

WINTER 2023



# Bridgman

COMMUNITY BUZZ



PHOTO of the Bridgman Public Library COURTESY OF: KATHARINE LION

## 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 M. Peters

Dear Bridgman Families and Residents,

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. As we reach the halfway point of yet another school year, our staff and students continue to experience numerous accomplishments and achievements in and out of the classroom.

### STUDENT SUCCESS

Earlier this fall, **Bridgman Elementary, F.C. Reed Middle School, and Bridgman High School all received an “A” grade from the Michigan Department of Education.** Our district continues to produce academically strong students, and provides competitive athletic programs and a quality performing, visual, and applied arts curriculum. Our students continue to score high on the State of Michigan assessments (M-Step and SAT). These scores have been consistently among the top in the county.

Late this fall, the district was fortunate to hire a second district social worker that will start at the beginning of the second semester. **Our district now has a certified school counselor in each building** and two district social workers who are able to assist students with their personal, emotional, social, and academic needs.

### SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

January is School Board Recognition Month - a time to salute the work of our school board members and to celebrate public education. Thank you to Eric Ramso, JoAnn DeMeulenaere, Tishia Roberts, Brad Owen, Wayne Hall, Nancy Hawley, and Tommy LaVanway who dedicate countless personal hours to ensure the needs of our community are met by our public schools. We salute the public servants of Bridgman Public Schools, whose dedication and civic responsibility make local control of public schools in our community possible. We applaud them for their vision and voice to prepare today’s students to be tomorrow’s leaders.

### AUDIT REPORT

**A recent annual audit of the District finances resulted in a clean opinion** being issued by our auditors, Kruggel and Lawton. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, the district added \$818,711 to its General Fund balance vs. a budgeted surplus of \$729,931. This resulted in a General Fund balance of \$4,034,679 which represents a healthy 29.89% of annual expenditures.

In the life of a school, the second half of the school year proves to be a busy time. A great way to stay



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informed about everything going on within Bridgman Public Schools is to visit our updated website at [BridgmanSchools.com](http://BridgmanSchools.com).

As always, don't hesitate to contact me if you have a concern or would like additional information regarding Bridgman Public Schools.

*The strength of our community continues to be our schools and the strength of our schools continues to be our community.*

**Go Bees!**

**Shane M. Peters, Superintendent**

**BRIDGMAN  
BOARD OF  
EDUCATION**

**President**

Eric Ramso

**Vice-President**

JoAnn  
DeMeulenaere

**Secretary**

Tishia Roberts

**Treasurer**

Brad Owen

**Trustee**

Wayne Hall

**Trustee**

Nancy Hawley

**Trustee**

Tom LaVanway

## Job Openings

There are several open job opportunities within our district. If you would like to be part of our organization, please visit [Bridgmanschools.com/human-resources](http://Bridgmanschools.com/human-resources) to learn more and apply.

- Speech & Language Pathologist (Full-time)
- Substitute Van Driver, Bus Driver, Custodian, and Food Service Workers
- Custodian (Full-time; 9 pm - 5 am)
- Custodian (Part-time)
- Elementary Special Education - One-to-One Paraprofessional
- Aquatic Center Senior Staff Positions



# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## Bridgman High School News from Principal Gerald Heath

As we prepare for frigid temperatures, we come to the end of an excellent first semester.

Keri Haskins, Bridgman High School Counselor, organized a fun and exciting College Month in October that included Mascot Mondays, door decorating, college visits, lunch games, and more! During this time, Mrs. Haskins also hosted a FAFSA informational session. **We would like to congratulate Brady and Nolan Roberts for receiving a Letter of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Program!** Our choir and band put on beautiful performances at their annual winter concerts. SADD Club sponsored the annual Red Ribbon Week. This year's national theme was "Celebrate Life. Live Drug Free".

During the first semester, students also participated in several experiences or opportunities. They include:

### BRIDGMAN MARCHING BAND

The Spirit of Bridgman Marching Band had a very successful season. The band started the year off with a 1st place finish at the Grand Haven Marching Invitational and received awards for best percussion, marching, music, and colorguard. They followed that performance up with a 2nd place finish at the

Hastings Marching Invitational including awards for best colorguard and drum majors. They earned a Division I Rating at the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Marching Band Festival. The band finished the year with their strongest performance at East Kentwood Marching Invitational. They earned 1st place including awards for best music, colorguard, and percussion. **On top of all of that, they brought home the highest score (85.8) earned in over 20 years!**

### COLLEGE CAMPUS VISIT & CAREER EXPLORATION

On October 21 and 27, interested students were given the opportunity to visit the campuses of Lake Michigan College and Southwestern Michigan College.

On December 6, the junior class visited Grand Valley State University. Students were able to tour the campus, listen to an admissions presentation, and eat lunch in a campus cafeteria. This visit gave students a taste of what campus life is like at a four-year university.

Hanson International made a visit to the high school on Thursday, December 8 to talk to students about careers in the skilled trades.

On October 28, the ninth and tenth graders took a trip to the Mendel Center for Career Pathway



Day. While there, students learned about career opportunities across Michigan's 6 Career Pathways and visited with local employers in each of the represented fields.

## PLASTICS ENGINEERING TRIP

Mr. Locke, BHS Chemistry teacher, organized a tour of the Plastics and Rubber Engineering programs at Ferris State University on November 4. Students were able to tour the educational facilities and learn about the many different types of careers and degrees supported in the Plastics Engineering Department.

## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The National Honor Society produced a video to honor local veterans. This video was shared with all students on Veteran's Day. NHS also hosted a food pantry drive to raise money for holiday meals for Bridgman Cares for families in need.

## DRAMA DEPARTMENT

"Shrek, The Musical" was selected as the production for this year's spring musical with performances from March 31 through April 2 at the BHS Performing Art Center. **The drama class will be hosting a murder mystery dessert theater on Friday, January 13 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, January 14 at 2 p.m.** This year's performance will take place in the BHS Media Center. The event will include dessert and a cash-only pie auction.

## INTERACT CLUB

On November 16, the Interact Club helped distribute food at the United Methodist Church in Stevensville. They collaborated with Lakeshore Interact Club members, church members and community participants to load cars with food items. The club also collaborated with other southwest Michigan club members at The Luminary Festival on November 18 in downtown St. Joseph to set out and pick up luminaries to kick off the Holiday season.

## KEY CLUB

Key Club Mental Health Awareness Week was the week of Monday, October 10 - Friday, October 14. The week of Mental Health Awareness is designed to bring attention to mental health and those who live with mental illness, encourage students to take care of their mental health, how to help others, and spread awareness to all. Mental Health is a very important aspect of our everyday lives. Taking care of ourselves helps us take care of others. Together, we can STOP THE STIGMA of mental illness as an invisible disease.

Club members handed out stickers and buttons as well as put up posters to make everyone aware. Students completed 'self-care sticky notes' in their English classes to share what activities they engage in for self-care. The notes were posted on the windows of the lunch room in the Commons to show and support Mental Health awareness. On Friday, they wore green to support Mental Health and also handed out donuts and cider. Mental Health is important to Key Club and I hope that it is important to everyone else, too.



# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## High School News cont.

Additionally, on Saturday, October 15, 10 Key Clubbers battled the wind and cold to help beautify Weko Beach and Campground after a busy summer.

