

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.

2021 Quarterly Meeting Calendar

Village Council 7:00 p.m.

July 5 August 2
September 7 September 20

Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.

July 12 August 9
September 13

Downtown Development Authority 8:00 a.m.

July 1 August 5
September 2

**All meetings are open
to the public.**

Village President's Message

WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN?

Throw away the mask and we're back to normal ... Not quite yet. Many people think by getting rid of masking and social distancing practices and allowing full capacity gatherings that we will be back to normal and "all is well" and "good", I disagree! Social distancing, hand washing, masks and staying away from large groups indoors and out has opened our eyes to the fact those are good things to carry forward from this pandemic. How many people do you know that had the flu or a cold in the last year? Not too many, if any at all. Every year when the kids go back to school, soon thereafter the cold and flu season fires up again. Young people are good spreaders and lots of people (especially older folks) get sick with the flu, colds, bronchitis and pneumonia etc., but not so much in the last year or so! Some of the retailers of over-the-counter sales of flu and cold medications are reporting 60-70% decrease in sales of these products. Think about it! Maybe we should keep some of these practices going for the benefit of everyone!

I imagine in a year or two we will be back to a "new normal" but getting there is not what we envisioned. Many service industry people are overloaded with work backlogs etc. Supply lines are a mess, many businesses just can't do jobs for lack of materials, or people to hire to move things along. Many Businesses that we were accustomed to, are gone. Somethings are in huge demand causing prices to skyrocket, like home sales Building Materials, and starting pay rates. Many people have chosen to remain unemployed. The opening of restaurants, and easing of other restrictions is a start, but we have a huge number of other problems to overcome. It's going to take quite a while to see that "New Normal". In the interim, keep your hands clean and don't pitch the masks, use some of the proven ideas to stay healthy.

The Village Staff and all the Governing groups have been going full tilt and are currently very busy. The Police Department has seen a rise in issues in the Village, plus they have taken on a large load with Regulatory Ordinance enforcement. The Village Staff work load has increased quite a bit with Zoning Ordinance work for the Planning Commission, training for credit card payments and Regulatory Ordinance work. Our DPW is in dire need of a third person as we have lost the last two hires and projects are piling up. All during the Pandemic the Village Council, Planning Commission and the normal committees have been busy also. During the Pandemic we were receiving lots of ideas and suggestions of things / projects that the village could be doing, but no ideas of how to increase revenues or offerings of volunteers to take off some of the load. It will be hard to take on New Projects until the backlogs are satisfied.

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Village President's Message, continued from page 1

It looks as though everyone here in working for the Village will be very busy working on backlogs of work into 2022. Maybe 1st Quarter of 2022 will start to show us what the "New Normal" will be. Stay healthy and don't throw the mask away!

Sincerely

Keith Gunnett
Schoolcraft Village President
PH 269-569-6057

News from the Village Manager's Desk

Happy summer to all of you! I hope that all of you are able to get outside to enjoy the nice weather, putter in your yard, and so much more.

I am so happy to hear that Governor Whitmer has lifted most restrictions related to Covid-19. What a year it has been for all of us! The Village of Schoolcraft looks forward to seeing people walking, shopping and, enjoying friends and family.

If you have a minute, be sure to take a look at the beautiful flowers that are planted along Grand Street in the Central Business District. We get so many phone calls from people passing through Schoolcraft who are impressed with their beauty and brilliance. A big thanks to the Department of Public Works (DPW) for planting and maintaining the hanging baskets and planters.

The Village of Schoolcraft offers brush pick-up on the last Monday of each month. Brush should go out to the curb no earlier than the Wednesday before pick-up. Please be sure to place your brush ends facing the road in neat stacks. This allows the DPW to pick them up with the front loader in an efficient manner. Please do not put your brush out at any other time. If you have any brush in between pick-ups, please keep them alongside your house, garage or a place in your yard. We ask that you do this to keep our Village looking tidy in between pick-ups.

We are also in the process of setting up online payments for water bill payments. We hope to have this option available to you in early fall. Like so many things, there are many behind the scene things that must be in alignment prior to launching this program. Please stay tuned for additional information by visiting our web site at www.villageofschoolcraft.com.

Volunteers are needed now for next year's 4th of July celebration. If you are interested, please let the Village know, and we will forward your information to the 4th of July Committee.

