

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.

2025 Quarterly Meeting Calendar

Village Council 7:00 p.m.

July 7	August 4
September 2	September 15

Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.

July 14	August 11
September 8	

**All meetings are open
to the public.**

442 N. Grand St., Schoolcraft

Water Rate Adjustments to Support Aging Infrastructure

The Schoolcraft Village Council has been presented with a recommendation from the Infrastructure Committee to adjust water rates in order to maintain and support the Village's aging water infrastructure. The committee, after reviewing a detailed water rate study and projections from Baker Tilly, has proposed a **9% increase in water rates**, with changes set to take effect beginning with the **September 1, 2025 billing cycle**. A second rate increase will follow in **March 2026**, affecting bills for the **June 1, 2026 cycle**.

Projected Revenue and Rate Structure

This adjustment is expected to generate an estimated **\$24,469.50 per quarter** based on an average water usage of **13,500 gallons** per customer. The Village Council has passed a resolution establishing the financing method for the operation and maintenance of the Village's Water System. In accordance with this resolution, new quarterly ready-to-serve fees have been determined, applicable regardless of water usage status:

Meter Size	Quarterly Fee
1" meter	\$104.62
1 1/2" meter	\$209.23
2" meter	\$334.76
3" meter	\$627.68
4" meter	\$1,046.13

Additionally, the **new quarterly water rates** will be **\$6.22 per 1,000 gallons**, and **non-residents receiving Village Water Services** will be **charged 150% of the above rates**.

Funding the Future

The implementation of these rate changes will allow the **Village of Schoolcraft to secure bonds** necessary for infrastructure improvements. This investment will be funded through the **Village Water Fund**, which must remain financially self-sustaining to ensure long-term stability. The Village Council understands that any rate changes affect the community and appreciates the continued support of residents as efforts are made to **modernize the water system** and enhance overall service reliability.

Stay Informed & Involved

Residents are encouraged to attend **upcoming council meetings** to stay informed about infrastructure projects, budget discussions, and other village matters. Your voice and participation are invaluable to the community!

For any questions or concerns regarding the rate adjustments, please contact the **Village of Schoolcraft Office** at 269-679-4304.

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Many other projects are taking place this summer including the installation of Fiber Optic Internet services. This is taking place as we write this article and will continue through August 2025. The Village of Schoolcraft does not endorse one service provider over another, but we do offer our residents and businesses one more option for internet service.

The Village Council made the very difficult, but necessary decision to roto mill and overlay Lyon Street from US-131 east to 14th Street. This is a temporary but necessary fix to provide a smoother road for traveling on Lyon Street. A complete road reconstruction from US-131 to 14th Street will take place in 2028.

Another project that will take place is the reconstruction of the Grand Elk Railroad Tracks on East Lyon Street. We do not have an exact date for the reconstruction, but we know that you will be happy to enjoy the newly repaved East Lyon Street and a smoother railroad track crossing.

Please remember to check with the Village Office regarding home or business construction projects. It is much easier on all of us if you check before your project begins to assure you are in compliance with Village Ordinances and Building Requirements.

Remember that installation of fencing and sheds do require approval and/or a permit from Associated Government Services.

Please keep your lawn mowed, cleared of trash and items that do not belong outside, and make sure that your brush and tree limbs do not hang over the sidewalk.

The Village is currently looking at installing new playground equipment for your little ones, a covered picnic shelter with grills, and new picnic tables at Burch Park.

We hope that all of you enjoy a wonderful summer. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.

Best Regards,

Mike Rochholz, Village President

Cheri Lutz, Village Manager



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

Right-of-way—What is it? Who is responsible for maintenance? What can be put in the right-of-way?

We get many questions about the right-of-way so I thought I would take a minute to explain what it is, what you can do in it, and who is responsible for maintaining it.

The right-of-way is the area that extends 33' from the center line of the road. Generally speaking, it begins approximately 3' from the inside portion of the sidewalk.

While property owners and businesses are not expected to maintain any portion of the road, they are required to maintain the grassy area between the road.

What this means is that the grassy area must be maintained by the homeowner. The Village prohibits anything in the right-of-way. Examples of this would be landscaping stones/bricks, large decorative stones, decorative pots, signs and many other items too numerous to mention. The only thing that is allowed in the right-of-way are flowers. If you have any items in the right-of-way, we would appreciate immediate removal. If you have extended your driveway approach, you will be required to restore it back to 24'.