### ART CLUB

The Art Club is in the planning stages to design a mural that will be located in the City of Bridgman Social District. More will be shared once project plans are in place. As of right now, they are working on a couple of small internal projects.

### ESPORTS TEAM

The Bridgman High School Esports team just finished their competitive 2022 fall league competing in both Valorant and Rocket League. Thirteen students participated in the Southwest Michigan Esports League's fall season, playing two games per week against schools across southwest Michigan from our own newly equipped lab. Wrapping up the fall season, our team sent 6 players to a tournament where they competed live and in person at Lake Michigan College's Upton Hall. Berrien RESA, Lake Michigan College, and Southwestern Michigan College provided the equipment and students were able to meet other players and recruiters from college Esports teams. We expect to see some new faces, and possibly new games as the spring season approaches. Some of our

students also volunteered to playtest the first iteration of a new hands-on learning experience on the iThrive Sim platform in partnership with Federal Emergency Management Agency Region VIII (FEMA). The goal of this game is "teaching teens to prepare for and respond to natural disasters".

### DECA

**Bridgman DECA is off to a great start this year with 87 student members, a record high membership!** DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in the areas of marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. Students have been practicing role plays and professional selling events in preparation for our district competition which will be held on January 20, 2023. Students in written events such as business plans, integrated marketing campaigns, project management, and business operations research projects have been doing research and have begun writing their papers. They also just completed their first big fundraiser - selling spirit wear in the Bridgman community.

It has been a busy first semester and we look forward to the second part of the school year. I hope everyone has a wonderful winter season!

***Gerald Heath, High School Principal***



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## The Community Pool is Open at the Bridgman Aquatic Center!

Come in for a refreshing swim in our warm, clean water, enjoy a long dry sauna on a snowy day or cheer on the co-op high school swim and dive team to victory! The Bridgman Aquatic Center has something for everyone.

### BOYS CO-OP HIGH SCHOOL SWIM & DIVE TEAM SCHEDULE

The Bridgman Co-Op includes students from Bridgman, Lakeshore, Niles, Our Lady of the Lakes (formerly LMC), and Berrien Springs. Come cheer on the team! Home meet dates (start time):

Thursday, January 12 vs. Battle Creek Central (6:30 pm)

Saturday, January 14 – Bridgman Invitational

Diving events begin at 9 am

Swimming events begin at 12noon

Thursday, February 2 vs. Mattawan (6 pm)

Tuesday, February 14 vs. Kalamazoo Central

SENIOR NIGHT (6 pm)



### SWIM LESSONS

The next session starts Wednesday, January 18. Register online at **BridgmanPool.com** beginning January 9.

### POOL PARTIES!

The best place to hold your birthday party? Why the Bridgman Aquatic Center, that's where! Jump off the diving board, shoot hoops with your buddy and race your Dad to the other end – all included in your rental. Reserve your Saturday 3-4 pm spot today which includes the use of the balcony for food and beverages and may be decorated for your party. Visit **BridgmanPool.com** for details.



# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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

Dear Community Members,

With its early sunsets and habitual lake effect snow storms, the winter

season is a good time to get cozy inside to reflect and express gratitude. Thank you for your ongoing trust and support. The staff at F.C. Reed Middle School is immensely grateful to live and work in a community that collaborates together to prepare all students for lifelong learning.

As the 2022 - 2023 school year continues, our faculty is proud of the academic growth that is developing at RMS. The Michigan Department of Education recently released the annual School Accountability Report Card for F.C. Reed Middle School and I am thrilled to report we received an “A” rating in Proficiency, an “A” rating in Growth, and an “A” rating in Performance Among Peers. Our middle school also scored “Significantly Above Average” in both the Student Subgroup Performance and Assessment Participation categories. This is the highest a school can score! The MDE’s recent ratings illustrate that RMS learners are well on their way to

being prepared for the many opportunities that await them at Bridgman High School and beyond.

The first semester of the 2022 - 2023 school year has been an exciting time for our extracurricular activities.

For example, this fall we began a new Garden Club for students in grades 5 - 8. During weekly meetings,

students learn the fundamental skills of gardening and study different types of flora. Additionally, the group is working on a multiphase

*“I am thrilled to report we received an “A” rating in Proficiency, an “A” rating in Growth, and an “A” rating in Performance Among Peers. We also scored “Significantly Above Average” in both the Student Subgroup Performance and Assessment Participation categories. This is the highest a school can score!”*

project to reimagine and repurpose the design and landscaping of the RMS courtyard. Under the leadership of Mrs. Smiertelny, students are working to transform the area into a green space that can be safely utilized by classes during the instructional day and enjoyed as a beautiful gathering space by the community when school is not in session.

Additionally, the RMS Broadcast News team made its return after a pandemic related hiatus. Students in grades 5 - 8 work together under the guidance of





Mrs. deBest to produce and film a weekly video newscast in the RMS STEM Lab. A link to each edition can be found in the RMS Weekly Bulletin, which is published each Monday and posted on the middle school's website.

The Bridgman Visual and Performing Arts Department also continues to engage our learners in music and performance under the tutelage of Mr. Reppart and Mrs. Ammerman. The RMS Band hosted a wonderful Winter Works Band Concert on December 7 and the RMS Choir program provided a memorable follow-up performance on December 14 at the Holiday Sing-A-Bratton Choir Concert. If you missed these performances, your next chance to see our students live on the stage of the BHS Performing Arts Center will be March 31, April 1, and April 2 when the all-district musical "Shrek Jr., the Musical" debuts.

Finally, **congratulations to Coach Foxworthy and the RMS BeeBots for winning the Grand Championship on November 19 at the First Lego League regional qualifying tournament.** Having also won last year, the BeeBots are now back-to-back champions of this event. The team will continue their quest for a statewide title later this winter, which is a great reminder that the state of our STEM program is strong in Bridgman.



These highlights are just a few examples of the amazing programs that are available at F.C. Reed Middle School. As the winter darkness continues, the opportunities our staff and partners provide at RMS continue to be a bright spot in the lives of our families.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [jtruesdell@bridgmanschools.com](mailto:jtruesdell@bridgmanschools.com) if you want to learn more about F.C. Reed Middle School or to inquire how your organization can partner with the middle school staff.

***John Truesdell, Middle School Principal***



# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## Bridgman Elementary School News from Principal Lori Graves

The partnership between Bridgman Public Schools and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Greater

Michigan began in the summer of 2022. Often referred to as “The Club”, students from F.C. Reed Middle School and Bridgman Elementary were able to attend daily programming five days a week. There were 200 middle school and elementary students signed up for the Club with a daily attendance of over 80 students. The registration fee is five dollars for the entire school year. It covers field trips, events, snacks, and Club programs.

**Ashley Williams is the site director for Bridgman Public School’s partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Greater Michigan.** She is responsible for making sure the Club fulfills its mission to enable all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens. Ashley believes that every community deserves a Boys and Girls Club program. As a mother, she can personally see the benefits the Club has to offer; such as building friendships, developing leadership skills, and working on social and academic skills.

