

# Village of Schoolcraft



Preserving our Past, Enriching our Present, Planning our Future

[www.villageofschoolcraft.com](http://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.

October 3	October 17
November 7	November 21
December 5	December 19

Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.

October 10	November 14
December 12	

**All meetings are open  
to the public.**

**442 N. Grand St., Schoolcraft**

## Village President's Message

### R.O.W. = Right-of-Way

A long time ago our forefathers saw the need to make roads with Right-of-Way borders in most all of our towns and villages for the good of everyone living in the community. They had the foresight to realize that roads will grow in width, so R.O.W.'s would be used for that and also provide unobstructed space for sidewalks and other items as the future dictates that could serve all the people in the community. Can you imagine trying to get an easement or R.O.W. through all the properties in our town now? The costs would be astronomical, the obstructions would be in the thousands, not to mention it would take years and years of negotiations to complete. Fortunately, they had that insight.

Along the way through our almost 200-year history, there were rules that were made to the benefit of the community, which in time turned into ordinances. In the early years ordinances were vague and maybe not enforced to the letter of the law. Times were different, not as many people, lots of open land, and plenty of unimproved land in the village. Roads were narrow but still provided plenty of room to pass another horse drawn vehicle. People used the R.O.W. to park horses and buggies etc. There are still a few hitching posts in town. Not every person had or used a buggy to go places in the village, more folks walked back then. Things appear to be more laid-back and not nearly as busy back then. People didn't leave horses and buggies in the R.O.W. over night, horses had a barn or shed, and many places had a carriage house. Streets were pretty clear for the most part, as every night things were usually put away.

Then came the automobile and it changed everything. As times went on, everyone wanted a car, people started to travel and visit other people more than before and cars became plentiful. Some of the barns and carriage houses turned into garages, so people could keep their luxury protected. Along the way, other luxuries came about. Natural gas lights and stoves replaced whale oil, kerosene and wood. Soon thereafter, electricity and telephones came to our village. Lucky for us our village had a R.O.W. to place the poles and bury gas lines, and later water lines.

Today there's lots of items in the R.O.W., such as; Gas, Water, Electric, Fiber Optic lines, Cable TV, Telephone, and Sanitary Sewer -"SOMEDAY". Our R.O.W. also holds mail boxes, Informational Signage, Traffic Signals, Directional Signs, and Fire Hydrants, all for our safety and convenience.

Over the last 70 years we have a growing "Major Problem", TOO MANY AUTOMOBILES! As you can easily understand with all the items in the R.O.W. some underground, the R.O.W. needs to be clear of obstructions. Weight of cars contributes to underground issues; lack of grass contributes to deeper frost issues and lack of water run off control. Parking without proper approaches and aprons breaks down the edge of the road and creates mudpuddles which erodes the asphalt. Cars in the R.O.W. block the view of traffic as

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you leave a driveway, especially when you have to back out into traffic to see around them. Emergencies are another issue, fire and ambulance vehicles may need to use the R.O.W. to get at your house, electric power, cable and telephone company's need access to poles etc. Winter brings a few issues like places to put snow from the road, sidewalk and your driveway. Our DPW needs to be able to get to gas and water pipes in emergencies, without having to move cars and trucks. Not to mention, Sanitary Sewer will be here someday.

There have been rules concerning parking in the R.O.W. for more than 40 years in some form or another. We need to come into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and straighten out the parking issue in the R.O.W. as it is for the benefit of "ALL" the village residents. The vast majority of all municipalities do not allow permanent parking in the R.O.W.

The Village Council, Village Staff and The Police Department have been very patient and lenient in letting you know these issues and ordinances for many months. We passed ordinances in 2021 allowing more garage, parking and storage space to be utilized on your property that helps with this issue.

Some extreme situations of a person not having enough land have been realized and waivers can be applied for by contacting the village office. We are sincerely hoping that most affected residents will voluntarily comply with the requests to follow the ordinances that were sent to you. We have lots of cars and something has to be done with parking. The Village Staff, Council and Police Department are looking at many options, so feel free to contact the Village office with your questions.

