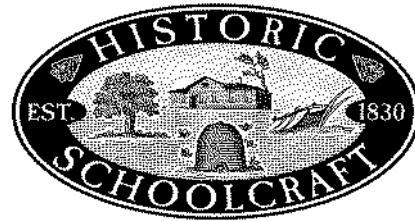


The Village of Schoolcraft

Summer 2009 Edition



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Village Official and Staff Directory

269-679-4304 Administrative Office

269-679-5600 Police Department

269-679-5658 DPW

President: Loren Warfield

Trustees: Russel Barnes

Scot Dailey

Keith Gunnett

Walt Mullin

Carl Tackett

Jim VanDyken

Manager: Cheri Lutz

Clerk/Treasurer: Faith Akert

Office Assistant: Theresa O'Leary

Police Chief: Bryan Campbell

Sergeant: Jamie Edwards

Officers: Matt Britton

Mark Mellinger

Jim Day

Mark Stoneburner

Auxiliary Officers: Mary Secondi

Larry Schwabauer

DPW Super: Gordon Shaw

Asst. Super: Rob Coffman

A Message from the Village President



On January 5, 2009, The Village Council adopted a *Local Preference Policy*. The Village Council and the Village Staff recognize the importance of supporting our local business community whenever possible. We know that dollars that are spent locally circulates more money and revenue in the community.

As a result of this *Local Preference Policy*, the Village of Schoolcraft has transferred several of their business accounts to Village of Schoolcraft businesses.

Please think about what you can do to support our local community by doing your business right here in Schoolcraft. Not only will you save time and money, your support will also help our business community stay strong and vibrant during these tough economic times.

2009 QUARTERLY MEETING CALENDAR

Village Council

7:00 p.m. Village Hall

July 6, August 3, September 8, 2009.

Planning Commission

7:00 p.m. Village Hall

July 13, August 10, September 14, 2009

Downtown Development Authority

8:00 a.m. Village Hall

August 5, 2009

From the Desk of the Village Manager.....

The Village of Schoolcraft has been busy this summer preparing for a number of events and projects. We started the warm months off with our Village Wide Garage Sale Days with over 40 households participating. Dates for the 2010 Garage Sales are set for April 16th and 17th. Although the Village of Schoolcraft does not sponsor this event, we are happy to provide information and maps to the public and publish the event one time in the Commercial Express. You may also place an advertisement for your garage sale in a paper of your choice.

We hope that you participate in the 84th Annual Independence Day Celebration which promises to host a wide variety of events and activities. This event is made possible through the work and dedication of the 4th of July Committee. While participating in the day's activities, be sure to take a look at the decorative 4th of July Banners in the downtown area which were purchased by the DDA.

The Park Committee has been meeting to review and select playground equipment for Burch Park. The committee has agreed on a design concept, and will be contacting other companies for competitive bidding. Installation of the equipment will be a community install, and we anticipate installation in late summer or early fall.

Two major projects will be taking place during the months of mid-August through mid-November. One project which has been identified as a high priority in our Capital Improvement Plan for the Water Department will be the upgrade of the Water Main on Eliza Street from Grand to Centre. The purpose of the replacement will be to upgrade from a 4" to an 8" Water Main to increase water pressure and fire flow protection. Work will begin on this project in mid-August and will be completed by the end of August.

The next project will be reconstruction of Eliza Street from 14th Street to the west Village limits. The scope of the project includes rotomill and overlay, road reconstruction, drainage structures and improved ditching in certain areas, installation of new sidewalk on the south side of Eliza Street in certain locations, installation of a guard rail on the south side near the west Village limits, and the addition of a turn lane from Centre to Grand Street. The Village of Schoolcraft received \$220,000.00 for this project as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, signed by President Obama on March 3, 2009. Bids for this project will be let on September 3, 2009, with work commencing in late September. For those residents residing on Eliza Street, additional information will be sent as it becomes available.