Last but not least, please remember to do your shopping locally. Our businesses have struggled through Covid-19, they need us and we need them so please, support our local business community. Both they, and the Village of Schoolcraft will appreciate it!

As always, please give us a call if you have any questions or concerns.

Cheri M. Lutz
Village Manager
cmlutz@villageofschoolcraft.com

Schoolcraft Police Department



The Challenges and Benefits of a Small Police Department

In this short article I wanted to take a moment to address some of the challenges and benefits of a small local police department. Nearly half of all local police departments across this county have fewer than 10 officers. Three out of four have less than 24 officers. In the next couple of paragraphs, I want to address some of the challenges faced by these police agencies.

Most likely the greatest challenge faced by any small department is staffing. Across the country, police agencies, large and small, are struggling to fill their ranks. There are many theories on why this is the case. One of the most predominant being the negative portrayal of law enforcement through various media sources. What smaller agencies are finding is that there are fewer people going into law enforcement careers, and larger agencies are recruiting the majority of qualified candidates by enticing them with greater pay, benefits, and signing bonuses.

Another significant challenge faced by smaller police agencies is training. Training is extremely important for multiple reasons. It is important for the public and officer's safety, the jurisdiction's liability, and how officers should interact with the changing times. However, training is expensive. Not only is there a cost for the instructor, there is also cost associated to backfill street positions during training. Due to this cost, training is often placed on the bottom of the priority list for many departments.

Finally, there is the challenge of maintaining and updating equipment. As everyone knows, equipment breaks down or becomes outdated. The cost to replace equipment is often burdensome for small towns and villages. Technology is also a challenge. Law enforcement is constantly changing and technology is playing an exponential part of daily activity. Currently, citations and criminal charges are all done through various online programs that interact with the court system. Police departments are challenged with the management and storage of vast quantities of body-worn camera footage. Investigations and information are shared through various programs between agencies. The challenge of all this technology is being able to keep up with the times on a limited budget.

Now that we have reviewed some of the challenges of small-town policing, I want to address the benefits. Having a small local police department definitely benefits the residents of the community. Over the next three paragraphs I want to highlight those benefits.

Probably the most beneficial aspect of having a smaller local police department is the relationship that is developed. In smaller agencies, with less population, the officers have more interactions and develop relations within the community. People often refer to this as the Mayberry affect. Officers get to know the families and kids of the community and have that special relationship that is very important, especially during challenging times.

Another great aspect of small agencies is that officers often take fewer calls and can spend extra time solving problems and concerns from citizens. In larger agencies, officers are often forced to take a report and then move onto the next call, never addressing the true problem. With fewer calls, officers can work at identifying the problem and working towards a long-term solution.

The last benefit I will talk about is response time, and the types of calls the agency addresses. In a small community, response time is typically significantly shorter than a large community. The way a Dispatch Center works is that it receives calls, then prioritizes them into categories. High risk or "in-progress" calls go to the top of the list while "non-progress" calls go to the bottom. What does this mean? If you have a non-progress crime you may have to wait a significant amount of time if officers are busy with "in-progress" calls. While this is simple and understandable, it can be extremely frustrating. In some larger jurisdictions you may have to wait hours to make a police report. In smaller jurisdictions, there are less calls and officers are often quick to respond. I also want to address the types of calls addressed by smaller jurisdictions. Smaller jurisdictions will often address "non-criminal" calls for service where larger agencies will typically not respond, or send the complainant to a website or to file a report with an officer by phone. Being able to respond to these types of calls in person is so helpful. It builds trust, develops positive relationships, and brings everyone together as a community.

In closing, even though there are significant challenges with being part of a small police department there are also amazing benefits. As a smaller agency we need to think of new ways to attract qualified officers to our community. We need to have relationships with larger agencies so we can "piggyback" on their agency's training, and finally we have to search for grants and other economic resources to be able to support the never-ending cost of keeping our officers equipped with the best technology and equipment to do their jobs.

The final thing I want to say is thank you. I am honored to serve your community. The people of the Village of Schoolcraft are amazing. Everyone is friendly and supportive of law enforcement, and I cannot even begin to tell you how much that means! I look forward to developing more relationships within the community, and ensuring that the Village of Schoolcraft continues to be a safe and friendly place to live and work.

