

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.

2026 Quarterly Meeting Calendar

Village Council 7:00 p.m.

April 6	April 20
May 4	May 18
June 1	June 15

Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.

April 13	May 11
June 8	

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

Village President's Message

Happy Spring!

As part of our ongoing effort to communicate more effectively with our residents, the Village Council will be introducing a new approach to how we share information with the community.

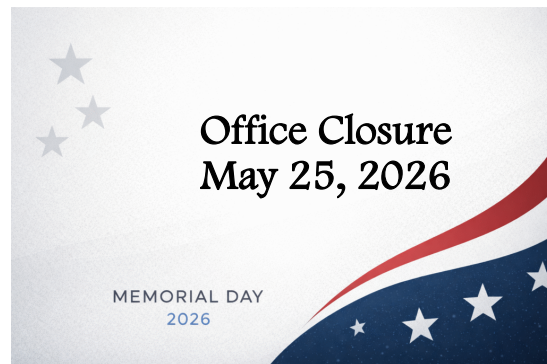
Each April, you will continue to receive a full printed newsletter, just as you always have. This annual edition is especially important, as it includes our required Water Quality Report.

For the remaining quarters, July, October, and January, residents will receive a postcard-style mailing featuring concise, targeted updates. We believe this streamlined format will make information easier to read, more relevant, and less repetitive from year to year.

We are hopeful that this new delivery method will be well received and provide a more meaningful way to stay informed. Please watch for the first postcard mailing in July and thank you for your continued engagement with our Village.

Sincerely,

Michael Rochholz
Village Council President



News from the Manager's Desk

I am happy to report that we have lots of activity going on around the Village as we gear up for spring weather.

First, we are pleased to introduce Andy Westfall as our new employee working in the both the DPW and Water Departments. He comes to us with plenty of municipal experience and is a great addition to our current team. Please say hello to him when you see him out and about.

The Village is also pleased to announce that the Municipal Complex is paid in full one year early. It was a great accomplishment to build this beautiful building, and we are very proud of it.

There will be some toddler sized play equipment installed at Burch Park this summer. We are happy to tell you that most of the funding for the equipment was obtained from grant funding, and with a lot of help from Trustee Beck and his wife Margaret.

In other news, West Eliza Street will be completely redone some time after the 4th of July. We will be sure to post a date in our next newsletter, which will be a different format and a different size. You can keep up with Village News by liking our Facebook Page or checking our website at www.villageofschoolcraft.com.

The State has mandated all lead and copper water lines be replaced. Along with this, some of our water mains have reached at least 90% of their life span and need to be replaced. These projects are scheduled for fiscal year 2027/28. To pay for these projects, we consulted with Municipal Financial Advisors Baker Tilly and Bendenzski & Associates to determine payback periods, water rates and ready- to-serve charges. The Village has 10 major projects that amount to 4.2 million dollars. We will be using USDA for the loan and, as always, we will be looking for grant funding to assist with the projects. These very large projects will require a raise both water and ready-to-serve rates 9% for the next several years.

If you have any questions regarding the projects, please attend a Village Council Meeting or call the Village Office at 679-4304.

Sincerely,

Cheri M. Lutz, Village Manager

Annual Village Wide Garage Sales

May 15, 2026 9-4

May 16, 2026 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 14, 2026.



Schoolcraft Police Department

BANKING SCAMS

Be aware of these common signs of banking scams:

- Scammers create fake versions of your mobile banking app, to gain access to your account.
- Text messages that claim to be from your bank that require you to verify your bank account number or PIN.
- Requests for you to deposit a check into your account, as part of a fake lottery or sweepstakes.

Take steps to protect yourself:

- Download the bank's app directly from a link on their website to be sure it's the real version.
- Don't reply to requests, by email or phone, to verify your bank account.
- Don't deposit checks from people you don't know.

For more information or to file a complaint, contact:

- Your bank or credit union's fraud department.
- The Federal Trade Commission

GAS PUMP SKIMMING

Skimmers are devices that steal your credit or debit card number. Thieves get this information by placing the skimmer over the credit card slot at gas pumps (and ATMs). They may also collect your PIN by attaching a video camera or another keypad over the real one to record your keystrokes.

Beware of a gas pump if:

- The card reader moves or is unsteady. Tug on the card slot to check if it moves.
- The card reader looks different than those at the other pumps.
- The keypad feels strange, thicker, or isn't secure.
- The edges of the card reader unit look like someone tried to pry it open or the lock is broken.
- The security seal over the front panel of the gas pump is broken.

Prevent gas skimmer fraud by paying with the gas station attendant instead of at the pump. If the card reader seems suspicious, report it to the gas station attendant. If you have been a victim of credit or debit card fraud, alert your card issuer.

Chief Scott Smith
Schoolcraft Police Department

Fire Hydrant Flushing

April 14, 2026

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

Spring Clean Up CENTRAL DROP OFF

Saturday, June 6, 2026

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 27, 2026

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 27, 2026.

