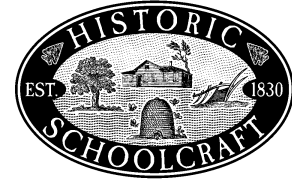


Village of Schoolcraft



Preserving our Past, Enriching our Present, Planning our Future

www.villageofschoolcraft.com

Village President's Message



Hello! I would like to introduce myself to you as your new Village President, and tell you a little bit about myself. My name is Keith Gunnett, and I have lived in the Village of Schoolcraft since 1979. My wife and I chose to move here because we liked the small town feel of Schoolcraft, we were impressed by the friendly community, and we wanted our children to attend Schoolcraft Community Schools. In 2002, I became a Village Trustee, and I served in that capacity until January, 2014, when I was appointed to fill the vacant seat left by former Village President Dan DeVries.

In addition to serving 12 years on the Village Council as Village Trustee, I have and still do serve on a number of other committees including the Planning Commission, the Downtown Development Authority, South County Water and Sewer Authority, and Kalamazoo Regional Water and Sewer Authority. During these years of serving on a variety of committees and commissions, I have had the opportunity to learn under some excellent leaders.

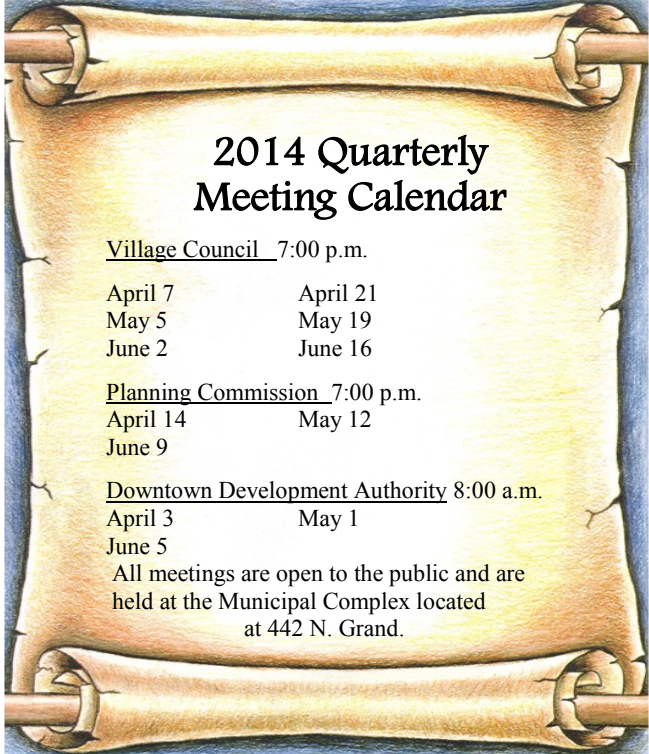
As I move forward in my new position, I would especially like to express my appreciation to Village Manager Cheri Lutz and her staff for the assistance they have given to me during my transition. I am very pleased with the level of competence and professionalism that the Village Staff offers to me and to all Village residents and businesses. The Village Staff is dedicated to quality service, and I thank each and every one of them for their excellent work.

This winter, as I traveled from one community to another, I couldn't help but notice the difference in road and sidewalk maintenance. I want to thank and acknowledge Rob Coffman and Adam Wood for the outstanding job they have done keeping our roads and sidewalks clear from ice and snow. Schoolcraft is second to none when it comes to winter road maintenance, and this winter has been especially brutal and harsh. Once again, thanks Rob and Adam for your good work.

In keeping with some old traditions of former President DeVries, I would like to thank all of the great men and women who serve or have served in the armed forces, and appreciate all of the sacrifices these brave men and women make to defend our country.

I consider it an honor and a privilege to be your Village President. I am committed to serving the best interests of our community, and will always be available to hear your comments and concerns. You can contact me by calling the Village Office at 679-4304.

Go Eagles!
Keith Gunnett, Village President



2014 Quarterly Meeting Calendar

Village Council 7:00 p.m.

April 7	April 21
May 5	May 19
June 2	June 16

Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.

April 14	May 12
June 9	

Downtown Development Authority 8:00 a.m.

April 3	May 1
June 5	

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

The Village of Schoolcraft will be holding its Annual Village Wide Garage Sale on April 18th and 19th followed by Spring Clean Up on April 26th. As a reminder, Spring Clean Up is for Village residents only, and this year we have put additional restrictions on what will be picked up. Last year, we had large amounts of carpeting and building supplies placed out at the curb. This year, we are limiting our pick up to one roll of carpet per family, and a very minimal amount of building supplies.

