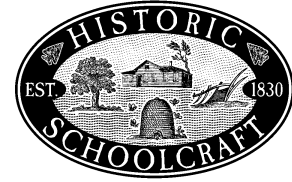


# Village of Schoolcraft



Preserving our Past, Enriching our Present, Planning our Future

[www.villageofschoolcraft.com](http://www.villageofschoolcraft.com)

## Village President's Message



As I write this we are still under a blanket of white snow, but the first day of spring has already come. Even so, I look forward to seeing many of you out and about on the beautiful days that we are all hoping come soon.

A common tradition in spring is to perform your spring cleaning. In a manner of speaking, that's what we are doing in the Village as well. We will have our Village-Wide Garage Sales on April 19-20, followed by Spring Clean Up Day on April 27.

In addition, the council and I recently reviewed some of our procedures as they relate to checks and balances in the Village. We want to be sure that you never have cause to suspect business is not being handled properly in the Village. First, we are audited thoroughly each year. The financial statements are reviewed and general good practices are reviewed. Second, the staff and council participate in a series of reviews and checks throughout the year to ensure financial responsibility. Some examples of this include a review of all expenses at each council meeting, a review of budget performance to date at all council meetings, and standard procedures in handling incoming funds (like permits and water bills), as well as in opening mail in the office. This is why you can't simply hand your water bill to Robbie or Adam as they are working out in the town. While completely trustworthy, they won't take it because we have a system that ensures accountability and tracking. Our system of checks & balances has given us favorable audit results in the past and we expect that to continue. If you ever have questions on how things are handled, please do not hesitate to reach out to our staff who will be happy to explain our procedures to you.

I wish all of you a wonderful spring! Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Village President. I welcome any and all feedback. Remember to visit us on Facebook or on our website at [www.villageofschoolcraft.com](http://www.villageofschoolcraft.com). Go Eagles!

Go Eagles!

Dan DeVries  
Village President

## Village Address

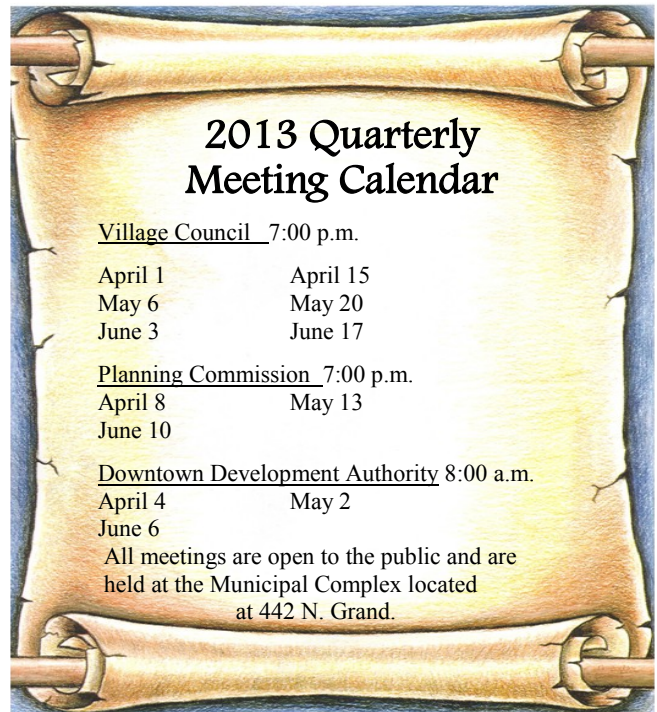
When sending mail to the Village, please be sure it is sent to **P.O. Box 8**.

## Village Office Hours

The Village Office is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We are open during lunch hour.

## Office Closure

The Village Office will be closed May 27, 2013, for Memorial Day.



### 2013 Quarterly Meeting Calendar

Village Council 7:00 p.m.

April 1	April 15
May 6	May 20
June 3	June 17

Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.

April 8	May 13
June 10	

Downtown Development Authority 8:00 a.m.

