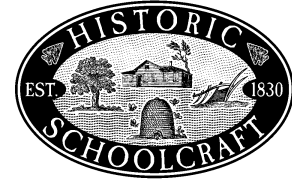


Village of Schoolcraft



Preserving our Past, Enriching our Present, Planning our Future

www.villageofschoolcraft.com

Vision Statement

The Village of Schoolcraft values its hometown character, in which the best elements of the Village's rich historical, cultural and natural heritage have been conserved and sensitively enhanced for the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

Mission Statement

The Village of Schoolcraft will continually strive to maintain its friendly, unique hometown character, honoring its rich historical heritage. We will provide excellent, responsive services to our residential and business community. Development will be guided in such a way as to compliment the Village's vision and sense of place by encouraging resident, business, and community involvement.

2016 Quarterly Meeting Calendar

Village Council 7:00 p.m.

April 4	April 18
May 2	May 16
June 6	June 20

Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.

April 11	May 9
June 13	

Downtown Development Authority 8:00 a.m.

April 7	May 5
June 2	

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

Village President's Message

NEW IDEAS WELCOME

Spring is in the air! Soon everything will be fresh and new and full of vitality. Hopefully, our Village will see some fresh and new ideas this year that will re-vitalize our downtown area.

As we all can see, our Business District / Downtown Area, has been suffering for several years, for several reasons;

(1) Lack of funding. Because the DDA, much like our Municipal Government, doesn't receive near the amount of money from the State of Michigan (Revenue Sharing) that we used to receive, our DDA and Municipal Government, like all small towns, will continue on a financial downward spiral until the State of Michigan enacts a change in our State laws.

(2) Lack of Sanitary Sewers. Without sanitary sewers in the Business District, growth of new small businesses like restaurants, coffee shops, micro-breweries, bakeries etc. are all stifled or greatly challenged because they all need a large amount of water and consequentially large septic systems or sanitary sewers.

(3) US 131. The highway brings more than a million cars through our community each year and can be a Godsend to businesses. However, in my opinion, it is also the biggest factor in the demise of our Business District. In recent years, several businesses have started up and shortly thereafter, failed. I believe this was, in large part, due to the fact people do not feel comfortable stopping, turning left, or getting out of their cars in 40-45 MPH traffic. There is little time to look at signs and read them in busy 40-45 MPH traffic, and consequentially some new stores go unnoticed by driving motorists through town.

There are several ways to slow traffic besides just lowering the posted limit. Reconfiguring the drive through downtown utilizing turn lanes where applicable, pedestrian islands, additional traffic light (midway of the existing ones), less traffic lanes (2 or 3, instead of 4), different parking layouts, and wider sidewalks are a few of the ideas. Any of these ideas would need to first be worked out with MDOT as they control the highway and the right-of-way through the Village. I have already met with our MDOT Representative and I'm awaiting feedback.

The Village had a meeting Jan 25th, 2016 that included the Planning Commission, DDA, Village Council, Village staff, residents and a planning firm to throw out some ideas. Our Planning Commission is going to be looking at our Land Use Plan for the future as well as our zoning ordinances to discuss possible changes to help the 131 Corridor.

I really believe more parking downtown, like the old Churchill's lot, wider side-walks on US131 that allow tables and chairs in front of restaurants and more products to be displayed, with a slower speed limit (MAYBE 25 MPH!), along with a zoning that frees up areas where a greater variety of shops could exist, would greatly enhance the possibility of new business growth in the Village.

It would be wonderful to see our downtown fill up the empty spaces and maybe even grow in the future. Our fresh start for this year is; "all of your officials are talking about new ideas to help your town spring back". I hope 2016 is the year we can come together on a viable plan to make Schoolcraft a vibrant community again.

Your constructive comments are appreciated,

Keith Gunneth
Schoolcraft Village President
269-569-6057

News from the Village Manager's Desk

Happy Spring to all of you! Even though we had a mild winter, I think that we all would agree that it lasted long enough.

As a reminder to you, our DPW picks up branches beginning the last Monday in April through October. Please do not place your brush at the curbside until the Wednesday before the pick-up. We ask you to do this to keep our village clean and beautiful.

The month of April welcomes one new business to our community, and that is the Little Eagles Learning Center (formerly the Movie Gallery). We are not able to offer you a phone number at this time, but the Village of Schoolcraft wishes them the best of luck in their new endeavor.