As you are cleaning out your garage this spring, remember that the Village of Schoolcraft participates with the Kalamazoo County Hazardous Waste Center by offering a free drop off to Village residents. For additional information, contact the Village of Schoolcraft at 679-4304, or visit their web site at www.kalamazoocounty.com/hhw.

With warm weather coming, we all get busy thinking about projects. Remember that it may be necessary to get building permits for your spring projects. As a rule of thumb, if there is a physical change being made to your home or business, a building permit will be required. If you have any questions, please give Associated Government Services a call at 1-800-627-2801. They will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

The Village Council has adopted a balanced budget for fiscal year 2014/2015. There are no significant projects planned for this fiscal year; however, the Police Department will be receiving a 2014 Ford Explorer, and the Department of Public Works will be purchasing a new Back Hoe. These are major purchases, and the Village has been planning for them for several years by setting aside funds for equipment purchases.

This year, the Village will be replacing and installing new sidewalks in the following locations:

N. Robinson St.	East side between Clay Street and Cass Street.
Hayward St.	West side starting at Clay and going South.
W. Clay Street.	South side between the library and Hayward Street.
W. Clay Street.	South side between West Street and the Park.

The Village is also looking at grant opportunities for resurfacing East Lyon Street with the addition of a center turn lane from east of the railroad tracks to 14th Street, and paved shoulders from 14th Street to the Village limits.

Be sure to check out a number of events happening in our community this spring, including the Farmer's Market, Easter Egg Hunt, Library activities and much more.

For additional information regarding Village services, please contact us at 679-4304, or check us out on www.villageofschoolcraft.com or become our friend on Facebook!

Cheri M. Lutz
Village Manager



Schoolcraft Police Department

Top Bike Safety Tips

Helmets

We have a simple saying: "Use your head, wear a helmet." It is the single most effective safety device available to reduce head injury and death from bicycle crashes.

Every child should have the right size helmet and wear it every time when riding, skating or driving/riding a scooter. You would be surprised how much your child learns from watching you, so it's extra important for parents to model proper behavior. Wear a helmet, even if you didn't when you were younger.

Your child's helmet should meet the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's standards. When it's time to purchase a new helmet, let them pick out their own; they will be more likely to wear it for every ride.

Bikes

Ensure proper bike fit by bringing your child along when shopping for a bike. Select one that is the right size, not one he or she will grow into.

Actively supervise your child until you are comfortable that they are responsible to ride on their own.

Every child is different, but developmentally, it can be hard for them to judge speed and distance of cars until age 10, so limit riding to sidewalks (although be careful for vehicles in driveways), parks or bike paths until age 10. No matter where you ride, teach your child to stay alert and watch for cars and trucks.

Long or loose clothing can get caught in bike chains or wheel spokes. Dress appropriately to ensure a safe ride.

Before the ride, make sure the reflectors are secure, brakes work properly, gears shift smoothly, and tires are tightly secured and properly inflated.

Teach your child to make eye contact with drivers. Bikers should make sure drivers are paying attention and are going to stop before they cross the street.

Everyone must ride on the right side of the road, with traffic, not against it. Stay as far to the right as possible. Use appropriate hand signals and respect traffic signals, stopping at all stop signs and stoplights

When riding at dusk, at dawn or in the evening, be bright and use lights – and make sure your bike has reflectors as well. It's also smart to wear clothes and accessories that have retro-reflective materials to improve biker visibility to motorists.

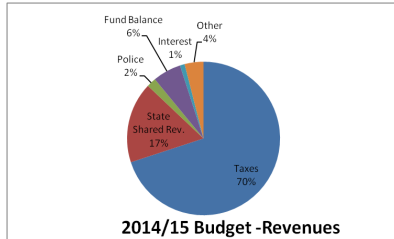
Bryan Campbell

Chief of Police
bcampbell@villageofschoolcraft.com

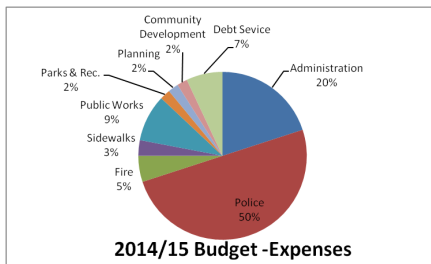
VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT

General Fund Budget Fiscal Year 2014/15

March 1, 2014, began the new fiscal year for the Village of Schoolcraft. Tax Revenues from the Summer Village Tax will be collected July 1, 2014, and constitute about 70% of the Village Budget.