April 4	May 2
June 6	

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

## News from the Manager's Desk

Happy Spring to all of you! After a very long winter, I am looking forward to warmer weather and outside activities, and I bet you are too.

The Village of Schoolcraft is gearing up for spring weather and activities with some road and sidewalk projects planned.

The following roads will be resurfaced and work should be completed prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Maple Street at Tulip Intersection  
 Birch St. – Maple to Poplar  
 Pearl Street – Eliza to Cass  
 Robinson Street – Eliza to 200' south of Eliza  
 Robinson Street – Pine to Walnut

Installment of new or replacement sidewalk will begin in mid-April through late fall as follows:

<u>Pine St.</u> Between Robinson and Grand	150ft
<u>Pine St.</u> Between Robinson and Grand	310ft
<u>Walnut St.</u> Between Robinson and Grand	150ft
<u>W. Clay St.</u> Between Hayward and Centre 300ft	<u>NEW</u>
<u>E. Clay St.</u> Between Railroad and 14 <sup>th</sup>	330ft
<u>W. Cass St.</u> Between Hayward and Centre.	170ft
<u>S. Cedar St.</u> Between Pine and Walnut	480ft

During the month of April, we have our Village-Wide Garage Sales and Spring Clean-Up followed later in the summer with our annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, Music Under the Star's Summer Concert Series, Schoolcraft Community Library events, and the Farmer's Market.

As a reminder, the Village of Schoolcraft participates with the Kalamazoo County Hazardous Household Waste Center by offering a free drop off to Village residents. Items accepted are pesticides, car batteries and fluids, mercury, household batteries, cameras, aerosols, cleaners, acids, electronic equipment and much more. For additional information, and a complete list of accepted items, call 383-8742 or visit their web site at [www.kalamazooocounty.com/hhw](http://www.kalamazooocounty.com/hhw).

For additional information regarding Village services and activities, please contact us at 679-4304.

Cheri M. Lutz  
 Village Manager



## Schoolcraft Police Department

**Allowing a Dog to Run at Large:** Any person who owns and keeps a dog within the limits of the Village must keep the dog under immediate control, leash or chain when the dog is not on the owners property.

**Junk Vehicles:** Any vehicle which is not licensed and insured for operation on the highway, or is inoperable, is in violation. The fact that a vehicle may be for sale does not matter. The vehicle in question cannot be on a person's property for more than 10 days at any time within a calendar year. A vehicle which meets the criteria of being a junk vehicle may be kept on the property if it is placed in a wholly enclosed structure (garage).

**Blight:** Building materials, junk, trash, rubbish or refuse of any kind may not be kept outside for a period to exceed 30 days. Furniture typically found inside a residence may not be kept outside.

**Lawn, Noxious Weeds:** Weeds or grass may not exceed 12 inches. When a violation occurs the property owner will be given 48 hours to take care of the violation.

**Right of Way:** With the exception of decorative flowers a resident may not place any structure, sign or other object within the right of way (33' from the center of the roadway). Basketball hoops can be placed off the roadway on the right of way in a cul-de-sac from March through October.

**Parking:** A person may not park their vehicle on the paved portion of the roadway within the Village limits unless a curb is present. A person may not park on the right of way between 2-6 a.m. unless the person is the property owner or a visitor of the owner.

**Curfew:** Any person 16 years or younger may not be out between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. There are some exceptions. The curfew ordinance is meant to curb juveniles from being out in public in the village during the before mentioned hours.

**Golf Carts:** This is not a local ordinance but is State Law. A golf cart may not be operated on a public highway in this state unless it is registered, insured and has all required equipment of a motor vehicle.