Ashley has been part of the Boys and Girls Club movement for five years. She began at Benton Harbor’s youth campus as a youth development

professional. While there, **Ashley piloted a national program, “Smart Girls” at EP Clark Elementary in St. Joseph.** In 2020, she became a Unit Director in South Bend, Indiana. She managed the organization’s faculty members, worked directly with the CEO, led and facilitated national programs, and was nominated for The Journey fellowship. Ashley became the site director for Bridgman Public Schools in 2022.

Boys & Girls Club services provide valuable programs to youths, families, and their communities. **The Club currently offers programming after school at both F.C. Reed and Bridgman Elementary five days a week.** Students are also able to attend on half days and some breaks. During Club, students are able to work on homework, receive tutoring, learn leadership and social skills and participate in physical activity. The Club fills a gap between school and home, providing safe environments where kids have fun, participate in life-changing programs and form supportive relationships with peers and caring adults.

The Club has a newly elected Torch Club whose members want to not only be involved in the Club but the community. They would like to invite community members to speak at the Club, provide job shadowing experiences, discuss community service opportunities and collaborate on a service project.

**The Club encourages you to sign up for a tour to see the Club in action.** This tour is led by students



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who not only show you the areas used by the Club but their personal stories of how the Club has impacted their lives. Contact Ashley Williams at [awilliams@bgcbh.org](mailto:awilliams@bgcbh.org) to set up a tour or to find out how you can get involved.

*Lori Graves, Elementary School Principal*





# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence

from the Chairman, Al Barker

The 2022/2023 school year's first semester has concluded and the beginning of 2023 is upon us! With a new year, the Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence (BFEE) stands poised with the grant request process ready to serve Bridgman Public School teachers and students. 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 become insignificant after you receive your first story that produces a smile! If interested in becoming a Board Trustee, please share your desire through our website at [BridgmanFoundation.org](http://BridgmanFoundation.org) under the volunteer tab.

The following is a recent example of Trustee satisfaction through service. Please enjoy learning about a grant that was funded at RMS offering a classroom calm-down corner.

**Thanks to Kim Yauchstetter, 5th grade Special Education, who requested a variety of materials and tools to be placed in a small area of her classroom.** There, students can choose among the materials and tools to develop inner resilience. Calm-down corners have been recommended as a trauma-informed practice. However, they can also provide benefits to all students. A calm-down corner is an area where students can work on developing self-regulation skills when dealing with big emotions of stress, anxiety, and anger to name a few. In this area, students can find an inner balance that will allow them to get back into a classroom mindset to learn academic and social skills. By providing a choice of strategies/tools students can take ownership and build resilience at Bridgman Public Schools which can be applied in life. While the center will be used in her classroom, she plans to make it available to all students in the 5th and 6th grades which is approximately 60 students.

The BFEE Trustees experience satisfaction from funding grants but we also enjoy community events. In October 2022, the world-renowned Yale Whiffenpoofs performed at the Performing Arts Center at Bridgman High School! The storied Yale Whiffenpoofs, a collegiate acapella singing group



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was established at Yale University in 1909. The Whiffenpoofs' best-known alumnus may be Cole Porter who sang in the 1913 line-up and the group often performs Porter songs in tribute. The Whiffenpoofs have performed for generations at several venues, including the Lincoln Center, the White House, Salt Lake Tabernacle, Oakland Coliseum, Carnegie Hall, and Rose Bowl.

In closing, and as we begin a new year, take a moment to reflect on your educational journey as a student. Our BFEE vision is to, "Inspire students to positively impact their world." If you have memories of what inspired you, please contact us and share your memories under the volunteer tab at [BridgmanFoundation.org](http://BridgmanFoundation.org).

***Al Barker, BFEE Chairman*** —————



*Our vision is to, "Inspire students to positively impact their world." If you have memories of what inspired you, please share your memories under the volunteer tab at [BridgmanFoundation.org](http://BridgmanFoundation.org)!*



# CITY OF BRIDGMAN



As we have once again welcomed a new year, it's an apt time to pause and reflect on how fortunate we are to be part of the Bridgman community.

Among the many cities and towns which dot the Lake Michigan shoreline, ours truly holds a special place in the hearts and minds of its residents. The numerous conversations and exchanges I am privileged to have with the folks who call Bridgman home demonstrate just how strong those feelings of attachment are. For each person or family, there is a unique combination of qualities that creates a bond with Bridgman. When one stops to consider all that we have, there is little wonder why that bond can be so meaningful and lasting.

Our outstanding school district, which is widely lauded, forms the heart of the community. Another civic institution that we are blessed to have is the Bridgman Public Library, with its robust collections and myriad of programs. Weko Beach, with its breathtaking sunsets and sugary sands, creates a backdrop to rival any around the world. Though we are small, Bridgman offers a growing variety of food and retail experiences that have steadily improved over recent years. Surrounding our commercial corridors are Bridgman's quilted patchwork of neighborhoods, which have allowed communal ties to be forged along leafy streets, sidewalks and upon front porches as neighbors share and care for one another. There is

little doubt that most everyone reading this can share a story or two about gaining friends from among neighbors, whether they've been in Bridgman for less than a year or their entire lives.

As I write this shortly after Thanksgiving, the **Greater Bridgman Area Council for Growth and Advancement (commonly known as the CGA) is preparing for the annual Holiday Village event on December 10, 2022.** This year's gathering promises to be one of the best, with a wide assortment of fun for all ages, from storytelling and scavenger hunts to movies and trolley rides, to live music and dancing at the Bridgman American Legion - another longstanding community partner. Hopefully, many of you will have had an opportunity to partake in the celebration and will have fond and joyful memories with your family in Bridgman.

Holiday Village highlights the special ingredient within the Bridgman community - its people. Without dedicated volunteers, community events like Holiday Village would not be possible. Bridgman is so fortunate to have individuals who are willing to give their time in the interest of making life a bit happier and more enjoyable for so many others.

The Christmastime gathering is but one of many examples, some large and well promoted, such as the fundraiser for a Bridgman student who had contracted cancer, and others small, but no less significant, such as a group of local youths raking leaves for those too old or mobility challenged. There are countless acts of selfless volunteerism that strengthen the fibers that weave our community together.



This is a heartfelt THANK YOU! to each and every one of the volunteers who have acted to help others or make a difference in Bridgman. You are appreciated beyond words, though I believe you may be inspired by those from Mahatma Gandhi...

*“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”*

On behalf of the City of Bridgman and a grateful community, we cannot say it enough – THANK YOU!

*Juan Ganum, City Manager*

## PERSONAL PROPERTY STATEMENTS

**Personal property statements, including the Small Business Taxpayer Exemption, will be mailed out to all businesses in the city by January 10, 2023, and are due to the assessor’s office by February 20, 2023.** Many small businesses were eligible for an exemption of personal property taxes for 2022 but did not file the Small Business Taxpayer Exemption paperwork.

In 2023, the Michigan Legislature increased the Small Business Taxpayer Exemption to \$180,000 in true cash value. Most businesses in Bridgman will qualify for the exemption if they file the appropriate paperwork before the deadline. Business owners who

qualified and filed for the Small Business Taxpayer Exemption in 2019 or after will NOT have to file the form again in 2023. **It is very important that those business owners who did NOT file the small business taxpayer exemption in 2019 or after and qualify for the exemption, file it in 2023 to be exempted from 2023 personal property taxes.**

## TAX DAY



**December 31 is designated as Tax Day in the State of Michigan.** Your property’s assessment is based on how it stands on that day. For example, your 2022 assessment and tax bills were calculated based on how your property appeared on December 31, 2021. Currently, we are working on the 2023 assessments and will base those assessments on the condition of your property as of December 31, 2022.