The total operating budget for the General Fund is \$787,640.00. 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 44.7559 Mills levied on residential property.

On February 17, 2014, The Village Council adopted the 2014/2015 Fiscal Year Budget beginning March 1, 2014. The General Fund Budget is \$787,640.00. The charts illustrate General Fund Revenues and General Fund Expenses.

The top pie chart for revenue shows that 70% of the Village’s operating expenses are generated from Property Taxes, 17% from State Revenue Sharing, 5% from Other Revenue Sources, 2% from Police Department Revenue and 6% from Fund Balance. Michigan passed two new bills in 2013 which excludes Personal Property Tax for entities with a True Cash Value of \$80,000 or less; the Village expects a reduction of about \$7,500 in tax revenue from last year. The Schoolcraft Police Department generates approximately 2% of our revenue through citations, administration of court ordered breathalyzers, copies of police reports and other miscellaneous charges.

The bottom pie chart illustrates budgeted expenditures for the Village of Schoolcraft. As you can see, the chart shows percentages for specific operations within the Village; Police 50%, Administration 20%, Public Works 9%, Debt Service 7%, Fire 3% and 2% each for Parks & Recreation, Planning and Community Development. The balanced budget includes about \$50,000 from fund balance.

The operations of the Water Department, Major and Local Streets and the DDA do not come out of the 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 269-679-4304.

Hazardous Household Waste

You can drop it off at the Household Hazardous Waste Center located at 1301 Lamont Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI. It is located off Lake Street near the Fairgrounds and the Sheriff’s Department. This is a free service to Village of Schoolcraft residents.

Hours for drop off are:
 Tuesday & Friday 9 a.m. to noon
 Wednesday noon to 6 p.m
 2nd Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

No appointment is needed, and the facility is open year around. Listed below are materials that are accepted:

- | | | |
|------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Aerosols | Batteries | Mercury |
| Cleansers | Gasoline | Oil-Base Paint |
| Pesticides | Pure used Motor Oil | |

Latex Paint and Business Waste are not accepted.
 For additional information call 269-373-5211.

Services Offered to Village Residents

Notary Service. You must bring a picture ID. Document must be signed in front of Notary.

Dog Registry. Bring in a picture of your dog. Fill out a form describing your dog and providing us with your contact information. In the event a dog is found that matches the description of your dog, you will be notified.

Vacation Watch. Contact the Police Department and ask them to watch your property while you are gone. Call or come into the Village Office to fill out a form.

Email Contact List. If the Village gets advanced notice of a power outage, traffic problem, or any other issue, we will notify you via email as soon as the information becomes available to us. If you would like to add your name to the list please call the Village Office.

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 1, 2014

Leaves must be in paper bags. Paper grocery bags and store bought paper leaf bags are acceptable. Place bags out by 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 29, 2014

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



The Village of Schoolcraft is pleased to introduce Mike Rochholz as our Village Trustee. Prior to being appointed to the Village Council, Trustee Rochholz served on the Zoning Board of Appeals. He is currently President

of the Schoolcraft Community Schools Board, and was Clerk for Prairie Ronde Township. Trustee Rochholz brings extensive knowledge and leadership to the Village Council, and we look forward to working with him.

4th of July Celebration Wednesday, July 4, 2014

Details will be in the July 1, 2014 Newsletter and, when they become available, on our website; www.villageofschoolcraft.com.

Just a reminder; the highway will be closed during the parade. Traffic will be rerouted around the Village.

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

Office Closure

The Village Office will be closed May 26, 2014, for Memorial Day.

Street Light Outage

Please call the Village Office at 679-4304 to report a street light outage. It is very helpful to the electric company if you can get a number off the pole that the light is on. You can usually find this number on a metal plate.

Red Med Box

Red Med Box is an easy and secure way to dispose of your unused or expired over-the-counter and prescription medication.

Items can be deposited in the lobby of the Municipal Complex, located at 442 N. Grand St., between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The box will not be accessible on holidays.

For more information go to www.redmedbox.com

2014 Village Wide Garage Sales

April 18 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

April 19 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 17-18, from 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

2014 Spring Clean Up April 26, 2014

Items must be placed at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on April 26, 2014. There is a limit of one roll of carpet per household and minimal building supplies will be accepted.

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.

