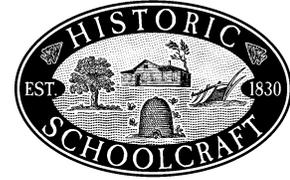


# Village of Schoolcraft



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

www.villageofschoolcraft.com

## Village President's Message

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

I hope all of you had a Merry Christmas with family and friends and I'm wishing all of you a very Happy New Year.

I'm a believer in making our Village a great place to live through community involvement. We have a good reputation already and need to help grow the idea even more for our future enjoyment. I am happy to report that the Christmas Walk was a great success. Deb Christiansen, the event organizer, stated that 17 organizations and businesses reported there were many more people inside their venues than last year's event. The fund raisers at the churches and Ladies Library did better than expected and even did their best ever. The American Legion was open to the public for drinks and the Village Hall was open for restrooms and they will do so again next year. Deb even provided a historic tour downtown for interested parties. Several things are in the works to make next year's Christmas Walk even bigger and better. Thank you Deb. So, if you have any time to support a community activity such as the Christmas Walk, please do so. I believe it makes us all have a better life and place to live, when we gather with friends and community and celebrate together.

Note: At least 5 instances of packages being delivered to wrong addresses have been reported. Not a good thing at Christmas time. Please, make sure your address is on the proper side of your house and in a contrasting color, and this will also help emergency personnel find you.

Back to business! Sewers! It has been reported that all the interested parties have approved resolutions adopting a Notice of Intent to Petition.

According to Wightman's tentative time table, sometime in January 2020, all property owners will receive a notice by mail (not less than 10 days prior), for a Public Hearing. (The hearing will be sometime in February 2020 as per schedule).

Township Boards (Pavilion, Brady, Schoolcraft) and the Village of Schoolcraft, will hold the meetings in their respective halls to determine whether or not to adopt a Resolution that would petition the Drain Commissioner to establish a Drain Project.

### ***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.

January 6	January 20
February 3	February 17
March 2	March 16

### Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.

January 13	February 10
March 9	

### Downtown Development Authority 8:00 a.m.

January 2	February 6
March 5	

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

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At this Public Hearing Meeting, our Village Council will use your input to decide whether to proceed or not! If our Village Council votes to approve the Resolution, then we have a sewer project. If the Village Council votes not to approve the Resolution, then the process stops! Your input is critical! Please attend this meeting!

PLEASE NOTE: This meeting date also starts a 45 day clock for property owners to challenge the petition, if they so choose.

If the Resolution passes, a Drain Board will be established. That Drain Board will submit an application to the USDA -RD (United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development), for funding of the Sewer Project, (schedule shows April 2020).

The schedule says by June 2020, the Drain Board should receive a letter of “Conditions and Bonding Terms” that states all of the financial information including the Grant Information, needed to figure out the final costs to all the Participants of the Sewer Project.

NOTE: Upon receiving the letter of “Conditions and Bonding Terms”, this marks the “LAST POINT in time to OPT OUT” of the project, by refusing to sign acceptance of the “Bonding Conditions and Terms”

More details on costs and scheduling will come in later newsletters, if the project proceeds. When you receive your notification for the Public Hearing, PLEASE come to that meeting, it will be the most important meeting to date for the Village and it’s Residents!

I sincerely hope that we all can come to an amicable decision on the proposed sewer project.

Keith Gunnett  
Schoolcraft Village President  
1-269-569-6057

## 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.

Cheri M. Lutz  
Village Manager  
cmlutz@villageofschoolcraft.com



## Schoolcraft Police Department

As of January 1, 2020 I will no longer be serving as the Chief of Police after deciding to begin the next chapter of my life "retirement". I was first appointed Chief of Police on August 1<sup>st</sup> of 2005. At that time I really thought that my tenure would last about 5 years after having just retired from the St Joseph County Sheriff's office as a Detective Sergeant prior to taking the Chief's position.

My career in Schoolcraft ends after 14 and half years. I must have enjoyed it to have stayed much longer than what I planned. Without question this time has been one of the most enjoyable periods of my law enforcement career. There have been some bad days but the good days far outweigh the bad.

I would like to thank Manager Cheri Lutz who was the person who recommended me for hire. Her guidance and dedication to the Village has been an inspiration. I am grateful for the several Village councils that I have served under. With each group their support of me and the Department was very much appreciated.

I have been very privileged to have worked with great current and past officers. Many of the officers have moved on to bigger and better things with other Departments. One of the biggest enjoyments that I have had while working in Schoolcraft is the opportunity to work with some really great people currently working for the Village from Manager Lutz, to Clerk Theresa O'Leary, Assistant Manager Tammi Youngs, DPW Superintendent Robbi Coffman, and DPW Assistant Adam Wood. This group truly works as a team for the good of the Village.

Last but not least has been the experience of working for the residents of the Village. There are some fantastic people that live in the Village and I consider myself very fortunate as having had the opportunity to able to serve this community for the last 14 years.

Sgt Jamie Edwards will be taking over as officer in charge on December 20<sup>th</sup> until the new Chief Lt. Scott Boling with KDPS takes over in April of 2020. If you have any questions or concerns, Sgt Edwards can be reached at 269-679-5600 [jedwards@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:jedwards@villageofschoolcraft.com).