On March 1, 2016, we began our new fiscal year, and I recently heard a couple of questions and comments about how we budget that I thought might be of interest to you:

*The Village of Schoolcraft designates funds every year for anticipated purchases and upgrades for equipment, such as new cruisers or safety vests. Did you know that an officers safety vest is good for only three years? Although expensive, we continually upgrade for the safety of our officers. The Police Department upgrades their cruisers every three years, and we do this because our insurance carrier recommends that cars be replaced every 50,000 miles, however; it doesn't take long to accumulate mileage, and in reality, vehicles are replaced every three years with 80,000 or more miles on them. The Village anticipates this expense and designates funds every year so that at the end of the third year, we are financially ready to purchase a new vehicle.

*The same thing holds true with the Water Department. In order to upgrade our infrastructure, funds are set aside every year for future improvements. Capital improvements are paid for through water revenue. This is a stand-alone fund which is solely supported by readiness to serve (RS) fees and water rates. The Village of Schoolcraft has developed a twenty year plan, mandated by the DEQ, for improvements and upgrades to our water system. Many times here in the office, we hear people say "water is cheap", and we agree that it is, however; water infrastructure is not cheap and that is why water rates are adjusted every year in anticipation of our capital improvement projects.

*Road projects are funded through Act 51 monies, which is also a stand-alone fund. What that means is that we do not use general fund money for road projects. A few years ago, the Village Council decided that road projects would be done every two years, as a cost savings measure. The bigger the project, the better the bid; and there is money to be saved by going to the two year plan.

The Village staff and the Village Council are good stewards of the tax dollars that we receive, and we want you to know that there is much planning and preparation that takes place years in advance, for major purchases and capital projects.

In closing, I hope you all have a wonderful spring. As always, please feel free to stop in to see us, or call us (679-4304) to ask any questions that you may have.



Schoolcraft Police Department

Burning Ordinance

A burn permit may be obtained on the Village of Schoolcraft's web site www.villageofschoolcraft.org A burn permit form can also be obtained at the Village Office during regular business hours of 8 a.m.—5 p.m.; M-F.

When an individual requests a burn permit, the resident will fill out the form and submit it to the Village Office. An inspection of the area where the burn is to take place is conducted by the Village Police Department and the person making the request is then notified of the approval. A burn permit will last for one year and will be kept on file at the Village Office.

BURNING GUIDELINES:

1. **RECREATIONAL ONLY (CAMPFIRE)**
2. Pit must be 36" x 36"
3. Flame no higher than 24 inches at any time
4. Burn must be at least 15 feet from property line
5. Burning may occur only between the hours of 5 p.m. to midnight
6. Only natural wood materials can be burned (No leaves or grass)

ABOVE RESTRICTIONS ARE NOT ALL INCLUSIVE. Complete information is available at our office or on our website:

www.villageofschoolcraft.com. Click on ABOUT>Code of Ordinances>Search>Burn.

Chief Bryan Campbell
bcampbell@villageofschoolcraft.com

Sincerely,
Cheri M. Lutz
Cheri M. Lutz, Village Manager
cmlutz@villageofschoolcraft.com

Leaf Pick Up Through April 29, 2016

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.

Brush Pick Up

Brush pick up is done on the last Monday of each month. It begins in March and ends the last Monday in October. 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 should be less than four inches (4") in diameter and 8' in length.
- All cut ends of brush should be placed in the same direction, toward the road.
- 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.
- Brush piles should not be tied together with any material.
- Small sticks and twigs must be put into a container that can be emptied by one person
- Unacceptable material include leaves, yard waste (gasses, 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 will be picked up.
- Check the ticker on the Village of Schoolcraft website (www.villageofschoolcraft.com) after a major storm to see if the DPW will be picking up brush.

4th of July Celebration Monday, July 4, 2016

Details will be in the July 1, 2016 Newsletter and, when they become available, on our website;

www.villageofschoolcraft.com.

Just a reminder; the highway will be closed during the parade. Traffic will be rerouted around the Village.

For information about being in the parade, call T.J. Gill, after 5:00 p.m. weekdays at 269-352-2170.

Village Water Rate Increase

On your June 1, 2016 bill, you will pay an additional 3 cents per thousand gallons, (the rate was \$4.39/1,000 gallons and will be \$4.42/1,000 gallons) and the quarterly 5/8" RS (ready to serve) rate will increase by 12 cents. This reflects a rate of inflation increase of .70% as approved by Resolution #2016-03.

What is the Readiness to Serve (RS) Charge on Your Water Bill?

The "Readiness to Serve Charge" (RS) is a common fee assessed by municipal utilities to cover basic fixed costs associated with providing on-demand water service throughout the system. RS is specifically allocated to cover a percentage of the costs of maintaining and operating your water system even when no water is being used. This is a system wide connection charge that applies even if you used no water during the billing period. It is called Readiness To Serve because your property is connected to the water system and Village of Schoolcraft's Water Department is ready to provide clean water to your property at any time. There are certain fixed costs to providing water to the community regardless of water consumption, for example paying for water testing, facilities, water pumps, fleet service vehicles, staff time, etc.

