

FALL 2023



Bridgman

COMMUNITY BUZZ

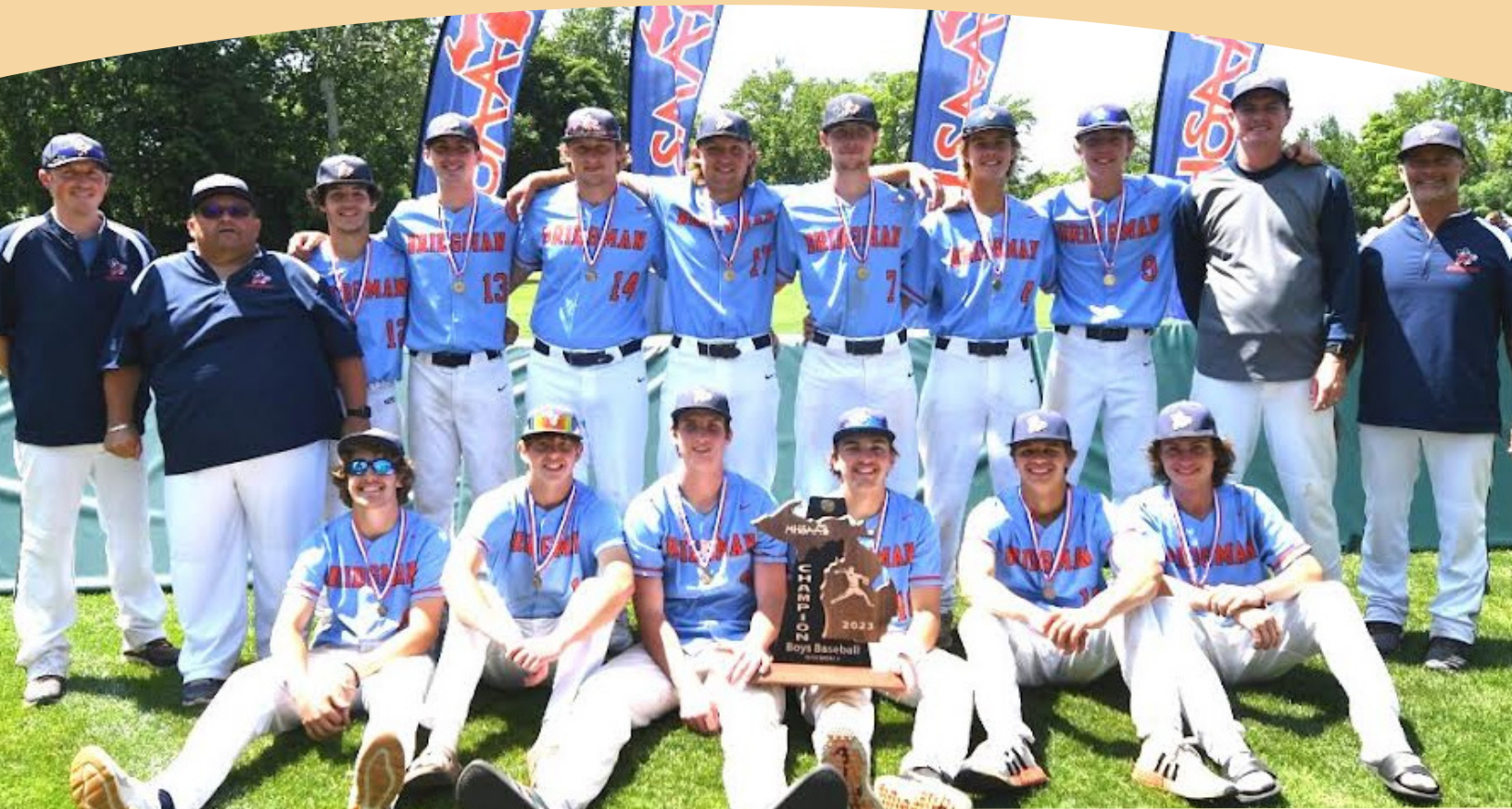


PHOTO COURTESY OF: Pamela Mabry

One community working together to serve you better.

In a joint effort with the City of Bridgman, Lake Township, Bridgman Public Library, and Bridgman Public Schools, we present this community newsletter.

We hope you find it informative and useful.



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Superintendent News from Superintendent Shane Peters

Dear Bridgman Families
and Residents,

Welcome to the beginning of another exciting school year! This marks a time filled with hope and boundless opportunities. It's a moment for growth, knowledge acquisition and forging meaningful connections. As the educators and staff of Bridgman Public Schools, we are dedicated to cultivating a nurturing atmosphere that empowers each student to flourish and achieve their utmost potential. Together, let's embark on this journey of discovery and create a memorable year of learning and new friendships.

This year, we have exciting plans and initiatives in place to enhance the educational experience and ensure that each student's unique strengths and talents are nurtured. Our dedicated teachers have been working diligently to design engaging lessons and opportunities that will inspire creativity, critical thinking and a love for learning.

Bridgman Public Schools would like to thank Mrs. Andrea Countess for her 21 years of service as a high school English Language Arts teacher at Bridgman High School. As Mrs. Countess embarks on her next journey, we extend our warmest wishes for a future with joy, success and fulfillment.

This summer, we hired four talented people to join our BPS family. The one common thing that we continue to learn through the hiring process is that Bridgman Public Schools continues to be a destination district for employees. Here are our new employees and their assignments:

- **Mrs. Tracy Becker** – BHS English Language Arts Teacher
- **Ms. Kimberly Betustak** – BHS District Social Worker
- **Mrs. Tanya Paveza** – BES Paraprofessional
- **Mrs. Kelley Weich** – BES Paraprofessional

We are excited to announce a significant addition to our school community for the upcoming school year. As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a safe and secure learning environment, we are introducing a **School Resource Officer (SRO) program**. Officer Wyman from the City of Bridgman Police Department will be joining us as the designated SRO, bringing with him experience in law enforcement and the school community. The primary focus of the SRO will be to enhance school safety and promote a positive and supportive environment for all students and staff. Officer Wyman will work collaboratively with school administrators, faculty and staff to address safety concerns, provide guidance on various issues affecting our students' well-being and educate students about law enforcement topics in a friendly and approachable manner.



Central Administration Office
9964 Gast Road
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The District continues to believe that education is a partnership between the school, parents and the community. Together, we can create a supportive and inclusive environment where our students can flourish academically, socially and emotionally. We encourage you to be actively involved in your child's education, attend school events and participate in parent-teacher conferences.

In addition to our traditional academic curriculum, we will continue to offer a wide range of extracurricular activities and clubs. These opportunities are essential for building character, fostering teamwork and allowing students to explore their interests beyond the classroom.

As we look forward to the school year ahead, we are grateful for the unwavering support of our community. Your trust in us to provide a quality education is both humbling and inspiring, and we are committed to upholding the high standards you expect from Bridgman Public Schools. We invite you to stay connected with us throughout the year through our district newsletter, website and social media channels. These platforms will keep you informed about important updates, events and achievements within our district.

There are **several support staff employment opportunities within our district**. If you would like to be part of our organization, please visit our website at BridgmanSchools.com and click on the Department, Human Resources tab to apply.

As always, don't hesitate to contact me if you have a concern or would like additional information about what is happening in the Bridgman Public Schools.

Once again, welcome back to school! Let us work together to make this year a memorable and transformative one for all our students. We are excited to witness their growth, successes and bright futures.

The strength of our community is our schools and the strength of our schools is our community.

Go Bees!

Shane M. Peters, Superintendent

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BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Bridgman High School News from Principal Gerald Heath

Our first day of school was Monday, August 28. I am thrilled to start the new school year and hope you are too!

SO MUCH TO CELEBRATE!



PHOTO COURTESY OF Dave Johnson
Harbor Country News

Bridgman High School had a lot to celebrate last spring. We are excited to announce that the class of 2024 achieved a mean score of 1127 on the SAT test. In March, the boys basketball team learned that they were named Academic All-State 1st place in Division 3 with an average team GPA of 3.77. The baseball team capped off the school year with a MHSAA State Championship beating Algonac (7-1) in the state finals at Michigan State University.