The reason for this restriction is there are numerous underground lines including but not limited to water lines, gas lines, fiber optic lines, and much more. When there is a breakdown of any of the lines, it is very important that they can be dug up right away. There is not time for removal of decorative items, additional gravel and other items that are often placed there.

If you have any questions, please contact Village Manager Cheri Lutz or DPW Superintendent Rob Coffman at 269-679-4304. We will happy to discuss any questions that you might have.

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.

Office Closure

July 4, 2025

Playground Availabilities

In addition to the playground at Burch Park on West Clay Street, which is available year around, the playground equipment behind where the elementary school was on East Clay Street and behind the elementary school on 14th Street is available to the public during summer vacation and when school is not in session during the school year.

Schoolcraft Community Library

SUMMER READING 2025
COLOR OUR WORLD

Signup@ <http://schoolcraftlibrary.readsquared.com/>

For more information about programs or how to register, go to www.schoolcraftlibrary.org or call us at 679-5959.

Youth Events

- 7/2 Preschool Scavenger Hunt -1:30-2:30 Preschool-grade 2
- 7/7, 7/14, 7/21,7/28 Girls Who Code - Every Monday 2-3:30 Grades 6-12
- 7/8, 7/22 Movie Matinee – 1pm All Ages
- 7/9 Teen Scavenger Hunt – 1:30 Grades 6-12
- 7/10 Story Time with Miss Darby – 10:30 am Preschool +
- 7/10,7/17, 7/24, 7/31 Crochet Class – 3-4pm Grades 5+
- 7/12 Nailed It! – 11-12:30 Grades 5+
- 7/16 Nerf Wars Burch Park – 6-7pm Grades 5+
- 7/19 Tie Dye T-shirts – 11:30 am Grades 2+
- 7/23 Soup Can Garden Ornaments – 1pm Grade 2+
- 7/24 Story Time with Miss Pam - 10:30 am Preschool +
- 7/30 BenJammin Summer Reading Closeout Bash – 2pm All Ages

Adult Events

- 7/2 Prairie Page Turners - 2-3pm
- 7/9 The Science of Chocolate with MSU Extension– 5:30-7pm Adults
- 7/16 Color Mixing - 6-7pm Teens +Adults



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 31, 2025 and ends October 27, 2025. 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) or on the Village's Facebook page, after a major storm to see if the DPW will be picking up brush.





INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Schoolcraft, Michigan

Friday, July 4th, 2025

Festivities Include:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 6:30-7:30 a.m. | Late registration for Firecracker 5mile and 5K
Schoolcraft High School |
| 7:30-10:30 a.m. | The Lions Club Pancake Breakfast
Schoolcraft High School |
| 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. | Annual Car Show- Music and vendor Weenie King
Burch Park, W. Clay Street |
| 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Sale: Baked goods and books
Schoolcraft Ladies Library Association
163 N. Hayward St. |
| 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Kids activities, hot dogs, brats, pie and ice cream
Schoolcraft United Methodist Church
342 N. Grand St..

Food Trucks Clay Street |
| 11:00 a.m. | 97th 4th of July Parade
Starts on corner of 14th and E. Eliza, West on Eliza,
North on Grand St., East on Clay St., ending at 14th and
East Clay Streets. |
| Noon-3:00 p.m. | Underground Railroad Tours
613 E. Cass St. |
| Noon | American Legion Chicken or Rib Dinner
Register for Corn Hole.
American Legion Hall
425 E. Clay St. |
| Noon-3:00 p.m. | Fire Department Events
Obstacle skills course and spray water from a fire hose.
East Clay St. (Soccer Field) |
| 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. | Live Band and kids Bounce House
American Legion |

Saturday, July 5, 2025
DUSK

****FIREWORKS****
(West of football field)

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: Kathy Mastenbrook
Joe Beck
Kirk Bergland
Todd Carlin
Jennifer Doorn
Shawn Rance

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

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

Summer 2025 Newsletter
Village of Schoolcraft
P.O. Box 8
Schoolcraft, MI 49087