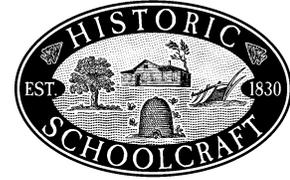


Village of Schoolcraft



Preserving our Past, Enriching our Present, Planning our Future

www.villageofschoolcraft.com

Village President's Message

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.

2019 Quarterly Meeting Calendar

Village Council 7:00 p.m.

October 7	October 21
November 4	November 18
December 2	December 16

Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.

October 14	November 11
December 9	

Downtown Development Authority 8:00 a.m.

October 3	November 7
December 5	

All meetings are open to the public and are held at the Municipal Complex at 442 N. Grand Street

DECISIONS, DECISIONS, DECISIONS

HOW MUCH MONEY CAN YOU AFFORD TO FLUSH?

We are all constantly confronted with decisions in life ... some important, some not. Most decisions have a common factor which helps in the process ... MONEY! Like it or not, we have to live within our means. It would be nice to have a brand new car, but do we really NEED a new car? Most times a good pre-owned car or a retired lease car, would certainly meet your needs, and for a lot less money spent. The same could be said for a new built home versus a good quality 2nd hand house. Both of these instances have good and bad points that can be made, with Money always being a major factor. The choice is yours to make for you and your family, for now and the future. You have the God given "RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF CHOICE".

Sewers! *Pay close attention! You may not get to choose! If, you don't make your point of view known and "demand" that you are entitled to choose and want to choose, the DECISION can be made by the Village Council.* There is no way the Village Council can know all of your circumstances, your level of income, how many kids and dependents you support, how old your car or roof is, who in your family is in bad health, how stable your job is, etc. **So,** shouldn't you be the one to decide on whether you want, or can even afford a Sewer System?

The Village Council has mixed feelings on the subject of Sewers. All council members have spent a lot of time and effort, reading, studying, and attending meetings and discussing this topic for months. You have seen the signs; **"SEWERS ? LET THE HOMEOWNERS DECIDE"**, and have probably read previous newsletters, so you understand the issue is intense to say the least! The Village Council needs direction on this issue. All of you Residents and Business Owners need to Speak Up!

Remember, our Village Council can make the DECISION to have Sewers in the Village without letting the Residents DECIDE, because our Village is a "Common Law Village" which allows our Council, to DECIDE this issue.

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I believe the Village Council **should LET THE “PEOPLE” DECIDE** this issue, because the **“PEOPLE”** would be the ones paying for the Sewers! The Village Council may have the Authority to DECIDE, but in my (and others) opinion(s) , they should let you DECIDE! This is the most important issue in Schoolcraft in 40+ years! State and Federal Lawmakers can decide most things also ... but they commonly let the Voters DECIDE Major Topics like Drinking age, Marijuana usage, School issues, etc. The Village Council should let you DECIDE this issue!

Everyone should DECIDE this issue by using the “Most Common Method” in Michigan, for Sewer approval, it’s called “Petitioning”. Petitioning is, people going door to door and allowing you to sign a printed Document with the information about the issue, on the paper that you would be signing, if, you were in favor of the Sewer Project. If, you don’t want the described Sewer Project, then, don’t sign the Petition! The petition is written for a specific area and if 50% plus 1, of the land owners approve, then all of the people in that area get sewers.

Most of the questions I hear are about the price to each home owner. Using the latest information from Wightman (the engineers for the proposed project) I have calculated the costs of both Sewer and my current 4 yr. old Septic system, both are for a 40 year period, for a direct comparison. 40 years is used because the U.S.D.A. is offering us a 40 yr. plan to pay for The Sewer Project. **The cost for my property is \$55,281.00 (fifty five thousand two hundred eighty one dollars) for the 40 yr. Sewer Plan, or \$8,170.00 (eight thousand one hundred seventy dollars) for my Septic System for 40 yrs.**

