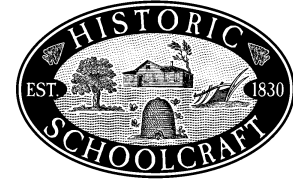


Village of Schoolcraft



Preserving our Past, Enriching our Present, Planning our Future

www.villageofschoolcraft.com

Village President's Message



Fall is here, and it is keeping my family busy as we get ready for cold weather. This year, for the first time, both of my children are in school, making mornings and evenings a little bit more hectic around the house. Night time meals are filled with interesting information and details about their day.

As we wrap up the summer months, and head into the fall season, keep in mind there are still plenty of fun things to do around town. Upcoming events include the Chili Cook-Off and the Christmas Walk, so be sure to mark your calendar for these great events. I especially want to thank all of the volunteers who work to make these events successful.

During the month of August, the Village Council heard a presentation from our auditor Doug Wohlberg. The Village of Schoolcraft received a "Clean Audit" report. This means that our municipal finances are being handled in accordance with State Law, and that there are no material weaknesses in our financial operations. I feel great about the way our finances are handled, and express my thanks to Village Manager Cheri Lutz, and Village Clerk/Treasurer Faith Akert as they led us through another successful audit. Village staff has a number of checks and balances in place to assure proper accounting procedures, and the Village Council has monthly oversight of those as well.

Our Village government is busy. The staff and boards work very hard to make sure the Schoolcraft is the best it can be. There are a lot of activities going on, and I encourage you to attend any one of our board meetings to learn more about our operations.

I would like to remind all of you that our meetings are open to the public, and we encourage you to attend. Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your Village President. I welcome any and all feedback. Remember to visit our web site at www.villageofschoolcraft.com for additional information, or visit us on Facebook.

Go Eagles!

Dan DeVries
Village President

2013 Quarterly Meeting Calendar

<u>Village Council</u> 7:00 p.m.	
October 7	October 21
November 4	November 18
December 2	December 16
<u>Planning Commission</u> 7:00 p.m.	
October 14	November 11
December 9	
<u>Downtown Development Authority</u> 8:00 a.m.	
October 3	November 7
December 5	

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 fall to all of you! Like all of you, there are lots of projects and things to do in the Village as we move into the fall season.

Besides the day to day operations, we are working on a number of projects. The most visible one that you will see will be the removal and replacement of the trees in the Central Business District located between Eliza and Cass Streets. This project is being undertaken by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). The existing trees were planted as part of the Streetscape Project done in 2005. Unfortunately, the trees have grown too large, and they are creating a number of problems for both the business community and for the Village. The trees have become so tall that they are blocking signage for many of our merchants. Visible signage is very important to them as they help attract new customers, and keep old ones too. The root balls are also causing problems. In some areas, the sidewalks and decorative grating around the trees has started to heave. This is a major problem because of the infrastructure that is in the immediate area, and the potential damage that will be done to it and the decorative sidewalks if corrective action does not take place. The DDA is exploring all options, and it is very likely that you will see the existing trees removed, and replaced with smaller trees that will grow no taller than 8 to 10 feet. If you have any questions or comments about this project, please give me a call or feel free to attend the DDA meeting on Thursday, October 3rd, at 8:00 a.m. The meeting is held at the Municipal Complex, and is open to the public.

Village staff begins work on the 2014/2015 Budget during the fall months. There are hours and hours of preparation and meetings, and much thought and work goes into the budgeting process. We are consistently proud of the fact that we are able to provide a balanced budget with all of our great services still being provided to you.

For those of you who are excited and anxious to get out and rake leaves, please remember that leaf pick up begins the last week in October and goes through November 27th. Leaves must be raked to the curbside, and will be picked up periodically by the DPW. Please be sure that you do not combine branches, grass clippings, root balls, etc. with the leaves. October 28th will be the last day for brush pick up. Please do not put your brush out to the curb until the Wednesday before brush pick up. We ask that you adhere to the schedule in order to keep our town looking nice and clean. We do appreciate your cooperation!

