

# Village of Schoolcraft



Preserving our Past, Enriching our Present, Planning our Future

[www.villageofschoolcraft.com](http://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.

|         |          |
|---------|----------|
| April 1 | April 15 |
| May 6   | May 20   |
| June 3  | June 17  |

Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.

|         |        |
|---------|--------|
| April 8 | May 13 |
| June 10 |        |

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

## Village President's Message

### A New Chapter for Schoolcraft: Your New Village Council President

I am deeply honored and humbled to have been appointed as the Village Council President at the February 5<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting. I would like to thank the Council for their trust and confidence in me, and the residents and business owners for their support and encouragement.

I have lived in Schoolcraft for most of my life, and I have witnessed the positive potential that has happened in our Village. I am proud of our achievements and our capabilities. I am also aware of the challenges and opportunities that we face as a community, such as improving our infrastructure, enhancing our public services, and promoting our economic vitality.

I am reminded of the rich history of our Village and the strong sense of community that binds us together. We are more than just neighbors; we are a family. And like a family, we share in each other's joys, support each other in times of need, and work together to overcome challenges.

As the Village Council President, I will strive to serve the best interests of our community and to uphold our values and traditions. I will work collaboratively with the Council, the staff, businesses, and the residents to address the issues and concerns that affect our quality of life. I will also continue to foster a culture of transparency, accountability, and engagement in our local government.

Additionally, I would like to acknowledge the retirement of our outgoing Village Council President, Keith Gunnett, after 10 years of dedicated service to our community in this role. He has been an integral part of our community and has been a tireless advocate, working hard to ensure that our village is a great place to live.

During his tenure, he has accomplished many things, including facilitating the establishment of a community vision, leading the review and revision of our Master Plan, participating in the amending and codification of our Zoning Ordinances. Additionally, he has spent much of his personal time serving on the Planning Commission and researching opportunities to secure a new well head site.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank President Gunnett for his service to our community. He has been committed to the betterment of this Village and his dedication will be missed.

On behalf of the community and Council, I wish President Gunnett all the best in his future endeavors.

Continued on page 2

President's message, continued from page 1

I believe that the success of our Village depends on the participation and involvement of our community. I invite you to share your ideas, suggestions, and feedback with me and the Council. You can reach me by email at [mrochholz@comcast.net](mailto:mrochholz@comcast.net)

I look forward to working with you and for you as the Village Council President. Together, we can strive to make Schoolcraft a great place to live, work, and play!

Michael Rochholz  
Village of Schoolcraft, President

## News from the Village Manager's Desk

Hello to all of you! I hope that all of you can get outside and take advantage of this unseasonably warm weather!

In this newsletter there is information and dates for bagged leaf pick up, brush pick up, annual garage sales, Spring Clean Up Drop Off, and more.

The Village Council and staff are aware that the local businesses and residents are very concerned about the US 131 Road Project. I can share what I know about it at this point in time as follows:

- The project is scheduled to begin on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- The Southbound lanes will be the first lanes to be closed. The Northbound lanes will remain open.
- The Southbound detour will be U Avenue to 8<sup>th</sup> Street to XY Ave., and back to US 131 Southbound.
- A time frame for the closure(s) has not been established.
- Once the Southbound lanes have been completed and opened for traffic, the Northbound lanes will be closed.
- The Northbound detour will be XY Ave. to Portage Road to U Ave to US 131 Northbound.

Soon, you will see a press release from MDOT in your local paper. We will post it on our website and make a few copies for the front counter. We will post updates from MDOT, as they become available, on our website at [www.villageofschoolcraft.com](http://www.villageofschoolcraft.com)

**Please remember to shop our local businesses during the construction period. They will need support from the community to keep their businesses going strong.**

As always, please give us a call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Cheri M. Lutz*

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



## Schoolcraft Police Department

The Schoolcraft Police Department would like to pass on a friendly reminder to all residents of the Village of Schoolcraft a few ordinances that often come up and require enforcement action. Please take a few moments to review the information below and have a happy and safe Spring.