New Water Rate & Ready to Serve Fee

Effective March 1, 2014, the Village of Schoolcraft has increased water rates and ready to serve fees (RS). Water users will see the new water rate and RS fee on their June 1st water bill. Listed below is information to assist you in understanding why water rates are periodically increased.

The Water Fund is considered an Enterprise Fund according to governmental accounting standards. What this means is that the Water Fund is a self supporting fund, paid for by water users, and can be thought of as a stand-alone business enterprise. All expenses for the Water Fund are paid for by user fees.

Many times over the years, we have heard the comment that “water is not expensive”, and we agree with this statement. However, the cost to provide water is very expensive. Some of the expenses consist of wages, benefits, supplies and operating expenses, gas, electric, and phone service, chemicals, maintenance and repairs of wells, pumps, water mains, and the water tower, professional services, equipment rental, and capital outlays, which all contribute to the cost of providing water.

The Village of Schoolcraft must look at all these factors when determining water rates and RS fees because we have to plan for today and for the future. Michigan Rural Water Association, Village staff, and members of the Water Committee assisted in the study by reviewing historical expenditures and revenues to determine the actual cost needed to run the Water Department on a day-to-day basis, and also to plan for future capital expenses which have been identified by our Capital Improvement Plan for the Water Department.

As a result of the study, both the RS fee, and the water rate has been increased beginning March 1, 2014. Listed below is an example of what an average water user might expect to see as a result of the new rates:

Water Rate per 1,000 gallons:

					Water Increase
	Old Rate	New Rate	Old Bill \$	New Bill \$	/Quarter
18,0000 gals	\$4.327	\$4.330	\$77.89	\$77.94	\$0.05

Bill based on meter size, RS fee & 18,000 gallons of water used/quarter:

Meter Size	Old RTS	New RTS	Old Bill \$	New Bill \$	\$ Increase	\$ Increase
					/Quarter	/Week
3/4" - 5/8"	\$11.63	\$17.14	\$89.52	\$95.08	\$5.56	\$0.46
1"	\$15.38	\$22.67	\$93.27	\$100.61	\$7.34	\$0.61

The Ladies Library and The Historical Society of Schoolcraft

Presenting "Jazz on a String". One hundred years of great music "from Gershwin to Lady Gaga".

Time: April 1, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m.

Where: The Ladies' Library

163 Hayward Street, Schoolcraft

Please join us for an evening of entertainment and light refreshments. Admission is free.

Social Security Seminar

There will be a free seminar on Tuesday, April 15 at 6:00 p.m. at the Library.

Social Security Explained will be presented by speaker Bill Bailey. Deciding when and how to take Social Security can be confusing. This educational seminar will help you better understand Social Security and how to maximize its benefits.

RSVP to Bill or Cortney at 269-873-8475

Schoolcraft Community Library News

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION—April 2—2 p.m.-- The Prairie Pageturners will be reading Me Before You by JoJo Moyes and a Battle of the Books book of choice from 2014 booklist. Come join the lively discussion and enjoy refreshments as well. Their May selection is The Spymistress by Jennifer Chiaverini.

SPRING BREAK MOVIES!—April 8—1-3 p.m.—Ages 3-5 years---Parents, bring your 3-5 year olds and enjoy a movie and snack with them in the Bob Crissman Community Room.

SPRING BREAK MOVIES 2! —April 10—2:30-4:30 p.m.---Grades 4 & up---Don't know what to do on Spring Break? Come watch a movie with a friend and enjoy a tasty snack too.

FINE FREE WEEK!—"FOOD FOR FINES!"---April 14-19---In honor of National Library Week, the library is hosting Fine Free Week---"FOOD FOR FINES". So start looking under beds, car seats, and in closets and bring all those overdue items back to the library with some current canned or boxed items for our local food bank and we will forgive your fines. Please note that this applies to those fines that are attached to materials that are currently checked out NOT fines that already exist on patron records. So, come help supply our local food bank, return your overdue library materials and clear your library record.

SOCIAL SECURITY SEMINAR!—Tuesday, April 15—6:00-7:00 p.m.---Come find out in this free seminar how to "Maximize your Social Security Benefits" with Bill Bailey and Cortney Furey from Society for Financial Awareness. Come hear about the type of benefits you are eligible to receive, the difference between full retirement age and delayed retirement, filing for benefits and more.