Cheri M. Lutz
Village Manager



Schoolcraft Police Department

Halloween Safety

1. LIGHTING:

- A. Make sure the pathway to your home is well lit. If you are using candles to light the way, make sure they are a safe distance from the sidewalk or driveway. Some children wear items made of paper or carry paper bags.
- B. If you are going to use the "dark" effect, make sure there are no tripping hazards in the way.

2. CLOTHING:

- A. Use clothing or a costume that allows others to see your child from a safe distance. It is not uncommon for some children to ride their bikes, roller blades, or skateboards from house to house. Some children can travel at high speeds on these things and before you know it, they can be right on top of you.

3. CANDY:

- A. Talk with your children about not eating candy before they get home. You should inspect the candy before they eat it.
- B. Make sure you inspect all the candy. Anything that looks like it was tampered with should be thrown out. It's best to error on the safe side.

4. GROUPS:

- A. If your child will be trick or treating without you, make sure they walk or ride around with others and never alone.

Chief Bryan Campbell
bcampbell@villageofschoolcraft.com

Fire Hydrant Flushing October 15, 2013

Be sure to run your water before doing laundry to prevent yellowing.

Village of Schoolcraft Trick or Treat 5:30—8:30 p.m. October 31, 2013

Leaf Pick Up

Leaf pick up begins the last week of October and ends the week of Thanksgiving.

- Only leaves will be picked up. Please keep debris out of leaf piles.
- Do not combine leaves with sticks, root balls, trash or stones.
- Piles of leaves should be within 6 ft. of the edge of the street, but not in the street.

Brush Pick-Up

The last day for brush pick-up is Monday, October 28. Please use the following guidelines when putting your brush at the road:

- Brush may be put out at the road the Wednesday before pick up.
- All end cuts of brush must be placed in the same direction (facing the road).
- Brush piles must be no larger than can be picked up by any one person. Branches should be no larger than 4" in diameter.
- Twigs must be bagged or boxed.

The Village of Schoolcraft does appreciate your cooperation.

Obstruction of Sidewalks

If your property is abutted to a sidewalk, you must keep it clear of vegetation. Bushes or any vegetation must be trimmed at least six inches from the sidewalk to provide safe passage for walkers.

Village Office Closures

November 28 & 29, 2013
December 24 & 25, 2013
December 31, 2013
January 1, 2014

Email Newsletter

If you would like to receive the Village Newsletter via email, please give us a call and we will add you to our distribution list. Newsletters are mailed quarterly during the months of January, April, July and October.

Locate Village of Schoolcraft on the Internet

Visit our website @ www.villageofschoolcraft.com. On this site you will find information on upcoming events, printable permits, lists of members of village boards, meeting schedules and much more. There are links to several resources and to the Village's Facebook page.

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. 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.

Eagles Nest

Like five precious eagle eggs in a nest, five special programs found a supportive home at 629 East Clay Street just a year ago. Formerly the Administration Building, the Eagle's Nest provides nurturing and care for community members in times of need. Programs include:

Schoolcraft Friday Pack Program, INC provided 63 at-risk students with weekend food packs during the 2012-13 school year and provided the same children with Harding's vouchers over the summer. The program is managed by the Schoolcraft High School and Middle School Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) classes as a job training opportunity. The ASD classes pack and distribute the weekly supplemental packs. The program is run strictly by volunteers and the food inventory is purchased by financial and product donations

Schoolcraft Friday Pack, INC sponsored Adam's Kids provides monthly diaper, formula and food support to 32 at-risk infants and toddlers from 25 families. These are the younger children of the same families of the Schoolcraft Friday Pack, INC. This program is volunteer run and relies 100 % on financial and product donations.