As you can see, there are a lot of good things happening here in Schoolcraft. As always, please give me a call if you have any questions.

Cheri M. Lutz
Village Manager





Schoolcraft Police Department

Fireworks Laws

The following devices are legal:

- Flat paper caps containing not more than .25 of a grain of explosive content per cap.
- Toy pistols, toy cannons, toy canes, toy trick noise makers and toy guns in which paper caps are used.
- Sparklers containing no more than .0125 pounds of burning portion per sparkler.
- Flitter sparklers in paper tubes not exceeding 1/8 inch in diameter.
- Cone and cylinder fountains (emits showers of sparks).
- Toy snakes not containing mercury and packed no more than 12 per box.
- Toy smoke devices.

The following devices are illegal (this list is not all-inclusive): MISDEMEANOR OFFENSE

- **Cherry Bomb:** Looks like a small red sphere approx. 1" in diameter.
- **Comet (or Mine):** A cylinder containing a star and attached to a wooden base. Upon ignition the star is thrust 50-100 feet in the air and continues to glow as it slowly falls to the ground.
- **Firecracker:** A little noise making cylinder up to 1.5" in length, often strung together by fuse.
- **M-80:** Up to 2" in length, the M-80 is usually a red cylinder with a fuse coming out the side.
- **Bottle Rockets:** A cylinder, frequently topped by a cone to stabilize its flight, attached to a long stick.
- **Roman Candles:** A 6-12" tube containing alternating layers of compacted black powder that shoot single stars out of the top when lighted.
- **Silver Salute (M-100):** A silver cylinder with a fuse coming out of the side containing large quantities of flash powder.
- **M-250 and M-1000 (quarter-stick):** They look like larger versions of the M-80 and M-100 and have extremely high risk factors for crippling and disfiguring injuries.

Noise and Dog Issues

The village ordinance does not allow for dogs to run at large. Dogs must be confined or on a leash when outside and off of their property. There has been an increase in complaints relating to barking dogs. The village ordinance regarding noise specifically addresses noise related to animals and prohibits prolonged and frequent barking of dogs. Feces left by a dog must be picked up by the owner when left somewhere other than the owner's property. Noise, particularly music, cannot be louder than necessary for persons in the residence to hear it. While barking dogs may not bother you, it does bother your neighbors, so please be respectful of their right to peace and quiet by not letting your dog bark, and by keeping noise levels to a minimum including music and power equipment.

Violations of Noise and Dog Ordinances are Municipal Civil Infractions with fines and cost associated to citations that are issued. Subsequent offenses increase both fines and costs.

Chief Bryan Campbell

bcampbell@villageofschoolcraft.com

BE CREATIVE AT THE LIBRARY 2009 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

The Schoolcraft Community Library will be hosting its annual summer reading program "BE CREATIVE AT THE LIBRARY". We hope that you will join us for a very fun and exciting time at the library this summer. Please note that the Monday programs require pre-registration and have some age restrictions. Our Wednesday programs are generally for all ages and do not require pre-registration.

