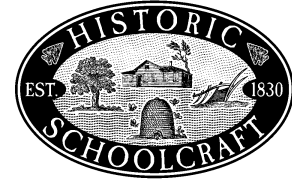


Village of Schoolcraft



Preserving our Past, Enriching our Present, Planning our Future

www.villageofschoolcraft.com

Village President's Message

THANK YOU !!!

This "Thank You" is for the sixty-some people that showed up at the Village Hall on November 16th for our first public meeting of our "Visioning Process" It was exciting to see this level of interest in the community. In the past only sewer proposals brought out this many people.

Wightman and Associates, created about 9 groups with 7 to 9 people in each group . We all discussed our concerns and wants in the Village, then later we shared our ideas through each groups' leader to come up with a master list. A lot of good ideas were exchanged from the different groups of people. Amazingly, several ideas / concerns were similar in all 9 groups, which is a good starting point.

On Tuesday, December 13th, we had our first "Stakeholders" (Community leaders, officials, business owners etc.) meeting, and many good ideas came out of that get-together, relating to future uses of areas for parks, parking, multi-family living areas, areas for new developments , community gathering areas , traffic flow etc.

Wightmans' systematic way of extracting peoples' thoughts is very effective, thorough, and crowd friendly. They have a well thought out plan of getting to a group consensus.

There are more meetings that Residents can and should attend to help in this "Visioning Plan". It's important for all of us to feel as though we contributed, and it is vital to the over-all success of the Plan. If, only a few are in agreement, the odds are low that the Majority will be happy. If, we are all on-board towards a specific goal, then the odds are much greater for success and the happiness of the entire Community.

Please, find the time to come to at least one of the meetings and voice your opinion. These Meetings are "informal" and "friendly", you can be in a group of your close friends and even have something to eat. "Guaranteed friendly atmosphere". Jordan from Wightman brings up different topics and people in the audience just call out their ideas / responses , simple as that!

It would be nice and very fulfilling, to have the Majority of our community in agreement as to the future path that our village should take, as far as the downtown, business places, aesthetics, gathering areas, housing opportunities, and ordinances to live by.

Please help in this very important endeavor. Our next public meeting will be held in early March. Check our website and Facebook page for date.

"MERRY CHRISTMAS" and have a "HAPPY NEW YEAR",

Keith Gunnett
Schoolcraft Village President

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.

2017 Quarterly Meeting Calendar

Village Council 7:00 p.m.

January 2	January 16
February 6	February 20
March 6	March 20

Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.

January 9	March 13
February 13	

Downtown Development Authority 8:00 a.m.

January 5	March 2
February 2	

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

Hello to everyone and happy freezing winter!! It is sure cold out there especially for our hard working DPW Department who works outside regardless of the weather. They started the winter out with a bang, and began plowing snow even before the fall leaf pick up was completed. These guys are up and out the door on snowy days at 3:00 a.m., making our roads safe for winter commuting. Next time you see them, please remember to give them a big thanks for all they do!

Other departments in the Village are busy as usual. With the winter snow and icy roads, there are plenty of fender benders for our Police Department to keep up with in addition to their other activities and responsibilities. We are certainly aware of the fact that Police Officers get so much bad press these days but the Schoolcraft Police Department is second to none, and our officers are here to help you, and to keep out community safe.

Behind the scene, the administrative staff is busy working on the budget for the 2017/18 fiscal year. There is much work in this process and many challenges to create a balanced budget due to decreasing revenue sharing and the elimination of personal property taxes. The Village Staff is here to serve you, and to provide accurate information and courteous information to you. Please do not hesitate to stop in or call us with any questions you may have.

Finally, saving the best information for last, I am very pleased to announce that the Village of Schoolcraft has received a generous grant from the Vicksburg Foundation in the amount of \$41,460.00. This money will be used for our Village and Citizen Driven Vision Plan which is currently underway with great attendance and ideas. On behalf of the Village of Schoolcraft, a big thanks to the Vicksburg Foundation for their generosity. To date, we have had one public workshop, and several meetings of the Steering Committee and Stakeholders Committee. We encourage all of you to attend our next public workshop in March to give us your input and ideas. The picture below is from one of our recent and well attended meetings.

On behalf of the Village of Schoolcraft, I wish all of you a Happy New Year!



Cheri M. Lutz
Village Manager



Schoolcraft Police Department

Fire Signal Tower

In October a Fire Signal Tower was placed on top of the water tower located on Lee Street in the Village of Schoolcraft.

This project allows a significant improvement in emergency and fire notification to first responders in the South County districts.



Auxiliary Officers Sampson and Secondi along with South County EMS West assist Naomi Randall and Mattison Brown on December 6th at the Meijer's in Portage during the shop with a hero.

Chief Bryan Campbell
bcampbell@villageofschoolcraft.com

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, 2017.

Annual Village Wide Garage Sale

Friday, May 12, 2017 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 13, 2017 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Spring Clean Up

Saturday, May 20, 2017 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.

Office Hours

The Village of Schoolcraft Office is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The office is open during lunch.

