

Village of Schoolcraft



Preserving our Past, Enriching our Present, Planning our Future

www.villageofschoolcraft.com

Village President's Message

WE ARE WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Vision Statement

The Village of Schoolcraft commits to building on its strong heritage while moving forward to a vibrant future as a community where all citizens are safe and secure, local businesses thrive, and residents and visitors alike are drawn to the variety of recreational and cultural activities.

Mission Statement

The Village of Schoolcraft seeks to enhance the community through development that contributes to its welcoming hometown atmosphere, complements its landscape and local business environment, and reinforces its rich history and quality schools.

2019 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 at 442 N. Grand Street

Sunshine, 60 degrees, yeah! Spring is here and that opens the door for all of our ideas to pour out on what we want the year to bring for us and our Village.

I was hoping to bring you great news about the ongoing "Sanitary Sewer Issue", but we are in a holding pattern. We need to give Wightman (our engineers) a definite answer on which way the Village is moving on the "Sanitary Sewer Issue", so they can dial in the correct numbers for the final costs.

I hope that you have all noticed the new businesses and building upgrades / remodels currently underway in town, and more are in our future. People are responding to our "Visioning" and "Land Use Plans" in conversations and ideas that have been promoting new business opportunities. Some early progress for new business has already started in a couple areas.

Many local people see business opportunities in Schoolcraft as limited because we do not have sanitary sewer. Truthfully, it does hinder growth in high volume water users like "much desired" Restaurants, bars, micro breweries, apartment projects, etc., from coming here. On the other hand, most of the Village Residents (as proved out in the last petitioning process), don't want sanitary sewer because of the costs and they are comfortable with their own septic systems.

There are legitimate arguments for sanitary sewer such as; "it's easier to sell a property connected to municipal sewer", "the repairs and maintenance is someone else's problem", and "it helps the environment and helps keep the water clean".

Arguments against have merit also; "Sanitary sewer will cause my plumbing, yard, sidewalks, and streets to be torn up", "it costs approximately \$60.00 to \$90.00 per month", "I don't want to enter into a 40 year contract", "water studies show we have great municipal water, and ground water is showing less recorded pollutants now, than years ago".

There are good points on both sides, and that is why we have a disagreement that has been going on longer than the 40 years I've been living here. During that time, I've been involved in Village Government for the better part of 20 years, serving on Village Council, Planning Commission, South County Sewer and Water Authority, Regional Water Waste Water Committee, and even worked (long ago) at the Kalamazoo Waste Water Treatment Plant. So, I've heard all the pro's and Con's.

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Continued from page 1

In my opinion there are three (3) choices for the Village Schoolcraft regarding sanitary sewer; (1) NO SANITARY SEWER AT ALL, (2) SANITARY SEWER FOR THE ENTIRE VILLAGE, (3) SANITARY SEWER FOR THE U.S. 131 BUSINESS CORRIDOR AND ANY VIABLE POCKETS / GROUPS OF RESIDENTS THAT WANT IT. All of this has been computed by our engineers and costs can be figured out when this Village and the other entities decide which direction we want to go... **that's what we are waiting on.**

If, the Village Residents decide on (2) sanitary sewer for the entire Village, or (3) sanitary sewer for the U.S. 131 Corridor and any viable pockets / groups of residents that want it, then there are 2 ways to move forward;

(A.) TAKE A PETITION AROUND DOOR TO DOOR AND LET EACH PERSON DECIDE WHAT'S BEST FOR THEM. or

(B.) LET THE VILLAGE COUNCIL DECIDE IF YOU GET SANITARY SEWER.

We are a "General Law Village", so the Village Council can vote to install sanitary sewer and that's that! Personally, I believe in the petitioning process, and then all the people get a voice in this matter.

As President of Schoolcraft, I do not believe that 7 people should decide something that affects every home owner in this Village for possibly \$80.00 plus, per month, and for 40 years.

THAT SHOULD BE YOUR CHOICE NOT THE COUNCIL'S

I'm asking all of you to decide which of the choices for Sanitary Sewer that you want (1), (2), or (3).

AND

How do you want this handled?

(A.) door to door petitioning?