Date	Time	Program
July 1	11:00 a.m.	Magic Show with Jim Merrill. Open to all ages.
July 2	2:00 p.m.	Teens - Produce a Poem in Pairs with magazines and magnetic words.
July 6	1:00 p.m.	Talent Show /auditions - 1st Grade and up - Pre-registration required.
July 8	11:00 a.m.	Miss Nettie - Storytelling at its best!
July 9	2:00 p.m.	Teens Coffee Art. Create a picture using coffee. Pre-registration required.
July 13	10:00 a.m. Session 1 11:00 a.m. Session 2	Creative Dance Workshop with Jane Crawford. Learn and perform a Hip-hop dance. Ages 4-6 Pre-registration required. Creative Dance Workshop. Learn a Musical Theatre Dance. Ages 7-10. Pre-registration required.
July 14	10:00 a.m.	Preschool Scavenger Hunt. Ages 3-5 years. No siblings please. Pre-registration required.
July 15	11:00 a.m.	Rock n' Roll into Reading. An interactive 1950's concert for all ages.
July 20	11:00 a.m.	Talent Show.
July 22	11:00 a.m.	Ventriloquist Keith Haddrill returns to entertain and amaze us. All ages.
July 23	5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Ice Cream Social. Ice cream sundaes, raffle, kids games, cake walk, and dunk tank.
July 27	11:00 a.m.	Creative Drama. Robin Nott will lead children through the creative experience of dramatizing a piece of literature. Ages 7 and up. Pre-registration required.
July 28	11:00 a.m.	Fancy Nancy Tea. Dress up and come and make a "fancy hat" to wear. Drink punch, eat some cookies, learn some fancy words and have a fun time.
July 30	7 - 8:30 p.m.	Wii Fun. Pizza, pop and fun. Pre-registration.
August 5	1:00 p.m.	Summer Reading Party at Burch Park.
August 6	2:00 p.m.	Teen Reading Party.

Do you have a home or business improvement project planned?

If you are planning on making improvements to your home or business this year whether it be new construction, an addition, installation of a fence, a new sign, or any other number of improvements, please be sure to contact Associated Government Services at 1-800-627-2801 before starting your project to assure compliance with our Zoning Ordinance.

**Village of Schoolcraft
2009 Village Taxes**

Summer Taxes for Village residents may be paid at the Schoolcraft Township Hall located at 50 E. VW Ave. Vicksburg, MI between the hours of 9-4 Monday through Thursday. Call 649-1276 for summer office hours.

September 14, 2009, is the last day to pay taxes without penalty.

**MOBILE SECRETARY OF
STATE COMING SOON**

The mobile unit offers the
Following services:

- Drivers licenses
- Personal ID cards.
- License plates and tabs
- Title and registration of vehicles
and watercraft
- Register to vote

Drop in and renew up to six months
early without penalty.

WHEN: Sept. 16 - 11 am to 7 pm
Sept. 17 - 9 am to 4 pm

WHERE: Village of Schoolcraft
Municipal Complex
442 N. Grand St.
Schoolcraft, MI

Water Bills

From time to time, we hear comments from our water customers stating that they did not receive a water bill

Water bills are mailed on or near the following dates:

March 1

June 1

September 1

December 1

If you have not received a water bill near the scheduled mailing date call the Village Office to have another bill sent to you.

**Important News About the Village of
Schoolcraft Election
To be held on September 15, 2009**

August 17, 2009 is the last day to register to vote for the Village Election.

August 26, 2009 Absentee Ballots available at the Village of Schoolcraft Municipal Complex.

September 15, 2009 Election Day at the Ken Krum Center, 519 E. Clay Street from 7:00 a.m. To 8:00 p.m.

**THE VILLAGE OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED ON FRIDAY, JULY 3RD FOR
THE 4TH OF JULY
HOLIDAY**

A few friendly reminders.....

- All property owners are reminded that it is your responsibility to maintain the grassy area between the sidewalk and the paved portion of the road.
- The Village of Schoolcraft offers recycling to **Village residents** on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 8 am to 5 pm.
- For those of you who wish to pay your water bill after hours, a drop box is located next to the main entrance doors at the Municipal Complex.
- The Village of Schoolcraft does not permit Structures in the Right of Way. If you have decorative pots, stones, or other decorative items, please remove them . Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.
- The Village of Schoolcraft does allow recreational burning in approved containers. Please call the Administrative Office for additional information.



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD HOUSE

The Nathan Thomas Home also known as the Underground Railroad House will be open to visitors without charge at the conclusion of the 4th of July Parade.