**The above ordinances are only a portion of the Village ordinances which are in effect. All of the above violations are Municipal Civil Infractions and those in violation are subject to both a citation and subsequent fine. The initial fine for a violation is \$75. Each subsequent violation of the same type increases with the new violation.**

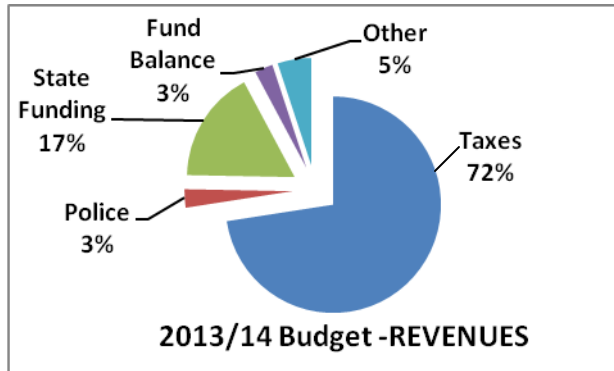
*Bryan Campbell*

Chief of Police  
[bcampbell@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:bcampbell@villageofschoolcraft.com)

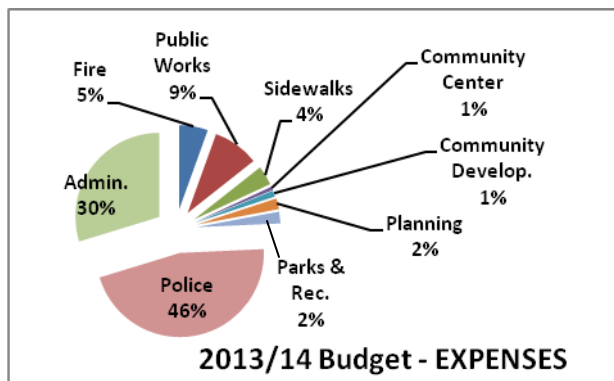
## VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT

### General Fund Budget Fiscal Year 2013/14

March 1, 2013, began the new fiscal year for the Village of Schoolcraft. Tax Revenues from the Summer Village Tax to be collected July 1, 2013, Constitutes 72% of the Village Budget.



The total operating budget for the General Fund is \$775,350.00. The graph below illustrates how the Village Funds will be spent.



Note: The Village Tax rate is 14.9005 Mills or 33% of the approximate total 44.721 Mills levied on residential property.

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On February 18, 2013, The Village Council adopted the 2013/14 Fiscal Year Budget beginning March 1, 2013. The General Fund Budget is \$775,350.

The charts above illustrate General Fund Revenues and General Fund Expenses.

The pie chart for Revenue shows that 72% of the Village's operating expenses are generated from property taxes, 17% from State Revenue Sharing, 5% from other revenue sources, 3% from police department revenue and 3% from Fund Balance.

2013/14 property taxes from our residential and business community are estimated to be \$562,000, which includes about \$44,000 in Personal Property Tax. The State of Michigan has eliminated Personal Property Taxes and new methods of replacing the lost revenues to the local communities will be implemented.

The State of Michigan apportions Constitutional as well as Economic Vitality Incentive Program (EVIP) Revenue Sharing to municipalities. To receive the EVIP portion, the state requires the Village submit reports to meet certain criteria in three categories. The Village continues to meet the requirements to assure receipt of the EVIP funding. The 2013/14 Budget \$129,500 is estimated.

The expenditures chart illustrates percentages for specific operations within the Village; Police 46%, Administration 30%, Public Works 9%, Fire 5%, Sidewalks 4%, Parks and Recreation 2%, Planning 2%, Community Center 1% and Community Development 1%.

The operations of the Water Department, Major and Local Streets and DDA do not come out of General Fund. The Water Fund is an enterprise fund which is self supporting.

If you have any questions, please be sure to give us a call at 679-4304.

## Customer Service ~ Satisfaction Guaranteed!

During the month of February, the Village received advanced notification of a planned power outage. We took advantage of this information, and were able to pass it along to our business community by calling each and every one of them personally. They, in turn, helped us by passing this information along to their customers so by the time the power outage actually happened, most people knew it was coming and were prepared to deal with it.

This exercise in customer service has made us think that we can help you in other instances that may come along by notifying you in advance. In order to do this efficiently, we would like to create an e-mail distribution list. If you would like your name on this list, please let us know by calling us at 679-4304 or e-mailing Theresa O'Leary at [toleary@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:toleary@villageofschoolcraft.com).