## 2023 ASSESSMENT NOTICES

**Property Tax Assessment Notices will be mailed out to each taxpayer for real and personal property by the end of February.** These notices show the change in assessed and taxable values for your property from 2022 to 2023. The notice also shows your homestead percentage and if there was a transfer of ownership which resulted in an uncapping of your taxable value. **It is very important to review**



# CITY OF BRIDGMAN

**this notice when you receive it to verify that all the information is correct.** If you find any errors or have any questions on the assessed or taxable value change, please contact the assessing office at [jbaumann@bridgman.org](mailto:jbaumann@bridgman.org) or at 269-465-5144 x104.

The Assessing Department has property record cards on file for every parcel in the city. You are always welcome and encouraged to come in and review your property record card(s).

If you would like more information, please call or email the assessing department or visit the City of Bridgman website at [Bridgman.org](http://Bridgman.org).



## 2022 WINTER TAX STATEMENTS AVAILABLE

The 2022 winter tax bills have been mailed out. If you haven't received your statement or would like a copy of your tax statement, please call City Hall at 465-5144 or email [dlambrix@bridgman.org](mailto:dlambrix@bridgman.org). **As a friendly reminder, 2022 winter taxes are due February 14, 2023.** You may pay at City Hall, by mail, or online at [www.bridgman.org](http://www.bridgman.org). Tax payments received after the deadline will be subject to late payment penalties regardless of the postmark date. Taxes are collected at City Hall until February 28, 2023. Beginning March 1, 2023, delinquent taxes will only be accepted at Berrien County Treasurer's office at 701 Main Street in St. Joseph.

## CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

The November 8, 2022 election resulted in a small change to the Bridgman City Council, which bid farewell to Councilmember Stacy Stine, who served the City for a four-year term. Incumbents who were reelected include Jan Trapani, Pam Hahaj, and Sam Stine. William Boyd Sr. was elected to the Council to serve once again, after a four-year hiatus from his previous term.

On November 21, 2022 the newly seated Council elected Jan Trapani as Mayor and Sam Stine as Mayor Pro-tempore from among its members, pursuant to the Bridgman City Charter.



Jan is a registered nurse with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. She is employed at First Congregational Church of St. Joseph as their parish nurse. Jan is a longtime Bridgman resident and has served a single four-year term

on the Council. During her second term, she looks forward to working with her colleagues in fulfilling the City of Bridgman's mission, "To provide a safe, relaxed place for individuals, families and businesses to pursue and enjoy their dreams".

Sam received his bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and a master's degree in Education Administration from Western Michigan University. He is the Assistant Superintendent at Bridgman





Public Schools and has over 25 years of experience in the education field as a principal, teacher, and athletic coach. Sam is committed to ensuring the residents can enjoy all our city has to offer - quality schools, beautiful beaches, the downtown social district, walkable streets, an experienced public safety department, high-quality public services, and a state-of-the-art library.



## STOP THE SPREAD OF OAK WILT

**FEBRUARY 18 – 10:00 AM**  
**WEKO BEACH HOUSE**

Oak Wilt is a vascular disease caused by a fungus that spreads locally from infected trees to nearby healthy trees. The Bridgman Planning Commission has prioritized the importance of educating the public in order to stop the spread of this devastating disease, which is dramatically reducing the number of Oak trees in our area.

Please attend this free seminar and learn from the leading expert on Oak Wilt in Michigan, Dr. David Roberts (a.k.a. The Tree Doctor).

## Safe Snow Plowing

Once again, it is that time of year when we begin receiving calls about citizens and snow removal businesses pushing snow across roadways. Please be advised that it is illegal to deposit snow across public roads or place snow that could block a driver's line of sight when traveling, entering, or exiting a roadway. In addition to jeopardizing public safety, snow deposited on roadway shoulders can freeze solid and damage snowplows.





# CITY OF BRIDGMAN

## Shoreline Resiliency Committee News

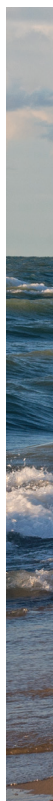
The Bridgman City Council recently gave approval for the Shoreline Resiliency Committee to apply for the Michigan Coastal Management Program's Creating a Culture of Resilience Capacity Building Grant offered by The Michigan Department of Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). The grant, matched with city funds, is earmarked for projects that conduct workshops to raise public awareness on coastal-resilience topics.

**To that end, the Committee is planning three informative and fun Shoreline Protection events at Weko Beach. Two will coincide with Earth Day (April 22, 2023 and 2024) and a third with The Alliance for the Great Lakes Adopt-A-Beach day program in September 2023.**

**Grant funds can also be used for costs associated with involving Bridgman High School students in a citizen-science drone-based coastal change monitoring program** developed by Michigan State University's Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences, which trains local community members to pilot drones to collect coastal change data that can be used to educate the public on coastal processes and in making decisions that enhance resiliency. The City is currently engaged with Bridgman High School teachers John Nicka (AP Government) and Dan Schuchardt (Earth Science), along with Gary Blied, a veteran of military and civilian aviation, to undertake the project.

During the fall of 2022, several committee members virtually attended The Coastal Leadership Academy (CLA) Resilient Summit 2022 (sponsored by the Michigan Association of Planning in collaboration with EGLE) where they were updated on Great Lakes water level drivers and predictions by Dr. Drew Gronewald, University of Michigan associate professor in the School of Environment and Sustainability Science and Management, who specializes in hydrological modeling and water dynamics in coastal areas; Dr. Guy Meadows, director of the Great Lakes Research Center at Michigan Tech University's Marine Engineering and Laboratory; Dr. Ethan Theuerkauf, professor in geomorphology in Michigan State University's Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences, and originator of the Citizen-Science Project mentioned above; and Dr. Richard Norton, lawyer and professor in Urban and Regional Planning at University of Michigan's Taubman College. Some of the important topics discussed and graphically presented include:

- 2014 to 2019 marked the fastest rate of water level increase on the Great Lakes in recorded history.
- Climate change is increasing precipitation because warmer air holds more moisture, but increased evapotranspiration with a lot more variability will create a tug-of-war scenario in which the long-term water balance of the Great Lakes will swing between



- Drone mapping of the coastline in various lakefront communities reveals that shoreline armoring during high-water episodes results in a lower potential for beach recovery when lake levels and more intense storms with record-breaking wave energy will occur. (In mid-October 2022, wave heights reached 50-year categories at 22 feet in Lake Superior and 19 feet in Lake Michigan. Such wave-energy increases have been a precursor to rising water levels in the past. Dr. Meadows warns that “there’s no guarantee we will have 8 to 14 years of low water as we have had prior to the 2020 high water episode.”)

- Drone mapping of the coastline in various lakefront communities reveals that shoreline

armoring during high-water episodes results in a lower potential for beach recovery when lake levels fall.

- A systematic review of Michigan law explores state and local government’s authority and/or obligation to regulate shoreline development in a way that allows natural shorelines to function for maximum resiliency.