THE SUMMER BUZZ

The high school was full of activity over the summer! The Spirit of Bridgman Marching Band conducted their overnight band camp at Tower Hill. The fall sports season began with football, sideline cheer, cross country, boys soccer, volleyball, girls swimming/diving and boys tennis practices.

During summer break, our custodial and maintenance team dedicated countless hours to deep cleaning, completing minor building repairs and preparing the building for instruction. I am pleased to announce the renovation of a few of the high school walkways including the Athletic/Auditorium entrance where a handicap accessible ramp was added.



A SPECIAL GOODBYE

Please join me in extending best wishes to Bridgman High School staff members that moved on this past school year: **Andrea Countess** accepted an English teaching position at Lakeshore High School after spending the last 21 years at Bridgman. Last December, **Keri Haskins**, former high school counselor, accepted a position at Neighbor to Neighbor. Around the same time, **Dawn Amsler** retired after serving as a Bridgman Special Education teacher for the last few years.

WELCOME NEW STAFF

In July, **Tracy Becker** accepted the high school English teaching position. Mrs. Becker received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Education with an emphasis in German and English from Hope College in 2004 and her Master of Arts in English from Western Michigan University in 2013. For 15 years, Tracy served as a high school English teacher at St. Joseph High School. During her time there, she taught English for grades 10-12, including a college writing course and Honors English 11. From 2005-2008, she taught as a German and English teacher at Logansport High School. In 2004-2005, she traveled to Germany where she spent the year assisting teachers in English as a Second Language classrooms. We are excited that Tracy has decided to come home to Bridgman as she is a class of 2000 graduate.

Kimberly Betustak accepted the high school social worker position. Ms. Betustak received her bachelor's degree at Valparaiso University and a master's degree

at Indiana Wesleyan University with distinction in Social Work. Kimberly recently was a school social worker at Brandywine Community Schools.

Last December, the district hired **Ann Geraci** to serve as a high school special education teacher. Mrs. Geraci received her Bachelor of Science degree in English with an emphasis in Learning Disabilities in 2002 and her Masters of Arts in English in 2015 from Governors State University in Illinois. For 10 years, Ann served as a middle school teacher at Columbia Central School in Illinois. During her time there, she taught in the English department for 9 years and the Special Education department for one year. From 2015 - 2018, she taught courses as an adjunct instructor at Governors State University. In 2019, Ann's husband retired and they made the decision to move to southwest Michigan. After moving to the area, she accepted a position at Eau Claire where she has worked in the English and Special Education departments at the middle and high school.

Additionally last school year, **Linda Sanford** accepted the high school counselor position. Mrs. Sanford received her Bachelor of Science degree in Community Health from University of Illinois in 2001 and her Master of Arts in School Counseling from Concordia University in 2013. From 2016 to 2021, Linda served as the high school counselor at Andrews Academy in Berrien Springs. She most recently served as the high school counselor at 21st Century Charter School in Indiana. Linda has experience outside of education serving as a program director/counselor at Family Rescue in Chicago for 12 years. She is currently working on her doctorate in educational psychology.



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

High School News continued...

STAY INFORMED

The beginning of every academic year is always a busy time. For up-to-date information, please visit our facebook page or view our website at BridgmanSchools.com, then click on the “high school” link. Once on the BHS page, please refer to

the helpful links on the left side. The site features our daily announcements, a calendar for school and athletics events and student information. As always, feel free to reach out to me at any time by calling 269-465-6848 or emailing me at gheath@bridgmanschools.com.

Gerald Heath, High School Principal

Save the Date!

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

By attending parent/teacher conferences, you can stay informed about your child’s education and become an active participant in their learning journey. It also shows your child that you value their education and are invested in their success. We hope to see you there!

ELEMENTARY

November 8 & 9
4 - 7 P.M.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

November 7 & 9
4 - 7 P.M.

HIGH SCHOOL

November 6 & 9
4 - 7 P.M.



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BRIDGMAN
AQUATIC CENTER

Come for a swim and see what all the BUZZZ is about!

The community pool has something for everyone! If you are a senior (62 years or older) and reside in Lake Township or the City of Bridgman, ALL of our classes are FREE. You can find detailed information on all of our classes, schedules, rentals, swim teams, lap swim and more on our website.

GIRLS CO-OP HIGH SCHOOL SWIM & DIVE TEAM SCHEDULE

Home meets are listed in orange.

Saturday, Aug 19 – Lakeview Relays

Tuesday, Aug 22 – Kalamazoo Central

Tuesday, Aug 29 – Portage Northern 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept 12 – Battle Creek Central

Tuesday, Sept 19 – Battle Creek Lakeview 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept 26 – Loy Norrix 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct 3 – Mattawan 6 p.m.

October 6 & 7 – MISCA at Calvin University

Tuesday, Oct 10 – Portage Central

Saturday, Oct 21 – St. Joe/Coldwater 11 a.m.

Nov 3 & 4 – Conference Prelims/Finals; Portage Central

Nov 17 & 18 – State Finals Prelims/Finals; Calvin University

The Bridgman Co-Op includes students from Berrien Springs, Bridgman, Buchanan, Lakeshore, New Buffalo, Niles and Our Lady of the Lake. **Come cheer on the team!**

KIDS SWIM LESSONS

The next session starts Monday, September 18. Register online beginning September 11. Classes are held Mondays and Wednesdays.

POOL PARTIES!

Are you looking for a great idea for a birthday party? Look no further than renting the pool! Available on Saturdays from 3-4 p.m. your group will have exclusive use of the pool. Enjoy your cake and treats in the balcony too. For details and to reserve your date email bgerman@bridgmanschools.com

BRIDGMANPOOL.COM



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



F.C. Reed Middle School News from Principal John Truesdell

Dear Community Members,

It's impossible to not be energized by the potential of the 2023 - 2024 school

year! Classrooms are buzzing with activity, fall sports are underway in the crisp evening sunlight, and the mission of F.C. Reed Middle School continues to challenge our faculty to ensure all students acquire the social, emotional, and academic skills that are needed to excel in high school and reach their fullest potential.

In preparation for the upcoming school year, we were busy upgrading the school facilities and participating in numerous professional learning opportunities to support our organizational goals. We have also expanded our program and service capabilities in the area of mental health, which will empower the staff to better support all members of our learning community.

When students and families return in the fall, they will quickly recognize a transformational project at the heart of their school. Over the summer months, **the courtyard had over 1,200 wheelbarrows of weeds, gravel and debris removed.** Once cleared, the site was then leveled, engineered to properly drain water and then thousands of gallons of fresh concrete were poured. This project will pave the way for a new

outdoor classroom and garden that is over 1,600 square feet in area! Picnic tables, shade umbrellas, and vegetation beds, which will be cared for by the RMS Garden Club, will soon follow to create a new, vibrant gathering space. While outdoors, it's important to note that the space will also be very secure thanks to its fully enclosed perimeter in the building. I look forward to sharing more updates with you all as the year progresses.

While summer is a time for wellness and restoration, **RMS teachers invested heavily in professional learning during the summer months.** A number of teachers voluntarily went above and beyond and attended out-of-state conferences and/or completed courses related to STEM facilitation, computer science, evidence-based writing, student motivation, cooperative learning, instructional coaching and special education de-escalation techniques. These efforts illustrate how our faculty continues to prioritize our children by modeling what it looks like to be a lifelong learner. Further, it highlights their dedication to facilitating a student-centered learning process that is engaging, empathetic and rigorous for all middle schoolers.

Finally, I am thrilled to announce that we have **dramatically expanded our mental health support capabilities** by increasing licensed social worker services from 1.5 days a week to 5 days a week.



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BEFORE & IN-PROGRESS of the Middle School Courtyard. Picnic tables, umbrellas and plants coming soon!



This shift will give our student population access to both a full-time school counselor (Mrs. Fast) and a full-time social worker (Mrs. Cooper). The expansion will also allow RMS to implement a premier, comprehensive mental health program that will be a leading model across southwest Michigan. Expanded programming will help more students and parents/guardians have the resources, tools, and services needed to create resilient learners, which is critical in middle school.

As a community, it is our collective responsibility to prepare and support students for lifelong learning. As a new year starts, our faculty looks forward to partnering with all stakeholders to continue to improve our environments, practices, and services to meet the needs of all families.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me any time at jtruesdell@bridgmanschools.com if you have any questions or would like to learn more about F.C. Reed Middle School.