**Dogs to be kept under immediate control:** It shall be unlawful for any person who owns or keeps a dog within the corporation limits of the village, to allow such dog or dogs to be upon the streets, alleys, or other public places in the village, unless such dog be securely attached to a chain or leash and under the immediate control of such owner or keeper.

**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 10 days. Furniture typically found inside a residence may not be kept outside.

**Lawn, Noxious Weeds:** Weeds or grass may not exceed Nine (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 a mailbox 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 April through October.

**Open Burning:** Open burning within a backyard burn pit is for recreational purposes only. You must obtain a permit annually which can be found on our website or picked up in the Village Office.

**Curfew:** Any person 16 years or younger may not be out between the hours of 10p.m. and 6 a.m. 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.

**The above ordinances are only a portion of the Village Ordinances which are in effect. All of the above violations are Municipal Civil Infractions and those in violation are subject to both a citation and subsequent fine. The initial fine for a violation is \$75. Each subsequent violation of the same type increases with the new violation.**

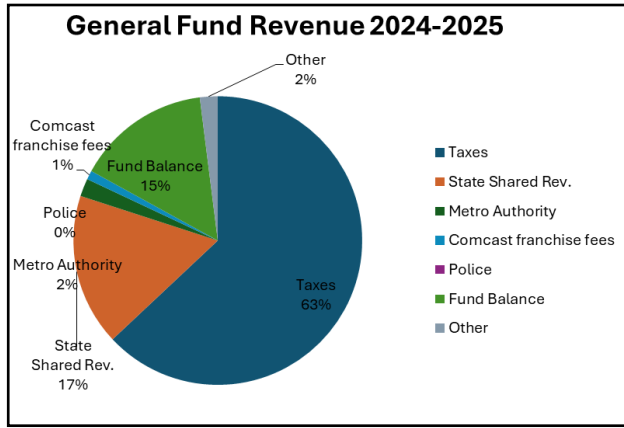
Chief Scott Smith  
[ssmith@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:ssmith@villageofschoolcraft.com)

Village of Schoolcraft  
**General Fund Budget Fiscal Year**  
2024/2025

March 1, 2024 begins the new fiscal year for the Village of Schoolcraft. Tax Revenues from Summer Village Tax to collected July 1, 2024 constitutes 63% of the Villages Budget.

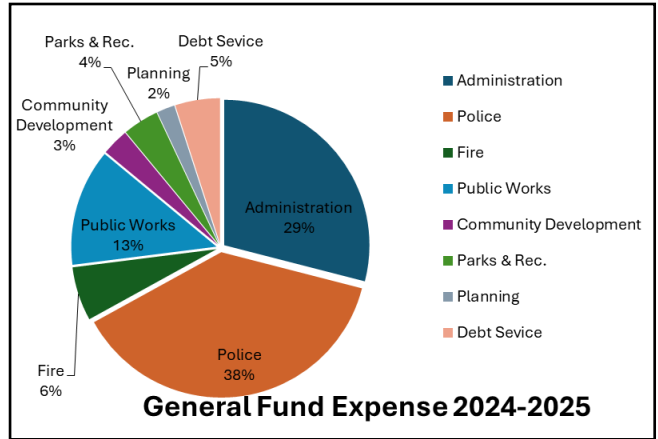
The charts illustrate General Fund Revenues and General Fund Expenses as budgeted for 2024/2025.

The first pie chart is for Revenue and shows that 63% of the Village's income is generated from Property Taxes, 17% from State Revenue Sharing, 15% from Fund Balance, 2% from Metro Authority and 1% from other Revenue Sources such as Interest Revenues.



Note: The Village Tax rate is 15.6327 Mills or 33% of the approximate total 47.4498 Mills levied on residential property.

The second pie chart represents budgeted expenditures for the Village of Schoolcraft. The chart shows percentages for specific operations with the Village: Police 38%, Administration 29%, Public Works 13%, Fire 6%, Parks and Recreation 4%, Community Development 3%, Planning 2%, and Debt Service 5%.



The operations of the Water Department, Major and Local Streets and DDA do not come out of General Fund. The Water Fund is an enterprise fund which is self supporting. If you have any questions, please call the Village Office at 269-679-4304.

