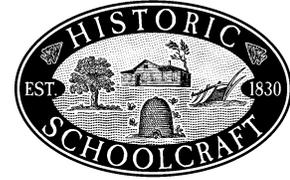


# Village of Schoolcraft



*Preserving our Past, Enriching our Present, Planning our Future*

www.villageofschoolcraft.com

## Village President's Message

### SUMMER 2019

Summer is here, albeit a little different than usual, with all the rain this year. However, all the lawns and trees are in great shape and make the Village look very nice. Hopefully, the sunshine is just around the corner.

I want to thank all the people that have been attending Village Meetings since my last Newsletter. We had three meetings that produced a good number of interested people with quite a few comments.

Monday, June 17, 2019 a joint meeting was held at the High School where about 85 people attended, 70 residents and 15 Village Officials. The Kalamazoo County Health Department Representatives Vern Johnson and Lucas Pols put on a good slide show giving everyone a lot of information on septic systems in our Village. A lot of historical points dealing with the age and types of systems were presented, they explained that septic systems are "OK", if they can be sized according to the particular site and circumstances. Many sites in the Village would be better served with sanitary sewer because of the "lack of land" needed to construct proper septic systems. This is especially true along the U.S. 131 corridor, where the land has been used up by buildings, parking lots, and old septic systems.

Wightman, represented by Alan Smaka, walked the people through a slide show that detailed a proposed sanitary sewer system project and the possible participants. Alan explained how most residents would probably be served by gravity, from the house to the road. There would be repairing and paving of the roads where they get opened up, but efforts would be concentrated on placing pipelines in the Village right-of way wherever possible.

The BIG Question is "What Does It Cost Me"? None of the costs are absolute until all the participants are figured out. The overall cost of the project could be reduced if a grant can be obtained. All of the pricing Alan reported on is without any grants calculated in. There are 2 main categories of costs to consider;

"UP FRONT COSTS" and "MONTHLY CHARGES"

### *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.

July 1                      August 5  
September 3            September 16

Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.

July 8                      August 12  
September 9

Downtown Development Authority 8:00 a.m.

August 1                  September 5

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

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As of June 24, 2019, Alan’s best numbers show; **“Up Front Costs”**- (paid by property owners at time of installation) are;

- 1. Hook up Fee –(house to road) - average----- \$500.00
- 2. Crush & fill of Septic Tank – average----- \$ 500.00
- 3. Permit Fee ----- \$75.00
- 4. Front Footage Fee - \$10.00 / foot x your Roadside Lot Dimension-----Variable  
(was reported incorrectly at \$5.00 / foot on slide show 06-17-2019)
- 5. Any Plumbing costs for changes inside or under your home----- Variable  
**Wightman’s Estimate** – Average costs for 1.thru 5. above -----\$2, 000.00 - \$6,000.00

As of June 24, 2019, Alan’s best numbers show; the **“Monthly Charges”** – are based on the calculations for;

- 1. Overhead, Maintenance and Repairs, ( O.M.& R. ) for the project, and
- 2. Residential Equivalency Units, (REU’s), most residences in the Village will be rated at 1 REU, this is based on your water usage. Your monthly charges would be;
  - A. O.M.& R. – approximately -----\$50.00
  - B. REU’s / Usage – approximately -----\$50.00

**Approximately, \$2,000-\$6,000.00 up front and \$100.00 / month will get you Sanitary Sewers. Monthly charges could change downward due to variables; number of participants, and possible grant monies.** The final numbers can’t be positively stated until the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2020. There are programs available for people that are in need of financial assistance and that information will be forthcoming.

Remember these are the best calculations according to Wightman as of today. There will be more educational meetings during the course of the summer, so PLEASE, try to attend one.

**I want to remind everyone that there are 3 options available;**

- 1. Sewers for the entire Village
- 2. Sewers for the U.S. 131 corridor
- 3. No sewers

**and there are 2 ways to decide this issue;**

- a. Let the Village Council decide
- b. Let all the property owners decide by signing Petitions

Please, spend a little time during this beautiful “Green Summer” thinking and talking with friends about the pros and cons of Sanitary Sewers. Please come to a meeting (more to be announced).