YOUTH BOOK CLUB—Thursday, April 17---4:00-5:00---"Midwest Readers" will be reading the book Lockwood and Co.-The Screaming Staircase by Jonathan Stroud. Books are available at the library for check-out. Come join in a 'mysterious discussion' while munching some tasty snacks.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ANNUAL BOOK/BAKE SALE!—April 18-19---The FOL will hold their annual book/bake sale again on the same weekend as the Village wide garage sale. The hours are slightly different this year, so please note your calendars. *Friday, April 18 the sale is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 19 the sale runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.* and will feature a BAG SALE those four hours. The library will provide the bags and you can come and fill as many bags as you like for \$4.00 per bag. Come purchase a wonderful baked good as well for your family or a friend. Proceeds will go towards children's programming.

READING GARDEN/BUTTERFLY GARDEN DEDICATION –Saturday, May 17---1:30 p.m.

Come join with the SCL Board of Trustees, Friends of the Library and library staff at a community celebration of the dedication of the long-awaited Reading Garden and Butterfly Garden. There will be a flag raising for the first time, music, readings, a dedication of the garden plaque, a butterfly release, refreshments and more. Come celebrate the two beautiful new spaces at the library!

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19, 2014

11:00 a.m. Burch Park

Sponsored by the Lions Club

For more information on Lions Club, visit Schoolcraft Lions Club on Facebook.

2014 Village Elections

In December 2012, the Michigan Legislature passed and the Governor signed a law; Public Act 523 of 2012, which included a provision to transfer the Village Elections to the Townships. Schoolcraft Township will be running the General Election on November 4, 2014, and it will include Village Council and Schoolcraft Community Library elected positions. The following positions are up for election:

Village of Schoolcraft: Village Council President (2 yrs.), 3 Village Council Trustee positions (4 yrs.), and 1 Village Council Trustee position (2 yrs.).

Schoolcraft Community Library: 2 Library Board positions (6 yrs.).

Candidates seeking office may pickup Non-partisan Nominating Petitions, Affidavits of Identity and Statement of Organization forms at the Schoolcraft Township office on VW and 18th Streets; ; Mon- Thurs., 9:00 am-4:00 pm. These are to be completed and returned by 4:00 pm, July 22th, 2014.

Join the Schoolcraft Community Garden

It started with the seed of an idea. As the word got out, the idea was born for a community garden next to the Schoolcraft United Methodist Church. The SUMC Community Garden Project celebrates its fourth year of providing people in the Schoolcraft community with healthy, free vegetables throughout the summer.

The garden has 15 raised gardening boxes all planted and maintained by volunteers, and we are hoping more people from the community will come out and plant. The church especially hopes those families in need of healthy food choices will feel free to come and be involved. Wednesdays are a popular day to find volunteers working in the garden.

“This is the truest form of outreach,” says Pastor Karen Wheat of SUMC. “The church (any church) historically has been the town center—the gathering place for the town’s rich, poor, needy, or wealthy. Why not here? Why not now? We can help provide food... what better place to start? Now we just need to spread the word.”

There is no cost to join the garden, and the church provides the seeds, plants and gardening equipment. One volunteer monitors and waters the crops. Rotating crops are planted to make the most of the garden and produce the greatest yield throughout the summer. The church’s volunteers have built a water-collection method allowing easy access to water for the garden, and two additional planters have been installed at Little Lambs Learning Center on behalf of the garden project.

Anyone in the Schoolcraft community is invited to join the garden. The project is supported by private donors and a grant from Fair Food Matters’ Common Ground in Kalamazoo, MI. Anyone interested in taking part in the garden project should call the church for more information at 269-679-4845.



Schoolcraft Farmer's Market opens June 4

Runs Wednesdays from 3-6 p.m. through mid-October

The 2014 Schoolcraft United Methodist Church Farmer's Market will open for the season on Wednesday, June 4 and be open every Wednesday from 3-6 p.m. through mid-October. This is the fourth year for the Farmer's Market, run by volunteers at the church.

Vendor applications are now being accepted and are \$10 a week for a 10x10 space or \$100 for the season. New and repeat vendors are encouraged to complete the application form, available on the website. Nonprofit and fundraising groups may attend any day at no charge with advance approval from the church. Several special market days are planned throughout the season, including a repeat of last year's popular; "Touch-a-Truck" and cool car day; arts and crafts fair; carnival (July 3); and Schoolcraft merchant appreciation day! The market is located on US 131 at Clay St. (The Church with the Big Red Doors).

To download an application form or a list of frequently asked questions, visit the church's website at www.schoolcraftumc.org and look to the left column where it says Farmer's Market. For those without computer access, an application form is available by calling the church at 269-679-4845.