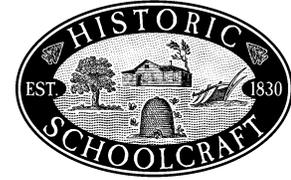


Village of Schoolcraft



Preserving our Past, Enriching our Present, Planning our Future

www.villageofschoolcraft.com

Village President's Message

WE MADE IT !

Through the first round anyway!

In the last newsletter article, I left off with; "spend your time concentrating on mitigating your chance of contracting the Corona Virus". Well it looks as though through collective efforts of a lot of Michiganders and the Governor's actions, we avoided a widespread round of many people getting sick. Fortunately, Southwest Michigan was spared the worst of the virus spread.

One or two months ago, as we ventured out for groceries and gas during the lockdown, I noticed how a higher percentage of people were not wearing gloves or masks in Portage and Kalamazoo. Kalamazoo County certainly had its share of Covid 19 cases, but to date we only know of one confirmed case in the Village of Schoolcraft. This shows that our residents, as I had observed in my travels, were paying attention to the news and were minding the recommended protocols of the experts, and it paid off! No one likes the lockdown and it really hurts businesses, but it did save many lives all around the country.

Most all of the people in Schoolcraft did a good job of carrying out the preventive measures. All of you should be proud that you live by so many caring friends and neighbors. I noticed that early on, some essential businesses set up really good protocols for people to safely visit them to obtain their needed items. These people/businesses are to be recognized for their early response and good ideas on protecting us as we needed the essentials they provided. Dale at Harding's Market, Brett at B&G Discount, the Village Post Office, Pizza Hut, and our own Village Staff, SPD and DPW, responded quickly and helped to keep life in the Village area a little more tolerable. Other businesses followed suit and are still doing so now, and are acknowledged by their patrons.

I personally felt very proud of our Village as I drove to some essential places in May and June. Compared to Portage and Kalamazoo, I could see all of you were doing a great job of protecting all of our people and visitors!

As all of you know, Michigan is on a decline in the number of new Covid 19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths (6/20/20) etc ., however, please do not forget that the Virus can come back through our area again and could be even worse as shown in the history of the 1918-1920 Flu Pandemic. So, please do not get careless. Keep wearing your masks and keep the social distancing in practice, as a vaccine probably won't become a reality until fall 2020 at the very earliest.

All of the Village Staff and the DPW are back to work on a full time basis. The Village Hall is open for walk-in business and practices strict protocols for Covid 19.

Currently the Manager and Council are working the bugs out of teleconferencing meetings and other business through Zoom. Please go to the Village Web Site for how you can participate in monthly meetings. Starting in July, meeting dates and information on access will be posted on the web site.

We all owe a special thank you, to our Village Manager and staff, SPD and DPW for making a virtually flawless transition in keeping the Village up and running during this period.

Keith Gunnett, President
Village of Schoolcraft

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.

2020 Quarterly Meeting Calendar

Village Council 7:00 p.m.
August 3 September 8
September 21

Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.
July 13 August 10
September 14

Downtown Development Authority 8:00 a.m.
August 6 September 3

August Council meeting will be held on Zoom. Check Village website for future meetings.

News from the Village Manager's Desk



Schoolcraft Police Department

Letter from the Chief

Hello and happy summer and what a hot one it is! We are all looking forward to some relief from hot weather along with some much-needed rain.

The entire staff is back up and running, and glad to be back! Office hours are limited to Tuesday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for walk in service. When visiting the office, please be sure to wear your face mask.

Now that many restrictions have been lifted, and our business community is open, please do what you can to support them. They have been hit hard by COVID-19, and now it is our turn to show all of them how much we appreciate them. We have a full gamut of businesses right here in Schoolcraft! Save time and money by using our own business community for all your needs.

I would like to remind you that when you are visiting the office, talking to a police officer or someone from the DPW, you must wear a facemask. We are all taking the COVID issue very seriously, and we ask you to do the same.

For those of you who are interested in attending virtual meetings, we are now using Zoom for our Village Council Meetings. Please go to our web site at www.villageofschoolcraft.com to get registered for the meeting. Our next Zoom meeting will be held on Monday, August 3, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. Our first Zoom was held on Monday, July 6th, 2020, and it was very successful.

At the July 6th meeting, the Village Council approved a Village Wide Clean Up for Saturday, September 19, 2020 from 8 am to noon. Dumpsters will be placed on Clay Street across from the former Krum Center. Village residents will need to bring their unwanted items to this location for disposal.

As we look at cleaning out our garages in preparation for spring clean-up, please remember to make sure that your lawn is kept mowed, and kept free from junk and debris. Not only does this make you a good neighbor, it also presents a positive impression for those people that are driving through town.

Lastly, if you are planning a project, please contact the Village of Schoolcraft or Associated Government Services to find out if you need a permit. Generally speaking, permits are required for almost all improvements, and it is so much easier for all of us to communicate with each other before you begin your project. Taking corrective action is not fun, and only serves to create hard feelings so please, check with us first by calling 679-4304.

In closing, best wishes to all of you for a happy and safe summer.