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.

Brush Pick Up

Brush pick up is done on the last Monday of each month. It begins March 30, 2026 and ends October 26, 2026. 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

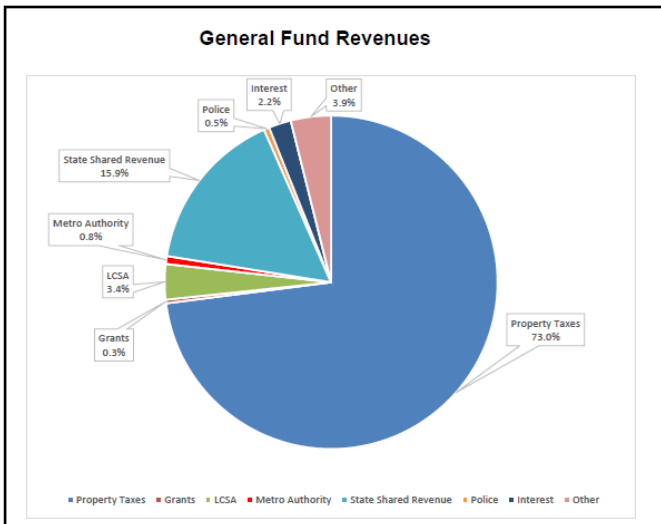
Storm damage pick up has to be declared by the Village Manager.

- 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.

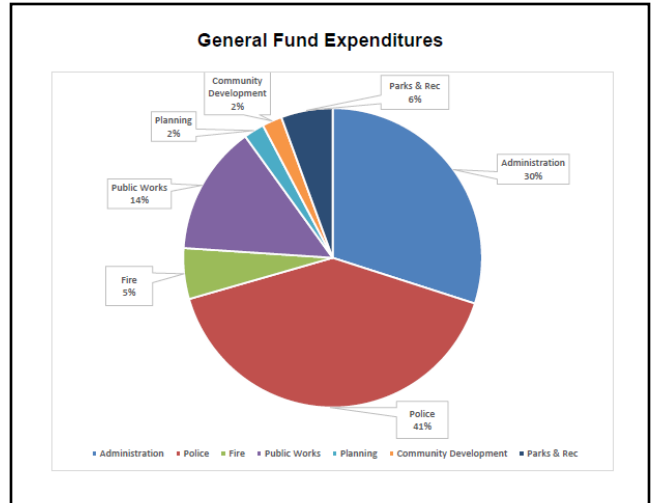
General Fund Budget Fiscal Year 2026/2027

March 1, 2026 begins the new fiscal year for the Village of Schoolcraft. The charts illustrate General Fund Revenues and General Fund Expenses as budgeted for 2026/2027.

The first pie chart is for Revenue and shows Tax Revenues from Summer Village Tax to collected July 1, 2026 constitutes 73% of the Villages Budget. Also, 20% from State Revenue Sharing, and 7% from other Revenue Sources such as Interest Revenues.



The second pie chart represents budgeted expenditures for the Village of Schoolcraft. The chart shows percentages for specific operations with the Village: Police 41%, Administration 30%, Public Works 14%, Fire 5%, Parks and Recreation 6%, Community Development 2%, and Planning 2%.



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.

Note: The Village Tax rate is 14.5925 Mills or 32% of the approximate total 45.0500 Mills levied on residential property.

Council Seats

If you are interested in being on the Village Council, or if you have any questions about the position, please contact the Village Clerk at 269-679-4304. Filing deadline is July 21, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Pick up affidavits of identity and petitions at Schoolcraft Township, located at 50 W. VW, Vicksburg. Their hours are Monday-Thursday 9a.m.-4p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt

April 4, 2026 11:00 a.m.
Burch Park
Age Groups: 1-3 years, 4-6 years and 7-9 years.

4th of July

Information for the 4th of July activities will be in the Summer 2026 Village Newsletter.

Notary Service

Notary Service is available at the Village Office.

Must bring a picture ID.
Free to Village Residents

Hazardous Household Waste

Free to Village Residents

Must show picture ID

Located at 1301 Lamont Ave., Kalamazoo

269-373-5211

Hours:

Tuesday & Friday 8:00-1:00

Wednesday Noon-6:00

2nd Saturday 8:00-12:00

Schoolcraft Community Library

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

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

Police
Chief: Scott Smith, ssmith@villageofschoolcraft.com
Sergeant: Jamie Edwards, jedwards@villageofschoolcraft.com

Officers: Eric Ray
Joe Bippus
Matt Britton
Mike Willis

DPW Super: Rob Coffman, rcoffman@villageofschoolcraft.com

Water Operator: Dan Lewis, dlewis@villageofschoolcraft.com

Grounds Maintenance/Equipment Operators:
Emily Munson, emunson@villageofschoolcraft.com
Andrew Westfall, awestfall@villageofschoolcraft.com

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

Spring 2026 Newsletter
Village of Schoolcraft
P.O. Box 8
Schoolcraft, MI 49087