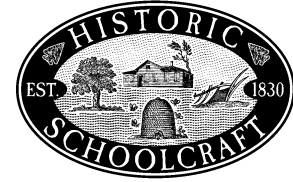


# Village of Schoolcraft



Preserving our Past, Enriching our Present, Planning our Future

www.villageofschoolcraft.com

## Village President's Message



Our wonderful summer has come to an end. The weather was great with many sunny, blue- sky days, without the oppressive 90 degree temps; which made it easy on the air conditioners, electric bills, and for good sleeping. Best of all we only one bad storm. Hopefully, fall weather will be equally as nice.

The issue of getting in touch with the Schoolcraft Police Dept., after hours and on holidays, has come up numerous times. Police Chief Campbell, Village Manager Lutz and I, have spent a considerable amount of time exploring the possibilities with the telephone company, Kalamazoo County Sheriffs Dept., the use of voice message devices etc., and have come to the following conclusion: If you call **679-5600** after the Village Office business hours of Monday through Friday 8 a.m.—5 p.m.; and on holidays, you will get a recording with prompts. When the message for the “phone tree” starts, **PRESS 6**. This will get you to a live dispatcher who can directly contact the officers on duty. This is, at this time, the very best route we have, short of having a person answer the phones at all hours. We will institute a better program if one becomes affordable and available in the future. Remember, dial **679-5600**, and **when the message starts, PRESS 6**.

Earlier in the year there were a few accidents at the intersection of Lyon St. and the US 131, which prompted a lot of questions regarding traffic lights, turn lanes and speeding vehicles. Police Chief Campbell, Village Manager Lutz and I, had several meetings to discuss ideas to make the US 131 Corridor safer for everyone. After careful thought, and use of Police Department Statistics, we have decided to utilize Police Chief Campbell’s idea of increased “Police Presence”, on US 131. The Village Police Officers are now required to dedicate a larger portion of time, to “Traffic Enforcement” on the US 131 Corridor. Periodically, the Village will also utilize the County Shared Electronic Speed Monitor. All of us could help by driving 35 MPH on US 131, in the Village, which will keep the cars behind you at the proper speed. Hopefully, this will help reduce speeding, which is a major contributor to collisions, because of the shorter reaction time drivers have when going faster than the posted speed limit.

According to Police Chief Campbell, most of the accidents on US 131 in the Village are rear-end collisions, from people not concentrating on their driving. Driver awareness and slower speeds will help reduce the frequency of collisions, when people in front of you are stopping to turn, or when the traffic light changes.

Just as issues regarding traffic problems have been addressed, the Village Council and Village Staff urge you to read and answer the questions in the survey included with this Newsletter. **We really need to hear from all of you**, on the subjects presented in the survey. This is your chance to help us work on the issues that affect your life everyday in the Village. **Please, take this opportunity to voice your opinion.**

I personally welcome you to voice constructive ideas and comments about Village issues.

Keith Gunnett  
Village President

### 2014 Quarterly Meeting Calendar

<u>Village Council</u> 7:00 p.m.	
October 6	October 20
November 3	November 17
December 1	December 15
<u>Planning Commission</u> 7:00 p.m.	
October 13	November 10
December 8	
<u>Downtown Development Authority</u> 8:00 a.m.	
October 2	November 6
December 4	

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 all of you and welcome to fall! Summer went by so quickly this year, and just yesterday, we had someone come into the office and announce "only 12 weeks until Christmas!"

This is the time of year when the DPW is busy putting away summer equipment, and gearing up for the winter season. As a reminder to you, leaf pick up begins the last week in October and ends the week of Thanksgiving. October 27<sup>th</sup> will be the last day for brush pick up for the season, so be sure you get your brush out to the road for the final pick up.

This is also the time of year when we begin working on the budget for fiscal year 2015/2016. So much work goes into the budgeting process, and we work constantly to evaluate ways to reduce expenses through the competitive bidding process, partnerships with other entities, and many other creative ways to keep expenses as low as possible.

This upcoming budget year, the Village will be challenged with the loss of personal property taxes for all commercial and business properties with a taxable value of \$40,000 and under. This amounts to an approximate reduction to the Village of about \$7,500 in personal property tax revenue.

The Village of Schoolcraft has adopted a number of policies and procedures over the years that offer the checks and balances required to assure proper fiscal management. Our auditor, Doug Wohlberg reviews these policies and procedures, and makes recommendations for changes as needed. This year, as in many past years, the Village of Schoolcraft has received a "Clean Audit" report. This means the audit was performed according to "standards generally accepted in the United States" (AICPA), State of Michigan standards and that the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the annual *Chili in the Park* Cook Off to be held on October 4th in Burch Park, sponsored by Kalamazoo County State Bank. You will get a chance to taste some good chili, and make some new friends too.