John Truesdell, Middle School Principal —————



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Strengthening Relationships at Bridgman Elementary School

by Principal Lori Graves

All humans are hardwired to connect. Just as we need food, shelter and clothing, human beings also need strong and meaningful relationships to thrive. In order to enhance the relationships at Bridgman Elementary, our staff will be implementing **Restorative Practices** during the 2023-24 school year. Restorative Practices is a field within the social sciences that studies how to strengthen relationships between individuals as well as social connections within communities.

The foundation of Restorative Practices is that the power of relationships guides behavior. When we feel a part of a supportive community, we respect others in that community and become accountable to it. Restorative Practices value student empowerment and this empowers students to develop intrinsic motivation to make good decisions and form positive relationships.

Bridgman Elementary school will begin to foster this sense of community through daily classroom circles. Circles help students better understand each other, inspiring a sense of empathy and connection. It helps students gain practice in talking with one another in a respectful and honest way. Teachers and staff will create a safe place where students can connect

and explore challenges. Practicing having a good conversation allows for better communication when there is some sort of difficulty or conflict.



In conjunction with Restorative Practices, Bridgman Elementary will be implementing **TRAILS social and emotional curriculum**. TRAILS was founded by the University of Michigan in order to equip schools with training materials to address the social and emotional wellbeing of students. The TRAILS program helps all students develop life skills they need to thrive. TRAILS will teach students to engage in academic learning while fostering such qualities as respect, empathy and self-awareness.



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 Bridgman, MI 49106
 Ph: 269-466-0241
 Fax: 269-466-0248

PLEASE GIVE A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF

Tonya Paveza will be working with the early childhood teachers to support students. Tonya spent many years volunteering at BES and is looking forward to working for a school with such amazing staff and students. Tonya lives in Bridgman with her husband and three children. She enjoys spending time at her children's sporting events and being outside.

Kelley Weich will be working with the Special Education staff supporting students. She is looking forward to working for a school that is like a close family. Kelley is eager to be part of the Bridgman Bee team! She lives in Bridgman with her husband and two children. Kelley enjoys spending time with family, being outdoors, swimming and running.

Lori Graves, Elementary School Principal

Great news!

MICHIGAN SAYS YES TO UNIVERSAL FREE MEALS

ALL students Pre-K through 12 will have access to free breakfast and lunch every day!

We strongly encourage all parents/guardians to still fill out the free and reduced lunch application in your back-to-school packet or online at [Bridgman.familyportal.cloud](https://bridgman.familyportal.cloud).

This information helps the district receive grant and funding opportunities including the Free Summer Meals Program.

Qualifying student benefits include opportunities for reduced athletic fees, discounts on internet and waivers for college applications and admissions tests.





BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence

from the Chairman, Al Barker

A new exciting school year is upon us with this BUZZ!! The Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence (BFEE) has approved the project grant budget for another productive year ahead. BPS administration, faculty and students will collaborate with BFEE on 2023/2024 project grants that will make an educational difference for students and our community! To maintain our readiness, we're always looking for volunteers to join our ranks. Your service will support our vision to "Inspire students to positively impact their world."

The Foundation Trustees are community volunteers who experience a sense of satisfaction from the success stories told by Bridgman Public School students and their teachers. Once you get involved, the time spent at Board meetings and event planning sessions becomes insignificant after you receive the first story that produces a smile! If interested in becoming a Board Trustee, please share your desire through our website at: BridgmanFoundation.org under the volunteer tab.

BFEE requires grant recipients to provide their feedback on the award outcome through an evaluation form to the project committee. I want to share a summary of the feedback received on the BFEE

\$5,000 grant to support the DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC). The question/feedback I am highlighting is "what impact has your project had on Bridgman students, your colleagues, Bridgman schools and/or the Bridgman community at large?"

The students who participated on this trip said they are more confident now and enjoyed being in a business setting and having casual conversations with other people from across the country. They said this experience "bettered" their presentation skills and made them more independent as far as managing their schedule. They also take pride in our school. A couple of students said this created more awareness for their project topic, like drunk driving, and one student actually started their own business based on their business plan. A parent/chaperone noted that it was amazing to see DECA full circle at the ICDC competition. I did not know there were categories for scholarships that kids could apply directly with companies in their field of interest. I did not know the amount of work involved to write a paper and land on that stage and be competitive. The number of students competing at such a high level is impressive.

As noted by the DECA grant feedback, the BFEE Trustees can gain a feeling of satisfaction by being



part of the BPS commitment to student success. What makes the DECA grant and all other grants possible is our community, the willingness to donate funds, to give time and to believe in our vision to “inspire students to positively impact their world.”

Al Barker, BFEE Chairman



Bridgman Foundation
for Educational Excellence

BRIDGMAN ATHLETICS

Cash, Card & Mobile Payments are now available for all High School and Middle School athletic events!

2023–2024 TICKET PRICES

- High School events
Adult/Student Tickets \$6.00
- Middle School events
Adult/Student Tickets \$4.00
- Senior Citizens (65 years +) Free
- Current Bridgman High School Students
Free admission for all home district athletic events
- Current Bridgman Middle & Elementary School Students
Free admission for all home district athletic events **IF** accompanied by a parent/guardian.
- Family Passes are available for \$30.

GO FAN

FOR TICKETS GO TO
gofan.co/app/school/MI4085



Download on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google Play



CITY OF BRIDGMAN



City of Bridgman News from the City Manager, Juan Ganum

The Weko Beach and Campground Facebook page is getting a lot of traffic!

As of August, the page had over 12,000 followers and 11,000 likes. These numbers are equivalent to about five times the total population of Bridgman! In comparison, the City's other Facebook pages for its fire and police departments have about 1,500 and 2,500 followers, respectively.

The City's aim is to utilize its social media accounts to provide timely, accurate and useful information to residents, visitors and business owners. Although Bridgman does not have a social media coordinator as in other cities, its fire chief, police chief, parks and recreation director, city manager and other employees have contributed to the sharing of information for the benefit of the community. We each strive to communicate clearly and effectively so that residents, our primary constituents, are kept apprised of the issues that are most likely to concern them. These matters include public improvement project schedules (e.g. Lake Street Project, Toth Park Playground Project, Bridgman Courtyard), safety precautions (e.g. Weko Beach red flag conditions, flooding) or event information (Weko Beach Summer Concert Series, Makers Trail Festival), among others.

Our administration is currently reviewing its approach to the use of social media in an effort to communicate more effectively. We realize that residents are hungry for information and eager to have relevant and timely news or items of local interest. Additionally, we understand that residents may have questions or seek clarification about something they have read or heard, whether from the City or otherwise. To establish a more open, transparent and constructive relationship with the community, we will review our processes for acknowledging and responding to your inquiries. We want our residents to have the best information available so they can be properly informed and well connected. To that end, please look for improvements and changes to Bridgman's social media presence in the coming months.

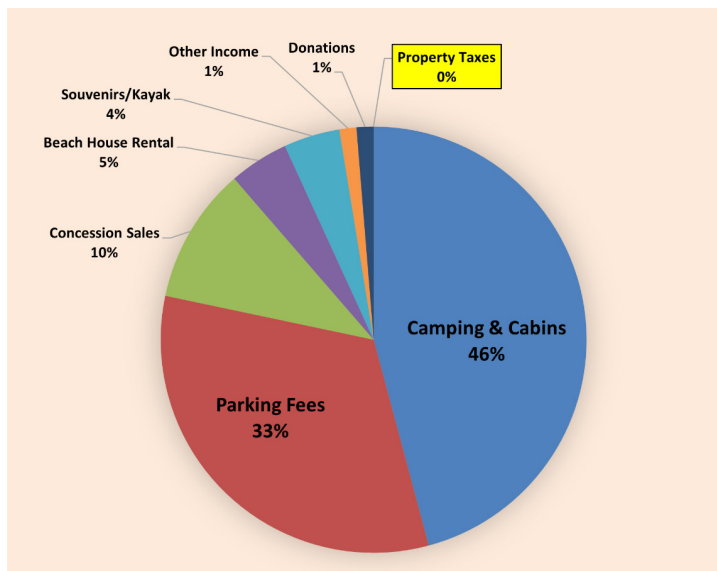
To highlight our aim of being more communicative, the information in the chart is in response to a number of comments that have been posted to the Weko Beach and Campground Facebook page over the years, regarding Bridgman's parks and recreation funding structure.