The expert presentations offered in the CLA Resilient Summit are also posted on the Shoreline Resiliency Committee’s page under the “Boards and Commissions” tab on the Bridgman City website, accessed here: <https://www.bridgman.org/152/Boards-Commissions>.



PHOTO COURTESY OF: CANDY SCHWADRON



# CITY OF BRIDGMAN

## Water Conservation Awareness

The drinking water provided to your home is carefully treated at the water treatment plant to produce a very safe, clean, and dependable resource. This asset should not be wasted needlessly. **The average American family of four uses 400 gallons of water per day. On average, approximately 70% of that water is used indoors, with the bathroom being the largest consumer (a toilet alone can use 27 percent!).**

### Conservation Tips

The bathroom is where you can make the most substantial reduction in your personal water use. Two-

thirds of the water used in an average home is used in the bathroom, mostly for flushing toilets, showers, and baths.

- **Toilets are notorious for hidden leaks.** A running toilet can waste about 200 gallons every day. Leaks occur when the toilet is out of adjustment or when parts are worn. The best way to check is by dropping a little food coloring into the toilet tank. Wait for the color to show up in the bowl. If it does, you probably have a leak. Replacing older models with newer efficient toilets can reduce the amount of water a family uses for toilets by 20 to 60 percent.

- Bathroom faucets generally run at 2 gallons per minute. **Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth or shaving;** that alone can save a person more than 200 gallons of water per month. Also, replace faucets and aerators with WaterSense labeled models to save even more.

- **Shower better by replacing shower heads with more efficient models;** replacing just one showerhead can save the average family 2,900 gallons of water, the amount of electricity needed to power its home for 13 days, and more than \$70 in utility bills.



### How Much Water Do We Use?



Source: Water Research Foundation, Residential End Uses of Water, Version 2. 2016

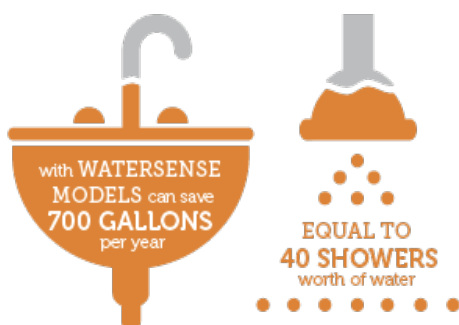




*The average American family of 4 uses 400 gallons of water per day.*

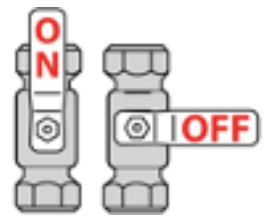
- **High-efficiency washing machines can conserve large amounts of water.** Traditional models use between 27 and 54 gallons of water per load, but new, energy and water-conserving models use less than 27 gallons per load.

#### REPLACING FAUCETS AND AERATORS



## Do you know where your water shutoff valves are located?

Second-home customers and families going on vacation during the winter months should be mindful of water line breaks inside the home. It is always a good idea if you are a seasonal customer to have the water shut off to avoid catastrophic breaks inside the home. Please contact the water department for seasonal shut-offs. For families going on winter vacations, it's good practice to turn the water off inside where the main water line enters the home (typically where the water meter is located).



**It is also important to know where these shutoff valves are in case of an emergency.** Check your home carefully to locate all water shutoff valves and be sure that they all work easily. If the valve and plumbing are old and corroded, it could be difficult to turn the valve; sometimes, the valve connection could even break or spring a leak while you are trying to open or close it. If you suspect this valve needs to be replaced or there is a threat of failure, it may be necessary to contact your plumber.

## Want to learn more?



Visit [EPA.gov/watersense](http://EPA.gov/watersense) to learn more about WaterSense products, water and energy saving tips and more.



# CITY OF BRIDGMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT



We hope you had a safe and happy holiday season.

Our department hired David Wyman to fill a full-time police officer vacancy. David comes with several years of law enforcement experience, resides in Lake Township and is very involved in the school sports programs. Please welcome him if you see him out and about in the community!

*Thank you,*  
**Chief Dan Unruh**

Here are a few reminders for everyone's knowledge and safety:

## OVERNIGHT PARKING

There is no parking allowed on city streets from 2 - 6 a.m. from November 1 to March 31. Signs are posted at each entrance to the city limits advising motorists of this ordinance. Residents can contact the police department and request a parking pass if overnight guests are expected. Weather conditions may be considered by the officers and dictate the issuance of parking passes.

## POLICE DISPATCH

Our police department is dispatched by the Berrien County Emergency Dispatch Center. Residents need to call 269-983-7141 for police response to non-emergencies or 9-1-1 in the event of an emergency. Officers are normally patrolling the city and frequently check the phone messages at the police station in the event residents wish to leave non-emergency type messages or information at 269-465-3880.

## ANIMALS AT WEKO BEACH

City ordinances prohibit animals on Weko Beach year round, not just during the summer months. They must remain on leashes while on the boardwalks, stairs, and parking lots.

## PROPERTY CHECKS

We also provide property checks of our residents' homes while out of town or on vacation. Feel free to contact us to have our officers check your property while you're gone.





[facebook.com/bridgmanpd](https://facebook.com/bridgmanpd)

[BRIDGMAN.ORG](http://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.



## Get Rid of Your Expired/Unwanted Meds Safely

There is a safe medical disposal box at Bridgman City Hall where residents can discard expired/unwanted medications. Please refer to the following guidelines when dropping off:

### ACCEPTED

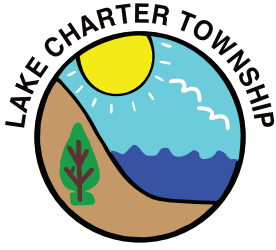
- Prescription Meds
- Over-the-Counter Meds

### NOT ACCEPTED

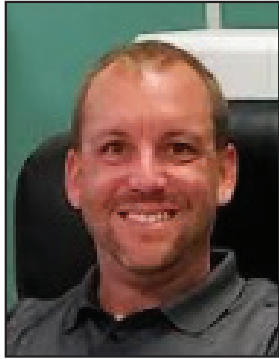
- Illegal Drugs
- Lotions/Liquids
- Inhalers
- Aerosol Cans
- Thermometers
- Hydrogen Peroxide

Since being installed in 2018, residents have dropped off more than 450 pounds of unwanted medications that ultimately get destroyed by the Berrien County Forensic Lab!





# LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



## Township News from Supervisor, Zach Carson

Dear Township Residents,

My first 90 days in the office have been enjoyable!

I have appreciated the opportunity to get to know all the employees and all of the many residents who have stopped by the Township Hall. While my time as a trustee was very beneficial, filling the shoes of former Interim Supervisor Stan Markovich and the late John Gast is no easy task! I'm up for the challenge and am enjoying all that it entails.

I have participated in several activities during this time, ranging from a live active shooter training course sponsored by the Baroda Lake Township Police Department to a gas leak fire call with the Lake Charter Township Fire Department. Seeing what it takes to do these jobs helps me understand how to better help them as they perform their important duties.

### OTHER NEWS

- The Township has just completed the 2023 budget. Thank you to each of our department leaders for helping draft the budget's details during two workshops held in October and November.