As stated before, I am a believer in Democracy, everyone should get a vote, and I believe in transparency (long before it became a popular saying), so that being said; we will be having a meeting at the Performing Arts Center again. This meeting will be for all the audience to be able to ask questions and state their opinions. I feel that this meeting is needed, so that everyone gets a chance to publicly express themselves, but in an **ORDERLY MANNER!!!** That meeting is July 22, 2019. at 7:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center at Schoolcraft High School.

Have a wonderful Summer!

Keith Gunnett  
Schoolcraft Village President  
269-569-6057

## News from the Village Manager's Desk



## Schoolcraft Police Department

I hope that all of you are enjoying these crazy summer days! This summer is the most unusual one I can remember in a very long time. So much rain and so little sun. I am especially hoping for a warm and sunny 4<sup>th</sup> of July. I hope that all of you are planning on attending our annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration including both the Car Show and the Parade. Also a quick reminder that the Lions Club Pancake Breakfast located at the Schoolcraft Upper Elementary School is a great way to start the day! Breakfast is served 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. If you can't make it to the Lion's Club Breakfast, be sure to stop by the United Methodist Church for their annual Ice Cream Social and the American Legion for chicken and ribs. Lots of food, friends, family and activities promise to make it a great day in Schoolcraft!

A quick reminder to you that both northbound and southbound lanes of Grand Street will be closed to traffic during the parade. If you have friends and family coming in to participate in the activities, make sure they get here early to find a parking spot.

For those of you who are planning summer projects, **PLEASE BE SURE THAT YOU CONTACT THE VILLAGE OFFICE FIRST.** Generally speaking, permits are required for most projects, and it is much easier if we communicate before the project begins rather than after.

Taking corrective action on ordinance violations is low on my list of my favorite things to do but is still a big part of my job, so please call us first before starting any projects.

Currently there a number of ordinance non-compliance issues that the Village Council intends to get more proactive on. The following are just a few of them: front yard parking, noxious weeds, blight, placement of items in the right of way (this includes decorative items, large stones, landscaping in the right of way, unapproved driveway extensions, and trimming of hedges, bushes and tree limbs that overhang the sidewalks). If you recognize that some of these items are in your yard, please take the time to remove them. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Other issues that are being addressed include brush at the curbside well before brush pick up which is the last Monday of each month, garbage bins that are left at the roadside must be brought back from the road once pick up has occurred, household items sitting at the roadside.

All of the above mentioned are Village Ordinances or policies. So please, take a look around and see what you can do to help our Village looking clean and tidy. We are very proud of the Village, and hope that you will do your part to keep it looking nice year around.

In closing, the Village of Schoolcraft wishes all of you a safe and happy summer. Walk our sidewalks, shop our stores, talk to your neighbors and get to know your community. We are happy to have you here and wish all of you a safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Cheri M Lutz  
Village Manager  
cmlutz@villageofschoolcraft.com

### FIREWORKS ORDINANCE

In 2018 the Michigan Legislature enacted new rules regarding the use of fireworks as it pertains to local ordinances which control firework use. The new law went into effect in 2019. The village prohibits the use of fireworks except for those days set by the State.

The new law sets a fine of \$1,000 dollars for a violation.

#### Sec. 30-106. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

a. *Act.* The Michigan Fireworks Safety Act, as amended by Acts 634 and 634 of the Public Acts of 2018.

All other definitions presently in effect within this Section are not amended nor repealed.

#### Sec. 30-107. Prohibition on the Use of Consumer Fireworks.

a. No person, except those persons granted a permit pursuant to Section 108 of this Chapter, shall display, discharge, use or ignite any consumer fireworks within the Village, except on the following days after 11:00 a.m.

December 31<sup>st</sup> until 1:00 a.m. on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Memorial Day until 11:45 p.m., on each of those days.

June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup> until 11:45 p.m., on each of those days.

July 5<sup>th</sup>, if that date is a Friday or Saturday, until 11:45 p.m.

The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Labor Day until 11:45 p.m., on each of those days.

b. No person shall fire, ignite, discharge or in any way use consumer fireworks in any public park, on public property, school property, church property or the property of another without that organization's or person's express permission to use consumer fireworks on those premises.

c. No person shall sell, give, provide, permit or allow to be given consumer fireworks to a minor.

Chief Bryan Campbell

bcampbell@villageofschoolcraft.com

## Driveway Improvements

This summer we are seeing many driveway improvements taking place. Please be sure to check with Rob Coffman, DPW Superintendent before doing any work.

The Village requires a diagram of what your driveway improvement will look like along with an application for a driveway/curb cut permit must be filled out and approved prior to any work being done.