Office Closure

The Village Office will be closed May 30, 2016, for Memorial Day.

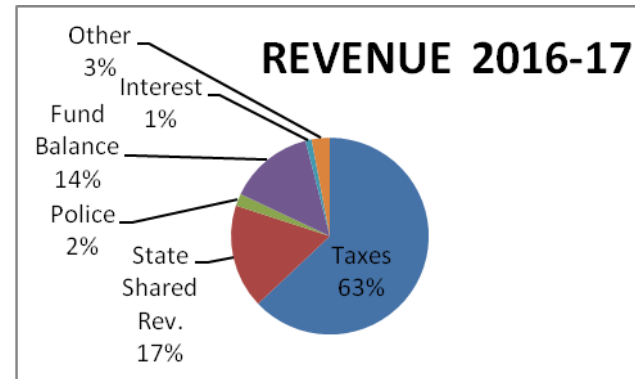
VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT

General Fund Budget Fiscal Year 2016/17

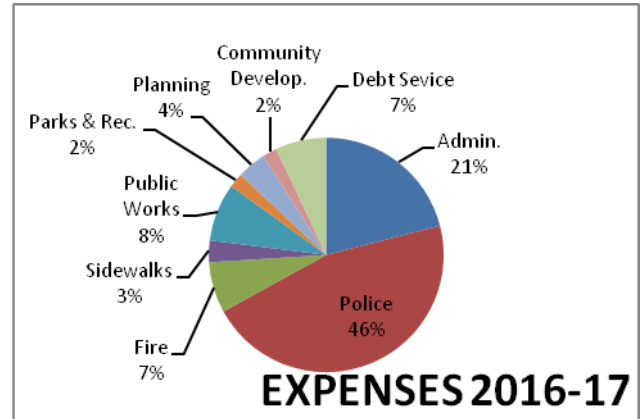
March 1, 2016, began the new fiscal year for the Village of Schoolcraft. Tax Revenues from the Summer Village Tax to be collected July 1, 2016, constitutes 63% of the Village’s Budget.

The charts illustrate General Fund Revenues and General Fund Expenses as budgeted for 2016/2017.

The first pie chart is for Revenue and shows that 63% of the Village’s income is generated from Property Taxes, 17% from State Revenue Sharing, 14% from Fund Balance, 3% from Other Revenue Sources, 2% from Police Department Revenue and 1% from Interest.



The second pie chart represents budgeted expenditures for the Village of Schoolcraft. The chart shows percentages for specific operations within the Village; Police 46%, Administration 21%, Public Works 8%, Debt Service 7%, Fire 7%, Planning 4%, Sidewalks 3%, and 2% each for Parks & Recreation and Community Development. The balanced Budget includes \$122,850 from Fund Balance.



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 be sure to give us a call at 269-679-4304.

Note: The Village Tax rate is 14.9005 Mills or 32% of the approximate total 46.3904 Mills levied on residential property.

Check out our new website
www.villageofschoolcraft.com

Prescription Discount Card

Save money on your prescription needs that are not covered by insurance with a prescription discount card. For information and a list of participating pharmacies, go to www.nacorx.org.

**Fire Hydrant Flushing,
 April 12, 2016**

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

2016 Sidewalks

- East Cass St., north side between Cedar St. and Robinson
- North Grand St., east side going south of East Clay St.
- North Centre St., west side going north of W. Eliza
- Holmes St., south side going east of S. Centre St.
- Cherry St., north side, east of S. Centre St. to address 212

Obstruction of Sidewalks

If your property is abutted to a sidewalk, you must keep it clear of vegetation. Bushes or any vegetation must be trimmed at least six inches from the sidewalk to provide safe passage for walkers.

Annual Village Wide Garage Sale

Friday, May 13, 2016 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
 Saturday, May 14, 2016 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

If you are a Village Resident and would like your garage sale marked on a map, call Theresa at the Village Office, 269-679-4304, by 4:00 p.m. on May 11, 2016. Maps will be available at the Village Office May 12-13, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Spring Clean Up Saturday, May 21, 2016

Items must be placed at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on May 21, 2016.

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/Boxsprings 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. Loose piles will be left for the homeowners disposal.

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.



The Village of Schoolcraft participated in a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Greenstone Farm Credit Services. We congratulate them on their beautiful new facility.



DANCE ACROSS THE DECADES

SATURDAY, APRIL 23RD 2016

7:00 - 10:00 PM

St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church
 5855 East W Avenue
 Vicksburg, Michigan

HEARTY HORS D'OEUVRES
 COMPLIMENTARY
 BEVERAGES
 CASH BAR



DANCING & MUSIC
 WITH DJ JIMMY LAWLESS
 DEBIK ENTERTAINMENT
 AMAZING
 SILENT AUCTION

CALL SCCS AT 649 · 2901 FOR RESERVATIONS.

