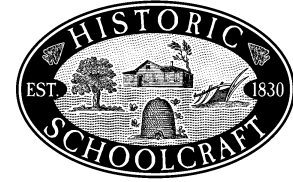


# Village of Schoolcraft



Preserving our Past, Enriching our Present, Planning our Future

www.villageofschoolcraft.com

## Village President's Message



### 1, 2, 3 STRIKES... YOU'RE OUT !!

In my 37 years here in this Village, sewers have come before the residents 3 times ... In all cases sewers have been rejected by more than 2/3's voice of the people. This time, more than 84% didn't approve!

Earlier this year the Village conducted 2 surveys, the results indicated about a 60-70% favorability towards "Residential Sewers". Now after petitions have been carried door to door for signatures, the results are opposite of the surveys! From this "Sewer Exercise" we have learned that most "PRO-SEWER" folks filled out the surveys and the "ANTI-SEWER" people did not. The next time a survey is sent out, (no matter the topic) ... "PLEASE", fill it out and it will save us all a lot of grief! A considerable amount of money (Tax Dollars) was spent, as well as many hours, by many people, for meetings, petitioning, and various other items, not to mention a lot of people were upset over the thought of a big expense being attached to their property. All of this was incurred because the "Anti-Sewer" people didn't take the time to voice their opinion through the surveys. Fortunately, the "Sewer Study" was a bill that the Village of Schoolcraft did not have to pay for.

After 3 totally different plans (strikes) for Village Sewers that have failed, it's time to call "OUT". It's "Crystal Clear" to me, that while I'm a part of this Village Council we should not spend any future "TIME" or "MONIES" on "Residential Sewer Projects" PERIOD!! In the far and distant future, if the mindset of the Village Residents change...then let that "PRO-SEWER GROUP" spend the time and money to collect the needed amount of signatures on a petition and then present it to a future council for consideration. I think it's time to say "GAME OVER" for "RESIDENTIAL SEWERS"!

The jury is still out on the "US 131 Corridor" through the center of our Village as the volunteers (Sy Spears and Brett Willis) are in the early stages of collecting names on the "Business District Petition". It is my belief, and most of the

Council's that the Village's Downtown Area would benefit from sewers. Older downtowns with old buildings, often are great candidates for Coffee Shops, Restaurants, Bakeries and even Micro Breweries. The down side is most Food Industry Businesses require a lot of water and a place to dispose of it. Sewers "COULD" help our Downtown Business District, which in turn helps all of the residents. We deliberately divided the village into 2 "Petition Districts", so that each group, "Residents" and "Businesses" could control their own destiny.

By the end of December (2015) we should have an answer on the "Business Corridor". I hope the New Year will bring Good News to the struggling Downtown Area. The Village Council will be investigating other New Ideas on Revitalization for the Downtown Area for 2016.

"Merry Christmas" and have a "Happy New Year"  
Keith Gunnett

Schoolcraft Village President

**2016 Quarterly Meeting Calendar**

<u>Village Council</u> 7:00 p.m.	
January 4	January 18
February 1	February 15
March 7	March 21
<u>Planning Commission</u> 7:00 p.m.	
January 11	February 8
March 14	
<u>Downtown Development Authority</u> 8:00 a.m.	
January 7	February 4
March 3	

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

## News from the Village Manager's Desk

Happy New Year to all of you. I hope that all of you had a Merry Christmas, and that you are blessed with happiness and good health in the upcoming year.

A new year in the Village means that there are many projects in the planning stages, and much work to do as we budget for the upcoming year. Each year we are tasked with providing the same great services to you.

As I write this article, we have yet to experience much (if any) snow, which is great news for the DPW giving them extra time to complete projects, while anticipating the great snowstorms that we all know will come.

This year, we received many calls about leaf pick up so I want to take a quick moment to explain how this service is done. The DPW typically begins leaf pick up in late October and runs through the Monday after Thanksgiving. We received a number of calls asking why leaves were not picked up as soon as they are raked to the curb, and in some cases; why they were not picked up even when they were raked to the curb. The following explanation will hopefully help you to understand how, when and why leaves are, and are not picked up:

- The DPW has a methodical plan for leaf pick up; circulating through various quadrants of town until all the leaves have been picked up.
- Once the DPW has made a round of the entire Village, they start all over again so it is very likely that there will be a few days in between pickups. This time frame is determined by the amount of leaves, weather, equipment break downs, personnel and other public works duties.
- If you have placed your leaves to the curbside, and they were not picked up, it is very likely that they were not placed close enough to the road. Six feet from the road edge is the length we can reach without driving off the pavement and leaving ruts in your yard.
- Leaf piles must not have debris like sticks, stones, garbage, toys, weeds and other yard waste. These things are very hard on our equipment
- In fairness to everyone, the DPW tries very hard to stick with this schedule because it works, and because we do not want to show partiality to any one person. Everybody matters, and that is why we do not pick up leaves that are not on the scheduled route for that day.
- If you still have leaves to be picked up after the Monday after Thanksgiving deadline, the DPW will pick up leaves that are in biodegradable bags the following spring. Please call the office for pickup.
- We do appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this very busy time.

