

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.

July 1	August 5
September 3	September 16

Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.

July 8	August 12
September 9	

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

Village President's Message Reconstructing our lives

The reconstruction of a highway can have a significant impact on a local village within a short period of time. The current impact for us as individuals residing or traversing the community is chaotic and inefficient at best. But within six months or less, we will begin to experience improved traffic flow and reduced congestion, leading to greater access and shorter, safer, and more predictable travel times than what we are currently experiencing.

The modernization of road infrastructure often brings enhanced safety features, such as better lighting and signage, which can reduce the number of accidents and improve overall road safety. One positive change will be that MDOT will be adding a left turn signal light at the Lyons Street intersection. This should provide an immediate positive impact on reducing the volume of accidents that have happened at this intersection over the years. Also, no more holes opening up at various spots on our routes, potentially creating damage or mechanical issues for our vehicles.

Economically, the Village may see a boost as improved transportation flow can attract businesses and visitors, potentially leading to job creation and increased revenue for local shops and services. But we first have to get through the economic pain for our local businesses today. It is imperative that we support our local entrepreneurs, as access to our businesses is currently cumbersome and, in some cases, not on the route that would generally allow someone to "pop in on their way by" due to conveniences that just do not exist at this time. Our community businesses are having to rely on us at this moment. Let's ensure that we are there for them, so they can ensure that they will be there for us when the project is completed.

Additionally, it's important to consider the lessons learned from historical highway construction projects, which sometimes lead to community disruption and displacement. We have experienced this before and will again in likely the next 20 years. Disruptions are expected and temporary, and safety is paramount during these projects. Modern highway projects aim to minimize these negative impacts by regularly informing the community, so that we all can understand what is taking place, and the timing of the various phases. The reconstructed highway's contribution to the Village will ultimately depend on communication, careful planning and execution that considers the well-being and prosperity of our local community.

Be patient...be safe! This too will pass soon.

Michael J. Rochholz
Village of Schoolcraft, President

News from the Village Manager's Desk

Hello and Happy Summer! I hope you are enjoying these nice breezy days.

Many of you are probably busy sprucing up your yard and making plans for some kind of home improvement project. Please give the office a call to see if a permit is required for what you are doing. We will be more than happy to answer that, and any other questions you may have.

Please remember to support our local business community. I know that it can be inconvenient at times to get access to them, but they need our support during the US 131 Road Construction Project. Let's do our part in supporting all local businesses to help keep them going.

Many of you have picked up the "Slow Down" signs that we have available in the office. If you would like one for your front yard, we do have more of them, and are happy to hand them out.

Last, during the summer months, please adhere to our policies regarding placement of brush at the curb. Brush can be taken to the curb the Wednesday before brush pick-up, on the last Monday of each month. If it is at the curb any earlier, you will be asked to pull it back to your house. Your cooperation will help keep the Village clean and tidy looking.

As always, if you have any questions, please give us a call at 269-679-4304.

Cheri M. Lutz
Village Manager
cmultz@villageofschoolcraft.com

To All Dog Owners/Walkers

Village Ordinance requires you to pick up after your dog on any public sidewalk, street, park, or private property. **It is your responsibility to pick up after your dog.** The Village gets many complaints about this. **If you are using a retractable leash, be sure to keep your pet near you and do not allow them to go in private yards.** Failure to do so, may result in a Municipal Civil Infraction.

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 23, 2024.**



Schoolcraft Police Department

Summer Safety Tips for Kids

While summer is synonymous with fun, it can also present some risks for your child. Here are some safety tips for kids to help make their summer a safe one.

- Check in regularly with your parents when you're not with them.
- Take a friend when you play or go somewhere. It's safe and more fun.
- Don't accept special treats or gifts from anyone without your parents' permission.
- Stay safe. Keep the doors locked and never tell anyone who calls that you're home alone.
- Do not go into a public restroom, to the mall, movies, or park by yourself. Take a friend and always get permission from your parents first.
- Stay away from pools, canals, and other bodies of water unless you are with an adult.
- Don't play near busy streets or deserted areas, and never take shortcuts unless you have your parents' permission.
- Don't wear clothes or carry items with your name on the outside. Don't be confused just because someone you don't know calls out your name.
- Don't get into a car or go near a car unless you are with your parents or a trusted adult. Never take a ride from someone without checking first with your parents.
- Wear reflectors and protective clothing if you are outside after dark.
- Don't be afraid to say "**No!**" and get away from any situation that makes you feel uncomfortable or confused. Trust your feelings and be sure to tell a trusted adult if something occurs that makes you feel this way.

Chief Scott Smith
Schoolcraft Police Department

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 it 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.

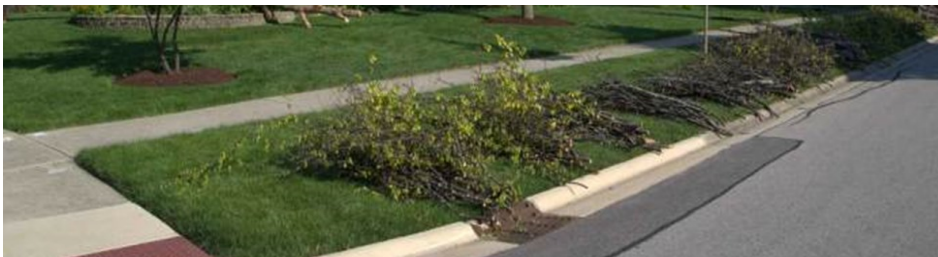
Brush Pick Up

Brush pick up is done on the last Monday of each month and it 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.
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Storm Damage Brush Pick Up

- Storm damage pick up will 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’s website (www.villageofschoolcraft.com) or on the Village’s Facebook page, after a major storm to see if the DPW will be picking up brush.



Office Closure

July 4, 2024

Volunteers Needed!

The Village of Schoolcraft is seeking volunteers for the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). This committee meets periodically to review variance requests. If you are interested, please contact Cheri Lutz at 679-4304. Training is provided, and the committee meets one or two times a year.

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
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

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