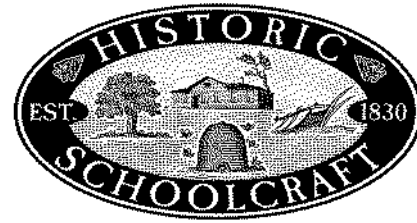


# The Village of Schoolcraft

Winter 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

John Keith

Jim Day

Auxiliary Officers: Mary Secondi

Larry Schwabauer

DPW Super: Gordon Shaw

Asst. Super: Rob Coffman

## A Message from the Village President



The past year has been filled with anxiety and apprehension with the unstable economy, soaring gas prices, instability of the stock market, and worries about what the future holds. We are all hopeful that 2009 will be a year of positive changes and opportunities.

In spite of these difficult times, we are encouraged by the fact that our business community is active and healthy, and that a number of shopping opportunities are available right here in Schoolcraft.

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

On behalf of the Village of Schoolcraft, I wish you all a Happy New Year.

## 2009 QUARTERLY MEETING CALENDAR

### Village Council

7:00 p.m. Village Hall

January 5, 19 February 2, 16, March 2, 16.

### Planning Commission

7:00 p.m. Village Hall

January 12, February 9, March 9.

### Downtown Development Authority

8:00 a.m. Village Hall

January 8, February 5, March 5.

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

With the Holiday Seasons behind us, the Village of Schoolcraft will begin looking at a number of projects for the new year. The Village Council will be considering a number of possibilities ranging from sidewalk construction, road projects, park equipment upgrades, water main upgrades, and a bi-annual Special Hazardous Waste Drop Off Program to be held in late April 2009.

The Village staff is busy working on preparation of the new 2009-2010 Fiscal Year Budget, completion of the Capital Improvement Plan for Equipment, Buildings , and other major capital improvement items.

The Village of Schoolcraft is pleased to offer many fine programs and services to our residents, such as 24 hour police and fire protection, snow removal from Village sidewalks and roads, annual Village Wide clean up, recycling, leaf pick up, and much more. We continue to look at other programs and opportunities for our residents, and would appreciate hearing any comments or suggestions that you may have.

The Planning Commission has been working diligently to update our zoning ordinances to benefit both our residential and business community. Soon, the entire zoning ordinance will be available online for your convenience.

I have heard many positive comments from businesses who participated in the Annual Christmas Walk. They were delighted with the turnout, and are very thankful for the support of their many customers and friends.

Best wishes to all of you for a Happy New Year.

*Cheri M. Futz*  
*Village Manager*





# 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 or two-way radio available for your use, 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.

bcampbell@villageofschoolcraft.com

*Chief Bryan Campbell*



## Snow Removal

State and Local Ordinance Prohibits the plowing of snow into or across the roadway and/or sidewalks.

This ordinance is for vehicular and pedestrian safety.

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

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated by our winter walkers.

## HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING

Village of Schoolcraft offers *Household Recycling* to Village Residents on the fourth Wednesday of each month. This widely used program benefits our residents and helps to support our environment through the proper disposal of recyclable materials.

*Businesses* who wish to recycle may take their recyclables to the Best Way Transfer Station located at 2606 Miller Road between the hours of 8-5 Monday through Friday, and Saturday between the hours of 8 am to noon.

This service is *free of charge* and is for recyclable materials only. You may contact Brandy at Best Way at 269-388-3300 for additional information.

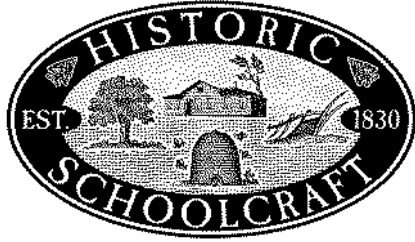
## Emergency Outdoor Warning

The Village of Schoolcraft has just completed installation of a Federal 2001 Emergency System. This remote controlled, state of the art system is a high power rotating siren, and will provide maximum coverage for the Village of Schoolcraft.

The siren will be tested on the first Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m. During the test, you will hear the siren for one continuous minute.

In an actual emergency, the siren will sound for three continuous minutes. The siren will NOT sound an all clear sound.





ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

## VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT 2009 COUNCIL MEETINGS

January 5, 2009  
January 19, 2009  
February 2, 2009  
February 16, 2009  
March 2, 2009  
March 16, 2009  
April 6, 2009  
April 20, 2009  
May 4, 2009  
May 18, 2009  
June 1, 2009  
June 15, 2009  
July 6, 2009  
August 3, 2009  
September 8, 2009 (Tuesday)  
September 21, 2009  
October 5, 2009  
October 19, 2009  
November 2, 2009  
November 16, 2009  
December 7, 2009  
December 21, 2009

Meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month in the Village Hall at 7:00 p.m. Except during the months of July and August when meetings are held on the first Monday of each month.

## VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT 2009 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

January 12, 2009  
February 9, 2009  
March 9, 2009  
April 13, 2009  
May 11, 2009  
June 8, 2009  
July 13, 2009  
August 10, 2009  
September 14, 2009  
October 12, 2009  
November 9, 2009  
December 14, 2009

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. In the Village Hall.

## VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT 2009 DDA MEETINGS

January 8, 2009	July 2, 2009
February 5, 2009	August 6, 2009
March 5, 2009	September 3, 2009
April 2, 2009	October 1, 2009
May 7, 2009	November 5, 2009
June 4, 2009	December 3, 2009

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00 a.m. In the Village Hall.

## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLCRAFT COMMUNITY LIBRARY

**BROWN BAG STORYHOUR**---A special storyhour for students in Young Fives and Kindergarten will be held on the following dates: January 14, February 11, March 11, April 15 and May 13. This storyhour runs from 11:10 to 11:50 A.M. Students are to bring a brown bag lunch, drink (NO RED OR PURPLE DRINKS PLEASE), a smile and good listening ears. ☺

**TOT TIME:** This storyhour is a one on one experience for children ages 18 to 36 months and a parent/grandparent. TOT Time will be held on Wednesdays, February 18 thru March 11, 2009 from 9:30-10:30 A.M. This hour consists of 20-25 minutes of stories and songs and fingerplays and ends with 30-35 minutes of free play and socialization for the children and their parents. Pre-registration is required and space is limited, so call the library today at 679-5959 and reserve a spot for yourself and your child.

**BATTLE OF THE BOOKS 2009**---15<sup>th</sup> Annual Battle of the Books will be held at the Schoolcraft High School PAC on Saturday, February 14 beginning at 10 A.M. Teams of students in, 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades, from Schoolcraft, Vicksburg and Parchment will be "battling" against one another to see who knows the most about the 2008-2009 "Battle books". Come watch these students dazzle you with their knowledge as they fight to reach first the Semi Final battles later in the day and then the Grand Battle on Thursday, February 19 at the PAC at 7 P.M.

**IDENTITY THEFT SEMINARS**---Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America and the Schoolcraft Community Library will be offering two seminars to help you learn how to protect yourself from this crime. These seminars will be held at the library on Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 P.M. or on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 2 P.M. The seminars are free and about 1 hour in length and will be presented by Western & Southern Life. Materials will be provided to help you assess your risk potential and to help you change behaviors to protect you from becoming a victim. Please call today and reserve a spot in this very important and timely seminar. It could save you hundreds of dollars. 679-5959.

## Schoolcraft Schools Are On The Move

In an effort to reduce both cost and carbon footprint, Schoolcraft Schools is exploring greater energy efficiency and wind power. An Energy Consortium made up of several Kalamazoo County schools (Portage, Climax-Scotts, Galesburg-Augusta, KRESA and Schoolcraft) will be meeting with business partner, Energy Education, to learn ways to reduce energy usage. In concert with this mission, the district is also investigating the feasibility of installing a wind turbine as a source of electrical power. Much research related to proper siting, wind assessment, and return on investment is needed to determine the project's viability.

## South County Community Services Information for Jan. 2009 Schoolcraft Village Newsletter

**Lunch & Learn Series A** monthly program featuring topics of interest to adults. **FOURTH Wednesday, January 28, at noon. Our topic is: "OH My Aching Back"**

**Dr. Ken Franklin from Family Doctors of Vicksburg** will talk about the many causes of, and treatments available for, acute or chronic back pain.

The program starts with lunch from Senior Services at noon, followed by the free program at 12:30 PM. A donation of \$2.50 for persons 60 and older for the lunch is recommended. Under age 60, \$4. Lunch reservations should be made by 11:00 AM on Tuesday, January 27, for the Wednesday program. Call **649-2901, ext. 14, or tfranklin@sccs.us**. There is no charge to attend just Dr. Franklin's program. Please arrive by 12:20 PM to attend the program.

### **ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES COMING TO SOUTH COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES IN JANUARY!!!**

We are very excited to bring this wonderful, money-saving food program to the South County area!! SCCS is the coordinating agency, partnering with Vicksburg United Methodist Church (VUMC) as the monthly distribution site.

**There are no income or age requirements to participate! Anyone who eats qualifies!** This is a FABULOUS program for seniors, college students and any families that want to stretch their grocery budget.

**For just \$30 you will get \$60 worth of food!!** You must order in person AND PAY in advance (cash, money order or food stamps/Bridge Card accepted; no personal checks). Your Angel Food box will be delivered to the Vicksburg United Methodist Church. You must pick up your order on the designated Saturday during distribution hours. There are no refunds for unclaimed orders. Call SCCS at 649-2901 or visit our website, [www.sccs.us](http://www.sccs.us), for more information.

**THE TAX MAN COMETH!** April 15 will be here before you know it! **Free**, basic income tax assistance is available for individuals or families with income less than \$42,000 for the 2008 tax year. All returns are done by IRS-certified volunteers and are e-filed. Call the 2-1-1 Helpline or go online at [www.gryphon.org](http://www.gryphon.org) and click on tax calendar for the nearest Kalamazoo County locations, times and a list of what documents to bring. Sponsored by: Kalamazoo County Tax Counseling Initiative.



The Village of  
Schoolcraft wishes all  
of you a Happy New  
Year.



## *News You Can Use From the DPW*

The Village of Schoolcraft is responsible for snow removal on sidewalks. Please be reminded that state and local ordinance prohibits plowing snow into or across the road and please be sure that your vehicle is not parked across any sidewalk at any time of the year.



The Department of Public Works will be picking up Christmas Trees through January 30, 2009.

Just place your tree in the right-of-way, and we will pick them up throughout the month of January.

*The DPW Thanks You for Your Cooperation  
and Wishes you a Happy New Year.*

The Village of Schoolcraft  
PO Box 8  
Schoolcraft MI 49087

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