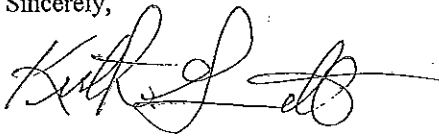
or

(B.) let the council choose?

If you don't tell us what you want ... then you probably won't like the outcome!

PLEASE COME TO A MEETING, CALL ONE OF US, OR SEND A NOTE TO THE VILLAGE OFFICE, OR GO TO THE VILLAGE OFFICE, THIS IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE IN THIS VILLAGE !!!

Sincerely,



Keith Gunnett
Schoolcraft Village President
(C) 269-569-6057

Village Meetings at Village Hall; Mondays at 7:00 p.m. April 1st & April 15th. Phone 269-679-4304
Village Address; Village of Schoolcraft, P.O. Box 8, Schoolcraft, MI. 49087
Village Website; www.villageofschoolcraft.com

News from the Village Manager's Desk

Hello and happy spring! It has been so nice to have some warm sunny days after such a hard, cold and long winter.

This is the time of year when we are all thinking about getting outside, sprucing up our yards, and even getting ready for our annual garage sales. In order to keep our town clean, we ask you to adhere to our brush pick up policy, spring clean up guide, and garage sales dates which are provided in this newsletter in greater detail.

As we begin our new fiscal year, I am happy to tell you that we are still able to provide all the services that you have always had despite the fact that revenue sharing continues to remain flat, and other sources of income have not increased. After many meetings, and much work involving both council and staff, we were able to come up with some pretty creative ways to reduce or at least maintain costs. This work did not come easy, and several members of the staff stepped up to the plate by offering to forgo their annual salary increase. This is really nothing new. In years past, staff has also voluntarily come forward to reduce many employee benefits in order to assist in balancing the budget. In my opinion, this speaks volumes about the Village staff from top to bottom, and obviously shows their dedication to the Village and those we serve. I have had the privilege of being the Villager Manager here for 15 years, and this group of employees is second to none. Each and every department, and every employee is an asset to this Village, and it shows in both the big and little things that we all do to make this Village the best little Village in Southwest Michigan!

Our goal is to provide you with the best customer service possible by being friendly, courteous, and providing you accurate information. If at any time, you have any questions or concerns, please call us at 679-4304.

Cheri M. Lutz
Village Manager
cmlutz@villageofschoolcraft.com



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 owner's 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.

Chief Bryan Campbell

bcampbell@villageofschoolcraft.com

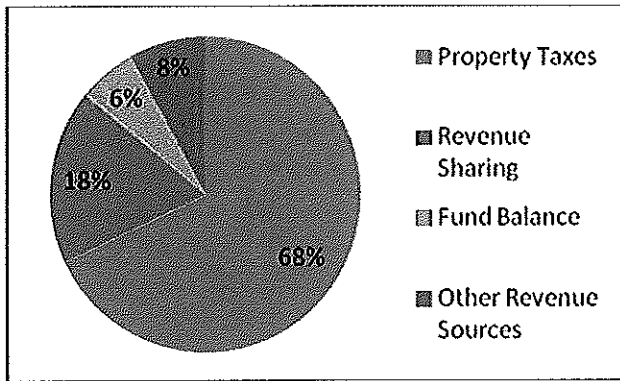
General Fund Budget Fiscal Year 2019/2020

March 1, 2019, began the new fiscal year for the Village of Schoolcraft. Tax Revenues from the Summer Village Tax to be collected July 1, 2019, constitutes 68% of the Village's Budget.

The charts illustrate General Fund Revenues and General Fund Expenses as budgeted for 2019/2020.

The first pie chart is for Revenue and shows that 68% of the Village's income is generated from Property Taxes, 18% from State Revenue Sharing, 6% from Fund Balance, and 8% from Other Revenue Sources such as the sales of fixed assets.