The annual Christmas Walk will be held on Friday, December 5th, and Saturday, December 6th. This is always a fun event, and it is sponsored by the local merchants, who roll out the red carpet to thank all of you for supporting their business during the year.

As always, we strive to give you friendly, courteous service, and are happy to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to stop in to see us, or call us at 679-4304.

Cheri M. Lutz  
Village Manager



## Schoolcraft Police Department

### SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS

Now that school has begun, your Police Department would like to remind you of several things that will help make the school year a safe one.

Many school busses stop within the village limits to pick up students. Motorists must slow down and prepare to stop when they see yellow flashing lights on the school bus. When red flashing lights are displayed, motorists traveling in both directions must stop their vehicle until the red lights are turned off.

If your children are walking to school, wearing light colored or reflective clothing is a good idea. If possible your child should walk with someone else to school. Students that ride their bikes to school should be reminded that they must obey all traffic laws, just like motor vehicles do. Lights and reflectors on bikes should be used. State law prohibits any type of traffic, foot or vehicle within the right of way of the railroad tracks, so be sure to let your children know to stay away from them.

During the school year, there is an increase of traffic around the schools each morning and then again in the afternoon when school lets out. Be mindful of other drivers and students that are on foot. Make sure that everyone is buckled up in your vehicle. Studies show that safety belts can lower your risk of injury by 45%.

The Schoolcraft Police Department regularly patrols the school areas at the beginning and conclusion of each school day. Please report any unusual incidents to the Police Department.

The Schoolcraft Police Department wishes you a safe and happy school year.

Chief Bryan Campbell  
bcampbell@villageofschoolcraft.com

## Fire Hydrant Flushing October 14, 2014

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, 2014

### 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 27th. 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 27 & 28, 2014  
December 24 & 25, 2014  
December 31, 2014  
January 1, 2015

### New Signal at Lyon St./US 131

Please take note—The new signal equipment operates in such a way that in order to get to the pedestrian walk phase with the proper amount of time for a person to walk across the street, you must push the pedestrian pushbutton. The new system gives more green light time to the cars when there are no pedestrians present.

### 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 if 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.

## Eagles Nest

The Friday Pack is a program designed to support at risk children on a weekly basis throughout the school year. Healthy pre-packaged meals and snacks provide nutritional support to children on weekends.

We have sent a card announcing the Friday Pack Campaign Card. Any support with this program would be greatly appreciated.

Rose's Clothing Closet: Due to space constraints and volunteer needs, the Rose's Clothing Closet, located in the Eagle's Nest, will no longer accept clothing donations. The Eagle's Nest staff appreciates your past support, and now understanding.

Due to the increase in need, the Eagle's Nest staff is focusing on the food programs, and continues to accept food and diaper donations for the Food Pantry, Friday Pack program and Adam's Kids.

We would appreciate it if you would share this information.

Thank you for your continued support in feeding our community's struggling families and students.

## South County Community Services

South County Community Services (SCCS) and its satellite Department of Human Services office has relocated operations to 105 S. Kalamazoo Street as of September 2, 2014. The new location is a part of the Main Street Properties site at the southeast corner of Kalamazoo and Prairie Streets. The new front entrance to SCCS is on the east side of the complex where customers park to visit other neighboring businesses including: Vicksburg Optometry, Hungry Howie's, Subway, Generous Hands and the Vicksburg Laundry Center.

The move will afford SCCS clients better access to the building and much easier parking. In addition, operational costs will be reduced by about half. The SCCS board believes the move will increase the agency's ability to serve more clients and create new programs.

For those in the community who rely on the Vicksburg Community Center for a meeting location or other community programs, the Village of Vicksburg (the owner of the building) will be taking over the day-to-day operations for the foreseeable future. The building schedule is not expected to change and rooms will still be available for rental by calling 269-649-1919.

Speaking for the SCCS Board, President Lorna Landrum states "We have a long history with this beautiful historic building but we are excited about the benefits of a barrier free building that is so much more cost effective to manage. Plus, the new location will only enhance our partnerships in the community as we move forward." For further information, call 269-649-2901 or visit the SCCS website at [www.southcountycs.com](http://www.southcountycs.com).