- Lake Township Park is now officially closed for the season, however off-season parking allows people to still use it during the winter months.
- The cemetery staff have winterized all of the sprinkler systems and are ready for the plowing season.
- The water plant is working on several projects ranging from the redesign of older equipment to painting in an effort to keep our plant up-to-date and running in tip-top shape.
- It was great to see an election firsthand in the office. So much goes into an election and voting process. It is a huge amount of work for one day! This was also the first time I was part of the public accuracy test which tests the voting machines to be sure they count ballots accurately.

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season.

*Zach Carson, Supervisor*





## Building & Zoning News from Building Administrator, Rich Kubsch

Winter is here and the holidays have ended as 2022 came to a close. At the township, we have a new leader. We all welcomed Zach Carson as the new township supervisor this fall.

### MASTER PLAN UPDATE

We are now fully into the Master Plan update. Thank you to everyone who took the Township Master Plan survey. The results have not only helped the Planning Commission do its job better, but have allowed us to use the plan as an active set of goals that are used to guide our work on a regular basis. In fact, when a project application is received, the goals are referenced as part of practice. Please keep in mind, the goals are the result of the public survey.

As an example, many of the people who responded to the survey said they were very happy in the township and did not want to see any changes. With that in mind, the Planning Commission must balance any improvements with current conditions. Within the goal section of the Master Plan, the Planning Commission may reference something like this; "change must follow a specific design and setback standards which will require compatibility with the surrounding character of the area." While it is important to make necessary improvements or changes in our community, residents' input is definitely considered and valued.

That is all for now! Thank you,  
***Rich Kubsch, Building Administrator***

### LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

**Supervisor**  
Zach Carson

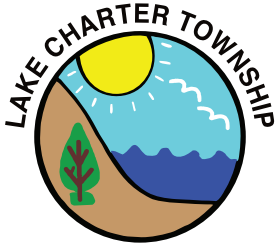
**Treasurer**  
Bob Clark

**Clerk**  
Gloria Payne

**Building Admin**  
Rich Kubsch

**Water  
Superintendent**  
Jeff Burkhard

**Find helpful info  
on our website  
including  
building forms,  
permits, zoning  
forms & maps,  
and more!**



# LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



## Treasurer News

from Bob Clark

**The 2022 winter tax bills should have been received by now and are due on or before February 14 at 5 p.m. to avoid penalties.**

If for some reason you haven't received your winter tax bill, please contact our office. **Summer and winter bills can be paid at the township until February 28.** After that, they must be sent to the county and additional penalties will apply. Be sure to leave ample mailing time if paying by mail (postmark dates are not accepted)!

We have had more taxpayers using our e-check payment option, credit card payments, and utilizing the online system to obtain tax and assessment information. Please visit our website at [Lake-Township.org](http://Lake-Township.org) for more information about these payment options. We also have two drop boxes for after-hour payments, one by the road and one near the front door. Please contact our office if you have any questions about your bill, assessment, or other information.

### LAKE TOWNSHIP PARK NEWS

We had another busy year at the park! The various recreational leagues had busy and successful seasons. We are happy to announce the baseball and softball

concession stand renovation projects are complete! The renovation included complete siding, door, and window replacement. Sidewalks to the various spectator areas were also completed. They will improve handicap accessibility and prevent wet shoes during those early spring games! We know our baseball and softball teams and fans will love them.

The park staff also installed a new exercise area at the park that includes a chin-up bar, parallel bars, and a sit-up bench. It is a great way to supplement that walk or run in the park and take off a few more calories! They also completed a landscaping project around the north and south pavilions that look great! Disc golf also had another busy year at the park with a lot of play and several events. The pavilions were enjoyed by many this past season. They are available to rent for the 2023 year.



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

Lastly, we have established a cross-country ski trail at the park. It is a nice trail around the perimeter of the park and through some of the wooded areas. Come out and give it a try this winter!

We are still working on grants for the trail project from the high school and city to the park. Our first application ran into a technical difficulty involving the road easement. Since then, we have applied for another grant that does not have the same requirement. We hope to hear more regarding the grant and make further plans for the trail soon. It will be an exciting new way for residents and visitors to get non-motorized access to the park. A walkable, safe way for youth and adults to get to the park will also be well received!

In 2023 we are planning for the replacement of some playground equipment and hopefully the start of the trail. Come out and enjoy this wonderful park!

## CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

The local economic development group is working hard on some reorganization and setting goals for 2023 and beyond. Goals include increased marketing of our area, attracting housing to the area, and creating activities to provide more things to do downtown. Lake Township continues to work on the broadband initiative to provide high-speed internet access to our residents. The Township submitted a grant request to the County to help with the costs.

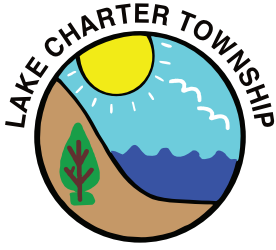


## LAKE TOWNSHIP TRAIL NEWS

**The Berrien County Trail master plan has been completed.** It is a great template for future trail development in Berrien County. The plan ultimately will connect the parks in Berrien County and provide non-motorized off-road trails for cyclists, joggers, and walkers a way to get between parks and communities. The plan is for the trail to connect Warren Dunes State Park to Lake Township and Bridgman to the north and Sawyer to New Buffalo south.

Trails have been shown to be very important to economic growth, attracting visitors to the area, and providing local residents with a healthy, safe way to enjoy our parks and area. The Marquette Greenway that will connect Chicago to New Buffalo is being planned and has raised the funding needed. This will be an important piece of the network.

**Bob Clark, Treasurer**



# LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



## Plan Ahead for Absentee Voting from Gloria A. Payne

Thank you to all the voters who came out on November 8, 2022, to exercise their right to vote. Here are a few tips about absentee ballots to make sure your vote counts!

- Lake Charter Township always sends out Absentee Applications for those signed up to receive an absentee ballot for EACH election. Just because you filled one out for the August primary does not mean you automatically get an absentee ballot for the November election. **You must fill the Absentee Application out for each and every election.**
- If you wish to be placed on the list to receive absentee applications, please contact the clerks office and we will send you the form that places you on the list for the next election. We had many phone calls from people who were expecting their ballot but had NOT filled out the Absentee Application.
- Once you receive your Absentee Application, you must sign it in the two spaces provided and return the Absentee Application. As soon as ballots are delivered to Lake Charter Township's precinct, the ballots are then mailed to all those that requested a ballot.
- It is the voter's responsibility to vote the ballot, and place the ballot back in the manilla secrecy sleeve provided which must be signed, sealed, and returned

in the PURPLE envelope so that the ballot can be counted on election day. This last election, we received ballots that were not in the purple envelope nor were they signed. These ballots had to be rejected. This makes you lose your vote. In these instances, there was not enough time to "right the wrong" due to the turnaround time. You must do your part to make your vote count.

- You can pick up your own ballot, but you cannot pick up ballots for other people, unless you fill in the back of the Absentee Application and give a reason why the ballot cannot be picked up by the voter personally.

Lake Charter Township goes to great lengths to make sure everyone is allowed to vote. We just need the voters to do their part to make that happen. Registering within the timeframe is suggested. Same day registration, while it is allowed, is difficult and requires proof that you are living where you say you are living. Often times, a pay stub or a utility bill with your name and address on it qualifies. Again, registering within the timeframe before an election is ideal.