75% of all proceeds support SCCS programs.

TICKETS BEFORE APRIL 15
 \$65/couple \$35/individual

TICKETS AT THE DOOR
 \$75/couple \$40/individual



Schoolcraft Community Library

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION—April 6—2 p.m. The Prairie Pageturners will be discussing *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. Books are available at the library for checkout.

TEEN BOOK CLUB—Monday, April 11—6:00-7:00 p.m. Teens will be reading and discussing the book *Ice Like Fire* by Sara Raasch. Books are available at the library for check-out. Come join us for a great discussion, games and snacks. Grades 6-8th.

BROWN BAG WITH MISS BOBBI —April 7—12:00-1:00 p.m. Grades K-3rd. Don't know what to do on Spring Break? Come hear some stories read by Miss Bobbi! Parents, you provide a bagged lunch and we will provide water and a snack. Followed by a fun scavenger hunt in the library. Space is limited; sign up today!

TOT TIME & PRESCHOOL STORY HOUR Tuesdays and Thursdays respectively. Tot Time runs thru the end of May while Preschool Story Hour continues into June. Pick up a brochure for time, ages and more!

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK --- Food For Fines!--April 11-16. In honor of National Library Week the library is offering "Food For Fines." Fines will be forgiven with the donation of an unexpired/non-perishable food item. **Please note that this applies to materials overdue as of January 1st, 2016.** Fines will be excused up to a \$5 maximum on current or previously incurred fines. Collected food will go to the food pantry. We will also be giving out pencils and have a special guessing contest to win a prize!

ART OPEN HOUSE—Student Art On Display—April 13. Come see an assortment of student art on display at our Spring Art Open House. Meet the middle and high school artists as well as art teacher Jaime Hilaski. Refreshments served. April 13th 5:30-7:00 p.m. Art on display through May.

DOWNTON ABBEY TEA TALK—May 21. Barbara Gulley from Barbs Tea Shop is serving up a delightful presentation on Downton Abbey people, places, manners, dress and tea fashion. Bring your own tea cup to enjoy some English tea. *Two Michigan Tea Room* books will be raffled. Copies available for purchase and signing. Begins at 2:00 p.m. May 21st. Space is limited; register today.

SPRING BRICK SALE—Month of May. Celebrate grads, moms and dads by purchasing a brick to have specially engraved for the library brick walk. Cost is \$75 for a 4" x 8" brick. Order forms available.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ANNUAL BOOK/BAKE SALE!—May 13 & 14. The FOL will hold their annual Book/Bake Sale on the same weekend as the Village wide garage sales. **Friday, May 13th the sale is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** **Saturday, May 14th the sale runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Take advantage of the BAG SALE both days! We provide the bags and you fill as many bags as you like for \$3.00 per bag. Baked goods go fast, so come early. Proceeds go towards children's programming in the Library.

SUMMER READING 2016---"On Your Mark, Get Set...Read!" Registration starts June 13th at 10:00 a.m. Opening day for Schoolcraft Library's Summer Reading clubs and program sign ups. Phone registration begins at 11:00 a.m. Check our online calendar for summer program dates. John Ball Zoo visits us on June 30th and Tales to Tails and Paws & Pages are back in June. Preschool Story Hour continues thru June on Thursdays. Exercise your mind and read with the library to earn prizes. All ages!

4th of July Car Show and Parade

For the third year in a row the Village of Schoolcraft staff has undertaken the enormous task of organizing and attending the 4th of July Car Show in Burch Park. It is a fun event with about 150 cars in attendance. This year the Village is also assisting with the 4th of July parade.

We need your help with these annual 4th of July events. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Theresa at the Village Office 269-679-4304 by May 15, 2016.

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
Dorothy J. Clark
Michael Rochholz
Sy Spears
Carl Tackett

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: Faith Akert, fakert@villageofschoolcraft.com
Office
Assistant: Theresa O'Leary, toleary@villageofschoolcraft.com
Police
Chief: Bryan Campbell, bcampbell@villageofschoolcraft.com
Sergeant: Jamie Edwards
Officers: Matt Britton
Tim Hulinec
Henry Kite
Eric Ray
Justin VanderKooy
Aux. Officer: Mary Secondi
DPW Super: Rob Coffman, rcoffman@villageofschoolcraft.com
Equip/Water
Operator: Adam Wood, awood@villageofschoolcraft.com

Village of Schoolcraft Spring 2016 Newsletter



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City»,«AccCustomerState»«AccCustomerZip»

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