Schoolcraft Friday Pack, INC sponsored Rose's Clothes Closet is a free clothing closet that provides new/gently used clothing to our Schoolcraft Friday Pack and Adam's Kids families. It has supplied clothing for over 28 struggling families. At this time, Rose's Clothes Closet is accepting fall/winter clothing for infant to small adult sizes only. There is a particular need for children's sized clothing and boots. The program is no longer accepting purses, belts, high heels, sandals or summer clothing. Rose's Clothes Closet is run strictly by volunteers.

South County Community Services sponsored Food Pantry provides non-perishable food to 59 households every month. Twelve of the households served have children. It is run by volunteers and operates on 100% donations.

Schoolcraft Community School's (SCS) sponsored Homework Club provides free after-school math tutoring to Schoolcraft's at-risk 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade students. The program is housed in Schoolcraft's Elementary building and run by retired teachers and National Honor Society students who volunteer their time. SCS supports Homework Club with a classroom, computer, printer usage, paper and educational materials. The Eagle's Nest supports the program by providing materials as needed. Educational product donations are accepted.

Eagle's Nest is open every Wednesday 1-3 pm and every Thursday 3:30 -5:30 pm

Looking for student groups, church groups and other volunteers to take on service projects, adopt a family for the holidays and assist during open hours. For more information, please call 488-5847.

Please help support the Eagle's Nest by giving financial, product or service donations. Caring for the eggs in the nest will help our Eagle Community to Soar.

South County Emergency Siren Warning Policy

This year spring and summer came roaring in with severe storms, hail and tornado warnings. We've had plenty of questions from our businesses and residents who are not quite sure what the warnings mean. 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 a severe thunder storm is 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 passes.

There is **no** "all clear" warning.

The warning system in the Fire Station will 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.

Kalamazoo County State Bank Invites All To 6th Annual *Chili in the Park* Cook-Off October 5, 2013 1 pm ~ 3 pm Burch Park in Schoolcraft

Come join in the fun once again as Kalamazoo County State Bank (KCSB) hosts its sixth annual *Chili In the Park* Cook-Off October 5th, at Burch Park in Schoolcraft from 1 pm to 3 pm. All are welcome for this family event.

“Our *Chili In the Park* Cook-Off brings together local non-profit organizations that are essential to the wellness of our communities,” said James D. MacPhee, Chief Executive Officer of KCSB. “We are pleased to continue this tradition of caring with our sixth annual Cook-Off. This event brings awareness to a wide variety of non-profit organizations that make our communities a better place to live.”

The public is invited to this annual event to taste and vote on their favorite chili, support the local non-profit organizations that make the chili and all the volunteers who make the event happen, as well as have some fun in our community! As an entrance donation, all are asked to bring a non-perishable food item that will be donated to local food pantries.

Kalamazoo County State Bank (KCSB) is committed to giving back to the communities it serves. Celebrating over 100 Years of Caring, KCSB selects local non-profit organizations where employees volunteer their time and collect donations at their offices. These organizations are featured at the *Chili in the Park* Cook-Off.

Supporting the community for over 100 years, Kalamazoo County State Bank has offices in Schoolcraft, Mattawan and Vicksburg. The Bank is an independently owned and operated local community bank. For information contact: Rick Phillips, Assistant Vice President at 269-679-5291.

South County Community Services

South County Community Services (SCCS) recently completed a strategic plan that calls for the agency to complete a needs assessment and gap analysis among senior residents we serve in the townships of Brady, Climax, Pavilion, Prairie Ronde, Schoolcraft, and Wakeshma, as well as the Villages of Climax, Scotts, Schoolcraft and Vicksburg. We want to ask:

What do you most need from SCCS?

What are the most important programs we should continue to provide, change or begin offering?

What changes in resource development do we need to make to meet our service goals?

For the next two months we will be looking for opportunities to go out into the community and talk with our residents whenever and wherever we can. We have also developed a survey that will also be distributed in key locations throughout the service area, and at a special event in Schoolcraft on October 24.