### **A Special Invitation from the Director**

Over the years SCCS has been fortunate to receive wonderful support from United Way and area foundations. Over 80 local organizations and hundreds of private donors also give generously to help the agency continue its mission of connecting all South County residents with the resources they need to manage life's many challenges and opportunities. But now, more than ever we need your help.

*You are invited to become a member of our annual membership program. When you join this network of informed and enthusiastic supporters you will ensure that programs exist to address current and emerging community needs in the South County service area. There are affordable levels of support for every individual, family and organization. Visit our website to learn more and become a part of the SCCS team. I would be happy to answer questions and discuss support options.*

Sincerely,  
Danna Downing, Director  
[ddowning@southcountycs.com](mailto:ddowning@southcountycs.com)

## 26th Annual Christmas Walk December 5, 2014 6 to 9 p.m. December 6, 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.

**NOTE: Norma's Antiques will hold an open house on Saturday, December 6 only.**

## 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.

## Schoolcraft Community Library

### CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS\

**TOT TIME:** Tuesdays—9:30-10:30 a.m.---For toddlers 18-36 months and one adult for a lapsit program. (mom, grandma, babysitter etc.) Includes rhymes, finger plays, songs, books and optional free play. If an older sibling attends, bring a stuffed animal or doll for them to participate with. No pre-registration. Come when you can!

**PRESCHOOL STORY HOUR:** Thursdays—10:00-10:45 a.m.---Ages 3-5 years. Come join us for a fun-filled morning of stories, finger plays, movement, music, crafts and snack. No pre-registration necessary.

**YOUTH BOOK CLUB—"Midwest Readers"---**Students in grades 5th thru 8th will be back in session with book club beginning on Monday, October 13 from 6-7 p.m. The book chosen is The Eye of Minds by James Dashner (author of Maze Runner series). Come join a lively book discussion and enjoy some tasty refreshments as well.

**FAMILY HALLOWEEN PROGRAM: "Joel's SPOOKTACULAR COMEDY SHOW"** --October 28—6 p.m.--- Come celebrate Halloween with Joel Tacy's new fall show featuring eyeball-juggling, head-spinning, balloon popping fun!. Non-scary Halloween inspired magic, music and surprises. This 45 minute program will be followed by 15 minutes of trick-or-treating throughout the library. Wear your costume!

**BATTLE OF BOOKS—20th annual**—The 20th annual Battle of the Books is gearing up for 2014-2015. The booklist will be released on Friday, October 24 and Team Registration forms are due November 14. And adults, remember the Coaches Meeting on November 3 at the Schoolcraft Community Library at 7 p.m. Bring your Coaches Packet with you to the meeting please.

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**TOURNAMENT OF WRITERS 2014:** A first time competition for the writers of the community. Entries for the competition open September 2 and close Friday, October 17. The four age divisions are Junior (to age 10), Teen (age 11-17), Adult (age 18-49), and Senior (Age 50 and up). And there are three categories to submit your written compositions in: Fiction, Non-Fiction and Poetry. Awards will include overall Grand Prize, and 1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes for each age division and category. And there will be Honorable Mentions for outstanding entries as well. Winning entries will be published in a book which will be available at the library. This competition is sponsored by Schoolcraft Friends of the Library and Books for Dessert. Find more information at [folschoolcraft.org](http://folschoolcraft.org) or [booksfordessert.com](http://booksfordessert.com) or [facebook.com/Tournament of Writers](http://facebook.com/TournamentofWriters).

**JUBILEE OF TREES---**The SCL third annual Jubilee of Trees is fast approaching and the Schoolcraft Friends of the Library are very excited about what beautiful trees will be entered this year. What a fun event this is for the whole community. So, for those of you who have been anticipating this event and those who may be wanting to enter for the first time, here is the timeline: **November 7:** Tree Registrations and fees due at the Library. **November 15-18:** Trees to be delivered to the Schoolcraft Community Library. **December 5:** beginning of Silent Auction of trees to be auctioned at Cookie Party. **December 9:** Annual Cookie Party at SCL--- final voting for the trees, entertainment and cookies and punch, Auction of trees is completed. **December 10:** 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners are announced and ribbons awarded. First place tree receives free registration for the following year. Come join the fun and enter a tree for the 2014 Jubilee of Trees.

**Kalamazoo County State Bank Invites All  
To 7th Annual *Chili in the Park* Cook-Off  
October 04, 1 pm ~ 3 pm  
Burch Park in Schoolcraft**

Come join in the fun once again as Kalamazoo County State Bank (KCSB) hosts its 7<sup>th</sup> annual *Chili In the Park* Cook-Off October 04, 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 seventh 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, and to have some fun in our community! As an entrance donation, all are asked to bring a canned 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.

