

WINTER 2024



# Bridgman

COMMUNITY BUZZ



PHOTO COURTESY OF: SAMANTHA TRUESDELL

**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,

Warm New Year greetings!

I trust you all had a delightful holiday season. As we reach the mid-point of the school year, I want to take a moment to celebrate the countless successes and triumphs that our dedicated staff and students have achieved, both inside and outside of the classroom.

**I am thrilled to announce that Bridgman Public Schools has been recognized by US News and World Report for the Best Elementary and Middle Schools in 2024.** Bridgman Elementary received the prestigious Best Elementary badge, while F.C. Reed claimed the Best Middle School badge. Both schools secured spots in the top 40% statewide. Bridgman Elementary achieved an exceptional #18 ranking among 2,654 elementary schools in Michigan, surpassing local counterparts by a significant margin. Meanwhile, F.C. Reed Middle School achieved an impressive #55 position out of 2,026 across the state. Bridgman High School maintains its streak of excellence, securing an outstanding #34 out of 1,166 ranking in Michigan, positioning it ahead of all local high schools. These rankings are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, teachers, and staff, bolstered by unwavering support from parents and the community.

Our district is committed to providing a top-notch education that equips students for future successes. We pride ourselves on cultivating academically proficient students, offering competitive athletic programs, and fostering a comprehensive performing, visual, and applied arts curriculum. Our students consistently excel in the State of Michigan assessments (M-Step and SAT), ranking among the top in the county.

I am proud to report that our 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, 2023, the district added \$853,211 to its General Fund resulting in a balance of \$4,887,890 which represents a healthy 31.91% of annual expenditures.

**January is School Board Recognition Month,** and I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed school board members for their invaluable contributions to our community. Eric Ramso, JoAnn DeMeulenaere, Tishia Roberts, Brad Owen, Wayne Hall, Nancy Hawley, and Tom LaVanway devote countless personal hours to ensuring our community's needs are met through our public schools. We are indebted to these public servants whose dedication and civic duty enable local governance of our schools. Their foresight and advocacy are commendable, as they pave the way to equip today's students as the future leaders of tomorrow.



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**In the event of severe weather**, our response might involve either a two-hour delay or shutting down the school. With a delay, buses operate two hours later than usual, and our day starts at adjusted times: 9:55 a.m. for Bridgman High School, 10:00 a.m. for F.C. Reed Middle School, and 9:45 a.m. for Bridgman Elementary. We'll provide limited breakfast and lunch but keep dismissal times unchanged. Our priority is always safety! If conditions persist, we might close school, and you'll hear about it through local media and automated calls. To ensure you receive updates, please promptly update any changes in contact information, especially new phone numbers, at the school office of your student. The automatic calling system relies on this information.

As the school year progresses, the latter half tends to bring a flurry of activities and events. Staying abreast of all the happenings within Bridgman Public Schools is easily done by visiting our revamped website at [BridgmanSchools.com](http://BridgmanSchools.com).

Moreover, we have **several employment opportunities available** within our district. If you're interested in joining our organization, explore the "Department" section on our website and click on the Human Resources tab to apply.

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

**Go Bees!**

**Shane M. Peters, Superintendent**

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## **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



# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## Bridgman High School News from Principal Gerald Heath

As we begin to break out our scarves and mittens, we come to the end of an excellent first semester for the 2023-2024 school year.

universities across our country. Staff and students were encouraged to wear a college t-shirt or sweatshirt to further remind students about potential college destinations or career opportunities.

On October 20, the 9th 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.

Mr. Locke, a BHS Chemistry teacher, organized a tour of the Plastics and Rubber Engineering programs at Ferris State University on November 17. 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.

On November 24, the high school hosted its first annual Career/Military Fair. Students had the opportunity to go to the media center to visit a couple of military branches and businesses in the community. During the fair, Hanson Logistics presented opportunities for our students through their internship program. We are hoping to expand this fair in the future.

On December 1, interested 11th & 12th graders visited Lake Michigan College and on December 6, they took a visit to Southwestern Michigan College. Students were able to get a glimpse into what life would look like on a local college campus.

### SO MUCH TO CELEBRATE!

We would like to congratulate Raena Burton, Kylie Ott and Anne Scott for receiving a Letter of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Program and the boy's soccer team was District Champs!

The "Spirit of Bridgman" Marching Band had an overall successful season. At the marching band festival, they received nearly all As from each judge in every category! They missed "best percussion" by a few tenths of a percent all season, but they did manage to bring home "best color guard" in three separate competitions.

### COLLEGE CAMPUS VISITS & CAREER EXPLORATION

Our seniors did a great job filling out their college applications and/or planning their future opportunities with the military or apprenticeship programs. Some of the teachers decorated their doors to highlight opportunities. We started every morning with the playing of the fight song and facts of many colleges/



## CLUB ACTIVITIES

**The National Honor Society** produced a video to honor local veterans. This video was shared with all students on November 10 (Veterans Day - Observed). NHS also hosted a pantry drive to help collect items for Bridgman Cares.

**The Drama Department** selected "Seussical, The Musical" as the production for this year's spring musical with performances from March 22 - 24 in the BHS Performing Art Center. The drama class hosted a murder mystery dessert theater on December 8 - 10. This year's performance took place in the BHS Media Center with dessert served at intermission.

**The SADD Club** had a successful Red Ribbon Week. This year's national theme was "Be Kind to Your Mind, Live Drug Free". Many students participated in the dress days and learned more about the club. They have also been focused on educating students about drowsy driving and The Great American Smokeout (Anti-Smoking) campaign.

**The Interact Club** continues to help with food distribution at United Methodist Church in Stevensville and the Luminary Festival in Saint Joseph. The club is currently planning its own fundraiser to support Bridgman Cares.

**The Key Club** has been active in and outside of our school. They have had members attend events such as the Fall Festival where they helped run, with neighboring schools' Key Clubs, an event for foster families. On October 28, they had members

join Lakeshore and St. Joseph to run the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast at the Whitcomb. Lakeshore High School hosted the Fall Rally and we had members in attendance to represent Bridgman Key Club. Within our school, they have maintained our feminine hygiene products cart, hosted Mental Health Awareness Week, and look forward to many more events coming this winter. So far this year, Bridgman's Key Club has been able to participate and host many events that have continually given back to our surrounding community.

**Our Art Club** was an integral part of the Bridgman Courtyard Project, painting the mural that goes down the center of the courtyard.

**Mrs. McGee and the Bridgman DECA** are off to another great start! 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 19, 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 at Bridgman High School. We look forward to the second part of the school year!

**Gerald Heath, High School Principal**



# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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

Dear Community Members,

I'm proud to announce that the U.S. News recently named F.C. Reed Middle

School to their list of 2024 Best Middle Schools.