Last April we did our first Senior Discovery Day at our location in Vicksburg. It was very well received! We are delighted to report that we will be hosting another such event on October 24, at the Village of Schoolcraft Municipal Building (442 N. Grand), from 3-4:30 p.m. Reservations are requested by calling 269-649-2901.

On October 24, we will have a panel of experts representing a wide range of services designed for older adults:

-Senior Services - Elder Law of Michigan - One Call for Help

-Metro Transit - Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program

-Area Agency on Aging - Evidence Based Health Programs

Our wish is to provide an opportunity for you to discover how all these agencies have something to help you improve the quality of your life. It will be done in a relaxed atmosphere with refreshments and plenty of time to ask questions. ***Please plan to join us!***

Schoolcraft Community Library

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

TOT TIME: Tuesdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m.---Community Room—September 10-Dec. 17. Ages 18 thru 36 months. One child per adult. No need to register. Songs, fingerplays, stories and free time. Come join the fun!

PRESCHOOL STORY HOUR: Thursdays from 10-10:45 a.m.--Community Room - September 12- December 19. Ages: 3-5 yrs. Stories, activities, songs, craft and snack. No need to register. Preschoolers can be dropped off while parents enjoy a break.

YOUTH BOOK CLUB: 2nd Thursday of each month. 4 to 5 p.m. in the Young Adult Room at the library. Grades 5-8 meet to discuss the book chosen for that month while enjoying snacks. September's book choice is The Giver by Lois Lowry.

HALLOWEEN PARTY: October 25, 3:30-5 p.m. Grades 5-10. Celebrate Halloween with a Day of the Dead themed event. Food, games, prizes, crafts and spooky fun. Pre-registration required.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS: The 2013-2014 BOB is soon to begin. The booklist will be released Friday, October 25 and will be available at the Schoolcraft Upper Elem. and the Schoolcraft Community Library. Team Registration Forms will be due Friday, November 8. Coaches meeting will be Monday, November 4 in the Community Room. Questions—call the library at 269-679-5959.

MAP—Michigan Activity Pass: Explore Michigan with the Michigan Activity Pass (MAP) now available at the library. Using your library card, you can check out a FREE pass to one of 60 participating museums and cultural centers in Michigan. Get information at the library or visit www.michiganactivitypass.info.

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP— The Prairie Pageturners meet the first Wednesday of the month for lively book discussions, refreshments and friendship. The October selection is And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini. Copies of books are available at the library.

READING GARDEN AND BUTTERFLY GARDEN—Keep watching the grounds of the library and you will begin to see some digging and planting begin in early to mid October. At long last, the dream of the Reading Garden at the library is to become a reality. Many thanks to all those who have helped to make this possible. Our 'Garden Party' was a huge success and we are very grateful to the Village of Schoolcraft, Vicksburg Foundation, Friends of the Library and the many private donors who have given their support for this beautiful new space at the library.

Free Electronics Recycling October 5, 2013 9 a.m.—Noon Schoolcraft Township Hall 50 East VW Avenue Vicksburg, MI

This event is open to all consumers and small businesses.

Items accepted:

Computers, cell phones, monitors, printers, mice, keyboards, cords, cables, modems, WIFI routers, DVD and VCR players, MP3 players, PDAs, gaming consoles and accessories, CD players, radios, stereos, microwaves, calculators, flat screen TVs, remote controls, UPS, test equipment, small motors and most other electronic items.

Items NOT accepted:

CRT televisions, large household appliances, smoke detectors, hazardous materials.

For more information, contact Emerald eCycling LLC @ 269-978-1914 or check their website @ www.emerald-ecycling.com

25th Annual Christmas Walk December 6, 2013 6 to 9 p.m. December 7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Merchants in the beautiful downtown district are opening their doors and welcoming everyone into their businesses. Hors d'ouvres and treats will be served, songs will be sung and plenty of camaraderie and excitement will fill the air. Look for the Red Bows for participating businesses.