Guides from the Schoolcraft Historical Society will be available to conduct tours and explain the history of the home which was built in 1835, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the U.S. Park Service Network of Freedom

MEDICATION DISPOSAL EVENT COMING SOON

Kalamazoo County Health and Human Services Department will be sponsoring an "Unwanted Medication Collection Event on Saturday, September 19, 2009, at a *location to be determined*.

This collection event provided free of charge to Kalamazoo County residents will allow for the safe disposal of unwanted or out-of-date prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines.

The following items will be accepted:

- Prescription medications, including antibiotics, birth control pills and insulin
- Medication samples.
- Over-the-counter medicines such as ibuprofen, aspirin, cold medications.
- Personal care products such as lotions and shampoos.
- Veterinary medications.
- Vitamins and supplements.

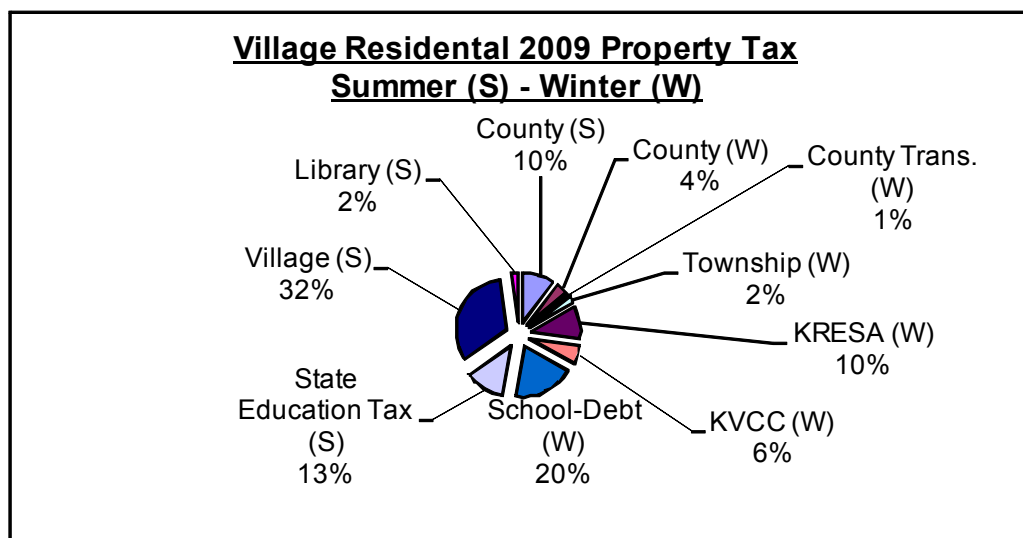
The following items will not be accepted:

- Medical sharps or syringes.
- Mercury containing products (thermometers).
- I.V. Bags.
- Infectious waste.

Please be sure to leave all medications in their original containers and leave the name of medication on the bottle. Be sure to scratch out personal information that may be on the bottle. Place medication containers into a zip-lock bag for safe transport to the collection site.

For additional information including site location, please call Cindy at the Kalamazoo County Hazardous Waste Center 269-383-8752.

For your information, the pie chart below illustrates the distribution of your annual taxes. The Village of Schoolcraft receives 32% of the taxes that you pay. With these taxes, we manage the day to day operations of the village including 24 hour police protection, installation of new and replacement sidewalks, fire protection, a full range of DPW services, and much more.



NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM THE DPW

Brush pick up takes place on the last Monday of each month through the month of October. Please do not place your brush at the curb until the Wednesday before the pick up day.

We continue our program of changing out water meters to upgrade our system. Once you have received notification regarding a meter change, please call us to get scheduled right away. It only takes a few minutes and there is no charge to you.

The Village of Schoolcraft would like to remind property owners to keep any and all shrubbery trimmed back so it does not obstruct the sidewalks.

The DPW thanks all of you for doing your part in keeping the streets and sidewalks clean and clear from obstruction.

Best Wishes for a Safe 4th of July!

The Village of Schoolcraft
PO Box 8
Schoolcraft MI 49087

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