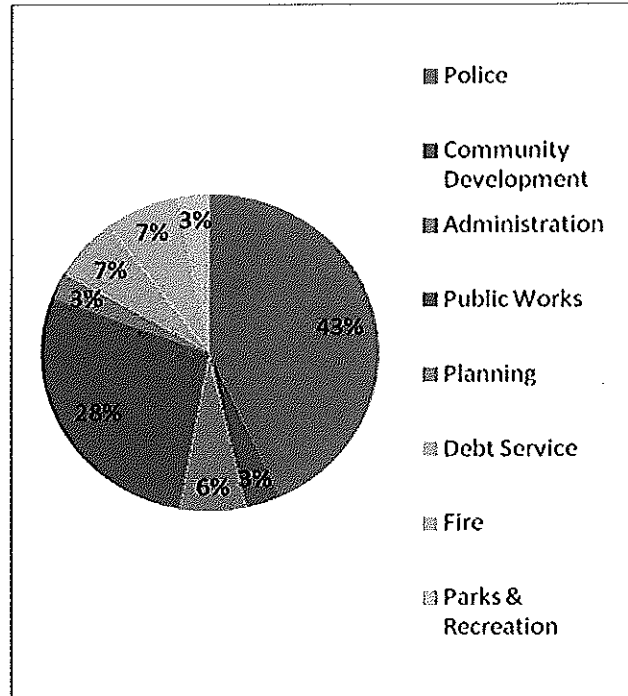
Revenues:



Note: The Village Tax rate is 15.8527 Mills or 37% of the approximate total 43.0182 Mills levied on residential property.

The second pie chart represents budgeted expenditures for the Village of Schoolcraft. The chart shows percentages for specific operations within the Village; Police 43%, Administration 20%, Public Works 14%, Debt Service 6%, Fire 7%, Planning 3%, Parks & Recreation 3%, and Community Development 4%.

Expenditures:



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 269-679-4304.

Fire Hydrant Flushing April 16, 2019

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

Obstruction of Sidewalks & Right of Way

If your property is abutted to a sidewalk, you must keep it clear of vegetation. Bushes or any vegetation must be trimmed at least two (2) feet from the sidewalk to provide safe passage for walkers.

Visual obstruction in the right of way (i.e. trees, bushes, tall grasses, fencing, etc. may be subject to removal if deemed to be a safety concern for pedestrians.

Office Closure

Memorial Day, May 27, 2019



Teddy's Perspective

Boy, am I ever excited about warm weather! I can't wait to get outside and play, and go for walks with my person. I just hope she can keep up with me because I have lots of energy, and well, she doesn't!

I just wanted to remind all of you that when walking your dog, please be sure that you clean up after them if they make a mess. There are plenty of garbage disposals around town, and one at the park too.

Please help keep Schoolcraft clean. I will appreciate it because I know that it is bad manners to leave a mess in somebody else's yard.

Happy Spring!

Teddy

Annual Village Wide Garage Sale

Friday, May 10, 2019 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Saturday May 11, 2019 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

If you are a Village Resident and would like your garage sale marked on a Village map, call Theresa at the Village Office, 269-679-4304, by 4:00 p.m. on May 8, 2019. Maps will be available at the Village Office May 9-10, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Spring Clean Up Saturday, May 18, 2019 7:00 a.m.

Items must be placed at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on
May 18, 2019.

No more than one (1) roll of carpet or laminate floor will be collected. Carpeting must be rolled and securely tied in no longer than four (4) foot sections.

Mattresses/Box springs must be wrapped in plastic.

Bags of items may not exceed thirty-five (35) pounds; and cans may not exceed seventy-five (75) pounds.

No individual items over five (5) feet in length, three (3) feet wide or three (3) feet high or weighing over 100 pounds.

Windows, glass, and mirrors must be less than 3'x4' in size. Broken glass should be placed in a box, taped shut, and clearly marked, "Broken Glass".

All small items must be in bags or cans. Loose piles will be left for the homeowners disposal.

Items not accepted are:

Appliances

Auto parts, engines, tires, batteries, doors, hoods, etc.

Batteries of any sort

Building debris or material of any sort, including lumber, plaster, drywall, paneling, siding, etc.

Concrete, dirt, rocks, sod, or stumps

Electronics, TV, computers, printers, fax machines, etc.

Large metal pieces or large plastic drums

Hazardous Waste (including medical waste, paints, solvents, pesticides, chemicals, varnishes or liquid of any sort)

Fencing

Motor Oil

Propane tanks/gas tanks

Iron or steel

Cast iron bathtubs

Yard Waste—grass clippings, branches, etc.