In many instances, corrective action is required when people modify their driveway. The Village Staff would much rather work with you before the work is done than after it is done. It avoids hard feelings and additional time and money that may be spent to correct the driveway.

Also, please keep in mind the Village does not allow any type of driveway modifications in the right of way.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

## Township Collection Fees for Village Taxes

The Village of Schoolcraft paid Schoolcraft Township a fee of \$6,167.21 to collect the Real and Personal Property taxes for the Summer 2018 tax season. This is a 1% fee, agreed to in the contract the Village has with the Township.

## 2019 Village Taxes Due September 16, 2019

Payment at Schoolcraft Township:  
50 East VW Ave., Vicksburg, MI 49097  
Hours: 9-4 M-Th. [www.schoolcrafttownship.org](http://www.schoolcrafttownship.org) or  
269-649-1276 for more information.

## Office Closures

Thursday, July 4, 2019  
Monday, September 2, 2019

## Schoolcraft's Citizens of the Year

Congratulations to Deb Christiansen for being chosen Schoolcraft's Citizen of the Year! Harriett Swartz will receive the posthumous award for Citizen of the Year. This award is given for volunteerism and contributions to the community. Citizen of the Year plaques will be awarded at the July 1 Council meeting and Deb will ride in the 4th of July parade.

## Home Improvements

Are you thinking about doing some home improvements this summer? If so, please be sure to contact the Village Office before you begin to make sure that you are in compliance with Village Ordinances. We are happy to provide information to you, and would rather do it before you start your project than after your project is completed. In most cases, you will be in compliance with Village Ordinances however, there are some instances when your project may not be compliant.

One of the biggest issues we have is putting objects in the Village's right of way. This is strictly prohibited for a reason, and that reason is that most of our infrastructure is in the right of way so when a water service breaks, we quickly fix it, and do not have the time go through layers of gravel, move large boulders, bricks and decorative objects in the right of way.

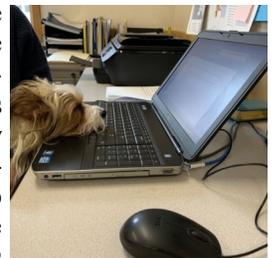
In addition, objects in the right of way such as additional gravel or asphalt causes water to seep to the edge of the road which causes the road to degrade. Water from your property must stay on your property, and cannot be diverted to the right of way or to your next door neighbor's house.

So please be sure to contact us at the Village Office before you begin a project. It will save both of us a lot of time and money, and most important will not create hard feelings when you are asked to abate the issue.

## Teddy's Perspective

Hello everybody and happy summer. This summer is the first time that I have ever been able to enjoy it. I am not sure if I have told you, but I am a rescue dog so my life wasn't very good until my new person came along. My person has a fenced in yard, and I am free to run around and have fun, and I get fed every day. One of my favorite things to do is jump in the lake. You can't believe all the good things I find in there!

But, I can't play all the time, and five days a week, I am here at the Village Office greeting, working, and generally patrolling the building. Besides doing physical work, I also help my people do their jobs. Here is a picture of me sitting on my mom's lap proofreading a document. Well, she thought I was but secretly I was snoozing.



Well, that will do it for now. Best wishes to all of you for a dog gone Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

Teddy

## Schoolcraft's 94th Annual Independence Day Celebration Thursday, July 4th, 2019

**7-10:30 AM- Pancake Breakfast-** Schoolcraft Upper Elem.-Sponsored by: Schoolcraft Lions Club

**6:30-7:30 AM- Late Registration for Road Race-**High School

**7:30 AM- 1 Mile fun Run/Walk** (free-High School)

**8 AM - 5 Mile Firecracker Road Race-** High School-reg.early @- [www.firecracker5.com](http://www.firecracker5.com)

**8 AM - 3 PM-Schoolcraft's Annual Car Show. Burch Park.**

**9 AM-2PM- Ice Cream Social - Schoolcraft United Methodist Church**

**10 AM- Parade lineup**

**11 AM- Parade!!!!!!** Parade route: Eliza St. to Grand St. to Clay St.

**Noon-?** American Legion Chicken & Ribs BBQ- Legion Hall Clay St.

**Post Parade Events:** Underground Railway House tours till 3:00pm - Sponsored by Schoolcraft Historical Society  
Fire Truck Rides & Fire Prevention Trailer-Upper Elem. - Sponsored by South Kalamazoo County Fire Authority

**2-6 PM** American Legion Dance-American Legion Hall on Clay St.

**10:00 PM- FIREWORKS!!!** - famous choreographed fireworks show held north of Schoolcraft High School. Parking available in school lot. Bring your own blanket or seating – Fireworks funded by donations to Schoolcraft 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee, PO Box 231, Schoolcraft, MI 49087.