**Due to the US 131 Road Construction by MDOT, all 4th of July activities for 2024 have been cancelled.**

**MDOT will not issue a parade permit during this time.**



## Did You Know...

Branches hanging over a sidewalk and bushes growing into the path of a sidewalk must be trimmed by the homeowner?

Overhanging limbs/branches must be trimmed by the homeowner so there is a clear height of 12 feet above the street or sidewalk.

Bushes must be trimmed at least 24 inches back from the sidewalk.

Should the owner refuse or neglect to keep overhanging limbs and bushes trimmed, the DPW will trim them, and the cost and expenses will be incurred by the owner through the issuance of a civil infraction citation.

Please do your part in keeping our sidewalks clear for passage for our walkers and bike riders. It is the right thing to do and appreciated by the Village.

Remember, our goal is to work with you, not against you. Complying with the Village's Ordinances will keep all of us happy.

Thank you.

## Brush Pick Up

Brush pick up is done on the last Monday of each month. It begins March 25, 2024 and ends October 28, 2024. 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. **See below for proper way to put brush out.**
- 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 Village of Schoolcraft's website ([www.villageofschoolcraft.com](http://www.villageofschoolcraft.com)) or on the Village's Facebook page, after a major storm to see if the DPW will be picking up brush.



## 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 17, 2024. **PLEASE KEEP IN MIND, THERE WILL BE CONSTRUCTION ON US 131 DURING THIS TIME.**

## Spring Clean Up

### **CENTRAL DROP OFF**

**Saturday, June 15, 2024**

**8:00 a.m.—Noon**

**Items can be brought to Clay Street, across from the Ken Krum Recreation Center. Do not put items out by the curb.**

No more than one (1) roll of carpet or laminate floor will be collected. Carpeting must be rolled and securely tied in no longer than four (4) foot sections.

Mattresses/Box springs must be wrapped in plastic.

Bags of items may not exceed thirty-five (35) pounds; and cans may not exceed seventy-five (75) pounds.

No individual items over five (5) feet in length, three (3) feet wide or three (3) feet high or weighing over 100 pounds.

Windows, glass, and mirrors must be less than 3'x4' in size. Broken glass should be placed in a box, taped shut, and clearly marked, "Broken Glass".

All small items must be in bags or cans.

#### **Items not accepted are:**

Appliances

Auto parts, engines, tires, batteries, doors, hoods, etc.

Batteries of any sort

Building debris or material of any sort, including lumber, plaster, drywall, paneling, siding, etc.

Concrete, dirt, rocks, sod, or stumps

Electronics, TV, computers, printers, fax machines, etc.

Large metal pieces or large plastic drums

Hazardous Waste (including medical waste, paints, solvents, pesticides, chemicals, varnishes or liquid of any sort)

Fencing

Motor Oil

Propane tanks/gas tanks

Iron or steel

Cast iron bathtubs

Yard Waste—grass clippings, branches, etc.

## Leaf Pick Up Through APRIL 26, 2024

**Leaves must be in paper bags.** Paper grocery bags and store bought paper leaf bags are acceptable. Place bags out by the curb. Call the Village Office at 269-679-4304 to let us know the number of leaf bags to be picked up. Bags of leaves must be out to the curb by 7:00 a.m. April 26, 2024.

## Drop Off Site for Brush and Grass Clippings

The DPW Drop Off Site will not be open during the week. April through November 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.**

## Fire Hydrant Flushing

April 9, 2024

Be sure to run your water for a few minutes before doing laundry.

## Office Closure

Memorial Day, May 27, 2024

## Schoolcraft Community Library

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

## 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 forms in is April 23, 2024.

## 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: Mike Rochholz  
Trustees: Russell L. Barnes  
Joe Beck  
Kirk Bergland  
Todd Carlin  
Kathy Mastenbrook

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)  
Clerk/  
Treasurer: Theresa O'Leary, [toleary@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:toleary@villageofschoolcraft.com)  
Office  
Assistant: Michelle Crawford, [mcrawford@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:mcrawford@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  
Eric Ray  
Matt Britton  
DPW Super: Rob Coffman, [rcoffman@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:rcoffman@villageofschoolcraft.com)  
Water Operator: Dan Lewis, [dlewis@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto: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

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