Public Planning Workshop

Thank you to all participated in the Public Planning Workshop on November 16, 2016. We had a great discussion and appreciate all of your input. Look for our next workshops to come in 2017!

Accountability And Transparency

2016 Accountability and Transparency information for the Village of Schoolcraft is available for public viewing on our webpage at www.villageofschoolcraft.com or at the Village Municipal Complex, 442 N. Grand St., Schoolcraft, MI.

Vacant Seats on Village Council

If you are interested in being on the Village Council, or if you have any questions about the vacant seat on the Village Council, please call Cheri Lutz, Village Manager at 679-4304. Applications for the position are at the Village Municipal Complex located at 442 N. Grand St., Schoolcraft, MI. Applications will be accepted until January 31, 2017.

Ideas to Build Our Community

(In Memoriam)

- Get to know your neighbors
- Greet people when out walking
- Support our local businesses
- Take your children to the park
- Help keep our community beautiful; pick up litter
- Garden together
- Respect one another; watch out for one another
- Read stories aloud; use your local library
- Talk and listen to the birds
- Hire young people for odd jobs
- Talk to your mail carrier
- Put up a porch swing
- Organize a block party or start a neighborhood tradition
- Bake extra and share with friends and neighbors
- Share your skills; volunteer your time
- Learn from new and uncomfortable angles
- Help your neighbor carry something heavy
- Ask for help when you need it
- Ask questions and seek answers
- Support our schools
- Participate in community events
- Sing together, recreate together, worship together

Contributed by Trustee Dorothy J. Clark in 2012



WINTER PROGRAMMING AT THE SCHOOLCRAFT COMMUNITY LIBRARY

ANCESTRYLIBRARY: The Library is pleased to offer full access to Ancestry database to aid patrons in their genealogy search. Search billions of records and discover your family's story. Includes Census, Vital Records, Military, and Immigration records. This database is only available from the Library.

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.

- **Bee-coming a Beekeeper**— 2/14, & 2/21 from 1-3 p.m. Taught by Charlotte Hubbard
- **Titanic: The Tip of the Iceberg**— 3/15, 3/22, & 3/29 1-3 p.m. Taught by William Christiansen

Registration: Members may register online at 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 2016/2017: The 22nd annual Battle of the Books is underway with 31 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 18, 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 23, at the Schoolcraft High School PAC starting 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 4 at 2 p.m., in the Robert Crissman Community Room. The book up for discussion is *The Last Days of Night* by Graham Moore. Books are available at the library for checkout. Refreshments served.

TEEN BOOK CLUB: Students in grades 6-9th will be meeting on January 9 to discuss *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely. 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 7, and Preschool Story Hour will resume Thursday, February 2.

1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN: It's not too late to sign your child up for our ongoing early literacy program for ages 0 through pre-K called *1000 Books Before Kindergarten*. This is a free 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 hardcover books to add to your home library collection. Stop in at the circulation desk to sign up your child today!

SCHOOLCRAFT FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEETING: The Friends of the Library will start their 2017 meetings on Friday, January 6, at 10 a.m. at the library. The Friends had a busy 2016 hosting the Annual Book/Bake Sale, Schoolcraft Summer Palooza, Historical Homes For The Holidays tour, and Donor Drive. The Friends is a vital institution for the well being of the library and we are most appreciative of all their efforts to help support the library. If you are interested in learning more, come join us for our January meeting and discover how you can help your local library and community.

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

Village of Schoolcraft Meeting Dates 2017

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

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT 2017 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 3, 2017*
- January 16, 2017
- February 6, 2017
- February 20, 2017
- March 6, 2017
- March 20, 2017
- April 3, 2017
- April 17, 2017
- May 1, 2017
- May 15, 2017
- June 5, 2017
- June 19, 2017
- July 3, 2017 **
- August 7, 2017 **
- September 5, 2017 *
- September 18, 2017
- October 2, 2017
- October 16, 2017
- November 6, 2017
- November 20, 2017
- December 4, 2017
- December 18, 2017

* 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 2017 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 5, 2017
- February 2, 2017
- March 2, 2017
- April 6, 2017
- May 4, 2017
- June 1, 2017
- August 3, 2017
- September 7, 2017
- October 5, 2017
- November 2, 2017
- December 7, 2017

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT 2017 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

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

- January 9, 2017
- February 13, 2017
- March 13, 2017
- April 10, 2017
- May 8, 2017
- June 12, 2017
- July 10, 2017
- August 14, 2017
- September 11, 2017
- October 9, 2017
- November 13, 2017
- December 11, 2017

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC**

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
Michael Rochholz
Sy Spears

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: Henry Kite
Aaron McCullough
Eric Ray
Brady Roberts
Jeff Schommer
Justin VanderKooy
Aux. Officers: Mary Secondi and Kevin Sampson
DPW Super: Rob Coffman, rcoffman@villageofschoolcraft.com
Equip/Water
Operator: Adam Wood, awood@villageofschoolcraft.com

Village of Schoolcraft Winter 2017 Newsletter



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«AccCustomerStreetAddr2»
«AccCustomer-
City»,«AccCustomerState»«AccCustomerZip»

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