Farmer's Market

The Farmer's Market is held every Wednesday, 3-6 p.m. until October 30. Fresh produce and baked goods are available. On October 23 there will be pumpkin carving at the site; and on October 31, Halloween, Trunk "r" Treat will be held 5-7 p.m. The Farmer's Market is located on Grand Street next to the United Methodist Church.

Schoolcraft Historical Society

Are you a history buff? If you are, don't miss out on the monthly meetings of the Schoolcraft Historical Society. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Underground Railroad House on Cass Street. You are welcome to attend.



Lions Club

Are you looking to get involved in a great organization? If so, the month of October is the annual membership drive for the Lions Club. Listed below are a few reasons to join:

- You will meet great people who are friendly and service oriented.
- You will have the opportunity to contribute to your community.
- You will learn new and interesting things from a variety of guest speakers.
- You will have good food and great company at their meetings.

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW on Clay Street.

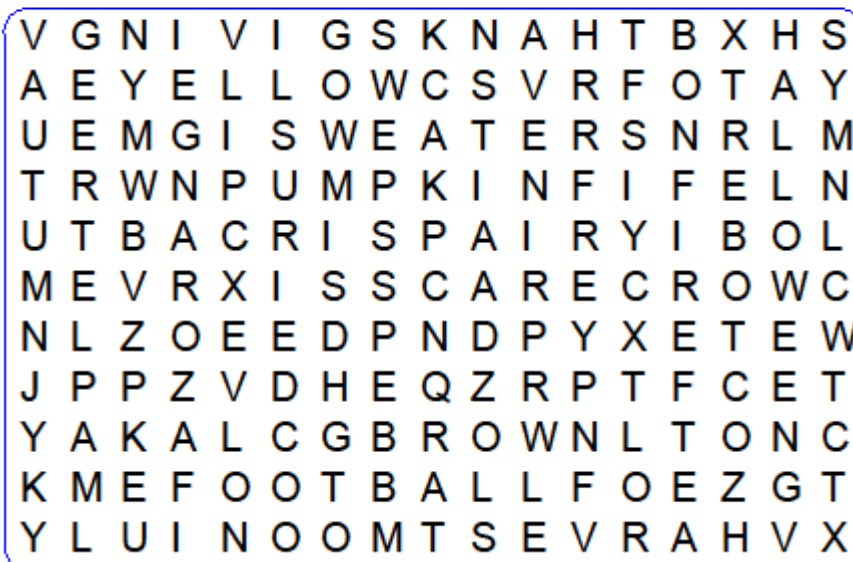
For more information, contact Terry Woytal at 269-207-6071.

Turkey Raffle Tickets

Lions Club Turkey Raffle Tickets will go on sale in late October. You can purchase tickets from any Lions Club member. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Proceeds from the sale of tickets goes to the Lion's Club and the monies are used to assist people in the community with vision needs, and other important needs.

AUTUMN WORDS

Word Search



- Apple
- Autumn
- Bonfire
- Brown
- Cider
- Crisp air
- Football
- Halloween
- Harvest Moon
- Leaves
- Maple Tree
- October
- Orange
- Pumpkin
- Rake
- Red
- Scarecrow
- Sweater
- Thanksgiving
- Yellow

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: Dan DeVries
Trustees: Scot Dailey
Russell L. Barnes
Todd Carlin
Dorothy J. Clark
Keith Gunnett
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
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: Matt Britton
Tim Hulinec
Justin Kotecki
Eric Ray
Aux. Officer: Mary Secondi
Henry Kite
DPW Super: Rob Coffman, rcoffman@villageofschoolcraft.com
Equip/Water
Operator: Adam Wood, awood@villageofschoolcraft.com

Village of Schoolcraft Fall 2013 Newsletter



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«AccCustomerStreetAddr2»
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