The above numbers are the same ones and methods that were used at the July 22nd public Meeting. Your numbers should be similar to mine for Sewer with the exception of a smaller lot and a shorter distance to the road could save you \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00 or so. If anyone is interested in examining my numbers or would like assistance in calculating your house, feel free call me. **My understanding is, the largest possible grant could be as high as 45% on the loan amount. That could possibly reduce my costs for Sewer to \$33,681.00 (thirty three thousand six hundred eighty one dollars).**

THERE IS A COMPROMISE POSITION, let the U.S. 131 corridor thru town have Sewers and the Residents not have Sewers! This would solve the issue for Businesses (we could have Bars and Restaurants again), and the Home Owners wouldn’t have to pay for Sewers, they could keep their Septic Systems! This is a win, win, win! Business District gets Sewers, Residents keep Septic Systems and don’t have to pay for Sewers, and Wightman gets a job!

Sugarloaf Lake, U.S. 131 north of town, Barton Lake, and Schoolcraft Township, **are all using the “Petition Method” to decide if they want Sewers! WE SHOULD DO IT TOO!**

Call-in, write-in, Email-in, or walk-in to the Village Hall and let them know your preference. Or come to a Monday night 7:00 meeting (1st & 3rd Monday of the month) and let “Everyone” know that **you want a say in what you spend and whether we get sewers or not!!!**

Keith Gunnett
Schoolcraft Village President
1-269-569-6057

The above opinions and comments are those of the author, and may not be those of all council members.

Ensuring we have all the information.

Before I dive into this, let’s make one thing very clear...the Council is listening to all sides of the sewer issue. Yes, this is very challenging and unfortunately an issue like this can be divisive. I have heard a few individuals question why the sewer discussion is still on the table. It is there because the citizens put it there. When the Village Council chose to go thru the visioning process prior to the Master Plan update, we chose to engage the community in a process to determine what we want aspire to achieve for the future, and what we want this village to look like, and what the main areas for potential improvement are. There were many participants in this process over many months, which culminated with the adoption of our Comprehensive Land Use Plan and recreation Plan at the June 18, 2018 Village Council Meeting.

At this juncture, there have been many misunderstandings and accusations that have appeared. This commentary is my effort to address the need to set this straight. We do not have anything close to actual costs yet. It is all speculation (only estimates and projections), and calculations that we can all perform...but at the end of the day, until we submit an application, and learn what the actual costs that we will all work with will be, it is all just estimating. I feel that we need to pursue and investigate the available options in a step-by-step process to gather that data, while continuing to listen and inform our residents, property owners, and business operators of information that is relevant, factual, timely and worthy of discussion.

I can pledge to you that when we have the information available to us, we will have meaningful discussion, the community will be fully informed, and decisions can be accurately made with the engagement of the public.

I would advocate for calm and patience, as we all work through this process, and have respect for your fellow community members whichever side they rest on in this issue. As our Village President has stated many times...this is of intense interest to all of us because it is a potential part of our future infrastructure and it has significant monetary and management costs. But we will be a better community in the end for having gone thru the process respectfully. Please continue to ask questions, and have us explore all of your concerns. We represent the entire community.

Michael Rochholz
 President Pro Tempore
 269.679.4327

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Village Wide Garage Sale

Friday, May 29, 2020 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
 Saturday, May 30, 2020 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Spring Clean Up 2020

The date for the 2020 Annual Spring Clean Up is June 6, 2020.

Please note: A central drop off location will be used for the 2020 Spring Clean Up. You will be able to drop off your refuse at a site to be determined at a later date.

Look for more information in the January 1, 2020 newsletter.

This service is for Village residents only. ID’s will be checked.

Notary Service

There are two notary publics in the Village Office. The service is free of charge to Village residents, and \$3 for non-residents.

Office Closures

The Village office will be closed on the following dates:

- November 28, 2019
- November 29, 2019

- December 24, 2019
- December 25, 2019
- December 31, 2019

- January 1, 2020

News from the Village Manager's Desk



Schoolcraft Police Department

Hello to all of you and Happy Fall! What a great way to start the fall season with plenty of sunshine and warm weather!