A common misconception is that the City's General Fund, which is supported by property tax dollars, is used to pay for parks and recreation costs. In many cities that is indeed the case, but Bridgman has the advantage of having several revenue generating sources, such as the campground, daily and seasonal beach parking, beach house rental, concessions and



kayak rental. These sources collectively generated over \$740,000 during our most recent budget year (FY 2023). This significant inflow of funding means that the City does not divert a single dollar from its General Fund to cover any parks and recreation related costs, including those in non-revenue generating parks, such as Toth Park.

WEKO BEACH & CAMPGROUND REVENUE BREAKDOWN



The benefit of having a revenue generating governmental operation (called an enterprise fund) is that General Fund dollars (again, mostly local property tax dollars) are saved, while quality of life investments can still be made. By way of example, the Bridgman City Council directed over \$200,000 from the City's parks and recreation funds to develop a new play structure in Toth Park. Without park funds the City Council would not have the financial latitude to direct such a large amount from the General Fund.

If you have questions about Bridgman parks, please contact Sara Ball, Parks and Recreation Director at 269-465-5144 or sball@bridgman.org.

Juan Ganum, City Manager



PROPERTY TAXES DUE

The 2023 summer tax bills are due September 14 by 5 p.m. to avoid penalties. Be sure to leave ample time if paying by mail (postmarks are not accepted).

Please review the payment amount written on your check and verify the amount being paid is the amount written on the check. We often receive checks with numeric amounts that do not match what is written!

Several ways to make your payment:

By mail – post marks are not accepted

Drop box – inside City Hall's vestibule and drive-up drop box

In person – Monday-Thursday
8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or Friday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Online – Bridgman.org

Questions: 269-465-5144 ext. 103



CITY OF BRIDGMAN



Upcoming Election Changes in the State of Michigan

from the City Clerk, Sheila Reitz

Hello Bridgman residents!

As the 2024 election season approaches, we are on the brink of witnessing significant changes to the electoral process in the state of Michigan. These changes aim to enhance voter accessibility, ensure the integrity of our democracy and strengthen our collective voice.

The cornerstone of a healthy democracy is ensuring that every eligible citizen has the opportunity to cast their ballot. The upcoming election changes in Michigan are committed to expanding voter accessibility. To achieve this, the state is implementing measures required by the passage of Proposal 2022-02.

The implementation of early voting will allow voters to cast their ballots at an early voting site beginning the second Saturday before a state or federal election and ending the Sunday before the election. Furthermore, increased early voting opportunities will offer citizens more choices and reduce long lines at polling stations on Election Day.

Ensuring the security and transparency of our elections is paramount. The election changes in Michigan are designed to safeguard the integrity of our electoral process, promoting confidence and trust

among voters. Additionally, post-election audits will become more transparent, further bolstering the public's trust in our democratic system.

You may learn more about Early Voting by visiting the Secretary of State's Early Voting webpage at: Michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/early-in-person-voting.

Every vote matters, and by exercising our democratic rights, we can collectively shape the future of Michigan.

THE PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT LIST

If a resident would like to be added to the permanent absentee ballot list (AB list) please contact City Clerk, Sheila Reitz, at 269-465-5144, ext. 102.

As always, if you have any questions about your eligibility to vote or the voting process in the City of Bridgman, please call me at 269-465-5144 or email me at sreitz@bridgman.org.

Sheila Reitz, City Clerk





For any inquiries or concerns regarding the hydrant flushing schedule, please contact the Water Department at 269-465-5407 or email amottl@bridgman.org.

Routine Hydrant Flushing

October 2 - 6

The Water Department will be systematically flushing water through fire hydrants throughout Bridgman.

You may experience some temporary effects in your water supply during this period, including:

Changes in water color: The water may appear discolored or cloudy. This is due to the disturbance of naturally occurring minerals in the pipes. Although disconcerting, the water remains safe to use. Running the cold water tap for a few minutes should clear up the discoloration. Please avoid using hot water until the cold water runs clear.

Changes in water pressure: These fluctuations should be brief and will normalize once the process is complete.

Important Precautions

1. Prior to the scheduled flushing, we recommend storing some water for essential use to minimize any inconvenience during the procedure.
2. Avoid doing laundry during the hours when hydrant flushing is taking place in your area to prevent any staining of clothes due to the temporary water discoloration.
3. If you encounter any persistent water quality issues after the flushing period, please contact the Water Department immediately.

Thank you for your understanding.

AJ Mottl, Operator in Charge, City of Bridgman Water Department



CITY OF BRIDGMAN

Shoreline Resiliency Committee News

The Greater Bridgman Shoreline Resiliency Committee (SRC) is hosting another Adopt-a-Beach Clean-Up Event at Weko Beach to coincide with The Alliance for the Great Lakes Day of Action when thousands of volunteers on all five lakes will be cleaning up shorelines as part of the International Coastal Cleanup. This September marks 20 years of litter data collection for The Alliance and the second time this year that Bridgman has contributed to the effort. More than 13 pounds of litter were collected in 30 minutes on Weko Beach during the SRC's Earth Day Event. Every piece was tallied and entered into a huge Great Lakes dataset that was shared with the Ocean Conservancy to become part of global data set that shines a spotlight on the plastic pollution reaching alarming levels in the lakes.

More than 11 million pounds of plastics enter Lake Michigan every year, according to statistics displayed in *"The Blue Paradox"* exhibit now running at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry. Not only are microplastics being found in beer made with Great Lakes Water, recent studies have them showing up in the human bloodstream and lower respiratory tract. The average person could be ingesting a credit card's worth each week. Although American Marine Biologist Sylvia Earle has noted that we are at a tipping point, she maintains that "we still have the opportunity to tip things back in the right direction if we act now."

Join the committee in taking action at Weko Beach, where volunteers will have the opportunity to hear Deputy Executive Director and Senior Planner for the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, Marcy Hamilton speaking about other pollution risks (they are not just plastics!) to our local water resources. The Great Lakes contain 84 percent of North America's fresh water and provide drinking water for more than 40 million people. She says **everyone can and needs to play a role in improving and protecting our creeks, rivers, lakes, wetlands and Lake Michigan**. She will highlight some specific projects to improve water quality in our area.

The SRC is planning to use funds received from the Creating a Culture of Resilience Capacity Building Grant awarded through The Michigan Department of Great Lakes and Energy's (EGLE) Water Resource Division to hire a zoning ordinance consultant to review options identified in Goal 17 of Bridgman's 2019 Master Plan. Consultants' proposals were requested by August 22nd. Meanwhile, the committee continues its collaboration with Michigan State University's Citizen Science Coastal-Change Monitoring Program, which began in Bridgman on Earth Day 2023. Local aviation expert Gary Blied sent his latest drone videos to the Coastal Processes and Geomorphology Lab in MSU's Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences in August and Dr. Ethan Theuerkauf, who founded the monitoring program



More than 11 million pounds of plastics enter Lake Michigan every year.

Adopt-a-Beach **CLEAN-UP DAY** at Weko Beach

SEPTEMBER 23
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.



Free parking. Light refreshments provided. Volunteers will receive a refillable water bottle. Advance registration is encouraged. Just scan the QR code.



in order to identify vulnerable shorelines where resiliency could be bolstered, is scheduled to speak at the 2024 Weko Beach Earth Day Event.

The SRC was formed in response to the city's participation in The Coastal Leadership Academy created by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's

Coastal Management Program and the Michigan Association of Planning. "The goal," says SRC chairman Gene Schoon, "is to learn all we can about what affects shoreline resiliency to help the community make the best decisions possible." More information about the committee is available on the Bridgman City website.