As always, the Village of Schoolcraft strives to give you courteous, accurate information. We welcome your phone calls, and will be happy to answer any questions and/or concerns that you may have.

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



## Schoolcraft Police Department

### Shop with a Hero December 8<sup>th</sup> 2015

Sergeant Jamie Edwards and Auxiliary Officer Mary Secondi represented the Schoolcraft Police Department at the yearly Shop with a Hero event held at the Meijer store on Shaver Road in Portage. The officers helped Connor Clark and Leena Martin shop for items for themselves and relatives. Connor and Leena are both South County residents.

The Schoolcraft Police Department has participated in this event for the last 10 years. Officers from other south county police and fire agencies also participated in the event.



Chief Bryan Campbell  
bcampbell@villageofschoolcraft.com



*The Village of Schoolcraft  
wishes all of you a Happy  
New Year!*

## Christmas Tree Pick Up

The Village of Schoolcraft's Department of Public Works will be picking up Christmas Trees, which are placed in the right of way, through January 25, 2016.

## 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.

## Spring Clean Up

Saturday, May 21, 2016 7:00 a.m.

## 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 snow from the sidewalks. 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. This ordinance is for vehicular and pedestrian safety.

Please be sure that when you are cleaning snow from your driveway you are also keeping it off the sidewalks and roadway.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated by our winter walkers.

## Vacant Seat on Planning Commission

If you are interested in being on the Planning Commission, or if you have any question about the vacant seat on the Planning Commission, please call Cheri Lutz, Village Manager at 679-4304. Applications for the position are at the Village Office located at 442 N. Grand St., Schoolcraft, MI.

## Consumers Energy

The Home Energy Analysis program and the Consumers Helping Neighbors Program have funding available to assist those in the area to make their home more energy efficient. A trained analyst visits your home and performs an initial 90-minute evaluation with you to identify your energy-saving opportunities. With your approval, energy-saving measures are installed throughout your home, including showerheads, kitchen and bathroom faucet aerators, and water heater pipe insulation. This is done at no cost to you. If you are interested in requesting an assessment or if you have questions, you can reach them by calling/visiting 888-316-8014/homeanalysis-consumersenergy.com or 877-448-9433/consumershelppneighbors.com.

## Accountability and Transparency

Accountability and Transparency information for the Village of Schoolcraft is available for public viewing at the Village Municipal Complex, 442 N. Grand St. Schoolcraft.

## South County Emergency Siren Warning Policy

Listed below is a summary of the South County Emergency Siren Policy: The South Kalamazoo County Fire Authority is responsible for activation of emergency sirens.

The siren may or may not be activated for severe weather storms. For instance, if there is a severe thunderstorm to the north or south of Schoolcraft, and SKCFA does not believe that the storm will pass through the Village of Schoolcraft, the siren will not be activated.

The siren will **always** be activated for tornado warnings.

- The siren consists of three blasts—three minutes on—three minutes off. The blasts will continue until the tornado has passed.
- There will be **no** "all clear" warning.
- The warning system in the Fire Station may be activated in addition to the rotating siren.

On behalf of the Village of Schoolcraft, we ask that you review these simple steps with your family to ensure their safety.

## Visioning Process Presentation

On Monday, January 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., Wightman and Associates will present a Visioning Presentation for the Village of Schoolcraft. Members of the Village Council, Planning Commission, DDA, and the public are invited to attend.

# Village of Schoolcraft Meeting Dates 2016

All meetings are held at the Village Hall located at 442 N. Grand Street,  
Schoolcraft, MI

## VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT 2016 COUNCIL MEETINGS

The meetings of the Schoolcraft Village Council are held on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

- January 4, 2016
- January 18, 2016
- February 1, 2016
- February 15, 2016
- March 7, 2016
- March 21, 2016
- April 4, 2016
- April 18, 2016
- May 2, 2016
- May 16, 2016
- June 6, 2016
- June 20, 2016
- July 5, 2016 \* \*\*
- August 1, 2016 \*\*
- September 6, 2016 \*
- September 19, 2016
- October 3, 2016
- October 17, 2016
- November 7, 2016
- November 21, 2016
- December 5, 2016
- December 19, 2016

\* Meetings are held on Tuesday when the Village Office is closed for Holiday on Monday.

\*\* Only one meeting is held in July and August

## VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT 2016 DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETINGS

The meetings of the Downtown Development Authority are held the first Thursday of each month at 8:00 a.m.