Chief Scott Boling
sboling@villageschoolcraft.com

Office Closure

July 5, 2021
September 6, 2021

Teddy's Corner



Hello again! Whew, newsletter time comes around quickly, and it seems like there is so much to talk about.

Have you ever heard that everybody in the world has a twin? I think that must apply to dogs too because mom found a picture that looks just like me! Well, kind of sort of anyway. I like to think I am a bit more interesting because I move, bark, and do a lot of other things like finding frogs in the yard. Frog finding does require a keen sense of smell, and lots of dedication. Those little guys hop all over the place, and are darned hard to catch!

Enough about me. Please remember if you are out walking your dog, be sure they are on a leash, and that you clean up after them if they make a mess. Also, barking dogs can be irritating, and I should know because I do it myself. Please do not let your dog bark for long periods of time. Your neighbors will be happy, and your dog will be too! If you do have your dog outside, please be sure to give him or her plenty of fresh water during these hot summer days.

Hope you all have a great summer!

Teddy
Office Dog

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.

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.

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 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.
- 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

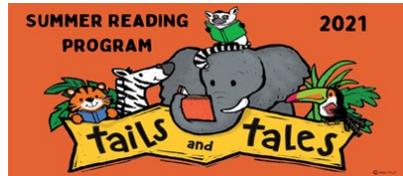
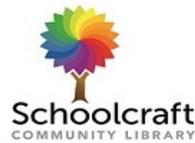
- Storm damage pick up has to be declared by the Village Manager.
- Use same guidelines as for regular brush pick up.
- Only storm damage brush will be picked up.
- Check the ticker on the Village of Schoolcraft website (www.villageofschoolcraft.com) after a major storm to see if the DPW will be picking up brush.

Drop Off Site for Brush and Grass Clippings

The DPW Drop Off Site will not be open during the week.

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.-4:00 p.m.

You must call by 4:00 p.m. on Friday if you are going to use the drop off site the following Saturday.



Schoolcraft Community Library is looking forward to SUMMER!!

Our Program will run from June 1-July 31st and is open to ALL ages. Our Preschool Program will now be 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Summer Edition! Online registration with Wandoo begins June 1 with links at

www.schoolcraftlibrary.org

Our program this year will include:

Weekly reading goals

Community Reading Goals

AWARDS!

Outdoor Programs:

- Story Hour and Tot Time now thru July 31.
- Wind Chime Craft Grades 3-5 July 14.
- CD Scratch Art Grades 6 thru 12 July 21.

Adult Book Club discussion of *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman July 7th @2pm.

Virtual programs:

- Cooking with Tom
- Science Fridays Kitchen Chemistry July 16.

Discovery Kits for all ages

3D Printing

Watch our website for more information. We hope you'll join us for some SUMMER FUN!

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

News From Schoolcraft Ladies' Library Association

We made it! Warm weather, happy birds, and blooming flowers!

With Covid restrictions lifting, we are excited to announce plans for upcoming events. September will bring a book sale, bake sale, and mini garage sale. In October, we will be hosting a "Tea and Tour". This event will focus on the history of the organization, and our beautiful building. For November, we will be offering craft classes and demonstrations. This will lead us up to our Christmas Bazaar in December. We will be announcing dates and times in the near future, so stay tuned!

All our meetings and events are open to the public!

If you would like more information, or be on our mailing list, please feel free to contact me!

Hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful, hot, weather!

Kelly Bergland
President LLA of Schoolcraft
kassyb@sbcglobal.net

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: Keith Gunnett
Trustees: Russell L. Barnes
Kirk Bergland
Todd Carlin
Kathy Mastenbrook
Mike Rochholz
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: Scott Boling, sboling@villageofschoolcraft.com
Sergeant: Jamie Edwards, jedwards@villageofschoolcraft.com
Officers: Joe Bippus
Matt Britton
Joe Geiser
Henry Kite
Eric Ray
Aux. Officer: Dick Simon
DPW Super: Rob Coffman, rcoffman@villageofschoolcraft.com
Water
Super: Adam Wood, awood@villageofschoolcraft.com
Office Dog: Teddy

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

Summer 2021 Newsletter
Village of Schoolcraft
P.O. Box 8
Schoolcraft, MI 49087