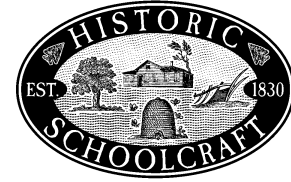


Village of Schoolcraft



Preserving our Past, Enriching our Present, Planning our Future

www.villageofschoolcraft.com

Village President's Message



Happy New Year! I hope that all of you had a Happy Holiday Season, and that you are looking forward to a great New Year! As we enter this New Year, I want to express my gratitude to the great men and women who serve us in the armed forces. I would ask all of you to take a moment to reflect on the great sacrifices these brave men and women make to defend our country.

The holidays at my house were filled with good times, friends and family, and the magic and wonder of my two children as they waited the arrival of Santa Claus and Christmas Day. In all of the bustle and flurry of Christmas, I hope that all of you were able to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, and how it benefits the relationships that we have with our families, our communities and our world.

Throughout the year, many activities and events happen in the Village and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all of the hard working volunteers who work so hard to make them happen, and thank you for your great work!

I would especially like to thank and acknowledge the boards and commissions for their good work and accomplishments. The Village Council Planning Commission, DDA Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Downtown Revitalization Committee are comprised of individuals who deeply care about the community in which they live, and serve in ways that will help to make it even better. When you see these people out on the street, be sure to thank them for the work that they do.

As you look out your window in the early morning hours and see the beautiful new snowfall, remember that Rob Coffman and Adam Wood are out there in the early morning hours plowing snow and clearing sidewalks so we can safely make our morning commute to work, school and other activities.

I could not write this article without recognizing the staff. They are a group of highly dedicated and conscientious people, committed to this organization, and especially to

Village of Schoolcraft. Under the leadership of Village Manager Cheri Lutz, they are dedicated to providing the highest service to our business and residential community. I thank each and every one of them for the great work they do.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your Village President. On behalf of the Village of Schoolcraft, I wish all of you a Happy New Year.

I welcome any and all feedback. Remember to look at our website for village information (<http://villageofschoolcraft.com>), and to check us out on Facebook. Go Eagles!

Dan DeVries
Village President

2013 Quarterly Meeting Calendar

<u>Village Council</u> 7:00 p.m.	
January 7	January 21
February 4	February 18
March 4	March 18
<u>Planning Commission</u> 7:00 p.m.	
January 14	February 11
March 11	
<u>Downtown Development Authority</u> 8:00 a.m.	
January 3	February 7
March 7	

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

The Village's Holiday Season kicked off on December 7th and 8th this year with the 24th Annual Christmas Walk. Businesses in the Village rolled out the red carpet to show their appreciation to those who have frequented their businesses throughout the year. This event hosted by our local business community brings thousands of people into the Village serving them with tasty treats, and providing them with activities and entertainment for young and old and everybody in between.

Around town there is plenty going on as we welcome new businesses to the Village. We ask you to support our local business community by frequenting their stores and businesses. Right here in Schoolcraft we have dentists, a chiropractor, attorneys, insurance agents, banks, credit unions, a tax accountant, an appraiser, restaurants, an ice cream shop, sign and specialty printing shops, pharmacies, grocery stores, gas stations, auto repair and auto body shops, car washes, a fabric shop, a florist, a landscaper, a pet groomer, beauty and barber shops, antique stores, investment companies, an exercise and dance studio, a funeral director, lawn maintenance, and so many more. Please frequent these shops and help keep our community strong and vibrant.

Shop local statistics show that for every dollar spent, three dollars will come back to our community in the way of jobs and increased revenue for businesses and for our community. In addition, local merchants invest in our community in a number of ways:

- They provide a community with a distinct character as evidenced by our antique shops and the annual Christmas Walk which are synonymous with the name "Schoolcraft".
- They help us become more eco-friendly because it takes less gas which also reduces pollution.
- They allow us to save time and money so you can spend much needed time with family and friends rather than driving miles and miles to your destination.
- They support local non-profits. Studies show that non-profit organizations receive a large percentage of their revenue, contributions and gifts from local businesses.

In closing, the Village of Schoolcraft wishes all of our residents and businesses a Happy New Year.

Cheri M. Lutz
Village Manager



Schoolcraft Police Department

New Officers begin Patrol Duties

Officer Justin Kotecki was sworn in on October 11th of this year and is a part time officer.

Officer Kotecki is a graduate of Schoolcraft High School and Kalamazoo Valley Regional Police Academy. He also holds an associate's degree from Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

Officer Kotecki is also a part time Public Safety Officer with the Benton Harbor Department of Public Safety and a part time on call officer for the New Buffalo Police Dept. Officer Kotecki has completed training and is assigned to regular shifts.