Sincerely,  
Keith Gunnett,  
Schoolcraft Village President  
1-269-569-6057  
[Gunnettenterprises@yahoo.com](mailto:Gunnettenterprises@yahoo.com)

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### News from the Village Manager's Desk

Hello to all of you and Happy Fall! After this very hot summer, I am looking forward to some cooler weather and the beautiful colors of the season.

Leaf pick-up begins the last week in October, and ends November 30<sup>th</sup>. Each year we get calls from our residents asking us why their leaf piles have not been picked up. The DPW makes their way from one side of town to the other on a continuous basis. If your leaves are not picked up on the day you rake them, rest assured they will likely be picked up the next day. Please make sure your leaves are raked to the curb, and do not mingle any other items with your leaves.

The last day to bring brush or grass clippings to the DPW Drop Off site will be November 26, 2022. If you plan on dropping something off, please contact the Village Office at 679-4304 to set up an appointment.

The DPW is accepting applications and resumes for DPW Grounds Person, a Water System Operator, and a part time as-needed employee. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Rob Coffman at 679-5658.

If you see Adam Wood around town, please give him a big congratulations. Adam will be leaving the Village in early October to work for the Kalamazoo County Road Commission. The Village of Schoolcraft wishes him all the best in his new endeavor.

As always, if you have any comments or concerns about the Village, please feel free to give me a call at 679-4304.

Sincerely,

Cheri M. Lutz  
Village Manager  
[cmlutz@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:cmlutz@villageofschoolcraft.com)

# 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 begin to slow down and prepare to stop when they see yellow flashers on the school bus. When red flashing lights are displayed, all motorists must stop their vehicle until the red lights are turned off.

If your children are walking to school, light colored or reflective clothing are 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.

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. Safety belts can lower your risk of serious injury by 50%.

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

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

Scott Smith  
Chief of Police

### Help Wanted

**VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT  
GROUNDS AND MAINTENANCE**

**PART-TIME/FLEXIBLE HOURS  
\$15/HR**

**TO APPLY:  
CALL ROB COFFMAN AT 269-679-5658  
OR EMAIL  
[rcoffman@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:rcoffman@villageofschoolcraft.com)**



### Teddy's Perspective

Do you ever think you want to just stay home and not go to work every day? Well, I sure do but after mom leaves for work, I end up sitting in her chair staring at the front door all day waiting for her to get home. To make matters worse, when she does get home she fumbles around with her keys, and just takes forever to get in the door!

Anyway, I hope you all had a good summer, and are looking forward to some nice fall weather. Please be sure to remember then when walking your dog, bring a plastic bag to pick up after them. The Village gets a lot of complaints about, well, dog poop so please be a good neighbor and pick up after your dog.

Have a great fall!

Teddy

### Schoolcraft Christmas Walk

Saturday Dec. 3rd, 2022  
Events from 10am-6pm  
For inquiries and information visit  
[www.facebook.com/SchoolcraftChristmasWalk](http://www.facebook.com/SchoolcraftChristmasWalk)

## Village of Schoolcraft Wellhead Protection Program

### Where does our water come from?

The Village of Schoolcraft supplies its residents and businesses with water, which it obtains from below the ground surface. Water that fills the voids, or empty spaces between rocks, sand, and soil particles, is called groundwater. Groundwater is the source of the village's water supply. Schoolcraft is blessed with high quality and plentiful groundwater, and we want it to stay that way. The groundwater is extracted from below the ground surface using two 150 foot deep wells, located in the Village. The top of the well that sticks out of the ground is called the wellhead. We have determined a Wellhead Protection Area. This includes the area that is directly contributing water to the wells. A map of this area can be seen in the Village Hall.