CITY OF BRIDGMAN

Property Maintenance Codes

from the Zoning Administrator, Brad Mattner

In the spring of 2023 the City of Bridgman adopted the most current version of the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC). The IPMC is a set of regulations and standards developed by the International Code Council (ICC) to govern the maintenance and upkeep of existing buildings and properties. The IPMC is adopted and enforced by many local governments around the world to ensure that properties are adequately maintained, promoting public health, safety, and welfare. Here are some key reasons highlighting the importance of the International Property Maintenance Code:

- 1. Public Health and Safety:** The IPMC establishes minimum maintenance standards for buildings and properties, addressing issues like structural integrity, sanitation, ventilation, fire safety, and other factors that can directly impact the health and safety of occupants and the surrounding community.
- 2. Property Preservation:** By setting standards for property maintenance, the IPMC helps preserve buildings and structures over time. Proper maintenance can extend the life of a property, preventing decay and deterioration and reducing the need for costly repairs or replacements.
- 3. Neighborhood and Community Improvement:** The IPMC plays a crucial role in improving the overall appearance and condition of neighborhoods and communities. By ensuring that properties are well-maintained and aesthetically pleasing, the code helps create a sense of pride in the community and can attract potential investors and residents.
- 4. Preventing Blight and Neglect:** Neglected or abandoned properties can become sources of blight, attracting crime, lowering property values, and negatively affecting the overall neighborhood. The IPMC helps prevent blight by requiring property owners to maintain their buildings and landscapes adequately.
- 5. Tenant and Resident Protection:** For rental properties, the IPMC often includes provisions that protect tenants and residents from substandard living conditions. It can address issues like heating, ventilation, sanitation, and pest control, ensuring that tenants have safe and habitable living spaces.
- 6. Legal and Insurance Compliance:** Compliance with the IPMC is often a legal requirement in many jurisdictions. Property owners must adhere to these regulations to avoid fines, penalties and potential legal liabilities. Additionally, insurance companies may consider the level of compliance with the code when determining coverage and premiums.



7. Emergency Preparedness: Proper maintenance of buildings can play a vital role in emergency preparedness. Well-maintained properties are less likely to pose safety hazards during natural disasters or emergencies, making it easier for occupants to evacuate or for emergency responders to access the premises.

8. Uniformity and Consistency: The IPMC provides a standardized set of regulations that promote uniformity and consistency in property maintenance practices. This ensures that all properties within a jurisdiction are held to the same minimum standards, regardless of property type or location.

Remember, taking pride in your property doesn't mean you have to do everything yourself. It's about being proactive in addressing maintenance needs, seeking professional help when necessary and making conscious efforts to improve and beautify your space. When you take pride in your property, you are investing in your own well-being, creating a positive atmosphere for yourself and others and making a lasting impact on your community and future generations.

For answers to building and zoning related questions, please contact Brad Mattner, Building Official and Zoning Administrator at 269-465-5144 ext. 109.



SATURDAY, SEPT. 16 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.

Silver Beach County Park

101 Broad Street, St. Joseph

Accepting: Household chemicals, electronics (some fees apply), foam/polystyrene

SATURDAY, OCT. 7 8 A.M. - 12 P.M.

Southeast Berrien County Landfill

3200 Chamberlain Road, Buchanan

Accepting: Household chemicals, electronics (some fees apply), foam/polystyrene, personal documents for on-site shredding

For details visit: berriencounty.org/564/Berrien-County-Community-Recycling-Event

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

September 21	5:30 p.m.
October 19	5:30 p.m.
November 16	5:30 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

September 5	6:30 p.m.
October 2	6:30 p.m.
November 13	6:30 p.m.



CITY OF BRIDGMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT



We are pleased to announce that through a collaborative effort with the Bridgman Public Schools to enhance school safety, we introduce our very first **School Resource Officer (SRO), David Wyman.**



SRO DAVID WYMAN

Officer Wyman will be serving as our dedicated SRO and will be stationed at all of the Bridgman Public Schools at various times during school hours.

Officer Wyman brings his extensive law enforcement experience and a passion for working with young people to create a safer and more positive learning environment. The SRO program aims to foster positive relationships between law enforcement and students while enhancing safety and security on campus.

We believe that Officer Wyman will play a vital role in building trust and bridging the gap between law enforcement and the students at Bridgman Public Schools.

Our goal is to create an environment where everyone feels safe, respected, and supported.

Please join us in welcoming SRO Wyman to our school community. If you have any questions or would like to get to know him better, feel free to reach out to the main office of any of the three Bridgman Public Schools.

Thank you!

Chief Dan Unruh

VACATION HOME & PROPERTY CHECKS

Don't forget that as part of our commitment to ensuring the safety and security of our community, we are pleased to provide property checks of our residents' homes while out of town or on vacation.

If you plan to be away from your home for more than a few days, kindly register for the home checks service by filling out the form available by visiting our station in person.





facebook.com/bridgmanpd

BRIDGMAN.ORG

9765 Maple Street
Bridgman, MI 49106
269-465-5144

The Bridgman Police Department provides 24-hour coverage, along with certain services such as: vehicle lockouts, property checks, bank escorts, background checks and unwanted/expired medication disposal. We also have several dedicated part-time and reserve police officers available to assist us when needed.



School Bus Safety Tips for Drivers: Stop Means Stop!

The majority of bus-related deaths and injuries involve pedestrians - mostly children - who are struck by a bus or injured when they are exiting the bus to cross traffic.

- Slow down and prepare to stop when a slowing bus has its overhead yellow lights flashing.
- Stop at least 20 feet away from buses when red lights are flashing, unless driving in the opposite direction on a divided highway.
- Slow down in or near school and residential areas.
- Look for clues-such as safety patrols, crossing guards, bicycles and playgrounds that indicate children might be in the area.
- Watch for children between parked cars and other objects.





Advancing the Greater Bridgman Area: Summer Successes

President, John Bonkoske

With summer wrapping up, I am thrilled to share some of the exciting projects and events that the Greater

Bridgman Area Council for Growth & Advancement (CGA) spearheaded over the summer.

First, we celebrated the Bridgman Courtyard's ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony in June, which was met with a fantastic turnout, despite the rain. Your enthusiasm and resilience truly reflect the spirit of our community. Our sincere thanks to everyone who joined us or contributed to make this a memorable event.

We are *especially* proud to share that the **Courtyard project was named one of the top four finalists in the state for the Community Excellence Award from the Michigan Municipal League (MML).**

This is the most prestigious award from the MML! Excitement abounds as we cherish this recognition of our collaborative efforts in making a positive impact in our community. The story of the Courtyard will be presented to a statewide audience at the MML Convention this fall in Traverse City, where the winner will be selected. As a finalist, the Courtyard project will also be highlighted in a feature story in *The Review* magazine.

We also kicked off our **2nd Annual Courtyard Concerts**, held every Sunday afternoon throughout



CGA Vice President Julie Strating thanked everyone who was involved in transforming the Bridgman Courtyard at the ribbon cutting & dedication ceremony for the late Mark Hurray.

the summer. These concerts offered a chance to gather and appreciate an array of talented local musicians, from seasoned professionals to emerging artists.

A heartfelt thank you to our generous sponsors: Classic Catering and Events, Honor Credit Union, the Michigan Municipal League Foundation, and the Michigan Economic Development Association.

Finally, along with the support of the City of Bridgman and several business owners, we experimented with the launch of the **Bridgman Beach Bus**. Although we experienced an insurance setback during the July 4th holiday weekend, the service has been an overwhelming success. With up to 150 riders per day, we were able to relieve parking stress at Weko Beach while driving foot traffic back



to our local businesses. Your support has validated this initiative, and we are grateful for your enthusiasm.

These activities underscore the mission of the CGA: **promoting and growing our community through strategic economic development** in the City of Bridgman and Lake Charter Township. A thriving city and township have an inherent symbiotic relationship; the success of one directly influences the other. The unique dynamics of Bridgman and Lake Charter Township exemplify this. Our city's activity, from shopping to dining, benefits from the township's picturesque landscapes, agriculture and recreation, drawing residents and visitors alike. Simultaneously, the township thrives on the city's economic development, creating an environment that supports businesses and enhances the quality of life for our residents. Through the CGA's initiatives, we strive to foster this mutually

beneficial relationship, making the City of Bridgman and Lake Charter Township stronger, more vibrant, and better together. We have made great strides together, and your continuous support and involvement make it possible. Here's to a future where we continue to build and grow, ensuring the Greater Bridgman Area remains a vibrant and thriving community.

