

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.

October 7	October 21
November 4	November 18

Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.

October 14	November 11
December 9	

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

Village President's Message

A Season for Reflection

As the vibrant hues of autumn leaves paint our village in shades of red, orange, and gold, we are reminded of the beauty and tranquility that fall brings. It's a time to enjoy cozy sweaters, warm drinks, and the crisp, refreshing air.

And as we enjoy the beauty of fall, it's also a good time to prepare for the colder months ahead. It is time to begin winterizing our homes and gardens and focus on staying healthy during the upcoming winter months.

Fall is also a wonderful time for reflection and gratitude. As the year winds down, we can look back on our achievements and set intentions for the future. Let's take a moment to appreciate the simple joys and the strong sense of community that make our village so special.

And in that vein, I wanted to shine a spotlight on all of our cherished local businesses in this newsletter.

Many of our businesses have been a cornerstone of our village for a number of years. They have consistently provided exceptional quality and friendly service to our community and the surrounding region. Their dedication to excellence and community spirit has made Schoolcraft a beloved spot for many.

Many of the businesses in our community are not just a business; they are a vital part of our community. They regularly participate in community involvement, such as sponsoring local events, participating in charity drives, and donate to our non-profits and schools.

I encourage you to stop by their establishments and support our local economy, not just during these times of challenging road construction projects, but throughout the year. Our businesses provide much more to this community than the products that they sell.

Let's show our appreciation for all of our local businesses, and support and appreciate all they do for our village!

I hope this newsletter brings a sense of warmth and connection to our wonderful community. Thank you for being a part of what makes our village so special.

Wishing you all a cozy and joyful fall season!

Michael Rochholz, Village Council President

News from the Village Manager's Desk

Hello and happy fall! With the coming fall season, I would like to remind you leaf pick up begins the last week of October and continues through November 25, 2024. When raking your leaves to the roadside. Remember not to mingle them with brush, root balls, and other debris. The DPW makes continuous rounds as they pick up leaves, so please do not be alarmed if your leaves are not picked up immediately after they are raked to the roadside. The DPW will be sure to pick them up on their next round.

For those of you who have placed brush at the roadside, we thank you for adhering to the Village's Brush Pick Up Guidelines. Remember, please do not put brush out by the road no sooner than the Wednesday before pick up. Your cooperation makes pick up very efficient, and the DPW appreciates it very much.

We all know that the U.S. 131 Road Project has been disruptive and inconvenient for homeowners, businesses and travelers. The Village of Schoolcraft continues to urge you to support our local business community. We know that the highway project has been challenging for all of us so hang in there. We have three months or less to go, and the highway will be completed for another 20 years!

I would also like to express my appreciation to the Vicksburg Foundation who assisted the Village of Schoolcraft by providing funding for our walk-in retail business community. I was the lucky person who was able to hand deliver each check, and it was nice to receive a big smile and thank you from the business owners. We will also be giving out gift cards to our business community for their distribution later this fall. The "Buy One Get One" program was established to assist residents during COVID will not be taking place later this year.

In closing, best wishes to all of you for a happy, healthy and colorful fall season

Cheri M. Lutz
Village Manager
cmlutz@villageofschoolcraft.com



Schoolcraft Police Department

SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS

Now that school has begun, your Police Department would like to remind you of several things that will help make the school year a safe one.

Many school buses stop within the Village limits to pick up students. Motorists must begin to slow down and prepare to stop when they see yellow flashers on the school bus. When red flashing lights are displayed, all motorists must stop their vehicle until the red lights are turned off.

If your children are walking to school, light colored, or reflective clothing are a good idea. If possible, your child should walk with someone else to school. Students that ride their bikes to school should be reminded that they must obey all traffic laws just like motor vehicles do. Lights and reflectors on bikes should be used.

There is an increase in traffic around the schools each morning and then again in the afternoon when school lets out. Be mindful of other drivers and students that are on foot. Make sure that everyone is buckled up in your vehicle. Safety belts can lower your risk of serious injury by 50%.

The Schoolcraft Police Department regularly patrols the school areas at the beginning and conclusion of each school day. Remember to report any unusual incidents to the Police Department.

Pay special attention to the intersection of Lyon and 14th St. This intersection gets congested during school hours. To add to the congestion Schoolcraft is dealing with a detour due the MDOT project on Grand St/US 131. Please be patient while traveling in this area and prepare accordingly for delays, stops and congestion. It is anticipated that the MDOT project will be completed sometime in November.

The Schoolcraft Police Department wishes you a safe and happy school year.

Chief Scott Smith
Schoolcraft Police Department

Office Closures

- Thursday, November 28, 2024
- Friday, November 29, 2024
- Tuesday, December 24, 2024
- Wednesday, December 25, 2024
- Tuesday, December 31, 2024
- Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Brush Pick Up

The last brush pick up will be October 28, 2024. **Brush must be out by 7:00 a.m. on October 28, 2024**

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 25, 2024 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 2024 is Saturday, November 23, 2024

Fire Hydrant Flushing October 8, 2024

This is a reminder from the Water Department that our biannual hydrant flushing will take place on October 8. This is done to help clean the water lines by running water through at a higher rate than what is normal. Please be aware that this can cause some cloudiness in the water for a short period of time, so please plan accordingly when doing laundry, etc.

Schoolcraft Community Library

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

Village of Schoolcraft

Trick or Treat

5:30-8:30 p.m.

October 31, 2024

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.

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.

Christmas Walk

December 7, 2024

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: 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)

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

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