Officer Tim Hulinec was sworn in on June 28th of this year as a part time patrol officer.

Officer Hulinec is a graduate of Charlotte High School and of the Kalamazoo Valley Regional Police Academy. He also holds an associate's degree from Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

Officer Hulinec is also employed with the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Department of Public Safety as a part time officer. Officer Hulinec has completed training and is assigned to regular shifts.



Officer Hulinec

Officer Kotecki

Shop with a Hero



Auxiliary Officers Henry Kite and Mary Secondi help Jackson during the Shop with a Hero event held at the Shaver Rd. Meijer's store on December 11th 2012.

Chief Bryan Campbell
bcampbell@villageofschoolcraft.com

Christmas Tree Pick Up

The Village of Schoolcraft's Department of Public Works will be picking up Christmas Trees, which are placed in the right of way, through January 25, 2013.

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 snow from the sidewalks. 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.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated by our winter walkers.

Barn Sale

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Tackett are accepting quality donations for the Village Wide Garage Sale held on April 19 and 20, 2013. Proceeds from the sale will be donated to the DDA for Phase II and III of the Streetscape Project.

If you have items that you would like to donate, please call Carl Tackett at area code (269) 341-4957, 341-4956, 679-4030, or 679-4907.

Are you looking ahead to spring and summer building projects?

If you are, please be sure to contact the administrative office at 679-4304, to see if your project will require building permits and/or site plan approval. We will be glad to assist you or to refer you on to our Building Department for additional information.

Annual Village Wide Garage Sale & Spring Cleanup

Friday April 19, 2013 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Saturday April 20, 2013 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 27, 2013 7:00 a.m.

South County Emergency Siren Warning Policy

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 there is a severe thunderstorm to the 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 has passed.
- There will be **no** "all clear" warning.
- The warning system in the Fire Station may 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.

Home Delivery of the "Express" Newspaper

From time to time we receive complaints regarding the delivery of the "Express" Newspaper. Many Village residents and businesses do not want to receive it, and they do not like to see them tossed in the Village's right of way, where they lay in a pile for weeks at a time. If you do not want to receive the "Express", contact Melissa Trosper at 269-459-3259 or by email Melissa_Trosper@acsmi.com.

Village of Schoolcraft Meeting Dates 2013

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

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT 2013 COUNCIL MEETINGS

The meetings of the Schoolcraft Village Council are held on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

January 7, 2013
 January 21, 2013
 February 4, 2013
 February 18, 2013
 March 4, 2013
 March 18, 2013
 April 1, 2013
 April 15, 2013
 May 6, 2013
 May 20, 2013
 June 3, 2013
 June 17, 2013
 July 1, 2013 **
 August 5, 2013 **
 September 3, 2013 *
 September 16, 2013
 October 7, 2013
 October 21, 2013
 November 4, 2013
 November 18, 2013
 December 2, 2013
 December 16, 2013

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

** Only one meeting is held in July and August

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC**

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT 2013 DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETINGS

The meetings of the Downtown Development Authority are the first Thursday of each month at 8:00 a.m.

January 3, 2013
 February 7, 2013
 March 7, 2013
 April 4, 2013
 May 2, 2013
 June 6, 2013
 August 1, 2013
 September 5, 2013
 October 3, 2013
 November 7, 2013
 December 5, 2013

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT 2013 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

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

January 14, 2013
 February 11, 2013
 March 11, 2013
 April 8, 2013
 May 13, 2013
 June 10, 2013
 July 8, 2013
 August 12, 2013
 September 9, 2013
 October 14, 2013
 November 11, 2013
 December 9, 2013

Schoolcraft Friday Pack Program

Exciting news! Starting the 2012-13 school year the Friday Pack Program, along with the community Food Pantry, Rose's Clothing Closet and Adam's Kids moved into the Eagle's Nest, formally the Schoolcraft Administration building. Our hours are Tuesday and Wednesday 1:00 to 3:00 and on Thursday 3:30 to 5:30. When school is not in session, the Eagle's Nest is closed.

Schoolcraft Friday Pack, Inc. is a non-profit, volunteer program designed to help food insecure children within Schoolcraft Community Schools, K-12. We have supported children in our community since 2008. With the current economy now more than ever, our community's children need our help. The Friday Packs are filled with nutritious food designed to keep children from going hungry on the weekends during the school year. In addition, families receive vouchers to assist in maintaining supplemental food during the summer.

The Eagle's Nest provides easy access for our high school ASD class (autistic spectrum disorder) who pack, sort and purchase food. Our ASD staff finds the packing program a great "job training" opportunity for the ASD students.