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 must be out to the curb by 7:00 a.m. on pick up day.
- Brush should be less than four inches (4") in diameter and eight feet (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. If you have multiple piles, spread them out with space in between, along your property.
- Small sticks and twigs must be put into a container that can be emptied by one person.
- Unacceptable material include leaves, yard waste (grasses, weeds, plants or vines), root balls, dirt, building materials and any brush generated through a removal of a tree, bushes or hedgerow.
- Brush placed out in violation of the restrictions will not be picked up.
- There is a limit of one dump truck load per month.
-

Storm Damage Brush Pick Up

- Storm damage pick up has to be declared by the Village Manager.
- Use same guidelines as for regular brush pick up.
- Only storm damage brush will be picked up.
- Check the ticker on the Village of Schoolcraft website (www.villageofschoolcraft.com) after a major storm to see if the DPW will be picking up brush.

Leaf Pick Up Through April 26, 2019

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 the number of leaf bags to be picked up. Bags of leaves must be out to the curb by 7:00 am. April 26.

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P.O. Box 8

Schoolcraft, MI 49087

2019 Citizen of the Year Application

The Village of Schoolcraft is now accepting nominations for the 2019 Citizen of the Year Award. The Citizen of the Year Award is presented annually to an individual(s) who has performed outstanding service or made exceptional voluntary contributions to the community.

Anyone with community contact may nominate someone who they feel meets the criteria of the award. The recipient (s) of the award is not made aware that they have been selected until the actual day of the award ceremonies, which is the second Council meeting in June.

When selecting the recipient for this award, the Committee looks for an individual(s) who, among other attributes, continually gives of his or her time, dedication and talents to the betterment of the community. The Committee also looks for those individuals who lend leadership and vision, organize or assist in achieving organizational goals, who serve on service or school committees and youth programs lending his or her expertise and guidance voluntarily. The recipient will have performed voluntary services that have advanced or helped the quality of life in the Village of Schoolcraft.

If you have a friend, neighbor or relative you feel has given unselfishly to help others or who meets any of the above criteria, you may pick up an application for nomination at the Schoolcraft Village Hall (or click here to print one.), or fill in a fillable form on the Village of Schoolcraft website www.villageofschoolcraft.com. Further information may also be obtained by contacting the Village Hall Office, at 269.679.4304. The deadline for nominations is the end of business on the second Friday in May.

Application is enclosed in this newsletter.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 20, 2019

11:00 a.m. Burch Park

Sponsored by the Lions Club

Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 27, 2019

10:30 a.m.

4th of July Celebration

Thursday, July 4, 2019

Details will be in the July 1, 2019 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 inquiries, email parade1925@yahoo.com. Phone calls will not be accepted.

Mailbox Relocation Program

Due to the ongoing damage to our roads, road shoulders, right of way, and mail delivery, the Village of Schoolcraft and the Post Office will work together to start enforcing mailbox placement. Mailbox face should be between twelve (12) to sixteen (16) inches from the outside paved edge of the road. Height should be between 41 inches to 45 inches above road surface. The Village will be working with some non-profits to help those who need it. Guidelines will be available at the Village Office, located at 442 N. Grand St. If you have any questions, please call the Department of Public Works at 679-5658.



SPRING EVENTS

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK: Food For Fines/ Wish List Tree!--April 8-13. In honor of National Library Week the Library is offering "Food For Fines." Fines will be forgiven with the donation of an unexpired/non-perishable food item OR take an item off our "Wish List Tree" and return. **Please note that this applies to materials overdue as of January 1st, 2018.** Fines will be excused up to a \$5 maximum on current or previously incurred fines. Collected food will go to the Schoolcraft food pantry. Also, celebrate National Library Week with a special activity in the Library!



LIBRARY HOP 2019: You may have attended an "art hop" but have you ever been to a "Library Hop???" We have teamed up with 20 libraries in the area to promote libraries and their events in the month of April. Get out during your spring break "stay-cation" and visit some exceptional small Michigan libraries. Sign up to get your free Library Hop Passport in April.