We will also provide you with other important information such as our newsletter, municipal information and updates, and community events.

## 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 should be less than four inches (4") in diameter and 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.**
- Brush piles should not be tied together with any material.
- Twigs must be bagged or boxed; we are unable to remove loose twigs.
- Unacceptable material include leaves, trash, vines, nails, building materials, roots, plants, dirt, stumps, and limbs or brush generated through the removal of a tree, bush or hedgerow.
- **Brush placed out in violation of the restrictions will not be picked up.**

## Leaf Pick Up Through May 2, 2013

**Leaves must be in paper bags.** Paper grocery bags and store bought paper leaf bags are acceptable. Place bags out to the curb. Call the Village Office at 269-679-4304 to let us know how many bags of leaves you have to be picked up.

## Obstruction of Sidewalks

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

## Fire Hydrant Flushing, April 16, 2013

Be sure to run your water for a few minutes before doing laundry.

## 4th of July Celebration Wednesday, July 4, 2013

Details coming in the July 1, 2013 Newsletter and on our website; [www.villageofschoolcraft.com](http://www.villageofschoolcraft.com) when they become available.

**This year the highway will be closed during the parade. Traffic will be rerouted around the Village. Further information will be in our July 1, 2013 newsletter and on our website.**

For information about being in the parade, call Deb Reynolds after 5:00 p.m. at 269-679-4896.

## South County Fire Department Practice Burn

The South County Fire Department will be conducting a practice burn for a barn that is located on West Eliza Street sometime this spring. The practice burn is expected to take place over a period of two days, and will take place only when there is a north/south wind.

This practice burn will provide valuable training for South County Firefighters. Residents in the immediate area will be contacted by the property owner within the next couple of weeks, and again at least 24 hours prior to the burn.

## Farmers Market

Support your local community. Shop at the Farmer's Market every **Wednesday** from 2:00-6:00, May 2 thru October 31.

## 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.

## 2013 Village Wide Garage Sales

April 19 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

April 20 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

If you are a Village resident and would like your garage sale marked on a map, call Theresa at the Village Office, 269-679-4304, by noon on April 16. Maps will be available at the Village Office April 17-19, from 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

## 2013 Spring Clean Up April 27, 2013

Items must be placed at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on  
April 27, 2013.

### **Items not accepted are:**

Appliances containing Freon (unless they are tagged)  
Batteries  
Building Demolition (debris from an entire building)  
Concrete  
Hazardous Waste (Including Medical Waste)  
Large Car Parts (Engine Blocks, doors, hoods, etc)  
Large Metal Pieces  
Large Plastic Drums  
Motor Oil & Solvents  
Tires (Will accept if cut up into flat pieces)  
Non-Latex Paint & Varnishes (other paint has to be air dried or soaked with kitty litter)  
Liquids of any sort  
Yard Waste  
For additional information, contact Theresa O'Leary at 269-679-4304.

## **Downtown Development Authority Façade Improvement Grant**

The downtown Development Authority (DDA) is pleased to announce year two of the Façade Improvement Grant.

The DDA has allocated \$5,000.00 for the Façade Improvement Grant Program for the 2013/2014 fiscal year. The program will provide a 50% match for selected applicants to improve the "curb appeal" of their building or property. One project where the DDA's share is \$5,000.00 may be selected, or multiple projects that total's \$5,000.00 may be selected. Grant funds can be used for signage, improvements to the building including new doors, windows, exterior painting, awnings and canopies, and more.

The application deadline is April 15, 2013. Applications may be picked up at the Village Office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For additional information, please contact Cheri Lutz at 679-4304.