Cheri M Lutz
Village Manager
cmlutz@villageofschoolcraft.com

To the residents of the Village of Schoolcraft, I want to take a moment and introduce myself. My name is Scott Boling, and I am honored to have been selected as your new Police Chief. As your new Police Chief, I think it is important for you to know a little bit about me. I was born and raised in Portage Michigan. At the age of seventeen, I enlisted in the Marine Corps and spent four years on active duty. After an overseas deployment and my military contract was over, I returned to Michigan, joined the Marine Corps Reserves and obtained a degree in Criminal Justice. I worked at several smaller agencies before getting a job with Kalamazoo Public Safety. It was during this time I met and married my beautiful wife of over 20 years. Together we have been blessed with one son and three daughters.

While working for Kalamazoo Public Safety I served as a Public Safety Officer, a Zone Sergeant, a Shift Lieutenant, and an Executive Lieutenant. Additionally, I was involved in the Explorer Program, the Field Training Program, and the Special Weapons and Tactics Team. Over the years, I gained a wealth of knowledge, experiences, and formed many relationships in the community that served to help build a solid foundation of mutual trust and respect. Before I knew it I found myself eligible to retire from Kalamazoo Public Safety, and that's when I was graciously offered a job with your wonderful community.

Over the past twenty-six years, I have learned a lot about law enforcement and the communities I have served. There have been several truths that never seem to change. The first is that everyone has a story. It is so important that we take time to listen and understand people's perspectives. Second, everyone deserves to be treated with respect. Often, we encounter people at their worst moments in their lives. Treating them with respect can help deescalate situations and develop future relationships. Lastly, and one of the most important truths I always try to live by is to do the right thing.

With that said, I don't think I can avoid the topic that is tearing our nation apart. The death of George Floyd is shocking and disturbing to me. As someone who has spent his life dedicated to protecting and serving the community, this incident has cast a dark cloud over law enforcement and caused a divide among people. I want the citizens of the Village of Schoolcraft to know that excessive use of force is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. I also want people to know that predominantly law enforcement Officers are honorable men and women dedicated to helping people, and improving the quality of lives.

Having said all of this, I want to speak a little about the protests that are occurring. I support the first amendment, and think it is important that people have the freedom of speech. However, many of the peaceful protests have shifted into criminal acts of destruction, arson, looting, and in the worst cases, causing injury and death. These actions cannot be tolerated. As a society, we need to work together to address concerns on policing policies, biases, use of force, and accountability. I encourage people to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slower to anger.

I look forward to serving the community, meeting the people of Schoolcraft, and developing long lasting relationships.

Scott Boling
Chief of Police

Spring Clean Up
CENTRAL DROP OFF
Rescheduled to
Saturday, September 19, 2020
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.

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".

Items not accepted are:

Asbestos Waste
 Auto parts, engines, tires, batteries, doors, hoods, rims, etc.
 Batteries of any sort
 Beverage Containers (applies to all containers that require a 10 cent deposit)
 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, large plastic drums, empty burn barrels
 Hazardous Waste (including medical waste, paints, solvents, pesticides, chemicals, varnishes or liquid of any sort)
 Motor Oil
 PBCs
 Propane tanks (cylinders)/gas tanks
 Radioactive waste
 Refrigerators, freezers, or air conditioners
 Tires
 Iron or steel
 Cast iron bathtubs
 Yard Waste—grass clippings, branches, etc.

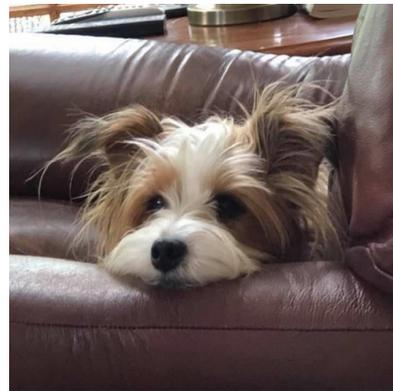
Office Closures
 Monday, September 7, 2020

2020 Village Taxes Due
September 14, 2020

Payment can be made the following ways:

- Online at www.schoolcrafttownship.org
- Mail to: Schoolcraft Township:
50 East VW Ave., Vicksburg, MI 49097
- Call 269-649-1276 for an appointment
- Can be placed in secure drop box by entrance

Teddy's Perspective



Hello everybody! Well, here I am back at work again. I hope everybody in Schoolcraft is happy and healthy.

It was nice to have some time off but I wasn't overly productive. I spent a lot of time in the lake getting wet and dirty which seemed to bother my mom, but I thought it was a lot of fun!

I really don't like to swim, but I do like to wade in and take a quick drink of water. There are lot of fun things in the water to catch and drag up on the lawn, not to mention all the fun stuff I can roll in!

Please be sure to give your dog plenty of fresh, cold water especially in this extremely hot weather, and bring your dog into the house too so he or she can enjoy some air conditioning or a nice cooling fan. Your dog will definitely appreciate it.

I am sending my best wishes to you for cooler weather and a nice summer.

Your Friend,
 Teddy

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/
Asst. Manager: Tammi Youngs, tyoungs@villageofschoolcraft.com
Clerk/
Treasurer: Theresa O'Leary, toleary@villageofschoolcraft.com
Police Chief: R. Scott Boling, sboling@villageofschoolcraft.com
Sergeant: Jamie Edwards
Officers: Joe Bippus
Matt Britton
Joe Geiser
Henry Kite
Eric Ray
Aux. Officers: Dick Simon
DPW Super: Rob Coffman, rcoffman@villageofschoolcraft.com
Equip/Water Operator: Adam Wood, awood@villageofschoolcraft.com
Office Dog: Teddy

Village of Schoolcraft Summer 2020 Newsletter



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