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION: The Prairie Pageturners will be meeting on Wednesday, April 10 at 2 p.m. Participants will be discussing "The Hate You Give" by Angie Thomas. Books are available at the Library for checkout. Refreshments served.

ART OPEN HOUSE: Student Art On Display—May. Come see a fun assortment of high school and middle school student art on display at the Library. Guaranteed to brighten up spring!

SHADES OF LAVENDER FARM VISIT: We are welcoming Shades of Lavender Farm to the Library on April 16 at 4:00 pm. Join us for a presentation on the many uses and benefits of lavender!

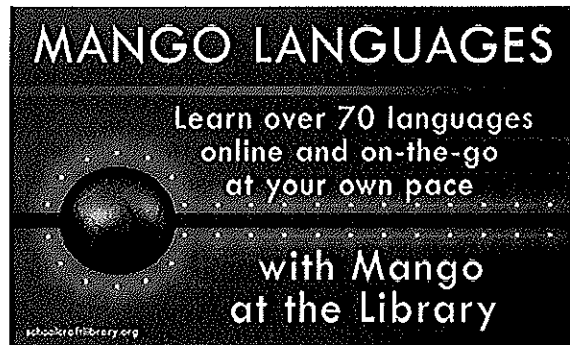
PRESCHOOL STORYHOUR: Thursdays, 10:00-10:45 a.m. For ages 3-5 years. Come join us for a fun filled morning of stories, songs, movement, crafts and snacks! Parents feel free to drop off your children in our Community Room. Registration Required. Runs through June.

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. No registration required. Come when you can!

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ANNUAL BOOK/BAKE SALE: May 10 & 11. The FOL will hold their annual Book/Bake Sale on the same weekend as the Village wide garage sales. *Friday, May 10 the sale is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 11 the sale runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.* Take advantage of the BAG SALE! We provide the bags and you fill as many bags as you like for \$3.00 per bag. Baked goods go fast, so come early. Proceeds go towards children's programming in the Library.

SUMMER READING 2019: "Libraries Rock!" Registration starts June 17 at 10:00 a.m. Opening day for Schoolcraft Library's Summer Reading clubs and program sign ups. Phone registration begins at 11:00 a.m. Check our online calendar for summer program dates.

SCHOOLCRAFT COMMUNITY LIBRARY : 330 N. CENTRE STREET SCHOOLCRAFT, MI 49087: (269) 679-5959



Safe at Home Service for Seniors

Sponsored by Vicksburg Rotary Club; in partnership with: South County Community Services, South County Fire Authority, American Red Cross (Kalamazoo Chapter), area Faith groups, and Lending Hands.

- *To help South County Seniors stay safely in their homes
- *Focus on injury/fall prevention and emergency preparedness
- *Includes grab bars, reflective house numbers, smoke alarms, and other low cost devices such as nightlights
- *FREE to income-qualified senior

To schedule an appointment, volunteer, or obtain more information, call SAFE AT HOME : 269-649-2901

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: Russell L. Barnes
Todd Carlisi
Kathy Mastenbrook
Mike Rochholz
Sy Spears
John Stodola

Messages for the Village Council can be left at the Administrative Office or on Village Staff email.

Village Staff

Manager: Cheri Lutz, cmultz@villageofschoolcraft.com
Financial Director/
Assistant Manager: Tammi Youngs, tyoungs@villageofschoolcraft.com
Clerk/
Treasurer: Theresa O'Leary, toleary@villageofschoolcraft.com
Police
Chief: Bryan Campbell, bcampbell@villageofschoolcraft.com
Sergeant: Jamie Edwards
Officers: Joe Bippus
Matt Britton
Henry Kite
Aaron McCullough
Eric Ray
Aux. Officers: Mary Secondi and Dick Simon
DPW Super: Rob Coffman, rcoffman@villageofschoolcraft.com
Equip/Water
Operator: Adam Wood, awood@villageofschoolcraft.com
Grounds/
Maintenance: Brent Smith, bsmith@villageofschoolcraft.com
Office Dog: Teddy

BLODGETT, ANDY
399 N. 14TH ST.
SCHOOLCRAFT, MI 49087

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

Spring 2019 Newsletter
Village of Schoolcraft
P.O. Box 8
Schoolcraft, MI 49087