight on your porch.

Shopping safety

- Shop during the daylight hours when possible.
- Dress casually and comfortably, not drawing unwanted attention to yourself.
- Use a credit card if possible.
- If you must use cash, keep it in your front pocket and do not carry large amounts.

Going out of town safely

- Do not announce your trip on social media; post pictures after you return.
- Make sure all your doors and windows are closed and locked.
- Use a "mail hold" or ask a trusted neighbor to collect your mail and package delivery.
- Set indoor and outdoor lights on an automatic timer.

Above all, the Schoolcraft Police Department is encouraging the community to be prepared and stay alert. If a crime does occur, please report it by calling 269-488-8911.

Chief Scott Smith

ssmith@villageofschoolcraft.com

Village of Schoolcraft

2024 Council Meetings

The meetings of the Schoolcraft Village Council are held on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

January 2, 2024 *
 January 15, 2024
 February 5, 2024
 February 19, 2024
 March 4, 2024
 March 18, 2024
 April 1, 2024
 April 15, 2024
 May 6, 2024
 May 20, 2024
 June 3, 2024
 June 17, 2024
 July 1, 2024 **
 August 5, 2024 **
 September 3 2024 *
 September 16, 2024
 October 7, 2024
 October 21, 2024
 November 4, 2024
 November 18, 2024
 December 2, 2024
 December 16, 2024

* Meetings are held on Tuesday when the Village Office is closed for Holiday on Monday.

** Only one meeting is held in July and August.

All meetings are held at the Village Hall located at 442 N. Grand Street, Schoolcraft, MI

2024 Planning Commission Meetings

The meetings of the Planning Commission are held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

January 8, 2024
 February 12, 2024
 March 11, 2024
 April 8, 2024
 May 13, 2024
 June 10, 2024
 July 8, 2024
 August 12, 2024
 September 9, 2024
 October 14, 2024
 November 11, 2024
 December 9, 2024

Accountability And Transparency

The 2023 Accountability and Transparency information for the Village of Schoolcraft is available for public viewing on our webpage at www.villageofschoolcraft.com or at the Village Municipal Complex, 442 N. Grand St., Schoolcraft, MI.

Christmas Tree Pick Up

The Village of Schoolcraft’s Department of Public Works will be picking up Christmas Trees, which are placed in the right of way, through January 20, 2024. TREES MUST BE PLACED OUT BY 7:00 A.M. BY JANUARY 20, 2024.

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. 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.

Schoolcraft Community Library

For Library activities and events please visit us at www.schoolcraftlibrary.org or visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/schoolcraftlibrary>

Annual Village Wide Garage Sales

May 17, 2024 9-4
 May 18, 2024 9-3

Call the Village Office if you would like to place your garage sale on a map. Maps will be available at the Village Office beginning May 18, 2024.

Village Spring Clean Up (Central Drop Off)

June 15, 2024

E. Clay Street (Across from Krum Recreation Center)
 More information will be in the Spring 2024 Newsletter.

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
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

Winter 2024 Newsletter
Village of Schoolcraft
P.O. Box 8
Schoolcraft, MI 49087