Lots of activities are going on in the Village. Leaf pick up will soon be starting in full swing and will go to the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. This year, the DPW will be working with a brand new leaf blower so no breakdowns are expected.

Each year we receive many calls from our residents asking why their leaves have not been picked up. The DPW makes continuous rounds from one side of town to the other over a period of days. If they have not been picked up on the day you have raked them to the curb, they will pick them up as they go through their next cycle. Please remember to rake your leaves to the curb but not in the road. Please do not mingle your leaves with brush, root balls and other debris or they will **NOT** be picked up.

I am pleased to let you know that once again, the Village has received an "unqualified audit", this means that there are no issues or material weaknesses in our financial processes. A big thanks goes out to Assistant Manager/Finance Director Tammi Youngs for her good work!

This year marks my 15th year as Village Manager and time sure does fly. Seems like yesterday that I started. Counting my 15 years as Assistant Manager in Wayland, I have over 30 years of municipal experience. I consider myself very fortunate to work with excellent boards and commissions, and a staff that is second to none. Together we work as a team and our goal is to always provide you with correct information both promptly and with courtesy. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to come in and see me or give me a call. Although I know many people in town, there are many more that I would like to meet.

We have made a desperate plea for new people to assist in the 4th of July Committee and a few have stepped up to assist. We still need more. If you are interested in becoming a part of this group, please contact the Village Office at 269-679-4304

As always, please feel free to call us with any questions or concerns.

Cheri M. Lutz
Village Manager
cmlutz@villageofschoolcraft.com

Scams

There is a scam being sent by email currently that is asking you to buy gift cards. Some of the emails have had a Council member's name on them. Any email that is asking for money or gift cards that has the name of a Village staff member or Village Council member is a scam.

Issues Outside Village

Any issues that are non-emergency and happen **outside** the Village limits must call Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department at 269-488-8911. If it is an emergency, call 911.

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.

Chief Bryan Campbell

bcampbell@villageofschoolcraft.com

Teddy's Perspective

I'll bet almost all of you remember the Beatles song "It's Been a Hard Day's Night" the lyrics go like this:

It's been a hard day's night, and I've been working like a dog
 It's been a hard day's night, I should be sleeping like a log
 But when I get home to you I'll find the things that you do
 Will make me feel alright.

Well, some days at work are pretty rough. There is so much to do, and so much to keep track of.

People come and go, and it is my job to make sure the office is secure so when I get home at night, I am exhausted! I am not complaining though, when my mom leaves me home, I have a fit because I do not like to miss work.



Anyway, this is what I usually do when I get home after work, mom does too sometimes!

Teddy

Fire Hydrant Flushing November 19, 2019

Be sure to run your water before doing laundry to prevent yellowing.

Brush Pick-Up

The last day for brush pick-up is Monday, October 28, 2019. Must be out by the road by 7:00 a.m. on October 28, 2019

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 27, 2019 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.

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. When possible, please be sure to park off the street during the winter months.

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.

**Village of Schoolcraft
 Trick or Treat
 5:30-8:30 p.m.
 October 31, 2019**

Annual Christmas Walk

Friday, December 6th 6 - 9 pm and Saturday, December 7th 10 am - 5 pm. Save the dates for fun and merriment as we celebrate 30 years of Schoolcraft tradition. More information at pureschoolcraft.org or call Deb Christiansen at 679-5795 or Kelly Bergland at 679-7233.

South County Community Services

Their new website is www.southcountycs.com. Information about TREE OF LIFE and staffing changes will also be in the November issue of South County News.



FALL PROGRAMING AT THE SCHOOLCRAFT COMMUNITY LIBRARY

TOT TIME-- Tuesdays—*10:00-11:00 a.m. —Program for toddlers 18-36 months and one adult (Mom, Dad, grandma, babysitter etc.) Includes rhymes, finger plays, songs, books and optional free play. Registration required. *Please note time change.

PRE-SCHOOL STORY HOUR-- Thursdays—10:00-10:45 a.m.—Ages 3-5 years. Come join us for a fun-filled morning of stories, finger plays, movement, music, crafts and snack. Please register for this program. Must be potty trained.