This is a tremendous honor that is reserved for the top 40% of middle schools in the state of Michigan based on academic performance, school culture, and teacher efficacy. At closer look, the accomplishment is even more impressive. When the nationwide news organization analyzed 2,026 public, charter, magnet, and private middle schools throughout the state, RMS ranked #55. This puts F.C. Reed Middle School in the top 3% of middle schools statewide.

The accomplishment draws into question, "What makes RMS successful?"

First and foremost, it is our continued dedication to safety. During the 2023 - 2024 school year, students, parents/guardians, and faculty have embraced the creation of our new School Resource Officer and full time School Social Worker positions. The daily presence of Officer Wyman and Mrs. Cooper has enabled our team to curate a learning environment that is safe, secure, and supportive. We have also expanded partnerships with community organizations such as the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Southwest Michigan. In coordination with our school counselor, the CAC will visit our building multiple times throughout the year to teach all students

about internet safety, digital citizenship, personal boundaries, and healthy habits. This proactive, preventative education is essential when working to ensure that our students can focus on academics when they arrive at school.

The mission of F.C. Reed Middle School aims to prepare each student socially, emotionally, and educationally for Bridgman High School and beyond. This high standard is critical to curating student achievement and only possible due to the collective efficacy of our staff. Universal free breakfast and lunch for all students, made possible by new state law, have empowered our food service team to feed all children twice a day so that they are nourished and ready to learn. RMS teachers have also invested endless hours to complete new professional development surrounding brain science and the neurological process of learning. This has enabled our staff to utilize new research based strategies that build connectedness with learners and increase student motivation. Our elite team of paraprofessionals have also been paramount to our success, going above and beyond to support special education students, implement systems of intervention, and substitute teach on short notice. These combined efforts have helped provide a culture of consistency and stability at school, enabling our student population to thrive.

Finally, it is critical to note that public education in Bridgman is a partnership. We are grateful for our community contributors and parents/guardians that expand our capacity to enrich the learning process.



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The financial support of the Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence and the Kimmel Foundation have been significant, allowing facility upgrades to our outdoor courtyard classroom and art programs. The Bridgman City Council, American Legion Post 331, Boys and Girls Club, and Bridgman Public Library have connected with our learners during the 2023 - 2024 school year to promote the importance of civics, veterans, youth development, and literacy. Teachers, volunteers, and coaches have also given their time to permit our campus to offer over 15 extracurricular clubs, 10 athletic programs, and a comprehensive Visual and Performing Arts program (band, choir, musicals). This is unprecedented for a close knit school of only 256 students.

As the educational leader of F.C. Reed Middle School, I am immensely grateful to live and work in an area that works together to prepare all students for lifelong learning.

Congratulations to everyone involved in our recent recognition in the US News rankings! This is a community achievement, and I could not be prouder of our students.

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 collaborate with the middle school.

Your partner in education,

**John Truesdell, Middle School Principal**



# Congrats!

**The Beebots finished 2nd and placed 1st in the Innovation Project at the Lancer Bot Competition on November 18 and qualified to compete at State in December!**

The Beebots' Innovation project is to renovate the pillars on the Weko Beach bridge. They are working with Milton Coronado, who painted the Harbor Country Mission mural last summer, to bring a fresh design to the paintings on the pillars. This project will hopefully be completed this spring.



# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## Let Them Sing!

by Lori Graves, Elementary School Principal

Caitlyn Lustila became a part of Bridgman Elementary School's faculty as their music

teacher in the fall of 2021. She is a native of Berrien Springs, Michigan, and attended Grand Valley State University. Caitlyn worked as a 7th-12th vocal music teacher in Evergreen, Colorado, for nine years. After moving back to the area, she taught elementary music in Buchanan, Michigan, for three years. She lives in Bridgman with her husband, son Noah, and two dogs named Holly and Clover. In her free time, she enjoys all things Disney, Harry Potter, and Star Wars, and loves to explore new places with her family in the summer. Caitlyn was inspired by her high school choir teacher, Mrs. Woodland, because she was kind and encouraging and treated her students like they were her own kids.

Caitlyn keeps the passion for music alive in her students by providing them with exciting and new projects every year. She ensures that her students always have something to work on, whether it is a concert with different themes, songs they sing in class, or learning to play the Orff instruments, pianos, and recorders. Caitlyn believes that this approach keeps things fun and exciting, and she thrives on new projects and challenges. The students are her primary source of inspiration. As a specials teacher, she feels immense joy knowing

the entire building of students. Caitlyn loves to see how different personalities approach music concepts from different angles while working towards a common goal.

Over the last two years, Caitlyn has been invited by Jen Ammerman, the middle/high school choir teacher, to be a part of the musical team for *Once Upon A Mattress* and *Shrek*. This year, Caitlyn is already involved in the musical *Seussical Jr.* which will feature students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Practices will begin in January, and the production will be held in March.

Caitlyn is also proud of her Recorder Karate unit with her third and fourth graders. She watches her students learn to overcome struggles and believes it teaches them that not everything comes easy right away and that it might take longer than you think to learn a song correctly. When students work hard to earn a new belt for each song, they take so much pride in adding it to their recorder. Caitlyn is amazed when her students cheer their classmates on and share joy in the accomplishments of their friends.

Caitlyn recalls another gratifying moment from last year when she had a student who auditioned for, and received, a solo for the concert. During dress rehearsal, the student got very anxious and





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fearful when he realized how many people he had to sing in front of alone. After a lot of encouragement from classmates and teachers, he faced his fear and did the solo in front of a packed theater that night. Almost a year later, he still talks about it, and Caitlyn couldn't be prouder!



Caitlyn is determined to help her students have a clear vision and goal for their path in the Bridgman music program as they move on from the elementary building to middle school. She wants her students to feel confident and proud of their achievements by the time they leave her class and to remember that music class was a place where they felt welcome, loved and happy. She strives to create an atmosphere that encourages students to take risks, conquer challenges, and feel a sense of success and accomplishment when they've learned a particularly challenging song on the recorder or sang solo in front of the class. Caitlyn's ultimate wish is for her students to remember their class concerts as a positive experience and a fun memory.

Caitlyn is working towards establishing a youth choir program to provide students with more performance opportunities outside of school.

She has three messages that she wants her students to take away from their time in elementary school: to not be afraid to take risks and make mistakes, to always have an activity that brings joy and happiness, and that there is beauty and magic in being part of a musical ensemble. Caitlyn hopes that her students will continue to participate in choir or band all the way through to their senior year, as the memories they create over the years will be priceless.

*Lori Graves, Elementary School Principal*



# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence from the Chairman, Al Barker

The 2024 new year is upon us with this issue of the Bridgman BUZZ! The Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence (BFEE) in July 2023, approved the project grant budget with an increase of over 15% setting it at \$17,500!