A little bit of planning ahead goes a long way. Find out what you need to do well before the election. The State of Michigan is a second chance state, meaning if you made a mistake in the election process, you can right the mistake, as long as you - the voter - plan for it.



We hope these tips help in the future as you request your absentee ballot, cast your ballot, and exercise your right to vote.

*Gloria Payne, Clerk*

## Water System News from Jeff Burkhard

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas! As we begin this new year, we look ahead to projects for 2023 and reflect on what has taken place in 2022.

Like everywhere, 2022 brought continued supply shortages for products used at the water treatment plant and increased costs. I spoke with one of our treatment chemical representatives. It is incredible how problems in other parts of the world affect our expenses here. We are fortunate to have great partnerships with our suppliers who can meet our needs.

**In 2022, we began our exterior residential cross-connection inspection program and completed over 800 residential inspections with minimal issues.** As I mentioned in the last Community Buzz, this inspection process is mandated by Michigan Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) through regulation. EGLE is the agency that regulates our profession. We will be completing the remaining residential inspections in 2023. I encourage you to visit our website, [LakeCharterTownshipWater.org](http://LakeCharterTownshipWater.org), and look at the information regarding cross-connections and how they can occur.

Other projects for 2023 include replacing a section of the water main on Snow Road and on Rambo Road, which will improve reliability in those areas. An example of long lead times to obtain products is the water main replacement project, with an estimated time to receive materials of up to 52 weeks. As with everything, prices continue to increase, and we look at ways to reduce costs.

As the cold weather sets in, I encourage homeowners to protect their water meter if it is located in an area prone to freezing. Older accounts usually have the water meter located inside the residence. For newer accounts, it is located in a meter pit out at the roadway (it is not usually a problem at this location). I have seen occasions where the meter pit lid has been struck and shifted off the meter pit, exposing the meter. If you notice this condition, please notify us at 269-465-3850. Also, please be aware that if you remove snow from your driveway, you do not pile it up around the fire hydrant, meter pit, or shut off valve at the property line.

If you are interested in following the levels of the Great Lakes, you can access information through the US Army Corp of Engineers at [lre.usace.army.mil](http://lre.usace.army.mil). They have interesting data available, and you can also request to receive their monthly newsletter.

***Jeff Burkhard, Superintendent Lake Charter Township Water System***

If you'd like to know more about a profession in the water sector or are interested in touring the plant, email [jburkhardltwater@lake-township.org](mailto:jburkhardltwater@lake-township.org) or call 269-465-3850.



## A Letter from the Library Director **Sarah Skinner**

By the time this edition of the Bridgman Buzz arrives on your doorstep, it will be a bit frosty outside, but it's always nice and warm inside the Bridgman Public Library! Another thing that gave me warm feelings was the wonderful welcome that I received from the library board, staff, and the Bridgman Community! I began my new position on September 1 and I want to take a moment to thank you all for welcoming me into your beautiful city. I look forward to serving all citizens from Bridgman, Lake Charter Township, Chikaming Township, and beyond.

While my time at BPL is just beginning, I have great visions for the future. One goal is to reach more teens and young adults, so developing fun opportunities for these groups is a priority. We will also be trying to incorporate more family programming so that all members of your household can come to the library and enjoy time together. Be sure to keep an eye on our community calendar and emails for more fun programs and events this winter!

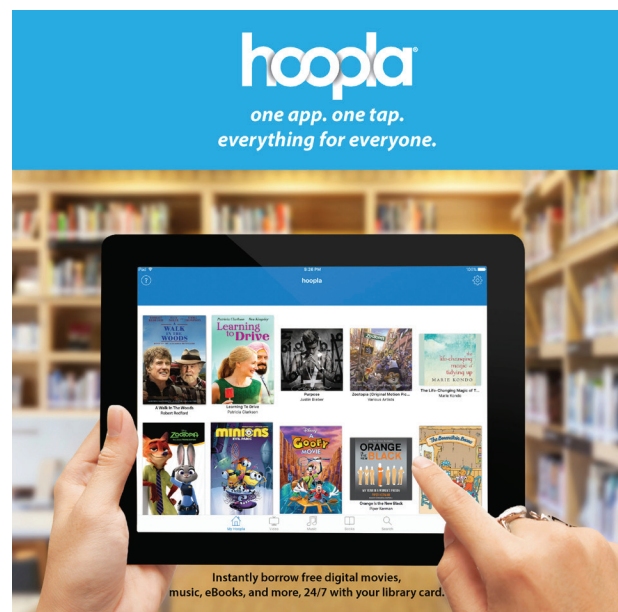
Another goal is to bolster our collection. More new and fresh items will be available on a monthly basis, be sure to keep an eye on the "New" bookshelves! Please be sure to speak with a friendly staff member if you have any book requests.

Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of Bridgman Public Library, we will be able to expand the shelving areas in both the teen and children's sections. Without their support, the library would not be as wonderful as it is! If you would like to support your library by joining the Friends group, please stop by and fill out an application. They would love to have you!

As always, BPL's first priority is serving you, our loyal patrons. If you have comments, questions or ideas for the future, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. This is YOUR library – I am, humbly, at your service.

Kindest regards,

**Sarah Skinner, Director**



## ADULT PROGRAMS

**Zoom links and additional information can be found on the library website at [bridgmanlibrary.com](http://bridgmanlibrary.com).**

### MINDFUL CREATIVITY

**JAN 4, FEB 1, MAR 1 – 6:30 P.M.**

Mindfulness for people who can't sit still! Learn about observation, attention, acceptance and non-judgment through fun, creative practices.

### HEALTHY CHOICES FOR THE NEW YEAR

**JAN 10 – 6 P.M. via Zoom**

Mary Spencer from *Taste: A Cook's Place* will demonstrate how to make a healthy Lemon Lentil Salad, Garlic Butter Cod, and Carrot Cake. Recipes will be posted on the library website.

### COOKING FOR TWO

**FEB 6 – 6 P.M. via Zoom**

Culinary Instructor, Mary Spencer, will show us how to make dinners for two. She will cook a Skillet Steak Supper and Sheet Pan Salmon and Veggies. Recipes will be posted on the library website.

### MICHIGAN STEAM RAILROADING

**MAR 28 – 6:30 P.M.**

The Steam Railroading Institute located in Owosso, Michigan will talk about railroad fan trips in 1937.

### SPRING CRAFT WITH THE TURQUOISE TOP HAT

**APR 11 – 6:30 P.M.**

Join the library and the Turquoise Top Hat to decorate a planter box filled with wood flowers and faux greenery. Call the library to sign up beginning March 1.

### MEXICAN DISHES

**APR 18 – 6 P.M. via Zoom**

Mary Spencer will demonstrate how to make Shrimp Tostadas with Avocado Salsa and Air Fryer Fajita Stuffed Chicken. Recipes will be posted on the library website.

## 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

## ON-GOING ADULT PROGRAMS

### KNIT N YARN

**MONDAYS, 1 – 3 P.M. AND  
EVERY 3RD TUESDAY, 6 – 8:00 P.M.  
JAN 17, FEB 21, MAR 21, APR 18**

The group was able to donate 300 items this year to be distributed to those in need. Learn to knit or crochet, share your latest project or get help with a yarning problem.