We are presently supporting 47 K-12 students. This represents 24 local families in need. Our program is also the "holiday contact" for local businesses and churches searching to assist and support families in need during the holidays.

Another program developed out of the existence of the Friday Pack Program is Rose's Clothing Closet. The Schoolcraft Middle School ASD class and resource room organize and run the Clothing Closet. This is another student—supporting—student program. Clothes can be dropped off at the Eagle's Nest. We are accepting only gently used clothing, new clothing and footwear for our school families.

Schoolcraft Friday Pack is fully tax deductible and a non-profit organization. It is a great opportunity to support our children during the time of need. We welcome all donations large or small...it all helps. If you have any questions, or would like to donate or volunteer please call the Eagle's Nest at 269-488-5847. Checks may be made payable to Schoolcraft Friday Pack and sent to P.O. Box 50, Schoolcraft, Michigan 49087.

Library News

THANK YOU TO THE COMMUNITY FOR JUBILEE OF TREES: The Schoolcraft Friends of the Library, Library staff and Board wish to thank our community for the amazing support for our first ever "Jubilee of Trees" event and fundraiser. Thirty area businesses, organizations or families entered trees creating a Christmas wonderland in the library and raising \$1,200 for Children's programming. With 170 in attendance, our big "Cookies and Punch Open House" was a wonderful success showcasing a group of 5th grade carolers, 2 high school violinists, Santa, and of course the trees! The library was overflowing with people, laughter and Christmas cheer. As promised on December 12 the votes were tallied and the top three trees with the most "votes" were announced and were immediately featured on the library Facebook page. The winners were as follows: 1st Place: Margaret Beck with "*White Christmas*", 2nd Place: Peoples Federal Bank with "*The Mitten*", and 3rd Place: Schoolcraft Community Co-op Preschool with "*Schoolcraft Preschool*". Winners receive a beautiful ribbon and free registration for 2013 Jubilee of Trees.

TOT Time and PRESCHOOL STORYHOUR: Both TOT Time and Preschool Story hour will not be meeting during the month of January. TOT Time will resume on Tuesday, February 5 and Preschool Story hour will resume Thursday, February 7.

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION: The Prairie Pageturners will be meeting on Wednesday, January 9 at 2 p.m. The book for January's discussion is *The Shoemaker's Wife* by Adriana Trigiani. Come join the discussion and enjoy some tasty snacks. Also, please bring a favorite book you are willing to trade and tell us why you loved the book. Names will be drawn from a hat and each participant will select a book in the order they are drawn.

YOUTH BOOK CLUB: Students in grades 5-8 are welcome to attend the January 8 book club meeting at the library from 6-7 p.m. They will be reading and discussing the book *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate.

ANGRY BIRDS GAME: Students in grades 4-8 are invited to the Community Room to participate in a live action Angry Birds game. Pre-registration is required and snacks will be served. This event takes place on Thursday, January 24 from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

ART EXHIBIT IN THE LIBRARY: The library will be featuring a new artist beginning with an Open House on January 15 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Bob Crissman Community Room. Madeleine Fojtik will be exhibiting a variety of mediums including graphic design, pencil sketches and water colors. Madeleine's work will be on display through March 16.

DONOR WALL HAS ARRIVED AT THE LIBRARY: After much deliberation, one of the final projects in connection with the library's building project has finally arrived and been installed—the Donor Wall. The wall is a beautiful tree with leaves bearing the names of individuals, families, businesses and vendors who gave time, talent and treasure to make the dream of a new and improved library come true. So take a minute to stop in and search for your name on our new Donor Wall.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS 2013: The 18th annual Battle of the Books is underway with 30 teams this year. All are gearing up for "battle day"! Once again we have three school systems participating—Schoolcraft, Vicksburg and Parchment. "Battle Day" will be held on Saturday, February 16 at the Schoolcraft High School PAC beginning with Preliminary Battles at 10 a.m. followed by Semi-Finals later in the afternoon. The top four teams from Semi Finals will go on to the Grand Battle on Thursday, February 21 at the Schoolcraft High School PAC beginning at 7 p.m. Come watch the youth of Schoolcraft amaze you with their knowledge.

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
 Russel 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
 Jim Day
 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 Winter 2013 Newsletter



«AccCustomerName»
 «AccCustomerStreetAddr»
 «AccCustomerStreetAddr2»
 «AccCustomer-
 City»,«AccCustomerState»«AccCustomerZip»

PRESORTED STANDARD
 ECR
 US POSTAGE PAID
 SCHOOLCRAFT MI
 PERMIT NO. 16

The Village of Schoolcraft
 P.O. Box 8
 Schoolcraft, MI 49087
 Return Service Requested