*We're excited to collaborate with Bridgman Public Schools' (BPS) administration, faculty and students on project initiatives that will make an educational difference for students and our community.*

### **RMS Courtyard Renovation Project**

As we read in the Fall 2023 BUZZ publication, F.C. Reed Middle School (RMS) Principal John Truesdell identified a “transformational” renovation that has become a reality. The RMS courtyard renovation project will pave the way for a new outdoor classroom and garden with over 1,600 square feet of area. The BFEE is proud to be involved and has committed to raise \$10,000 through a project grant request to complete phase 1 of the RMS courtyard

renovation. Phase 1 will focus on furnishing the space with basic furniture and shade devices. Specifically, six hexagonal picnic tables with a seating capacity of 35 and accompanying umbrella shade units. Additionally, it provides the RMS garden club with the financial resources necessary to plant a full garden around the perimeter of the space. The goal of the RMS courtyard renovation project as described in the grant request is to create an outdoor classroom and meeting space that can be used by teachers, student organizations, and community partners. The RMS courtyard renovation directly supports the BFEE mission, “to provide enrichment opportunities to the students and staff of Bridgman Public Schools for the betterment of the community.” The BFEE trustees, thank RMS for this opportunity to serve!

### **BFEE, What's Next?**

We'll work hard to collaborate and review for approval BPS District grant requests, coordinate BFEE community events, and provide District input to name the next BIG PROJECT so our community can rally together! Like the educational RMS STEM lab, which is a BPS success story countywide, the community will again make an impact through the next BIG PROJECT!



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## Join Us!

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 BPS students and their teachers. If interested in becoming a Board Trustee, please share your desire through our website at [BridgmanFoundation.org](https://BridgmanFoundation.org) under the volunteer tab. **Specific skill-based BFEE volunteers needed are a Board Secretary and Public Relations Lead.** If you have a desire to volunteer, please join us! If you have those skills, please, please join us!

In closing, I want to reflect on a new 2024 beginning. The changing of the calendar year gives me an opportunity to reflect on what I have accomplished and also when I fell short. I am not an expert in goal setting, but I can always review my volunteer service for its challenges and the joy it provided. With the Bridgman community as a family that includes the BPS students, we're all called to serve in our own way as a volunteer. The Bridgman community counts on all of us to care and encourage students, to be part of the solution and to inspire students to positively impact their world.

*Al Barker, BFEE Chairman*

## BRIDGMAN Cares



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

Bridgman Cares is a group of parents, grandparents, staff and community members who help address the needs of **Bridgman students**.

We award scholarships, sponsor winter clothing drives, collect food, holiday meals and gifts, donate gym shoes, and much more! All this assistance is through the generosity of our community. If you would like to support our students in need, **please consider donating!** Check our Facebook page for a list of suggested items for our school pantries as well as our activity through the year. Monetary donations as well as gift cards are also appreciated. For more information, please email, Molly Owen at [mowen1@bridgmanschools.com](mailto:mowen1@bridgmanschools.com).



**BRIDGMAN**  
AQUATIC CENTER

## Your Community Pool!

*Proudly offering a wide variety of water-based classes and more for almost 50 years! 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.*

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

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!**

**Saturday, Jan 13 – Coconut Invitational 8 a.m.**

**Thursday, Jan 18 – Battle Creek Lakeview 6 p.m.**

**Thursday, Jan 25 – Kalamazoo Loy Norrix 6 p.m.**

**Thursday, Feb 1 – Mattawan – SENIOR NIGHT 6 p.m.**

**Saturday, Feb 3 – St. Joseph & Coldwater 11 a.m.**

We are VERY excited to announce that EVERY HOME meet will be live-streamed and can be watched at [LiveBarn.com](https://www.LiveBarn.com).

Search for "Bridgman" and use code "Brid-gman" for a 20% discount when you sign-up.

### KIDS SWIM LESSONS

The next session starts Monday, January 15. Register online beginning January 8. For more details visit [BridgmanPool.com](https://BridgmanPool.com).

### ADULT SWIM LESSONS

Are you an adult that doesn't know how to swim? Are you a swimmer who needs help with your breathing, pulling or just general technique tips? Exciting news! The BAC is re-starting our adult learn to swim class! If interested, please email [poolstaff@bridgmanschools.com](mailto:poolstaff@bridgmanschools.com) for details.

[BRIDGMANPOOL.COM](https://BRIDGMANPOOL.COM)

**The Bridgman Aquatic Center will be closed SATURDAY, JANUARY 13 for a Swim & Dive Meet**



# 2024 Spring Cleanup Schedule

Leaf and brush burning within the city limits is prohibited.

## APRIL

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## MAY

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## JUNE

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

## JULY

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## AUGUST

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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

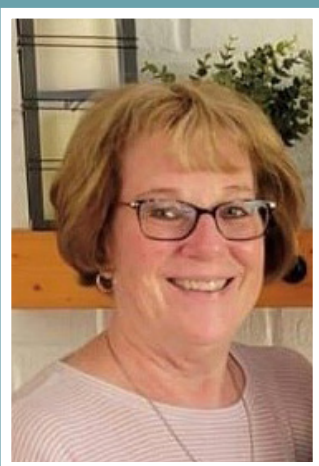
- BAGGED LEAF PICKUP
- LARGE TRASH PICKUP

**Please Note:**  
**Bagged Leaf & Brush will be picked up on the same day**

**Leaf Pick Up:** The city requires the use of biodegradable paper leaf bags. City workers will not pick up leaf bags made from any other material. **Large Trash Pick Ups:** 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 will also pick up your extra-large items for a fee. To schedule such a pickup, call Republic Services at (269) 465-3773.

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection:** Details, including a schedule, are available on the county's website. [BerrienCounty.org/564/Household-Hazardous-Waste-Collections](http://BerrienCounty.org/564/Household-Hazardous-Waste-Collections), or by calling the County Environmental Specialist at (269) 983-7111 ext. 8234.

# Congrats on Your Retirement Lori!



Please join us in congratulating Lori Davis on her well-deserved retirement after 20 years of service to the residents of Bridgman. Many of you know Lori from visiting City Hall to pay your water bills and property taxes, purchasing your Weko Beach season passes or stopping in with a general inquiry. Perhaps you received a call from her to alert you of "greater-than-normal" water usage thanks to her keen monitoring of the bills. Lori's attention to detail and commitment to doing her job well is simply unsurpassed.

We will certainly miss her presence, but we wish her all the joy, relaxation, and fulfillment that retirement brings. If you are at City Hall in the coming months, please be sure to wish her well. **Thank you Lori for your dedication, hard work, and the positive impact you've had on all of us.**



# CITY OF BRIDGMAN



## City of Bridgman News from the City Manager, Juan Ganum

We begin the New Year by sharing thrilling news – in October 2023, the City of Bridgman was honored with

the prestigious Community Excellence Award, a recognition bestowed by the Michigan Municipal League, a statewide association of cities and villages. Representatives from around the state voted to award the Bridgman Courtyard as their favorite project among the four finalists (including entries from the City of Westland, the City of Port Huron and the City of Coldwater). As the smallest community by population competing against projects that cost multiple millions of dollars, Bridgman should be proud that its spirit of collaboration was recognized by its peers. As our efforts to develop a special gathering place in downtown Bridgman were themselves inspired by previous award winners, we hope our Courtyard serves as inspiration for other communities from around the state (and indeed, for more people-friendly projects within Bridgman itself).