### How do we protect our groundwater?

Because any type of contamination or pollutants that fall on the ground surface can percolate into the groundwater, and contaminate this water supply, the Village has developed a Wellhead Protection Program to educate the public and to monitor potential sources of contamination. A Wellhead Protection Committee helps implement the plan. The Committee is comprised of Village staff members, residents, business representatives, fire department staff, health department staff, and Kalamazoo County experts on our water system.

We have identified septic systems, which each household and business in the village has, as a potential threat to groundwater. Wastewater from these buildings discharge into the septic system, which provides some limited filtering and treatment of human waste. Many chemicals, petroleum products, and cleaning products that enter the septic system with the wastewater do not break down and can percolate into and contaminate the ground and groundwater below. Very small amounts of chemicals can contaminate large areas of groundwater at levels that may be hazardous to people who drink it.

### What can you do?

Everyone can help to protect our groundwater. Here are some tips:

- Minimize the use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides. These can wash off and seep into the groundwater.
- Properly dispose of unused and leftover chemicals, gasoline, and oil. Never dump onto the ground.
- Maintain your septic system and never put chemicals down the drain. Everyone in the Village has one since there is no public sewer system.
- Properly maintained septic systems work best. The septic system should be inspected and pumped out every three years.

### Resources

To help with proper disposal, Kalamazoo County operates a year-round Household Hazardous Waste Center. Their website notes hours of operation and guidelines on what materials are accepted.

Other tips for keeping our groundwater safe and for maintaining your septic system can be found on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's website.

Website links to help you:

<https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/eh/hhw/>

<https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/eh/dw/>

<https://www.epa.gov/septic/septicmart-education-materials>

## Office Closures

Thursday, November 24, 2022

Friday, November 25, 2022

Friday, December 23, 2022

Monday, December 26, 2022

Friday, December 30, 2022

Monday January 2, 2023

## Brush Pick Up

The last brush pick up will be October 31, 2022. Brush must be out by 7:00 a.m. on October 31, 2022.

## Leaf Pick Up

Leaf pick up begins the last week of October.

Leaves must be placed out by the road by 7:00 a.m. on November 28, 2022 for final pick up.

### **DO NOT PUT LEAVES IN BAGS.**

- 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.

## Drop Off Site for Brush and Grass Clippings

The DPW Drop Off Site will not be open during the week. It is open between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Saturdays. If you plan on dropping something off, please contact the Village Office at 679-4304 during the hours of Mon-Thurs 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**You must call by 4:00 p.m. on Friday if you are going to use the drop off site the following Saturday.**

The last day to drop off brush or grass clippings in 2022 is Saturday, November 26. The office will be closed November 24 and November 25 for Thanksgiving. If you plan on using the site, please call by Wednesday, November 23 at 4:00 p.m.

## Gift Cards

Last year the Village partnered with local businesses, to sell gift cards to those businesses at half the cost. It was a huge success!!!

We are happy to be offering this again this year.

Please check the Village of Schoolcraft's Facebook page and website, [www.villageofschoolcraft.com](http://www.villageofschoolcraft.com), for details, including date and time.

## 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.

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.

## Fire Hydrant Flushing

**October 3, 2022**

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, 2022**

## News From Schoolcraft Ladies' Library

Hello All! We are pleased to announce, our Fall Season is underway!

- October 4th, 12 pm. We will host our Fall Potluck, featuring a piano presentation by Cherie Ericks.
- October 18th, 1pm. Kathy Oswalt from South County News will be joining us.
- November 1st, 7 pm. We will host a joint meeting with the Schoolcraft Historical Society, with special guest, Kathy Ossmann.
- November 15th, 1 pm. Colleen Simpson will join us to discuss "curating our collections"
- December 3rd, 10am.-6pm. Holiday Bazaar!

It is always a delight to hear from community members and friends! If you would like more information about our organization, or would like to attend an upcoming meeting, please feel free to contact me. Our meetings are held in our beautiful red brick building at 163 N, Hayward, next to the post office.

Happy Fall!

