



The Village of Schoolcraft

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August 20, 2025

Dear Village of Schoolcraft Water User:

The State of Michigan has required all water providers to comply with its unfunded mandate to replace galvanized water lines with copper lines by 2041. The Village has identified approximately 300 water service lines that will need to be replaced to meet the state's lead and copper requirements.

In addition, most of our water infrastructure has reached 90% of its projected lifespan. Prein & Newhof, the Village's engineering firm, has completed a Capital Improvement Plan identifying 12 projects (infrastructure replacements). The projects must be done to continue to provide safe drinking water for our community. The cost of the projects is approximately 4.3 million dollars.

Based on information provided in the Capital Improvement Plan, the Village Council made the decision to move forward with the 12 "high priority" projects. A Water Rate Study was conducted by Baker Tilly, a Municipal Advisory Team that works with the public sector to help resolve financial issues related to municipal infrastructure, and to provide a water and ready-to-serve rate structure to repay the loan.

The water rate study proved that the Village must increase water and ready-to-serve rates to repay the millions of dollars that will be required to upgrade our water system. It is expected that the water and ready-to-serve rates will be increased annually for several years to repay the loans and/or bonds needed to make these necessary improvements. You will see the new rates reflected on your September water bill.

Please feel free to call the Village Office at 679-4304 or attend a Village Council Meeting with any questions. Council meetings are held on the first and third Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

Cheri M. Lutz

Village Manager

Oak Tree: Author James Fenimore Cooper wrote Oak Openings, a book about Schoolcraft after visiting in the first half of the 19th Century.

House: The Dr. Nathan Thomas house was a station on the Underground Railroad. He was the first physician in West Michigan.

Arrowheads: Offer tribute to the Native Americans who settled here prior to the arrival of the European-descended newcomers.

Plow: The sale of prairie lands attracted new settlers to Schoolcraft, the site of the first settlement in Kalamazoo County.

Beehive: The first settler, Bazel Harrison was a character in Oak Openings known as "The Bee Keeper".