In early November 2023, the City placed a full-page ad in the Harbor Country News, thanking those individuals, businesses and organizations that brought the Courtyard to life through their contributions of time, talent and resources. Here's a much smaller version of the ad to say thank you to those involved, and to remind all of us that a

community's greatest strength is its people. Each of us possesses unique abilities and gifts, and when we come together to share them collectively we can make meaningful and lasting change. Will you lend your hand in developing Bridgman's next special placemaking project?



**HUGE Thanks to All Involved!**

We are thrilled to announce that the City of Bridgman has been honored with the Michigan Municipal League's Community Excellence Award! This accolade was awarded for the Bridgman Courtyard Project at the MML Convention, where we were chosen by esteemed city officials from across the state. This project epitomizes community collaboration and growth. We extend our heartfelt thanks to over 150 benefactors that made this project possible. In addition, we would also like to recognize the following individuals who dedicated their time and expertise to turn this vision into a reality.

Mike Rose	Catherine Worcester	Lake Street Eats	Matthew Bizee	John Borkoske
Julie Strating	Tara Heiser	Georgia Gipson	Bryan Fellows	Carson Wood Specialties
Jake Zapor & Bridgman High School Art Club	SWMI Reg. Chamber	Dan Starbuck	Joan Hurray	
Bob Clark	Water Department	Allegretti Architects	Brett Boyd	Public Works Dept.
Beth McNeil	Jason Kaeding	Cheri Heward	City of Bridgman Administrative Team	





## Trash and Recycling

As we kick off 2024 I would like to make our residents and businesses aware of plans to seek bids for the city's trash and recycling collection service. The City has contracted Republic Services for solid waste collection since 2001 and has been pleased with the company's customer service and cost structure. (Bridgman has among the lowest rates for trash and recycling collection service within Berrien County.)

Our original contract has expired and the service, which currently costs around \$175,000 per year, must be competitively bid in keeping with the Bridgman City Charter.

In July 2023 the City Council adopted a resolution to initiate the implementation of a City-wide special assessment district to pay for the cost of providing trash and recycling collection services. This cost would be added to the tax bills of residents who receive trash and recycling collection services in the summer

of 2024. Please visit the City's website for more information about the special assessment process.

## Roads

Bridgman has a number of local roads that are in poor condition, as rated using the Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating System (PASER). PASER relies on trained staff to visually assess pavement conditions while driving, assigning a value of 1 through 10 based on observed defects. For example, Baldwin Road received an assessment rating of 'poor – 1 to 4' in 2019.

As Bridgman's major and local street budgets are very constrained, the City has largely relied on grant funding to repave its streets. While we have been partially successful (2014 – Red Arrow Highway \$909,000; 2023 – Lake Street between Church Street and Gast Road \$512,000) grant and earmark requests have also been rejected (most recently, a \$900,000 request for Baldwin Road and a \$310,000 request to cover 50% of the cost of reconstructing all roads in the Stelter Farm and Water Tower subdivisions.

Our administration understands that good roads are important to residents and businesses, so the City will continue to aggressively pursue road funding through federal and state sources, while also seeking other means of financing improvements. Among the means discussed at the City Council level is using the monies collected by the trash and recycling special assessment to undertake road repair and reconstruction.

**Juan Ganum, City Manager**



# CITY OF BRIDGMAN



## Understanding Early Voting in the State of Michigan

from the City Clerk, Sheila Reitz

Hello Bridgman residents!

The 2024 Election Cycle is shaping up to be one of the busiest for the State of Michigan. For the first time in the history of elections in Michigan, registered and qualified voters will have increased opportunities to cast their vote during an early voting period before Election Day making participation in the democratic process more convenient than ever.

Michigan now offers two methods to cast your vote before Election Day:

**1. Absentee Voting** – This option is available to all registered and qualified voters in the state. You can request an absentee ballot for the current and/or all future elections, by joining the Permanent Ballot List, and then vote from the comfort of your home.

**2. In-Person Early Voting** – If you prefer the experience of voting in person, you can head to designated early voting locations in Berrien County. This option allows you to cast your ballot in advance of Election Day.

### How to Participate in Early Voting

As is the case with all elections, there are several costs to the local municipalities to implement early voting for their residents. To be fiscally responsible, the City of Bridgman has partnered with several municipalities and Berrien County to provide early voting to all registered and qualified voters.

The required early voting period before all statewide and federal elections will begin on the second Saturday before the election and end on the Sunday prior to Election Day. Early voting must be offered for nine (9) consecutive days and at least eight (8) hours a day during this time frame.

Registered and qualified voters of the City of Bridgman may cast their vote in person during the early voting period at the south county site.

**Berrien County  
South County Building  
1205 N. Front Street  
Niles, Michigan 49120**







The days and times early voting may take place are as follows:

- Day 1 – Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Day 2 – Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Day 3 – Monday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Day 4 – Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Day 5 – Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Day 6 – Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Day 7 – Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Day 8 – Saturday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Day 9 – Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The first chance registered and qualified voters of the City of Bridgman may cast their vote early if they choose to do so during the Presidential Primary Election to be held in February 2024. You may learn more about Early Voting by visiting the Secretary of State’s Early Voting webpage [Michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/early-in-person-voting](https://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.

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](mailto:sreitz@bridgman.org).

*Sheila Reitz, City Clerk* \_\_\_\_\_



# CITY OF BRIDGMAN

## Assessing Department Updates

from the Assessor, John Baumann

The Assessing Department of the City of Bridgman is responsible for ensuring that all properties in the city are assessed accurately and fairly.

**Personal property statements** will be mailed out to residents and business owners by January 10, 2024 and are **due to the assessor's office by February 20, 2024**. Many small businesses were eligible for an exemption of personal property taxes for 2023 but did not file the Small Business Taxpayer Exemption paperwork. We highly encourage small businesses to file and to make the process easier we will include the paperwork in the mailing.

It is important to note that in 2023 the Michigan legislature increased the Small Business Taxpayer Exemption to \$180,000 in true cash value, which means most businesses in Bridgman are eligible for the exemption if they file the appropriate paperwork. However, business owners who qualified and filed for the Small Business Taxpayer Exemption in 2019 or after need not file the form again in 2024.

**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 2024 to be exempted from 2024 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 2023 assessment and tax bills were calculated based on how your property appeared on December 31, 2022. Currently we are working on the 2024 assessments and will base those assessments on the condition of your property as of December 31, 2023.

### **2024 Assessment Notices**

By the end of February 2024, Property Tax Assessment Notices will be mailed to each taxpayer for real and personal property. These notices show the change in assessed and taxable values for your property from 2023 to 2024. The notice also shows your homestead percentage and if there was a transfer of ownership that resulted in an uncapping of your taxable value. **It is crucial to review this notice when you receive it to verify that all information is correct.** If you find any errors or have any questions on the assessed or taxable value change, please call the assessing office at 269-465-5144 x104 or email [jbaumann@bridgman.org](mailto:jbaumann@bridgman.org).