### 2ND WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP

**5:30 P.M. *In person and via Zoom***

Books will be ready for check out one month before the meeting. See library website for complete 2023 book list.

**Jan 11** *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah  
**Feb 8** *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley  
**Mar 8** *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett  
**Apr 12** *The Other Side of the River* by Alex Kotlowitz

### ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

**LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 2 P.M.**

Build a support system with people who understand. Topics range from care giving challenges and ways of coping to sharing needs and learning about community resources.

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

### PENGUINEERING TAKE & MAKE WITH JOHN BALL ZOO

**PICK UP MATERIALS – JAN 16–21  
LIVE WORKSHOP ON ZOOM – JAN 18, 4:30 P.M.**

Create a dynamic penguin on your own and then join the John Ball Zoo to learn all about them! Online registration begins January 3. Grades 2 – 4, but open to all ages.

### MLK DAY STORYTIME

**JAN 16, 4 P.M.**

The library joins Lake Michigan College to celebrate the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the people who seek to follow in his footsteps.

### MINECRAFT/ROBLOX MEETUP

**FEB 15, 4 – 5 P.M.**

Try your hand at our build challenge and share gaming tips. Bring your game login and mobile device. A limited number of library computers will also be available. Grade 1 & up. Online registration begins January 13.

### THE WORLD OF ERIC CARLE ART WORKSHOP

**FEB 18, 10:30 A.M. – 12 P.M.**

Join us as we explore the unique world of Eric Carle's beloved animal characters. We will use a variety of mediums to create our own artwork inspired by Carle. Preschool – 4th grade. Online registration begins January 16.

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





## EASY AS PI

**MAR 14, 3:30 P.M.**

Celebrate circles and bake up a pie together. Grades 1 and up. Online registration begins February 14.

## BABYSITTERS CLUB PARTY

**APR 19, 4 P.M.**

Are you a BSC fan? Try some of the club's favorite activities – including games, pizza, and more! Grades 2 and up. Online registration begins March 17.

## ON-GOING YOUTH PROGRAMS

### EARLY LITERACY CLASSES

**Every Tuesday**, winter session begins Jan 10  
**Toddler and Me (ages 2-5)** 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.  
**Story Hour (ages 2-5)** 10:30 a.m.

### NEW! LA-LA-LIBRARY

**JAN 26, FEB 23, MAR 23, APR 27, 4 – 4:30 P.M.**

Singing helps children learn language! Learn a new song or two and check out a related book. Age 3 and up.

### BABY & ME

**EVERY WEDNESDAY, 10:30 A.M. *New time!***

Winter session begins January 11. Newborn – 18 months.

### LITTLE EXPLORERS

**JAN 13, 27, FEB 10, 24, MAR 10, 24, APR 14, 28, 10 A.M.**

Bring your preschooler in to explore process art, sensory play, and STEAM activities. Ages 2–5.

## EARLY READERS BOOK CLUB

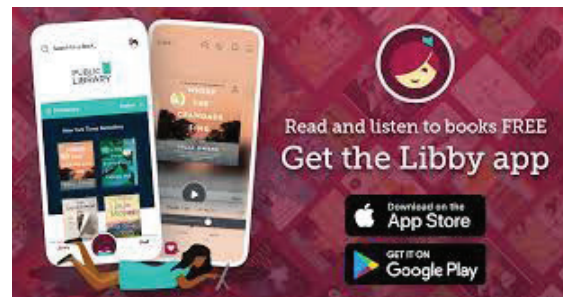
**JAN 9, FEB 13, MAR 13, APR 17, 3:30 P.M.**

Beginning readers in grades K – 2 are invited to visit the library after school for read-aloud time, literacy games, and crafts. Online registration required.

## PAWSITIVE READING

**JAN 10, FEB 14, MAR 14, APR 11, 3:30 P.M.**

Elementary school children can practice reading to Zuzu, the licensed therapy dog. Please call the library to reserve a 15-minute time slot.



## TEEN PROGRAMS

### MAKING GRAPHIC NOVELS

**MAR 11, 12:30 – 3:30 P.M.**

Practice strategies and skills for bringing your own stories to life through sequential art. Online registration begins February 18. Ages 14 – 18.

### TEEN ADVISORY BOARD (TAB)

Online registration required. Grades 6 and up.

**JAN 20, 4 P.M.** *Zen Doodling Workshop and TAB Mtg.*

**FEB 25, 2 P.M.** *Bingo and TAB Mtg.*

**APR 14, 3:30 P.M.** *String Pull Painting and TAB Mtg.*

## ALL AGES

### BPL PASSPORT PROGRAM

**APR 24 – MAY 31**

Celebrate National Library Week by picking up a BPL Passport and start collecting stamps! Add stamps to your passport by attending a program, referencing the catalog, downloading an e-book, and using other services outlined in the passport. Prizes will be awarded once you have 10 stamps. All ages.

### FANDOM FEST

**APR 8, 11 A.M. – 6 P.M.**

**Mendel Center at Lake Michigan College**

Fandom Fest is a library collaboration dedicated to bringing the fan convention experience to southwest Michigan. Admission is FREE! For more information visit: [FanfestSWMI.com](http://FanfestSWMI.com)

### COMMUNITY GARDEN

Garden plots are available to rent for \$10 each. If you are a returning gardener, please fill out a new registration form by February 28. Beginning March 1, all new gardeners are welcome on a first come, first served basis.

### DISPLAY CASE

If you would like to showcase a hobby or collection in our display case, please contact Deb at 269-465-3663 or [deb@bridgmanlibrary.com](mailto:deb@bridgmanlibrary.com).

### 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.

Thursdays by appointment from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

## ONE-ON-ONE TECH HELP

Need tech help? For assistance using the library catalog, requesting interlibrary loans, downloading Libby/Hoopla items to your device or for basic computer/smart phone help, please sign up on the library website for a 30-minute one-on-one session.



# Change the Game.

## Donate Used & New Golf Equipment at Bridgman Library for



Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who took the library survey! Your feedback is very beneficial and shows how much you value the library and its services. Congratulations to our gift card winner, David Wojdula!



**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.



**Discover Michigan using your library card.  
Check out a pass for one of Michigan's premiere cultural attractions!**

9964 GAST ROAD, BRIDGMAN, MI 49106

bridgmanschools.com

Office: 269-465-5432

Fax: 269-466-0221

# CITY OF BRIDGMAN 2023 TRASH & RECYCLING DATES

**January**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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				

**February**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			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				

**March**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			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	

**April**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						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						

**May**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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			

**June**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				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	

**July**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						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					

**August**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		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		

**September**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					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**





S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			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		

**December**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					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						

-  Yellow is Trash and Recycle day
-  Blue is Trash pick-up day
-  Green is Trash & Bulk Pick up
-  Purple is a Holiday



**\*\* NOTE: SEPTEMBER 13TH IS TRASH, RECYCLE, AND BULK TRASH DAY**

For recycling information and helpful tips visit:  
[www.republicservices.com](http://www.republicservices.com) or [www.recyclingsimplified.com](http://www.recyclingsimplified.com)

**LEAF AND BRUSH BURNING IS PROHIBITED WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS.**