Kelly Bergland Programs Chair

(269)552-8436

kassyb@sbcglobal.net



### FALL PROGRAMING AT THE SCHOOLCRAFT COMMUNITY LIBRARY

**TOT TIME-- Tuesdays—\*10:00-10:30 a.m.**—Fun program for toddlers 18-36 months and their adult caregiver. Includes rhymes, finger plays, songs, stories, concept learning. \*Registration required.

**IT'S DROP-IN STORYTIME! -- Tuesdays—11:00-11:30 a.m.**—All ages. Come join us for a fun-filled morning of stories, finger plays, flannel graphs and movement. Parents please stay for the fun if your child isn't potty trained.

**GRAB -n- GO CRAFTS -** available each month while supplies last!

**PRAIRIE PAGE TURNERS---October 5th—2-3 p.m.**— The book choice for October is *"Run Rose Run"* by Dolly Parton and James Patterson. Copies available at the Schoolcraft Library. New members encouraged to join us!

**ADULT PUMPKIN CRAFT – October 5<sup>th</sup> - 6:30- 7:30.** Make cute book page pumpkins to add to your fall décor. All supplies provided. Registration required. 269 679-5959

**MEET AND GREET LOCAL ARTIST AMELIA BROWN – Wed October 12<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7pm.** The art Amelia creates is typically inspired by animation, comics, and video games, using a variety of mediums including graphite, watercolor, charcoal, and more. She particularly loves character design, and hopes to one day make a full-length graphic novel. Her art will be on display through the month of October.

**FAMILY PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST – Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> - Oct 22nd pumpkin pick up.** The Library is providing pumpkins to the first 12 decorators beginning Monday Oct 10th -Sat Oct 22rd ( or you may use your own!) Paint it, dress it or carve it! Bring back your decorated pumpkin to the Library no later than Monday Oct 24th for our voting display. You can also submit a photo to: [missroxanne@schoolcraftlibrary.org](mailto:missroxanne@schoolcraftlibrary.org). Winners will receive a local gift card.

**NAILED IT! HALOWEEN EDITION - Grades 6 thru 12 Sat Oct 15 1:30-3pm** Try to recreate 3 Halloween cupcakes, timed and judged!! Prizes awarded. Registration required. 269 679-5959

**LIBRARY BOOK/BAKE & CLEAN OUT OUR CLOSETS SALE! - Oct 20-22 THUR 9-5, FRI 9-1, SAT 9-1.** LOTS of books of all genres, DVD's, office supplies, computer chairs, DELICIOUS baked goods. \$3 fill a bag with your favorite paperbacks.

**Movie on the Lawn Hocus Pocus 2 - Sat Oct 22 7:30-10pm** Bring blankets and lawn chairs for a family movie night. Pop-corn and hot cocoa provided. Weather permitting. Registration required. 269 679-5959

**LIBRARY BOARD MEETING—October 26th—6:00 p.m.**—Board members for the Schoolcraft Community Library meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room (with the exception of November, which will take place November 16th.) The public is welcome to attend all meetings.

## 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

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)  
Finance Director/  
Assistant Manager: Tammi Youngs, [tyoungs@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:tyoungs@villageofschoolcraft.com)  
Clerk/  
Treasurer: Theresa O'Leary, [toleary@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:toleary@villageofschoolcraft.com)  
Police  
Chief: Scott Smith, [ssmith@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:ssmith@villageofschoolcraft.com)  
Sergeant: Jamie Edwards, [jedwards@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:jedwards@villageofschoolcraft.com)  
Officers: Joe Bippus  
Eric Ray  
Aux. Officer: Dick Simon  
DPW Super: Rob Coffman, [rcoffman@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:rcoffman@villageofschoolcraft.com)  
Water  
Super: Adam Wood, [awood@villageofschoolcraft.com](mailto:awood@villageofschoolcraft.com)  
Office Dog: Teddy

PRESORTED STANDARD  
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Fall 2022 Newsletter  
Village of Schoolcraft  
P.O. Box 8  
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