Chief Bryan Campbell

bcampbell@villageofschoolcraft.com

# Village of Schoolcraft Meeting Dates 2020

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

## VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT 2020 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 6, 2020
- January 20, 2020
- February 3, 2020
- February 17, 2020
- March 2, 2020
- March 16, 2020
- April 6, 2020
- April 20, 2020
- May 4, 2020
- May 18, 2020
- June 1, 2020
- June 15, 2020
- July 6, 2020 \*\*
- August 3, 2020 \*\*
- September 8, 2020 \*
- September 21, 2020
- October 5, 2020
- October 19, 2020
- November 2, 2020
- November 16, 2020
- December 7, 2020
- December 21, 2020

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

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

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN  
TO THE PUBLIC**

## VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT 2020 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 2, 2020
- February 6, 2020
- March 5, 2020
- April 2, 2020
- May 7, 2020
- June 4, 2020
- August 6, 2020
- September 3, 2020
- October 1, 2020
- November 5, 2020
- December 3, 2020

## VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT 2020 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

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

- January 13, 2020
- February 10 2020
- March 9, 2020
- April 13, 2020
- May 11, 2020
- June 8, 2020
- July 13, 2020
- August 10, 2020
- September 14, 2020
- October 12, 2020
- November 9, 2020
- December 14, 2020

## Vacant Seat on Planning Commission

If you are interested in serving on the Planning Commission, please contact the Village Office at 269-679-4304.

## Teddy's Perspective



Everybody knows that dogs like to play and I am no exception. I have plenty of toys both at work and at home. So many in fact, my people often trip over them! One of my favorite games at home is "Where's Teddy". I like to snuggle up with my mom, and she took this picture of me since I perfectly match this blanket and she thought it was pretty funny.

Well, enough fun fur now, it is time to get down to some serious business. Please remember that during the cold winter months, animals get cold too. If your animal is not a house pet, then please be sure that his or her outside environment is well equipped for winter weather. Straw and insulation helps, and even putting in a warming light makes it more comfortable during the winter months. When it is extremely cold, please bring your animal into the house or garage. It could be a matter of life or death to a very important member of your family.

Until next time, I hope all of you have a happy and healthy new year.

Teddy

### 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 27, 2020. TREES MUST BE PLACED OUT BY 7:00 A.M. ON JANUARY 27, 2020.

### Annual Village Wide Garage Sale

Friday May 29, 2020 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Saturday May 30, 2020 9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.

### Spring Clean Up

June 6, 2020 7:00 a.m.

**This will be a central drop off clean up. The drop off site will be published in the April 1, 2020 newsletter.**

### Accountability and Transparency

2019 Accountability and Transparency information for the Village of Schoolcraft is available for public viewing on our webpage at [www.villageofschoolcraft.com](http://www.villageofschoolcraft.com) or at the Village Municipal Complex, 442 N. Grand St., Schoolcraft, MI.

### 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 sidewalks of snow. 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 as it leaves snow or slush on the roadway. 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.



## WINTER PROGRAMMING AT THE SCHOOLCRAFT COMMUNITY LIBRARY

**ART IN THE LIBRARY:** Grujot Nanhra will be sharing a collection of her fluid art pieces during the month of January. There will be an open house reception on **Wed Jan 8<sup>th</sup>** from **6-7pm** at the library. Please come by and meet Grujot!

**Census-** Are you curious about the Census or want to become a Census Taker? Sue Kenyon will be at the library with information **Tue Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 10-2** and **Wed 3:30-7:30**.

**PRAIRIE PAGE TURNERS—Author visit in January:** The Prairie Page Turners will be meeting on Wednesday, **January 8** at **2 p.m.** in the Robert Crissman Community Room for a presentation from local author Joy Melville. Her new book is titled *Meant for Her* and is available now on Amazon.

**BATTLE OF THE BOOKS 2019/2020:** The 25th annual Battle of the Books is underway with 26 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 15, 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 20, at the Schoolcraft High School PAC starting at 7 p.m.

Come watch local youth amaze you with their knowledge!

**TOT TIME & PRESCHOOL STORYHOUR:** Both Tot Time and Preschool Story Hour will be on hiatus during the months of January and February. Tot Time will resume on Tuesday, March 3, and Preschool Story Hour will resume Thursday, March 5.

**SMALL SOUNDS Thursday Jan 9 and Thursday Feb. 6 @10am-** Paul Bauer will be bringing his instruments for an interactive program for our **Tot Time** and **Preschool** kids ages 18 mos on up. Please call the library to register your child. 679-5959.

**1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN:** This is a free reading program promoting early literacy for children ages 0 through pre-K. It encourages children and their caregivers to share 1000 books together before Kindergarten. A reading log for recording the number of titles read is provided along with 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 2020 meetings on Friday, January 10, at 10 a.m. at the library. The Friends had a busy 2019 hosting the Annual Book/Bake Sale, Schoolcraft Summer Palooza, 1000 Cranes for Christmas, and Donor Drive. FOL is a vital support group for the Library and we are most appreciative of their efforts to supplement Library programming funds and provide other useful funding for technology, books, and more. 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**

## A Note from the Finance Director

I just wanted to give all of the Village residents an update on the state of our finances. Our Financial Audit was conducted in May of 2019 and we received a clean opinion on our financial statements. Our Fund Balance (the amount left over after all expenditures are paid for the year) is very healthy in all funds. Best Practices says a healthy fund balance is between 5 to 20% of annual budgeted expenditures. For the Village, that means that 20% would be \$180,000. The challenge the Village is facing is that expenditures are not in alignment with revenues. The Village is working diligently to review our expenditures and reduce costs, while still retaining the great services that are provided to you.

## 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)  
 Officer  
 in Charge: Sergeant Jamie Edwards  
 Officers: Joe Bippus  
 Matt Britton  
 Joe Geiser  
 Henry Kite  
 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)

## Village of Schoolcraft Winter 2020 Newsletter



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 «Account#customerName2»  
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 «Account#customerStreetAddr2»  
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