

Village of Schoolcraft



Preserving our Past, Enriching our Present, Planning our Future

www.villageofschoolcraft.com

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.

2022 Quarterly Meeting Calendar

Village Council 7:00 p.m.

January 3	January 17
February 7	February 21
March 7	March 21

Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.

January 10	February 14
March 14	

**All meetings are open to the public.
442 N. Grand St., Schoolcraft**

Village President's Message

“LET’S MAKE IT A “HAPPY NEW YEAR”

Most things in life we don't get to do over, you make your choice and you live with the results. In reality, most things can be started over, but most of us prefer not to have “do overs” because it's admitting a better path was available and we are indicating defeat or lack of good judgement. Most people do not want to be wrong or give up on an idea even if it's decidedly wrong, so “do overs” are rarely used. One bad idea often leads to another and we tend to go into a downhill spiral, not just individuals, but society as a whole does this to avoid being wrong or from peer pressure. Don't believe it? Look around, the national news, social media and most daily conversations are filled with negativity and it seems as though we are all headed in the wrong direction, especially when it comes to getting along with other people and everyday life.

We often become polarized over the simplest of things and make a big issue out of almost everything from health problems {like Covid} to authority figures, {like Police and Government Officials} to people's basic Human Rights in everyday living scenarios. A lot of these items get exaggerated on the Daily News, in people's conversations, and especially in Social Media forums. We seem to find time to critique and criticize, which adds fuel to the vehicle that's taking us downhill at an alarming rate. However, most of us do not find the time to actually do something positive about those same issues.

A unique thing happens once every year, we call it “New Year's”. January 1st opens the door for us to change our habits and the way we act, and it's socially accepted. It's called making “New Year's Resolutions”. Various opinions exist about making those resolutions, but it must have some following as the practice has lived on for a great many years. People feel the need to start anew and this day allows us the opportunity without major shame to do just that.

How about all of us, without proclaiming our intentions to the masses, try to do something to help get us all back on track. Something as simple as getting up in the morning and taking 3 seconds to say, “I'm going to do something nice for someone else today”, under our breath. Maybe the opportunity to do something will be really small, but those opportunities are everywhere. Open a door for a few folks, push the empty shopping cart in the parking lot back into the store, go for a walk and say “Hi” and maybe even have a conversation with your neighbor, drop something off at the food pantry, help your neighbor with a little snow removal, etc. If physical things are not in your realm, then maybe giving objects or money to a charity is more in order.

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Village President's Message, continued

Small things are not silly or trivial, remember that a good many arguments start from small interactions and grow into major productions, and so can good things grow the same way. If you try a few times, you will get a good feeling in yourself, if nothing else, you will reap the benefit of feeling better. There are a good many things out in your community that you can volunteer your services for. Churches, clubs, library, government positions, committees, special village events and school functions are always in need of volunteers.

One of the very best things that you can do that will release stress and calm your interactions with others is to turn off the National News, {you can't change anything that happens anyway}, and quit following the Social Media forums, they just get you worked up and mad. Quitting will make you a much calmer person with a little more time on your hands. This can be your chance to start anew and make yourself a happier person. Try it, you'll like it!

Sincerely,

Keith Gunnett
Schoolcraft Village President
269-569-6057

News from the Village Manager's Desk

Happy winter to all of you and best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year. It sure is cold out there, especially for our DPW employees who are busy plowing snow, clearing sidewalks. They keep busy making sure our roads are safe and clear of ice and snow. Next time you see them, please give them a big thanks for all that they do.

I would like to express a big thanks to all of you who have voluntarily complied with the Village's Ordinance requiring you to clear the right of way of objects, cars, rocks and much more. It has been noticed and it is greatly appreciated. With cold weather here now, most of you can expect a short reprieve as we go through the winter months. If you still have outstanding issues, and you can do something about it during the winter months, please do.

If you get crazy bored this winter, you might want to start digging out your treasures for our Annual Garage Sales which will be held on May 13 and 14, 2022. Spring Drop-Off will be on Saturday, May 21, 2022.

Both leaf and brush pick up have concluded for 2021, so please, do not place them in the right of way as they will not be picked up.

A reminder to you that Village Council Meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall. Planning Commission Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7:00. These meetings are open to the public, and we invite you to attend.

For those of you who are Facebook fans, please visit our new Facebook page. You will find postings on Village services, activities, and community events.

A big thank you to all who participated in the Gift Card Program. It was very successful, and we plan on offering it again in 2022. An extra thanks goes out to Chemlink who generously donated \$1,000.00 to assist in this program.

On behalf of the Village of Schoolcraft, we wish all of you a very happy holiday season. Be safe, be well.

Sincerely,

Cheri M. Lutz
Village Manager
cmlutz@villageofschoolcraft.com

Schoolcraft Police Department



Winter Safety Tips

Schoolcraft Police Department would like to provide you with some cold weather safety tips to ensure everyone has a safe winter.

With cold weather, snow, and ice, slip and fall accidents are very common. The following are some tips to reduce the chance of injury.

- Plan ahead and give yourself sufficient time.
- When walking on steps, use the hand rails and plant your foot firmly on each step.
- When walking on ice or snow-covered walkways, take short steps and walk slower.
- When walking on sidewalks or streets, use caution. Often there is "black ice" and could look like it is wet. This often occurs in the morning.
- If you find yourself falling, try not to use your arms to catch yourself. Instead, tuck your chin and try to roll into the fall.
- When entering a building, take some time to clean off your boots. Be especially careful inside, the floor can be extremely slippery.
- Use special care getting into and out of vehicles. Use the vehicle as support.