The Assessing Department has property record cards on file for every parcel in the city and you are always welcome and encouraged to come in and review your property record card(s). You can also find assessing information online via the City of Bridgman website at BSA Online.

For more information, please call or email the Assessing Department or visit the City of Bridgman website.



# Parks & Recreation Department

## from the Parks & Recreation Director, Sara Ball

The City's Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to announce the completion of the **Toth Park Playground Project**, which was finalized just ahead of Thanksgiving. The City will host a ribbon cutting in Spring 2024 to acknowledge the generous donors that made the project a reality as we formally inaugurate Bridgman's newest playground. We hope your children will be as excited as we are about this fantastic addition to the park system. Please stay tuned for updates on the Weko Beach Facebook page and the City's website at [Bridgman.org](https://www.bridgman.org).



## WINTER TAXES DUE

2023 winter tax bills are due February 14, 2024 by 5 p.m. to avoid penalties. Be sure to leave ample time when paying by mail (postmarks are not accepted).

You may pay at City Hall, by mail or online at [Bridgman.org](https://www.bridgman.org).



# CITY OF BRIDGMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT



Chief Unruh here, your friendly advocate for keeping it real and keeping it safe. I know a thing or two about the streets and how crucial it is for all of us to be the eyes and ears that watch out for each other.

Bridgman is truly a special community thanks to its residents. We are a tight-knit community, and that means we look out for one another. That's the code I've lived by, and I know many of you do, too.

*You've heard it before: "See something, say something." It's not just a catchy slogan; it's a way of life. It's about standing up for what's right, even when it isn't easy.*

Let me break it down for you: Our town may be small, but its heartbeat is strong, fueled by the collective efforts of its residents. Each one of you plays a vital role in ensuring the well-being of our community. Observant eyes and open communication are how we build a resilient and safe environment. Reporting isn't snitching; It's about protecting and taking care of our own.



## Why "See Something, Say Something" Matters

**Keep It Real:** Our streets, our people. We're the ones who know when something's off. Don't let it slide or look the other way. Speaking up keeps our community real.

**Community Unity:** When we actively look out for one another, we strengthen the bonds that tie us together.

**Be a Force, Not a Spectator:** We aren't spectators in this game of life. We're players. When you report what you see, you're stepping up and being a force for good. Don't be a sideline watcher; be the one making the plays.





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



## How to Report

**Emergency Situations** – If you witness a crime in progress or an emergency, call 911 immediately. Our dedicated officers are ready to assist you day or night.

**Non-Emergency Concerns** – For non-emergency situations or to provide information about suspicious activities, please contact our non-emergency line at 269-465-3880 or the Berrien County Communications Center at 269-983-7141. You can also visit the police station in person to share your observations.

In this town, your voice matters. Your instincts matter. Don't let anyone tell you differently. We're all in this together and your eyes on the street can make a difference.

In conclusion, I want to express my gratitude for the unwavering support we receive from the residents of Bridgman. Together, we can continue to make our community a place where everyone feels safe, secure, and proud to call home.

So, stay true, stay vigilant. We have your back, and I know you have ours.

*Thank you!*

**Chief Dan Unruh**



## Highlights & Triumphs Interim President, Marty Mason

As we begin the New Year, the Greater Bridgman Area Council for Growth & Advancement (CGA)

reflects on a season of achievement and community spirit. Our small coastal town has big reasons to celebrate as we look back at the summer and ahead to the future.

### All Aboard the Bridgman Beach Bus!

Labor Day Weekend marked a record for our beloved Bridgman Beach Bus, with over 1,100 riders choosing this convenient and eco-friendly mode of transport over the holiday weekend. An astounding 80% of the riders this summer were local residents, showcasing our commitment to sustainable living. Pride was a common sentiment, with a significant percentage of riders expressing that the Beach Bus was not just a service, but a symbol of our vibrant community.

### Courtyard Concerts: The Heartbeat of Bridgman

The Courtyard Concert series returned this summer to the cheer of both neighbors and visitors. The melodies floated through the air of our newly revitalized Bridgman Courtyard, providing a perfect backdrop for gatherings, laughter, and conversation. These events have become more than just concerts; they're a celebration of our community spirit.



### A Win for Bridgman: MML Community Excellence Award

Speaking of the Bridgman Courtyard, our shared space earned the spotlight when it received the Michigan Municipal League's Community Excellence Award. This prestigious honor is a testament to our town's collaboration, creativity, and the unstoppable spirit of the people who call Bridgman home. Thanks again to everyone (and there are a LOT of you) who helped bring this project to life.





### **CGA's New Website Launch**

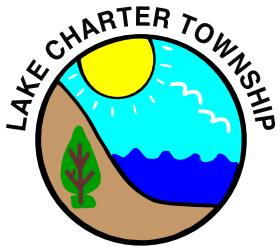
Exciting news on the digital front – the CGA has launched a new website! Packed with information about our achievements and visions for the future, the site serves as a hub for all things Bridgman and Lake Charter Township. Visit [Bridgmancga.org](http://Bridgmancga.org) to discover more about how we're moving forward together.

### **Holiday Village: A Festive Finale**

Holiday Village this year was nothing short of magical! A heartfelt thank you goes out to each sponsor and volunteer who contributed to creating a festive wonderland for all ages. Your dedication ensured that the spirit of the holidays was alive and well in our community.

Here's to a community that's growing stronger and more connected with every season.

***Marty Mason, Interim President***



# LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



## Township News from Supervisor, Zach Carson

Dear Township Residents,

As the weather changes and winter approaches, our grounds maintenance

crews have been hard at work keeping up with all the mowing and cemetery work this fall. As winter arrives, their focus will shift to equipment maintenance and other projects, including interior building maintenance and work in the water plant.

I'm happy to report that the long ongoing Snow Road water main project is winding down for the year and is almost complete. Our dedicated crews will continue working until the weather forces them to stop, but with most of the work finished, the spring work should be quick and have minimal traffic disruption. We are committed to finishing site cleanup and grass planting to restore all affected residents' yards.

Beyond my daily duties as Supervisor, I recently had the opportunity to attend the Benton Harbor Public Safety Training Academy for firefighting. It was an incredible experience, and I'm thrilled to be a part of the Lake Township Fire Department. I'm committed to serving our community in any way I can, and this was just one more way to do that. If you're interested in learning more about my experience and that of two others from our Township, please check out the pictures posted on the Benton Harbor Public Safety Facebook page at [facebook.com/BHDPS](https://facebook.com/BHDPS).