## **Benefit Sale (Donated Items)**

Carl and Norma Tackett will hold a benefit sale; donating proceeds to the Downtown Development Authority for the Streetscape Program. The sale will be held in conjunction with the Village Wide Garage Sales on **April 19 and 20** at the red pole barn located at 123 Robinson St., Schoolcraft, MI. Hours will be the same as the Village of Schoolcraft garage sales' hours. Many items have been donated so far, including furniture, pictures, glassware, china, linens, etc. Donations will be accepted and appreciated (no clothing please). If you have a donation or any questions call 679-4030, 269-341-4957, or 679-4907. Arrangements for pick up are available. We wish to thank those who have already donated items.

## **Kindred Spirits Outreach**

### **Music Under the Stars – Schoolcraft's Summer Concert Series**

**Curtis Lee Putman and The Rambling Man Blues Band** kick off Schoolcraft's Summer Concert series with country blues and country soul on Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in Burch Park. *We will be collecting school supplies* to give to children at an August community Back to School event.

Bring your family for an evening of entertainment. Pack a picnic if you wish - then stretch out on your blanket or lawn chair and enjoy the tunes.

Free concerts will run every Friday night in June and July starting at 6 p.m. We've added vendors for shopping and free give-a-ways too! For more information and the full venue check out Kindred Spirits Outreach FaceBook page. In case of adverse weather, cancellations will be posted on the Village of Schoolcraft's FaceBook page.

## **Schoolcraft Schools Are On the Move . . .**

The recent advancements and celebrations within Schoolcraft Schools are too numerous to name in this publication. Please go to <http://www.schoolcraftschools.org/>

At the bottom right hand corner of the page you'll find **Eagle Press**, please click here for complete quarterly District information. Go Eagles !

## SCHOOLCRAFT COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

**ART EXHIBIT AND RECEPTION:** The Schoolcraft Community Library will be hosting the art of husband and wife team Ron and Susan Heath beginning with an Opening Reception on Tuesday, April 2 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Ron will display beautiful fused glass pieces, while Susan has lovely portraits, still-lives and landscapes. The exhibit will run through May 25.

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK/BAKE SALE:** The Schoolcraft Friends of the Library annual Book/Bake Sale will be held Friday, April 19 from 8a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, April 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A bag sale will be held starting at noon on Saturday. The library will provide the bags and the cost will be \$3.00 per bag.

**SUMMER READING—“Dig into Reading”:** The programs for the library’s summer reading program will be held in the Bob Crissman Community Room and are as follows:

<b>PaleoJoe</b>	Author and Paleontologist, Storyteller <i>High energy program with dinosaurs, fossils &amp; more</i>	<b>June 14</b> <b>2 p.m.</b>
<b>OPENING DAY</b>	Register for Reading Clubs, Program sign-up	<b>June 17</b>
<b>Kingman Museum</b>	“Digging for Dinosaurs”	<b>June 19</b> <b>11 a.m.</b>
<b>Organization for Bat Conservation</b>	“Life Beneath the Surface” <i>Learn about vampire bats and more</i>	<b>June 26</b> <b>6-7 p.m.</b>
<b>ICE CREAM SOCIAL</b>	Ice cream, games, 50/50 Raffle, Magic Show <i>\$5 per person/ \$20 per family/ 50 cent game tickets</i>	<b>July 18</b> <b>6-8 p.m.</b>
<b>Kalamazoo Nature Center</b>	“Our Earth—Can You Dig It?”	<b>July 24</b> <b>11 a.m.</b>
<b>SUMMER READING PARTY</b> “Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary”	<i>Come hold an alligator or just be entertained while learning about alligators &amp; other reptiles</i>	<b>July 31</b> <b>11 a.m.</b>
<b>“TALES TO TAILS”</b>	Sign up to read to a therapy dog once or twice a week.	<b>Tue &amp; Thur.</b> <b>1-5 p.m.</b> <b>June 18-Aug. 1</b>
<b>“PAWS AND PAGES”</b>	Preschoolers may come and listen to Mrs. Dage read to them while petting her “therapy dogs”. You may even get to give them a treat!	<b>Tuesdays</b> <b>June 18-July 30</b> <b>1 p.m.</b>

\*Check the library website for additional craft and Teen activities: [www.schoolcraftlibrary.org](http://www.schoolcraftlibrary.org)