ADULT BOOK CLUB---October 2nd—2-3 p.m.—

The book choice for October is "*What the Eyes Don't See*" by Mona Hanna-Attisha. Copies available at the Schoolcraft Library. New members encouraged to join us!

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEETING—October 11th—10:00 a.m. The Friends of the Library extends an open invitation to the public. Please drop by and join us at our monthly meeting to learn what we do. FOL holds fundraisers throughout the year to support the costs of Library programming and services. Meets the 2nd Friday of the month at **10:00 am** at the library

BATTLE OF BOOKS—25th Year—The 25th annual Battle of the Books is gearing up for 2019-2020. The booklist will be released on **Friday, October 18th** and Team Registration forms are due **Friday, November 8th**. For the adults, the **Coaches Meeting** is on **October 28th** at 6:30 pm at the Schoolcraft Library. Bring your Coaches Packet along with any questions you may have.

1000 CRANES FOR CHRISTMAS- Oct 21st 5:30 Cider and Donut Kick off!! This holiday season the Friends of the Schoolcraft Library would like to gift the Schoolcraft Library with a **1000 Cranes for Christmas** to raise funds for a single wish – Programming that feeds the soul - and at the same time fill the library with origami cranes that secretly hold the names of members of the community and their hopes, wishes, and honors.

CREEPY CRAWLY HALLOWEEN WITH THE ZOOMOBILE---October 23rd—6 p.m.--We are celebrating autumn with an evening of creepy critters from the Binder Park Zoo followed by trick-or-treat in the library! Join us to see what creatures the Zoomobile has in store for us. Following the 45 minute program, there will be trick-or-treating in the library, so be sure to come in costume! All ages program.

LIBRARY BOARD MEETING—October 23rd—7:00 p.m.—Board members for the Schoolcraft Public Library meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at **7:00 p.m.** in the Community Room (with the exception of November, which will take place November 20th.) The public is welcome to attend all meetings.

Schoolcraft Library New Hours—Coming January 2020 look for new open hours...

M	10-5
TUE	10-5
WED	10-7:30
THURS	10-5
FRI	10-1
SAT	10-1

SCHOOLCRAFT COMMUNITY LIBRARY: 330 N. CENTRE STREET SCHOOLCRAFT, MI 49087: (269) 679-5959

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE 4TH OF JULY COMMITTEE. IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT THE VILLAGE OFFICE AT 269-679-4304.

Village Directory

Administrative Office 269-679-4304
 Police Department 269-679-5600
 Department of Public Works 269-679-5658
 Associated Gov. Services 1-800-627-2801

Village Council

President: Keith Gunnett
 Trustees: Russell Barnes
 Todd Carlin
 Kathy Mastenbrook
 Michael Rochholz
 Sy Spears
 John Stodola

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
 Finance Director/
 Assistant Manager: Tammi Youngs, tyoungs@villageofschoolcraft.com
 Clerk/
 Treasurer: Theresa O'Leary, toleary@villageofschoolcraft.com
 Police Chief: Bryan Campbell, bcampbell@villageofschoolcraft.com
 Sergeant: Jamie Edwards
 Officers: Joe Bippus
 Matt Britton
 Joe Geiser
 Henry Kite
 Eric Ray
 Aux. Officers: Mary Secondi and Dick Simon
 DPW Super: Rob Coffman, rcoffman@villageofschoolcraft.com
 Equip/Water Operator: Adam Wood, awood@villageofschoolcraft.com
 Grounds/
 Maintenance: Brent Smith, bsmith@villageofschoolcraft.com
 Office Dog: Teddy

Village of Schoolcraft Fall 2019 Newsletter



«Account#customerName»
 «Account#customerName2»
 «Account#customerStreetAddr»
 «Account#customerStreetAddr2»
 «Account#customerCity», «Account#customerState» «Account#customerZip»

PRESORTED STANDARD
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The Village of Schoolcraft
 P.O. Box 8
 Schoolcraft, MI 49087
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