*Zach Carson,  
Supervisor*





# Building & Zoning News

## from Building Administrator, Rich Kubsch

Happy New Year! The Planning Commission and I have been working together for almost three years now, and I must say they are a great team to work with. It seems like it has been a quiet year, but in reality we have been working on several projects including the Master Plan, ordinance amendments, ordinance review, and Planning Commission bylaws. These projects are not easy or exciting to work on, but they are essential to being prepared for new projects, developers, and the overall community needs.

In 2024, the Planning Commission will finally finish the Master Plan. It has taken a fair amount of time to prepare, but the Planning Commission did the work and spent time reviewing every part of the document. This will ensure that projects coming in or changes to how the community develops will be proactive and not reactive. Along with the Master Plan, there will be a full review of the Township Zoning Ordinance. The Ordinance was reworked in 2011, but many of the objectives of the 2007 Master Plan were left out, meaning the Ordinance does not always cover things as it should. We are hoping these changes will go smoothly and that the Ordinance will reflect where the community is today.

There is a new housing development being reviewed early in 2024. The proposed location is off California Road, across from the Middle School. We are hopeful that this project will be successful, and Lake Township will be seeing 35 new homes located in a great location. Also, on the note of new homes, Warren Dunes Village will be starting their expansion this year. It will be towards Hildebrandt Road and will give them 54 new homes added to their complex.

The Planning Commission has been given the task to look into a possible rental ordinance. The Ordinance would cover all rentals and will probably be a safety-related ordinance. It is too early to say what this ordinance will look like or if it will be adopted by the Township Board after their review.

As always, all of our meetings are open to the public, and public comment is part of every meeting. Please visit [Lake-township.org](http://Lake-township.org) for meeting information and scheduled dates. We look forward to seeing you there!

*Rich Kubsch, Building Administrator*

### LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

#### Supervisor

Zach Carson

#### Treasurer

Bob Clark

#### Clerk

Miranda  
Companion

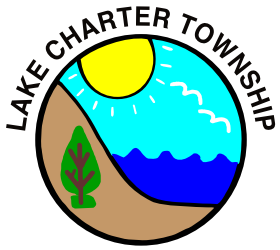
#### Building Admin

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!**



# LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



## Treasurer, Park & Trail News from Bob Clark

Taxpayers should have received their 2023 Winter Tax Bills in early December. These bills are due on or

before February 14 at 5 p.m. to avoid penalties. If you haven't received your bill, please contact our office.

Summer and Winter tax bills can be paid at the Township until February 29 by 5 p.m. After that, they must be sent to the County Treasurer, and additional penalties will apply. Be sure to leave ample mailing time if paying by mail (postmarks are not accepted). We have several payment options, including E-check, credit card, and online. Please visit our newly renovated website at [Lake-Township.org](http://Lake-Township.org) for more information about payment options as well as tax and assessment information. For after-hour payments, we also have two drop boxes - one in the lot east of the hall and one near the front door. Please don't hesitate to call our office if you have any questions.

### Park Updates

It's been another busy year at the park. The various recreational leagues had busy and successful seasons

and we completed the playground structure repair and replacement project. The newly installed equipment has been a hit with the kids. Disc golf also had another busy year at the park, with a lot of play and several events. The pavilions were enjoyed by many and are available to rent for the 2024 season. Lastly, we have established a cross-country ski trail at the

park! It's a beautiful trail around the park's perimeter and through some wooded areas. Come out and give it a try this winter!



We are still awaiting a decision on the DNR grant we applied for the trail project from the High School and City to the park. We hope to have the trail constructed in 2024. 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 be well received! In 2024, we plan to complete the baseball fencing project with new fencing and

backstops on the two east fields used for baseball and adult softball.

### Trail Updates

The Friends of Berrien County Trails continues to be active with trail construction projects. The





Berrien County Linear Park segment on Red Arrow Highway to Sawyer Road was completed this past year. The plan is to continue the trail north on Red Arrow to Warren Dunes State Park and through the State Park to Lake Township and Bridgman. Plans are for the Marquette Greenway Trail to be extended from the State Line to New Buffalo. Ultimately, the trail will connect Chicago to South Haven and beyond! Trails are critical to economic growth, attracting visitors, and providing local residents a healthy, safe way to enjoy our parks and communities.

### **New Website Design!**

The Township is excited to announce that we have redesigned our website. You can expect an updated look and be able to find things easier with improved navigation and organization of information.

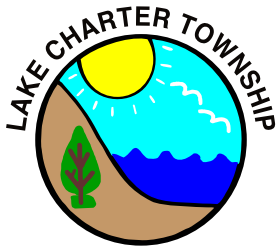
*Bob Clark, Treasurer*

## **WINTER TAX BILLS DUE**

**The 2023 winter tax bills are due February 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. You can pay via E-check or credit/debit card utilizing our on-line system which is very secure. The online payment system has been upgraded and is easy to use. Please visit [Lake-township.org](http://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



## Clerk News

from **Miranda Companion, Township Clerk**

Dear Community Members,

I have been in the Clerk role for over a month now.

Although I admit there is much to learn, I love it and I am embracing the challenge! I graduated from Bridgman High School and continued my education at Lake Michigan College, where I got my degree in Applied Science.

I have been married to my husband, Dustin Companion, for 12 years. We have two boys, Liam and Graham, who attend school at Bridgman Elementary. We love this area and it's close-knit community, and the beach is a plus. I worked at the hospital for seven years before applying for the clerk position.

I have been busy with E-learning and working with local Clerks to ensure we are ready for the upcoming **Presidential Primary Election on February 27.**

For the first time, Michigan will have an early voting period to cast your vote either in person or as an Absentee Voter at the south county site located at:

**Berrien County South County Building**  
**1205 N. Front St.**  
**Niles, MI 49120**

Early voting will be held for nine consecutive days before the election, starting on the second Saturday before the election day. Remember, you can participate

in early voting as long as you're registered to vote. Check out the early voting times below:

Saturday:	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday:	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday:	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday:	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday:	11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday:	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday:	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday:	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday:	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**To learn more about early voting, visit [Michigan.gov](https://www.michigan.gov).**

If you prefer to vote on election day, we'll be running the election at Lake Township Hall as usual.

Lastly, I'd like to inform you that we'll be changing the drop box for Absentee Voter Ballots. This designated drop box will now be marked for AVB only and will be placed in the East parking lot along with our regular drop box.

If you have questions, please feel free to email me at [clerk@lake-township.org](mailto:clerk@lake-township.org) or call 269-465-6601, ext. 111. I am happy to assist you.

**Miranda Companion, Clerk**



**LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP**  
**2024 RECYCLE SCHEDULE**  
**North of Shawnee**

Jan-24							Feb-24							Mar-24							Apr-24						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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May-24							Jun-24							Jul-24							Aug-24						
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Sep-24							Oct-24							Nov-24							Dec-24						
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**Both sides of Shawnee Road**  
**South of Shawnee Road and Dunewood**

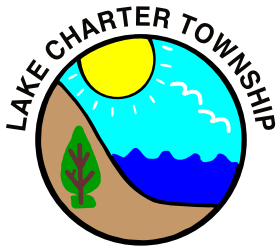
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May-24							Jun-24							Jul-24							Aug-24						
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Sep-24							Oct-24							Nov-24							Dec-24						
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	29	30															29	30	31					29			



# LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

## Water System News from Jeff Burkhard

Hello, Everyone.