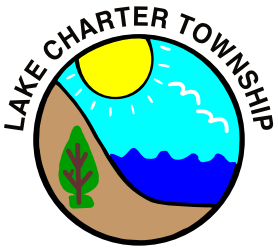
BUSINESS & BREWS MEETING

Thursday, September 28 at 5 p.m.
Tapistry Brewing

We invite all business and community leaders in Bridgman and Lake Township to join us! It's a fantastic opportunity to share ideas, collaborate, and learn more about our upcoming projects. Please RSVP at facebook.com/bridgmanarea and click on Events.

THE BRIDGMAN BEACH BUS AND THE TEAM WHO MADE IT HAPPEN (Left to Right: Bob Clark, Julie Strating, Kathy Ramso, John Bonkoske, Tara Heiser and Matt Schmidt)





LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



Township News from Supervisor, Zach Carson

Dear Township Residents,

With summer in full swing, our crews have been hard at work mowing and maintaining the sprinkler systems. As you may recall from my previous article, we're still striving to bring **broadband to our underserved residents**. Recently, the ROBIN grant was awarded to Midwest Energy & Communications (MEC), which could potentially provide high-speed broadband service to residents and businesses in Berrien County that currently lack access. We'll have more information on construction plans and schedules by early fall.

I recently attended the Michigan Township Association Conference, where I participated in several informative seminars. The **solar seminar** focused on building an ordinance that benefits both the community and solar energy companies, while still prioritizing safety, health, and welfare. The **road department seminar** provided valuable insights on fostering better relationships with local road departments. Additionally, the **fire seminars** touched on topics like electric car and battery fires, firefighter training rules and firefighter compensation. After attending these seminars and listening to the challenges faced by similar fire departments, I started exploring ways to enhance our fire service.

As our community continues to grow, we're looking for ways to reduce our wastewater volumes. **I urge all residents, if you have a sump pump, check to see where it is draining.** If it IS draining to the sanitary sewer, it is important to reroute it to the outside of your home. This will help alleviate strain on the Townships' sanitary sewer system during large rain events. When it rains heavily, water infiltrates basements and sump pump pits, which then gets sent into the sanitary line and overloads the system. By correcting this, you can help ease the system and avoid costly upgrades.

To check if your pump is connected to the sewer, follow the line and see if it's connected to the rest of the plumbing in your home. If you need assistance, reach out to a plumber who can help you find a solution to correctly route it to the outside of your home. Thank you for doing your part to help our community and protect our environment.

Zach Carson, Supervisor



3220 Shawnee
P.O. Box 818
Bridgman, MI 49106
Ph: 269-465-6601

Building & Zoning News

from Building Administrator, Rich Kubsch

Here we are heading into fall already! I'm excited to keep you up to date with the latest happenings from the Planning Commission. At their July meeting, they reviewed two applications, one for a **new winery** and another for an **extension of the Warren Dunes Mobile Home Park**. The proposed winery was approved and will produce and market their products on-site. It's always good to see support for new ventures, and there were neighbors in attendance who were in favor of the winery. The extension of the mobile home park was also approved and will increase the number of homes available by 54 units, which will be a relief for those in need of housing in the great community of Lake Township.

The Planning Commission is still working on zoning ordinances, but they have completed the Master Plan. It will be sent to the Township Board, the Berrien County Planning Commission and neighboring communities. It will also be available to local residents through a public hearing. I hope you will attend.

The Commission has also been assigned to create and recommend ordinances for **solar requests** (commercial and residential) and **home rentals**. At this point, the goal would be to regulate home rentals through registrations and inspections by a trained inspector from the fire department. Inspections will ensure normal home use safety and code compliance.

If you'd like to stay informed, feel free to attend a scheduled meeting. They're open to the public and posted on the Township's website, Lake-township.org.

Have a safe and happy fall, and know that Lake Charter Township is committed to keeping this community a great place to live, work and play!

Rich Kubsch, Building Administrator

LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Supervisor

Zach Carson

Treasurer

Bob Clark

Clerk

Gloria Payne

Building Admin

Rich Kubsch

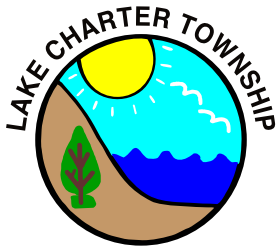
Water Superintendent

Jeff Burkhard

Find helpful info on our website including building forms, permits, zoning, tax assessments, forms, maps, online payments and more!

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETINGS

September 4	7 p.m.	September 14	7 p.m.
October 2	7 p.m.	October 12	7 p.m.
November 6	7 p.m.	November 9	7 p.m.



LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



Treasurer, Park & Trail News from Bob Clark

Our parks crew has had a *very* busy spring and summer!

We replaced a playground structure near the south pavilion and kids have really been enjoying it! Some slides were also replaced by the north pavilion that had deteriorated and were unsafe.

The **disc golf course** has been busy and the tournament held in June was a big success. The Third Coast Championship will be held September 9 and 10. Golfers from all over the Midwest are expected to play.

The **Bridgman / Lake Township Youth Soccer League** is looking forward to a great fall season and has over 200 youth registered already. This will push the total number of youths using the park for recreational sports to over 550!

The **pavilions** were booked consistently this year. Contact our office if you'd like to rent one or visit our website, Lake-Township.org for availability. Come out and enjoy a nice fall day at the park, there are still a few openings in September, and October is wide open. **We will start accepting 2024 reservations beginning on September 1.**

The park committee continues to work on improvements and they are already making plans for 2024 and beyond!

The **John Gast Memorial Trail** from the High School / Bridgman to Lake Township Park is still in the process of being evaluated for grant requests. We should receive an answer this fall. The engineering has been completed and we anticipate construction to begin next spring. This will give the schools and entire community a safe way to access the park. We are positive it will be a great improvement to our area *and* the first non-motorized trail in Lake Township. Thank you for your patience!

I am pleased to inform you that talks are continuing about a larger plan for trails in Berrien County that will connect communities, parks, existing trails, and the entire area together. The Friends of Berrien County has developed a County Master Plan that covers all trails in the area. This plan includes access from Warren Dunes State Park north to Bridgman / St. Joseph, and south to Sawyer / New Buffalo, among other areas. Some parts of the Linear Trail have already been completed on Red Arrow Highway south of Bridgman, and more are expected to be completed by 2024.

Bob Clark, Treasurer



3220 Shawnee
P.O. Box 818
Bridgman, MI 49106
Ph: 269-465-6601

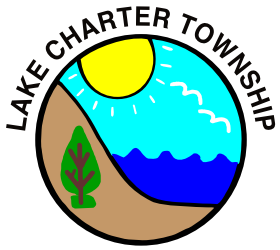


SUMMER TAX BILLS DUE



The 2023 summer tax bills are due September 14 by 5 p.m. to avoid penalties. Be sure to leave ample time if paying by mail (postmarks are not accepted).

We suggest looking your check over carefully for proper amounts and signature. We have had more taxpayers using our E-check payment option, credit card payments, and utilizing the on-line system to obtain tax and assessment information. The systems are very secure. The online payment system has been upgraded and is easy to use. Please visit [Lake-township.org](https://www.lake-township.org) for more information about these payment options. If you have any questions about your bill, assessment or other information please contact our office.



LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



Township Cemeteries Are Now Online from Gloria A. Payne, Township Clerk

Lake Charter Township owns and operates three cemeteries. Two are active and have sites available.

If you have questions, please feel free to email me at gpayne@lake-township.org or call 269-465-6601, ext. 111. I will be happy to assist you.

Gloria Payne, Clerk

Lake Charter Township Cemeteries are now online. Visit our website Lake-township.org, click on “Departments” and then “Cemetery” for more information. There you can also access a link to search for records of your loved one(s). There is also a spot for the Clerk to receive information that can be placed on a record as well. Fill it out and the Clerk will receive the update and post it online. Please allow a day or so for updates to appear.

Plots and columbarium niches are available at both cemeteries. Plots are priced based on resident status. Details can be found on our website.

Columbarium niches hold one or two cremains and are priced per niche. An opening and closing fee for EACH cremation will be charged. The plaque for the niche is \$300 and includes the names of the deceased and the year they deceased. The columbarium niche size is 11 1/4 x 11 1/4 x 11 1/4. When purchasing a cremains container, please choose a size that will fit in inside the niche.

If you are **purchasing over 10 cemetery plots**, your request will be addressed by the Lake Charter Township Board of Trustees.

