

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.

2023 Quarterly Meeting Calendar

Village Council 7:00 p.m.

January 3	January 16
February 6	February 20
March 6	March 20

Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.

January 9	February 13
March 13	

All meetings are open to the public.

442 N. Grand St., Schoolcraft

Village President's Message

STORM OF THE CENTURY?

As I write this on Tuesday 12-20-2022, I wonder, are we in for a really big storm event, or is this just another weatherman hype job to get you to watch his channel because he has the prediction with the worst-case scenario, thus making you hang on to his every word. I really believe they give you the absolute worst outcome that could happen in their broadcast area, in an attempt to keep viewer ratings up. If the weatherman said it's going to be partly cloudy with a 30% chance of rain tomorrow, you probably wouldn't ask to have your friends over for that cookout and pool party you've been planning on having, weather permitting. The weatherman totally influences your activities, not just in the warm months, but the cold seasons as well. So, you all tune in to get the latest and greatest report. The bad thing is they stifle an event, any outdoor enjoyment and/or travel plans, with their "Doom and Gloom" reporting. That "partly cloudy and 30% chance of rain" forecast, could have been presented as "a 70% chance of sunny and clear skies tomorrow, with a slight chance of showers" which sounds like you might want to risk that get-together. Completely different outlook on the same set of facts.

If we ran our government in the Village like that (always looking at the down side), then in short order there would soon be an ugly little town, like those to our south. Fortunately, there are several groups of optimistic people in Schoolcraft and they really put forth an effort to make things better for all of us. We have a Christmas Walk, Luminaries on Grand Street, Flowers all around town in the summer, Bands and Food Trucks in the Park, Car Show in the park, the Best 4th of July Fireworks, and a great Parade, Home Coming Parades, lots of school events, a great community support for Local Sporting Events, Stamp, Coin, and Fish shows at the Krum Center, Christmas home Tours, and much more up-lifting things to see and do. All of which is a much better way to look at our community rather than complain about small problems and blight etc.

I think this is a great Village and I'm glad to see us back in step with the things we have grown accustomed to doing. 2023 should be a great year in Schoolcraft because of the good people looking at and doing the things that show the good side of life. We are fortunate to have spirited people who volunteer, a good Village Council and committee leaders, a good School System, great Police Department, and Village Staff, to oversee it all. We should be grateful for our Village where we get senior care and care for residents that are in need. If you stop and think, we have great services like brush, storm, and leaf pickups along with well plowed and a real rarity, Municipal plowed sidewalks. I hope you will feel grateful, optimistic and happy, especially during the upcoming Holidays.

Continued on page 2

Village President's Message, continued

I hope that I didn't shoot myself in the foot by bad mouthing the Weatherman. One good thing to their credit, we all received a lot of advance warning (4-5 days), so you can't feel bad if several inches fall and you have to stay in the house for a day. Be happy and grateful that we have dedicated people in the Village like Rob Coffman who will be there with little to no help, clearing roads and sidewalks while we are watching TV in our warm houses.

Please! Be thankful, optimistic and happy that we live in a great little Village! Turn that channel to something more up lifting than the weatherman.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Keith F. Gunnett
Schoolcraft Village President
269-569-6057

News from the Village Manager's Desk

The Village of Schoolcraft kicked off the holiday season with a very successful Christmas Walk. Thank you to everybody who helped plan this event, and we look forward to many more. It is really great when so many volunteers come together to put together community events. If you have any thoughts or ideas about future events, please give me a call. The Village always welcomes more opportunities for friends and families to come together, and we will do what we can to help.

As this year ends, and the new year begins, there is much work going on with Village Staff. Every day is a busy day for all departments, and I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the entire Village Staff for their excellent work.

While you are sleeping during these cold winter nights, the DPW is busy plowing and clearing sidewalks so that you will have safe travels to work, school and other destinations. With the snow and icy conditions, the Police Department is out there too. There are plenty of fender benders during the winter months along with the normal duties that our officers attend to on a daily basis.