## Bobbie Truesdell

**Congratulations on your retirement! We wish you good health and many wonderful moments in the future.**

## Flag Etiquette

### STANDARDS of RESPECT

The Flag Code, which formalizes and unifies the traditional ways in which we give respect to the flag, also contains specific instructions on how the flag is not to be used. They are:

- The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. It is flown upside down only as a distress signal.
- The flag should not be used as a drapery, or for covering a speakers desk, draping a platform, or for any decoration in general. Bunting of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top.
- The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes, or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use. Advertising signs should not be attached to the staff or halyard
- The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, fireman, policeman and members of patriotic organizations.
- The flag should never have placed on it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind.
- The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.

When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.

The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary.

When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner.

**Note:** Most American Legion Posts regularly conduct a dignified flag burning ceremony, often on Flag Day, June 14th. Many Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, and Girl Scout Troops retire flags regularly as well. Contact your local American Legion Hall or Scout Troop to inquire about the availability of this service.

### **Displaying the Flag Outdoors**

When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting from a window, balcony, or a building, the union should be at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half staff.

When it is displayed from the same flagpole with another flag - of a state, community, society or Scout unit - the flag of the United States must always be at the top except that the church pennant may be flown above the flag during church services for Navy personnel when conducted by a Naval chaplain on a ship at sea.

When the flag is displayed over a street, it should be hung vertically, with the union to the north or east. If the flag is suspended over a sidewalk, the flag's union should be farthest from the building.

When flown with flags of states, communities, or societies on separate flag poles which are of the same height and in a straight line, the flag of the United States is always placed in the position of honor - to its own right.

..The other flags may be smaller but none may be larger.

..No other flag ever should be placed above it.

..The flag of the United States is always the first flag raised and the last to be lowered.

When flown with the national banner of other countries, each flag must be displayed from a separate pole of the same height. Each flag should be the same size. They should be raised and lowered simultaneously. The flag of one nation may not be displayed above that of another nation.

### **Raising and Lowering the Flag**

The flag should be raised briskly and lowered slowly and ceremoniously. Ordinarily it should be displayed only between sunrise and sunset. It should be illuminated if displayed at night.

The flag of the United States of America is saluted as it is hoisted and lowered. The salute is held until the flag is unsnapped from the halyard or through the last note of music, whichever is the longest.

### **Displaying the Flag Indoors**

When on display, the flag is accorded the place of honor, always positioned to its own right. Place it to the right of the speaker or staging area or sanctuary. Other flags should be to the left.

The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states, localities, or societies are grouped for display.

When one flag is used with the flag of the United States of America and the staffs are crossed, the flag of the United States is placed on its own right with its staff in front of the other flag.

When displaying the flag against a wall, vertically or horizontally, the flag's union (stars) should be at the top, to the flag's own right, and to the observer's left.

### **Parading and Saluting the Flag**

When carried in a procession, the flag should be to the right of the marchers. When other flags are carried, the flag of the United States may be centered in front of the others or carried to their right. When the flag passes in a procession, or when it is hoisted or lowered, all should face the flag and salute.

### **The Salute**

To salute, all persons come to attention. Those in uniform give the appropriate formal salute. Citizens not in uniform salute by placing their right hand over the heart and men with head cover should remove it and hold it to left shoulder, hand over the heart. Members of organizations in formation salute upon command of the person in charge.

### **The Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem**

The pledge of allegiance should be rendered by standing at attention, facing the flag, and saluting.

When the national anthem is played or sung, citizens should stand at attention and salute at the first note and hold the salute through the last note. The salute is directed to the flag, if displayed, otherwise to the music.

### **The Flag in Mourning**

To place the flag at half staff, hoist it to the peak for an instant and lower it to a position half way between the top and bottom of the staff. The flag is to be raised again to the peak for a moment before it is lowered. On Memorial Day the flag is displayed at half staff until noon and at full staff from noon to sunset.

The flag is to be flown at half staff in mourning for designated, principal government leaders and upon presidential or gubernatorial order.

When used to cover a casket, the flag should be placed with the union at the head and over the left shoulder. It should not be lowered into the grave.



## 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: Scot Dailey  
Russell L. Barnes  
Todd Carlin  
Dorothy J. Clark  
Mike 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  
Tim Hulinec  
Justin Kotecki  
Dave Loza  
Eric Ray  
Aux. Officer: Mary Secondi  
Henry Kite  
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 Fall 2014 Newsletter



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