GRACELAND CEMETERY

**4650 Red Arrow Highway
Bridgman, MI 49106**

It is the larger of the two cemeteries and is home to the Veterans’ Memorial.

GREENWOOD CEMETERY

**9301 Red Arrow Highway
Bridgman, MI 49106**



Save the Date!

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAYS

Dispose of everything from large, bulky items to everyday clutter.

LARGE & BULKY ITEMS

October 21 & 28, 2023
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Residents can pick up a voucher at the Lake Township Hall.

Take your items to Republic Services located at 7227 Reliable Path in Stevensville.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING & SHREDDING

October 21, 2023
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

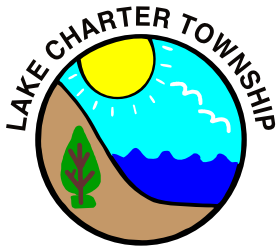
Bring anything with a cord and paper items that need to be securely shredded to Republic Services located at 7227 Reliable Path in Stevensville.



ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

Hazardous Waste (paint, oil, batteries, LED lights, tires, medical waste, refrigerators, freezers, AC units etc.)

Please call 269-465-6601 with questions.



LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Water System News from Jeff Burkhard

Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone had a great summer. As you know, the season started off hot and dry. It's incredible how much our water pumpage can shift after just one day of rainfall. You might be curious about how much water we produce on a hot, dry summer day. Well, we averaged 2.25 million gallons DAILY for the month of July, with a max of 2.94 million gallons. It will be interesting to see how we finish out the rest of summer; it all depends on how much rain we get. We are very fortunate to have such an abundant source of high-quality water to draw from.

I'd like to mention **two items of importance** that have to do with our distribution system. We mailed a letter to 120 select customers to gather information about your service line to your home. We need to update our records to comply with our regulatory agency's mandate created by the revision of the Environmental Protection Agency Lead & Copper rule. If you received one of these letters, please respond with the information as requested, or we will need to contact you for this information. The other item is our **residential cross-connection inspection program**. Watch your mail for an inspection date. Again, this is

WE AVERAGED
2.25 mil
GALLONS / DAY
IN JULY

another mandate that we must comply with. We began residential cross-connection inspections last year and will have completed all residential inspections by this fall. If you haven't been visited by Hydro Corp (the company that we contracted with), you can expect to have a representative stop by to conduct this **exterior inspection** soon. They will be looking at exterior faucets, lawn irrigation systems, and any condition that could create a cross-connection to the public water system. For example, you may have a backflow device on your lawn irrigation system, which must be tested periodically.

If you haven't visited our water system website, I would encourage you to do so at LakeCharterTownshipWater.org. The home page has a red tab to sign up for alerts. This can be helpful in an emergency or other unscheduled water outages. Whenever you pay your water bill or contact the township hall, please update your contact information in case we need to contact you.

We will begin working on our 2024 budget soon, and I would like to share some of the items we budget



for that you might not be aware of. You can imagine we have many pumps at the plant that process water and need to be rebuilt over time. We budget \$85,000 annually for pump repair and replacement. We operate a lab for bacteriological and water quality testing, for which we budgeted \$31,000. Chemical costs to treat the water have increased significantly (budgeted \$92,500). Electrical costs are budgeted at \$200,000. These amounts are just a few, and we have many expenses to maintain the treatment plant. Over time, equipment needs to be replaced because repair parts are no longer

available or the cost to repair exceeds the replacement value. Costs continue to rise, and we make every effort to be good stewards of the available funds.

If you have any questions, please email me at jburkhardtwater@lake-township.org or call me at 269-465-3850.

Jeff Burkhard, Superintendent Lake Charter Township Water System

WORK FOR WATER!

Are you looking for a rewarding career with good pay and the chance to give back to your community? A career in water offers the opportunity to deliver, clean and renew our world's most essential resource.

If you attend high school, chemistry, biology and math are three essential classes to take. Working at a municipal water treatment plant requires obtaining a certification from the state you choose to work in. When we have a position open, one of the first things we look for is this certification. Most of our current operators achieved this certification through on-the-job training and study at Lake Township.

Schedule a tour of the plant if you'd like to learn more!



CAREER PATHS IN WATER

- Water Resource Recovery
- Drinking Water Treatment
- Wastewater Collections
- Water Distribution
- Lab Technician



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY



A Letter from the Library by Sarah Skinner, Director

It's Back-to-School time here in beautiful Michigan!

Our community is full of pride since our Bees took the Baseball State Championship this summer! Congrats to all of the players and coaches for their hard work and dedication. Bridgman Public Library (BPL) is proud to help support Bridgman Public Schools with the educational and social needs of our students and will continue to foster a love of life-long learning.

BPL team members are looking forward to seeing you in the library this fall. Our programming team has been working diligently to bring you new and exciting program offerings. For the budding author, we are forming a writing club called **"The Scribbler Society."** This will give folks the opportunity to improve their writing skills while getting feedback from their peers. Someday we hope to have books by our club members on our shelves! If there are any amateur astronomers out there, be sure to come to Warren Dunes for our **"Explore the Night Sky"** program. Enjoy gazing at the stars with like-minded community members and learn more about our galaxy.

After a bit of a hiatus due to the pandemic, our annual **Family Halloween Party** is returning to the library this fall! Gather up all of your cutest ghouls

and goblins for an evening of family fun. There will be plenty of games, snacks and crafts. New to this year's party; spooky mini golf! Costumes are always optional but we encourage you to come dressed in your spine-chilling ensemble. If you are interested in volunteering to help at the Halloween party, please contact the library and ask Kyle for more information.

As always, thank you for your support of BPL. We value your opinion and welcome your feedback!

Kindest regards,

Sarah Skinner, Director

Change the Game.
**Donate Used & New
Golf Equipment
at Bridgman Library for**
first tee
OF BENTON HARBOR
firstteebentonharbor.org



ADULT PROGRAMS

Zoom links and additional information can be found on the library website at bridgmanlibrary.com.

SOCIAL SECURITY & WHEN TO TAKE IT

SEP 12 – 6 P.M.

Social Security can be complex. Doug Wall from Edwards Jones Investments will discuss important claiming strategies as they relate to retirement plans.

HOW TO DIRECT PUBLISH YOUR BOOK

SEP 14 – 6 P.M.

Local author, Marcy Blesy, will talk about her experiences with self-publishing and provide useful tips to navigate the Kindle Direct Publishing platform.

529 COLLEGE SAVINGS PLAN

OCT 10 – 6 P.M.

Edward Jones Financial Advisor, Doug Wall, will help you understand how college savings plans may impact federal financial aid and give you realistic expectations regarding financial aid eligibility.

HOLIDAY GIFTS FROM YOUR KITCHEN

NOV 6 – 6 P.M. *via Zoom*

Mary Spencer from Taste: A Cook's Place, will share deliciously easy DIY Holiday gifts you can make in your home kitchen.

UPCYCLED BOOK ANGEL

DEC 2 – 11 A.M.

Learn how to take an old book and upcycle it into a cute holiday angel. Limited spots available. Please register online or at the library.

HOURS

Mon – Thur

10 A.M. TO 8 P.M.

Friday

10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

Saturday

10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

Sunday

CLOSED

LIBRARY BOARD

President

Liz Bogue

Vice-President

Ed Valauskas

Secretary

Sue Collins

Treasurer

Jim Kole

Trustee

Rick Fuller

Trustee

Sue Janoskey

Trustee

Aaron Noll

Trustee

John Wilk

Trustee

Catherine Worcester



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

ON-GOING ADULT PROGRAMS

ARTPLAY FOR ADULTS

1ST WEDNESDAYS 6 P.M.

Explore different art processes every month in a relaxed environment. No art skills required.

Sep 6 *Mini Weaving*

Oct 4 *Fiber Art Dolls*

Nov 1 *Make a Still Life*

Dec 6 *Upcycled Holiday Cards*

MAKERS SPACE OPEN HOURS

**1ST THURSDAY & 3RD WEDNESDAY
OF THE MONTH 5 – 7 P.M.**

Drop in to work on your personal projects during open hours. 3D printing, Cricut, art supplies and more are available to use. See website for supply fees. 3D Printing Workshops will be 1st Thursdays and Craft Workshops will take place on 3rd Wednesdays.