As we approach the beginning of the new year, I am sending a sincere wish to Tammi Youngs, the Village's Finance Director. She has announced her intent to retire effective February 28, 2023. Tammi has been a great addition to the Village with extensive knowledge of accounting, financial analysis, and so many other skills—too numerous to mention. Tammi will be a tough one to replace. She has many plans for her future, and we all wish her the very best. If you have a chance, be sure to wish Tammi good health and happiness in her retirement years!

From all of us, best wishes to you for a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Cheri M. Lutz
Village Manager
cmlutz@villageofschoolcraft.com

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



Schoolcraft Police Department



When a Winter Storm Strikes, Do Not Drive Unless Necessary

- Be aware of and obey all travel restrictions that may be in place in your area.
- If you must travel, make sure your vehicle is stocked with survival gear such as:
 - ◆ Blankets
 - ◆ Shovel
 - ◆ Flashlight and extra batteries
 - ◆ Extra warm clothing
 - ◆ Set of tire chains
 - ◆ Battery booster cables
 - ◆ Quick energy foods
 - ◆ Brightly-colored cloth to use as a distress flag
- Keep your gas tank full to prevent gasoline freeze-up.
- If you have a cell phone, keep the battery charged and keep it with you whenever traveling. If you should become stranded, you will be able to call for help, advising rescuers of your location.
- Always make sure that someone knows your travel plans.

Drive Safely

The leading cause of death and injuries during winter storms is transportation accidents. Before getting behind the wheel this winter season, follow these tips to keep you and your family safe while traveling:

- ◆ Keep vehicles clear of ice and snow. Good vision is a key to good driving.
- ◆ Plan your stops and keep more distance between cars.
- ◆ Be extra alert. Remember, snowdrifts can hide smaller children.
- ◆ Always match your speed to the road and weather conditions.

Trapped in a Car

Here are some tips to follow should a blizzard trap you on the road:

- ◆ Stay in your car and wait for help to find you.
- ◆ Run your engine for short periods of time to stay warm. Keep your down-wind window open and make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of snow.
- ◆ Turn on the dome light at night when you are running the engine to signal rescuers.
- ◆ Hang a brightly colored piece of cloth or piece of clothing from your car.
- ◆ Exercise from time to time by vigorously moving arms, legs, fingers, and toes to keep blood circulating and to keep warm.

Chief Scott Smith

Village of Schoolcraft **2023 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 3, 2023
- January 16, 2023
- February 6, 2023
- February 20, 2023
- March 6, 2023
- March 20, 2023
- April 3, 2023
- April 17, 2023
- May 1, 2023
- May 15, 2023
- June 5, 2023
- June 19, 2023
- July 3, 2023 **
- August 7, 2023 **
- September 5, 2023 *
- September 18, 2023
- October 2, 2023
- October 16, 2023
- November 6, 2023
- November 20, 2023
- December 4, 2023
- December 18, 2023

* 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

2023 Planning Commission Meetings

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

- January 9, 2023
- February 13, 2023
- March 13, 2023
- April 10, 2023
- May 8, 2023
- June 12, 2023
- July 10, 2023
- August 14, 2023
- September 11, 2023
- October 9, 2023
- November 13, 2023
- December 11, 2023

Accountability And Transparency

The 2022 Accountability and Transparency information for the Village of Schoolcraft is available for public viewing on our webpage at www.villageofschoolcraft.com or at the Village Municipal Complex, 442 N. Grand St., 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 20, 2023. TREES MUST BE PLACED OUT BY 7:00 A.M. ON JANUARY 20, 2023.

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. 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.

Schoolcraft Community Library

For Library activities and events please visit us at www.schoolcraftlibrary.org or visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/schoolcraftlibrary>

Annual Village Wide Garage Sales

May 19, 2023 9-4

May 20, 2023 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 18, 2023.

Village Spring Clean Up (Central Drop Off)

June 10, 2023

E. Clay Street (Across from Krum Recreation Center)
More information will be in the Spring 2023 Newsletter.

A big thank you to those who participated in the Matching Gift Card Program.

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

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

Winter 2023 Newsletter
Village of Schoolcraft
P.O. Box 8
Schoolcraft, MI 49087