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. Another year has flown by, and it's time to reflect on our achievements in 2023 and our plans for 2024. One of the main highlights of 2023 was the successful water main replacement project on Rambo Rd. and Snow Rd. This five-month project will finally conclude in the spring of 2024 with the remaining clean-up and restoration work. We understand that some of you may have been impacted by scheduled water shutdowns during this project, and we appreciate your patience and understanding. The replacement of this water main will significantly improve reliability and address several problem areas. If you face any issues with this project, please do not hesitate to let us know.

In 2024, we will replace a few valves in the system to replace aging infrastructure, given that our water distribution system will be 50 years old. We will continue upgrading our system to improve reliability and ensure that we provide you with the best water services.

In June/July 2024, we will conduct our triennial Lead and Copper Sampling, which is mandatory under the Michigan EGLE Lead and Copper Rule. We have had this sampling program in place for many years, and if you participated in the sampling three years ago, you will be contacted again in 2024. Please note that sites are chosen based on strict criteria to meet

regulations, and locations are not randomly selected. Your past participation is greatly appreciated and has contributed to the success of the program.

Additionally, we will finish the service line inventory verification in 2024, which is also a mandatory regulation to comply with the Lead and Copper rule revisions. We must verify the service line to your residence for unknown service lines, confirming that our system has no known lead service lines. If you were one of the residences affected by this verification, you would have received a notification. If you did receive one and did not respond, we will contact you to fulfill this regulation. (We know from records and practices that no lead service lines exist, but it still has to be verified.)

In January 2024, we will participate in a required EPA study for two emerging contaminants, per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium, for future regulations. We have also participated in past studies for PFAS and cyanotoxins from algal blooms.

Finally, let us remember how essential clean and safe water is and what a remarkable resource it is. We cannot survive without it, and our families and communities cannot thrive without it. We monitor water quality continuously. If you are ever interested in a tour of our facility, please contact me and we can make arrangements.

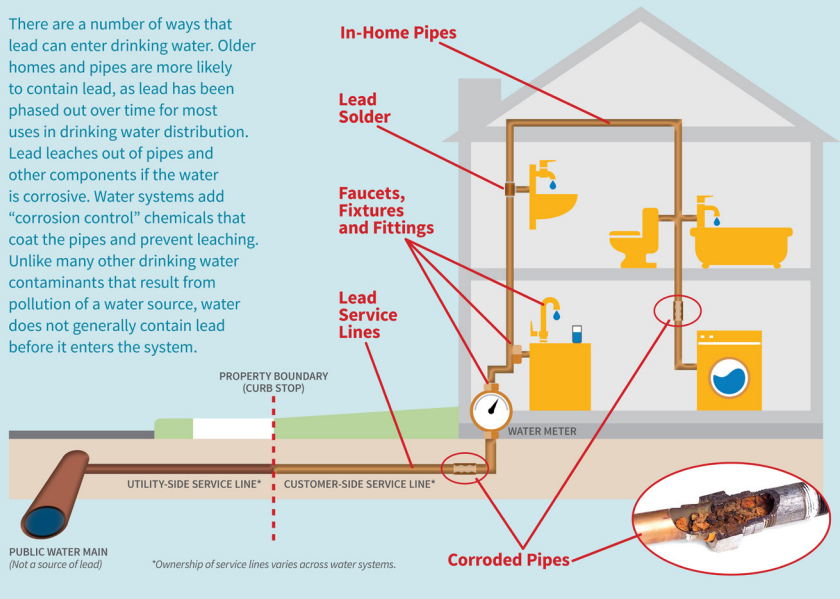


3220 Shawnee  
 P.O. Box 818  
 Bridgman, MI 49106  
 Ph: 269-465-6601

## How Lead Gets Into Drinking Water



There are a number of ways that lead can enter drinking water. Older homes and pipes are more likely to contain lead, as lead has been phased out over time for most uses in drinking water distribution. Lead leaches out of pipes and other components if the water is corrosive. Water systems add "corrosion control" chemicals that coat the pipes and prevent leaching. Unlike many other drinking water contaminants that result from pollution of a water source, water does not generally contain lead before it enters the system.



Enjoy the rest of winter, and we look forward to seeing you in the spring! As always, if you have any questions, please email me at [jburkhardtwater@lake-township.org](mailto:jburkhardtwater@lake-township.org) or call me at 269-465-3850.

*Jeff Burkhard, Superintendent Lake Charter Township Water System*

## SNOW & FIRE HYDRANTS

In the winter, we kindly ask that you **avoid piling snow around fire hydrants** so that they are accessible in an emergency.

You may sometimes notice a blue flag or blue paint in your yard, which is where we periodically locate and test shut-off valves to ensure that we can turn your water on or off in case of an emergency.

**If you have any questions about this, please call me at 269-465-3850.**





# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY



## A Letter from the Library Director Sarah Skinner

My team and I hope you had a wonderful holiday season with your family! At the Bridgman Public Library,

we couldn't be more grateful for our patrons, Friends of BPL group, and our fantastic Board of Trustees. As we begin the new year, we're excited to offer a range of fun and interesting programs for all ages.

**We're thrilled to announce the return of Nerf Night, thanks to popular demand!** Kids (and their parents, too!) can battle it out in the library with their Nerf Blasters! Bring your blasters and buddies to the library this January for some fun, team vs. team games. We will have some blasters available if you don't have one along with some standard darts.

**Have you ever witnessed a solar eclipse?** Mark your calendars for Monday, April 8! While Michigan is not in the path for a "total eclipse," it will still be visible in our area. To celebrate this phenomenon, we'll host a program presented by a member of the Kalamazoo Astronomical Society on March 16 at the library. BPL will have a limited number of solar eclipse glasses available on a first-come-first-served basis.

We can't wait to see you at BPL this Winter and Spring!

*Sarah Skinner, Director*

**Visit our new Website!**

Same web address, new look!  
[www.bridgmanlibrary.com](http://www.bridgmanlibrary.com)

Find information about:

Programs  
Materials to Borrow  
Services  
and much more...

**ONGOING ADULT EVENTS**

**New Programs**

<b>CHAIR YOGA</b> MONDAYS AT 9AM	<b>ROOTS TO REMEMBER</b> Learn Genealogy the first Tuesday of the month @ 5:00 pm	<b>Artplay for Adults</b> 1st Wednesdays 6:00
<b>Scribbles Society</b> Writing Group 3rd Mondays 11:00	<b>BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY</b>	<b>BPL Book Group</b> 2nd Wednesdays 5:30
<b>Knit &amp; Yarn</b> Mondays 1:00 & 3rd Tuesdays 6:00	<b>MAKERS SPACE WORKSHOPS!</b> 1st Thursdays & 3rd Wednesdays 6:00 in the community room	<b>ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION Caregiver's Support Group</b> Last Tuesdays 2:00

More information @ [bridgmanlibrary.com](http://bridgmanlibrary.com)





## ADULT PROGRAMS

Please find a full calendar of events and additional program information including Zoom links on the library website at [BridgmanLibrary.com](http://BridgmanLibrary.com).