One of the unfortunate parts of winter is having to shovel the driveway. Before you go out and shovel the driveway, please review some of these suggestions.

- If you have health problems, talk to your doctor first. Every year there are numerous reports of people having heart attacks while shoveling. An alternative may be to ask family or friends to help you out.
- Before you go out to shovel, take some time to stretch.
- Make sure you are hydrated.
- Try to push the snow instead of lifting it. Each year there are numerous back injuries related to shoveling snow.
- If you can shovel snow when it is fresh, it is often much easier than when it becomes packed down.
- Dress in layers, if you start to sweat, you can remove a layer.
- If your body is telling you to stop, listen to it.
- Carry a phone in your pocket, that way if you feel dizzy or pain, you can call 911.

Finally, a topic that we all have to face, driving in winter weather. The best advice I can give someone is that if the weather conditions are bad outside, try to avoid driving. I realize that is not always feasible so here are some suggestions.

- Check the weather and road conditions before you leave.
- Make sure your vehicle is stocked with supplies you may need. This may include a snow shovel, sand or kitty litter, a flashlight, jumper cables, blankets, a cell phone charger, water, food, and objects you can use for emergency markers (flares or bright signaling devices).
- Give yourself more time than you need to go someplace.
- Drive slow in the winter, it takes you more time to slow or stop your vehicle on snow or ice.
- Turn your lights on to increase visibility to other motorists.
- Leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should leave yourself approximately three times the space you would normally use.
- Try to avoid passing or driving next to snow plow trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, make wide turns, and frequently stop.
- Do not use cruise control or overdrive when there is snow or ice.
- Be especially careful of bridges and overpasses, these will typically freeze first.

Winter weather can often be challenging. One of the best suggestions we can give is to take your time, be aware of the conditions, and be prepared.

The Schoolcraft Police Department

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT 2022 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 4, 2022
- January 17, 2022
- February 7, 2022
- February 21, 2022
- March 7, 2022
- March 21, 2022
- April 4, 2022
- April 18, 2022
- May 2, 2022
- May 16, 2022
- June 6, 2022
- June 20, 2022
- July 5, 2022 **
- August 1, 2022 **
- September 6 2022 *
- September 19, 2022
- October 3, 2022
- October 17, 2022
- November 7, 2022
- November 21, 2022
- December 5, 2022
- December 19, 2022

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

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 21, 2022. TREES MUST BE PLACED OUT BY 7:00 A.M. ON JANUARY 21, 2022.

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 as it leaves snow or slush on the roadway. This ordinance is for vehicular and pedestrian safety.

Please be sure that when you are clearing snow from your driveway you are also keeping it off the sidewalks and roadway.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated by our winter walkers.

Annual Village Wide Garage Sale

May 13, 2022 9-4

May 14, 2022 9-3

Call the Village Office if you would like to place your garage sale on a map. Maps will be available at the Village Office beginning May 20, 2021.

Village Spring Clean Up (Central Drop Off)

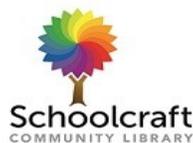
May 21, 2022

E. Clay Street (Across from Krum Recreation Center)
More information will be in the Spring 2022 Newsletter.

Accountability And Transparency

2021 Accountability and Transparency information for the Village of Schoolcraft is available for public viewing on our webpage at www.villageofschoolcraft.com.

A big thank you to those who participated in the Matching Gift Card Program and a special thank you to Chemlink for their generous donation!



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SCHOOLCRAFT COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The library is taking a step back from programming for the month of January.....BUT we DO have a lot of great things available that you might not be aware of!

- Transparent Language allows you to learn a new language right from your own personal device. Sign up with your library card! <https://www.schoolcraftlibrary.org/transparent-language/>
- Our 3D printer is available to use! Schedule a print with Tom. thom66lib@gmail.com
- Learn how to crochet, explore the night sky, build a robot, play with magnets, etc. with our Discovery Kits! Check them out!
- Come in and read in our new reading corner in the children's room!
- Curbside is still available for you. Text 269-820-0434 (Gabbie on our catalog page) if you need this service. We also deliver to homebound patrons who live in our service area.
- There's always lots of great reads on our new book display!

Adult Book Club, preschool story hour, children and adult crafting, 3D print classes and teen programming will resume in February. Stay Tuned!!

Visit our Facebook page [@schoolcraftlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/schoolcraftlibrary) or our website www.schoolcraftlibrary.org

*May good health and
happiness follow you and yours
in the year to come.*



Village Directory

Administrative Office 269-679-4304
Police Department 269-679-5600
Department of Public Works 269-679-5658
Associated Government Services 1-800-627-2801

Village Council

President: Keith Gunnett
Trustees: Russell L. Barnes
Kirk Bergland
Todd Carlin
Kathy Mastenbrook
Mike Rochholz
John Stodola

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
Finance Director/
Assistant Manager: Tammi Youngs, tyoungs@villageofschoolcraft.com
Clerk/
Treasurer: Theresa O'Leary, toleary@villageofschoolcraft.com
Interim
Police
Chief: Jamie Edwards, jedwards@villageofschoolcraft.com
Officers: Joe Bippus
Matt Britton
Joe Geiser
Henry Kite
Eric Ray
Aux. Officer: Dick Simon
DPW Super: Rob Coffman, rcoffman@villageofschoolcraft.com
Water
Super: Adam Wood, awood@villageofschoolcraft.com
Office Dog: Teddy

PRESORTED STANDARD
ECR
US POSTAGE PAID
SCHOOLCRAFT, MI
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Winter 2022 Newsletter
Village of Schoolcraft
P.O. Box 8
Schoolcraft, MI 49087