### **Lions Club Pancake Breakfast/Vision Screening**

The Lions Club will be holding their annual Pancake Breakfast on July 4th 7-10:30 a.m. at the Schoolcraft Upper Elementary on East Clay Street. Be sure to bring your friends and family for a great breakfast. Breakfast is free for veterans, and men and women in uniform. Tickets are \$6 for adults; \$3 for kids ages 6 to 12. Kids 5 and under are free.

The Sight Mobile will be at the breakfast site from 8-10 a.m. to provide vision screening for infants to 18 years of age.

### **Community Library Summer Palooza**

August 1, 2019

Wind + James

5:00-7:30 p.m.



## Summer Reading at the Schoolcraft Community Library “A Universe of Stories”

<b>July 9</b>	<b>**Joel Tacey Nerf Mobile Games—1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Nerf Games at Burch Park</i>	<b>2:00-3:00 pm</b>
<b>July 11</b>	<b>** Thomas the Train Story Hour—3-K</b> <i>Stories about Thomas followed by play time with trains</i>	<b>10:00-10:45am</b>
<b>July 11</b>	<b>** Knex—3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Building projects using Knex</i>	<b>11:15-12:30pm</b>
<b>July 11</b>	<b>** Teen Movie and popcorn—6-12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2:00pm-4:00pm</b>
<b>July 17</b>	<b>** Preschool Scavenger Hunt—3-K</b> <i>Search for treasures outside/ around the Library and park. Adult presence required</i>	<b>10:30-11:30 am</b>
<b>July 18</b>	<b>** Knex—3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Building projects using Knex</i>	<b>11:15-12:30pm</b>
<b>July 18</b>	<b>**Teen Japanese 101 Bento! —6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Learn about Japanese language, culture, food etc.</i>	<b>3:00-4:00pm</b>
<b>July 23</b>	<b>Small Sounds with Paul Bauer All Ages</b> <i>Kids will get a chance to play a variety of instruments</i>	<b>11:00-12:00 pm</b>
<b>July 25</b>	<b>**Teen Japanese 101 Calligraphy Arts—6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Learn about Japanese language, culture, food etc.</i>	<b>3:00-4:00pm</b>
<b>July 26</b>	<b>All Reading Logs Due!!!!</b>	
<b>July 30</b>	<b>**END OF THE SUMMER PARTY!—A Day at the Circus</b> <i>Held at Wind + James. Top Readers announced. Registration required. All ages.</i>	<b>3:00-4:00pm</b>
<b>July 31</b>	<b>**TEEN: SUMMER PIZZA PARTY! --Grades 6-12</b> <i>Pizza, games, prizes, Top Readers announced.</i>	<b>2:00-3:00 pm</b>
<b>August 1</b>	<b>Schoolcraft Summer Palooza at Wind + James</b> <i>Family fun for all ages including games, food, music, and craft vendors</i>	<b>5:00-7:30 pm</b>
<b>Mondays in July--</b>	<b>**Reading Buddies—K-5</b> <i>Children ages K-5<sup>th</sup> buddy up to read with an older student. Call to schedule.</i>	<b>1:00-3:00 pm</b>
<b>Wednesdays in July---</b>	<b>**PAWS &amp; PAGES—Ages 3-K</b> <b>**TALES TO TAILS—Ages 6+</b> <i>Listen to stories with a therapy dog! Older children read to the therapy dog.</i>	<b>1:00-1:20 pm</b> <b>1:20-3:00 pm</b>
<b>Fridays in July—</b>	<b>** Science Fridays —3-5<sup>th</sup> grade (July 12, 19, 26)</b> <i>Hands-on science projects for kids.</i>	<b>1:00-2:00 pm</b>

**\*\* Registration Required**

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

## Village of Schoolcraft Summer 2019 Newsletter



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

PRESORTED STANDARD  
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US POSTAGE PAID  
SCHOOLCRAFT MI  
PERMIT NO. 16

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