Sep 20 *Sew a Quilt Square*

Oct 18 *Cricut Halloween Bunting*

Nov 15 *Crafty Bookmarks*

Dec 20 *Sewn Holiday Ornaments*

2ND WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP

5:30 P.M. In person

Books will be available one month before the meeting.

Sep 13 *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

Oct 11 *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards

Nov 8 *Autistic Brain* by Temple Grandin

Dec 13 *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou



SCRIBBLER SOCIETY

SEP 27, OCT 25, DEC 27 – 6 P.M.

Want feedback on your writing? The writer's group will meet in the Teen section of the library. Each session will begin with a writing prompt and end with an opportunity to share a written piece of your choosing. No November meeting. Ages 16+

KNIT N YARN

**MONDAYS, 1 – 3 P.M. AND
EVERY 3RD TUESDAY, 6 – 8 P.M.
SEP 19, OCT 17, NOV 21, DEC 19**

Join this social group to work on personal projects or to get help with a yarnning problem. Throughout the year, the group also creates items that are donated to local charities during the holidays.

VIP (VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS) BOOK GROUP

**SEP 28, OCT 26, NOV 21, DEC 28
11 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

Books are chosen at each meeting for the next month and come from the Braille and Talking Book Library.

ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH, 2 – 3 P.M.

Build a support system with people who understand.



ONE-ON-ONE TECH HELP

Call 269-465-3663



FAMILY PROGRAMS – ALL AGES

EXPLORE THE NIGHT SKY

SEP 23, 9 – 11 P.M. AT WARREN DUNES

Explore the night sky and see where science and wonder meet. Using telescopes to gaze at the moon and other planets, we will learn interesting facts about our galaxy. Please meet at Warren Dunes State Park.



**September 23rd 9-11pm
at Warren Dunes State Park**

HOW TO DO MAGIC

SEP 30 – 11 A.M.

Learn what magic is, how to do a few simple tricks and ways to work an audience.

HOW TO MAKE APPLE CIDER

OCT 26 – 6 P.M.

Learn how to make delicious homemade apple cider during this hands-on experience. Free samples for all!

PINECONE BIRDFEEDERS

DEC 5 – 5 P.M.

Grace Ball from Chikaming Open Lands will teach us how to make birdfeeders using pinecones.

D & D CLUB

SEP 13, OCT 11, NOV 8, DEC 13 4 – 6 P.M.

Learn how to make a character, be a Dungeon Master (DM) and play Dungeons & Dragons. Please bring a set of D & D dice. Ages 6+



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

YOUTH PROGRAMS



HALLOWEEN PARTY

OCT 12, 5-7 P.M.

Join us for an evening of Halloween fun. There will be games, snacks, crafts and spooky mini golf! Costumes are optional but encouraged. All ages.

MANDI'S ARACHNIDS

NOV 4, 11 A.M.

Join staff member Mandi, and a few of her arachnid friends, to learn more about local spiders. You may just overcome your fear of eight-legged creatures! All ages.

HANDS-ON SCIENCE: GROUND EFFECT VEHICLES

NOV 18, 10:30 A.M. – 12 P.M.

What is a Ground Effect Vehicle? How does the shape of a craft affect how it catches air? Learn all of this and more during this hands-on experience. Grades 1 – 7.

ON-GOING YOUTH PROGRAMS

EARLY LITERACY CLASSES

EVERY TUESDAY, ages 2 - 5

Toddler and Me 9:30 a.m. *and* 11:30 a.m.

Story Hour 10:30 a.m.

BABY & ME

EVERY WEDNESDAY, 10:30 A.M.

Enjoy 30 minutes of guided songs, movement and play with your little one. Newborn – 18 months.

LITTLE EXPLORERS

**SEP 8, 22, OCT 13, 27, NOV 10, 24, DEC 8, 22
10 A.M.**

Preschoolers will explore process art, sensory play and STEAM activities. Ages 2 – 5.

PAWSITIVE READING

**SEP 12, OCT 10, NOV 14, DEC 12
3:30 – 4:30 P.M.**

Young children can practice reading to Zuzu, the licensed therapy dog. Please call the library to reserve a 15-minute time slot. Grades K – 4.

**VISIT BRIDGMANLIBRARY.COM FOR
MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER!**





POKÉMON CARD LEAGUE

EVERY TUESDAY, 4 – 5 P.M.

Kids will gather to learn how to play the Pokémon card game, learn to build their own decks for the best advantages, and more! Bring a deck of Pokémon cards if you have them. Grades 1 – 5.

KIDS & TEENS COOK-OFF

1st and 3rd WEDNESDAYS

**SEP 6, 20, OCT 4, 18, NOV 1, 15, DEC 6, 20
4 – 5 P.M. *In person and via Zoom***

Part 1. Join Culinary Instructor Mary Spencer on Zoom for instruction on how to make that month's dish.

Part 2. Participants will then have the opportunity to show off their own culinary skills by creating the dish at home and bringing it to the library for a cook-off competition. Grades 5 – 12. See website for recipes and details.

TEEN PROGRAMS

SKETCH & HANG

EVERY THURSDAY, 4 P.M. BEGINS SEP 14

Ramp up your drawing skills! Staff member Katharine will pose drawing challenges and give technique encouragement. Participation is limited to 8 people. Sign up online.

GOOD TO KNOW!

DISPLAY CASE

If you would like to showcase a hobby or collection in our display case, please contact Mallory at bridgmanill@bridgmanlibrary.com or call 269-465-3663.

LIBRARY EMAIL NEWS

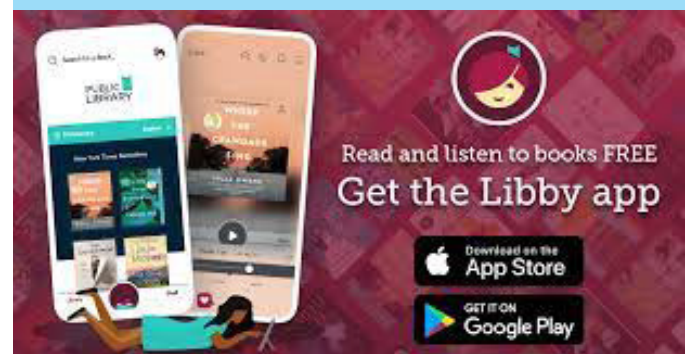
Stay in the know! Sign up to receive library emails on all of our upcoming programs and events. Register on the library website at bridgmanlibrary.com.



**FREE WIFI
ALL DAY, EVERYDAY**

**Sign-on to: BPL Public Wi-fi.
No password required.**

Available inside the library as well as outside on the library grounds.



9964 GAST ROAD, BRIDGMAN, MI 49106

bridgmanschools.com

Office: 269-465-5432

Fax: 269-466-0221

CITY OF BRIDGMAN 2023 FALL CLEANUP SCHEDULE

Bagged Leaves & Brush Pick-up are indicated in **GREEN** on the calendar. The city requires the use of biodegradable paper leaf bags. City workers will not pick up leaf bags made from any other material. Please limit to yard cleanup.

City workers will spend no more than 15 minutes at each property. If you have a large quantity of brush, arrangements can be made for you to haul the brush to the city composting site. Commercial tree removal/trimmings will not be picked up and should be disposed of by the tree service hired. Last day for the season will be November 20th. Service will resume April 2024

Leaf & brush burning within the city is prohibited

Curbside Leaf Pickup is indicated in **ORANGE** on the calendar. The leaf vacuum will begin on Mondays on the east side of the city and complete one pass per week through the city. Leaves must be raked to the roadside/curb. **To prevent flooding from leaves clogging the storm drains DO NOT rake leaves into roadways.**

Christmas Tree Pick Up – January 3 and 10, 2024 (weather permitting)

Large Trash Pick Up – September 13 & 20. Items not accepted include those larger than a refrigerator, tires, and construction material. Refrigerators and air conditioners must have the freon removed with a tag attached indicating as such. A complete list of accepted items is available on the city's website and at City Hall.

Republic Services also will pick up your extra-large items for a fee. To schedule such a pickup, call Republic Services at (269) 465-3773.

BAGGED LEAF & BRUSH WILL BE PICKED UP ON THE SAME DAY

SEPTEMBER

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOVEMBER

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



BAGGED LEAF & BRUSH PICKUP
CURBSIDE LEAF PICKUP
LARGE TRASH PICKUP