- January 7, 2016
- February 4, 2016
- March 3, 2016
- April 7, 2016
- May 5, 2016
- June 2, 2016
- August 4, 2016
- September 1, 2016
- October 6, 2016
- November 3, 2016
- December 1, 2016

## VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT 2016 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

The meetings of the Planning Commission are held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

- January 11, 2016
- February 8, 2016
- March 14, 2016
- April 11, 2016
- May 9, 2016
- June 13, 2016
- July 11, 2016
- August 8, 2016
- September 12, 2016
- October 10, 2016
- November 14, 2016
- December 12, 2016

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN  
TO THE PUBLIC**

## Schoolcraft Community Library

**THANK YOU TO THE COMMUNITY -- GATHERING OF THE GREENS FUNDRAISER:** The Friends of the Schoolcraft Library, Library staff and Board wish to thank our community for the amazing support and participation in our Gathering of the Greens event. The Punch and Cookie Celebration featured 22 beautiful trees/wreaths from local businesses, families, and individuals. We enjoyed terrific performances from the 6<sup>th</sup> grade choir, barbershop quartet, "Four Got To Shave," lovely violin duets, awards from the Tournament of Writers, hot beverages provided by Biggby Coffee, and many tasty cookies donated by community members. The votes were tallied and the top three trees with the most "votes" are as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Margaret Beck with "*The Eye of the Beholder*," 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Horizon Bank with "*Fairy Celebration*," and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Karen Robertson with "*Angels Among Us*." All participants received a lovely keepsake ornament while winners received a beautiful ribbon.

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**ART OPEN HOUSE:** In January, we are welcoming local Vicksburg artist Cindy Krill. View her nature inspired pottery at the open house on January 13, 2016 at 5:30 pm. Refreshments served and the artist will be available to answer questions. Art to be on display through the end of February.

**OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING AT THE SCHOOLCRAFT LIBRARY:** The Schoolcraft Library is excited to offer another session of courses with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at WMU for the Winter/Spring session. Classes will be held in the Robert Crissman Community Room at a minimal cost through the program.

**Make a Quilt of Valor** with Joheather Grant—3/4, 3/11, 3/25 1-3p.m. (Please note there is a materials fee for this course.)

**Psychology 101—Then and Now** with Guy Golomb—3/15, 3/22, 3/29 1-3p.m.

**Registration: Members may register online at [wmich.edu/olli](http://wmich.edu/olli), by phone with a credit card at (269) 387-4200, or in person by going to room #3202, on the third floor of Ellsworth Hall on the WMU campus.**

**BATTLE OF THE BOOKS 2015:** The 21<sup>th</sup> annual Battle of the Books is underway with 36 teams this year! Once again we have three school systems participating—Schoolcraft, Vicksburg and Parchment. This year "Battle Day" will be held on Saturday, February 20, at the Schoolcraft High School PAC beginning with Preliminary Battles at 10 a.m. followed by Semi Finals later in the afternoon. The top four teams from Semi Finals will go on to the Grand Battle on Thursday, February 25 at the Schoolcraft High School PAC beginning at 7 p.m. Come watch local youth amaze you with their knowledge!

**PRAIRIE PAGETURNERS—Adult Book Discussion Group:** The Prairie Pageturners will be meeting on Wednesday, January 6th at 2 p.m. in the Robert Crissman Community Room. The book up for discussion is *Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. Books are available at the library for checkout. Escape the winter blues- join us for great conversation and terrific snacks.

**TEEN BOOK CLUB:** Students in grades 6-8 will be meeting January 11 to discuss a previous Battle book of each participant's choice. The group meets in the Young Adult Center at 6:00 p.m. for a lively discussion, and book related games and snacks. Books will be available at the library for check out.

**TOT TIME & PRESCHOOL STORYHOUR:** Both TOT Time and Preschool Story Hour will be on hiatus during the month of January. TOT Time will resume on Tuesday, February 2 and Preschool Story Hour will resume Thursday, February 4.

**1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN:** The Library is also proud to be offering a new early literacy program for ages 0 through pre-K called *1000 Books Before Kindergarten*. This is a free, ongoing, reading program that encourages children and their caregivers to share 1000 books before Kindergarten. A reading log for recording titles is provided and various incentives earned at regular intervals including some terrific books to add to your home library collection. Stop in at the circulation desk to sign up your child today.

**LITTLE FREE LIBRARY:** We are delighted to offer a brand new Free Little Library in conjunction with the Ladies Library of Schoolcraft. This is a free book exchange that operates on the principle of "take a book, share a book." Located in front of the Ladies Library next to the Post Office, it offers a variety of books and genres for the public to enjoy.



## 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  
 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](mailto:cmlutz@villageofschoolcraft.com)  
 Clerk/  
 Treasurer: Faith Akert, [fakert@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:fakert@villageofschoolcraft.com)  
 Office  
 Assistant: 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: Matt Britton  
 Matt Flierman  
 Tim Hulinec  
 Henry Kite  
 Hothman Misane  
 Eric Ray  
 Justin VanderKooy  
 Aux. Officer: Mary Secondi  
 DPW Super: Rob Coffman, [rcoffman@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:rcoffman@villageofschoolcraft.com)  
 Equip/Water  
 Operator: Adam Wood, [awood@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:awood@villageofschoolcraft.com)

## Village of Schoolcraft Winter 2016 Newsletter



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