### WINTER SOUPS

**FEB 27, 6 P.M. via Zoom**

Beat the long winter with some hot and hearty soups! Mary Spencer will join us on Zoom and teach us how to make them.

### 529 EDUCATIONAL SAVINGS PROGRAMS

**MAR 4, 6 P.M.**

Doug Wall from Edward Jones Investments will discuss how college savings plans may impact federal financial plans and give you realistic expectations regarding federal financial aid eligibility.

### CRAFT SUPPLY SWAP

**MAR 9, 1-3 P.M.**

Donate supplies in between March 2 & 8, receive a swap ticket, and come back to pick out new-to-you arts & craft materials on March 9.

### HISTORY & CULTURE OF THE POKAGON BAND

**MAR 26, 6 P.M.**

Cecil Wilson, Tribal Historical Preservation Officer, and Amy Jo Morseau, Cultural Activities Coordinator, will talk about the history of the Pokagon Band and where they are today.

### THE BIGGEST LITTLE BASEBALL MUSEUM

**APR 9, 6:30 P.M.**

Get into the swing of baseball season! Join the staff from the baseball museum in Three Oaks to learn about town teams, local area big leaguers and card collecting.

### **NEW!** CHAIR YOGA

**EVERY MONDAY, 9-10 A.M.**

Modified yoga poses and breathing exercises perfect for beginners or those with disabilities or injuries. Limited to 14 participants.

## 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

Ed Valauskas

### Vice-President

Rick Fuller

### Secretary

Sue Collins

### Treasurer

Jim Kole

### Trustee

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### Trustee

John Wilk

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Catherine Worcester



# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

## ADULT PROGRAMS CONTINUED

### **NEW! GENEALOGY MONTHLY WORKSHOP**

**1ST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH, 5-7 P.M.  
JAN 2, FEB 6, MAR 5, APR 2**

Join Karianne Silva from Roots 2 Remember on the first Tuesday of the month to learn more about genealogy and research your personal ancestry.

### **ARTPLAY FOR ADULTS**

**1ST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH, 6 P.M.**

Each session will focus on a new art project. No art skills required. Ages 16+

### **MAKERS SPACE OPEN HOURS**

**1ST THURSDAY & 3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE  
MONTH *New time!* 6-8 P.M.**

Bring in your personal craft projects to work on or participate in a workshop! 1st Thursdays learn more about 3D Printers. On 3rd Wednesdays, attend a sewing or Cricut workshop. 3D printing, cricut, art supplies and more are available to use. See website for supply fees.

### **WRITER'S GROUP**

**JAN 15, FEB 19, MAR 18, APR 15  
*New day & time!* 11 A.M.**

Every third Monday join us to practice your writing skills and receive peer feedback. Each session will begin with a writing prompt and end with an opportunity to share a written piece of your choice with the group. Ages 16+

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

## FAMILY PROGRAMS – ALL AGES

### **NERF-NITE**

**JAN 18, 5-7:30 P.M.**

Teams of 6 will compete for bragging rights in this fun-filled evening! Darts will be provided. Please bring blasters if you have them. Ages 6+

### **MAKERS FEST**

**JAN 20, 10 A.M – 3:30 P.M.**

Join us for a daylong festival in our Makers Space! Workshops for 3D printing, Cricut, sewing and crafts. Enjoy some popcorn and get creative. Fun for the whole family!

### **THE GREAT NORTH AMERICAN ECLIPSE**

**MAR 16, 1 P.M.**

Richard Bell from the Kalamazoo Astronomical Society will talk about the eclipse and how to view it safely.

### **CHOCOLATES FOR MOM**

**MAY 2, 5 P.M.**

Create your own custom confections in this sweet program. Makes a great gift for Mother's Day!

### **EXPLORE THE NIGHT SKY @ WEKO BEACH**

**MAY 11, 9:30 P.M.**

A magical night where science and wonder meet! We will set up telescopes to gaze at the moon and other planets in our Solar System. Join us at Weko Beach in Bridgman.



## YOUTH PROGRAMS

### MAKE A MONSTER DAY

FEB 17, 10 A.M.

Turn your imaginary creature into a reality by making your own stuffed monster. Grades 2 - 8

### KYLE'S REPTILE EXPERIENCE

MAR 2, 11 A.M.

BPL staff member Kyle will teach us all about reptiles. Several scaly friends will join us as we learn about reptile care and what to do if you see one in the wild.

### 3D ANIMATION FOR BEGINNERS

MAY 18, 10:30 A.M. – 12 P.M.

Have you ever wanted to make a 3D cartoon? Learn how to create a simple animation that you can share with friends and family. Please bring a laptop. Grades 5 – 8

### NEW! CODE CLUB

EVERY THURSDAY BEGINNING FEB 1  
4-5:30 P.M.

Learn how to go from simple code to making a video game. Grades 5 - 8

## 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](http://BridgmanLibrary.com)

## DISPLAY CASE

If you would like to showcase a hobby or collection in our display case, please call the library at 269-465-3663.

**ONGOING TEEN EVENTS**

**New**

**CODE CLUB**  
THURSDAYS @ 4PM

**BPL D&D CLUB**  
2ND WEDNESDAYS 4-6PM

**MAKERS SPACE WORKSHOPS!**  
1ST THURSDAYS & 3RD WEDNESDAYS, 6-8PM

**Pokemon Card League**  
EVERY TUESDAY 4:00 - 5:00PM

1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ Bridgman Public Library  
2nd & 4th Tuesdays @ Reed Middle School

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATLAKES DISTRICT #100000  
BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY & REED MIDDLE SCHOOL  
41255 WOODLARK DRIVE

**ONGOING KID EVENTS**

**STORYTIME + TODDLER & ME**  
TUESDAYS @ 9:30, 10:30 & 11:30

**BABY & ME**  
WEDNESDAYS @ 10:30

**LITTLE EXPLORERS**  
EVERY 2ND & 4TH MONDAYS @ 10:30

**PAWSITIVE READING**  
2ND TUESDAYS @ 3:30

REGISTER FOR A 15 MINUTE SLOT AT THE DESK!

**POKEMON CARD LEAGUE**  
TUESDAYS @ 4PM  
1ST & 3RD TUESDAYS @ BPL  
2ND & 4TH TUESDAYS @ REED MIDDLE SCHOOL

**D & D CLUB**  
2ND WEDNESDAYS @ 4PM

**BPL D&D CLUB**

More information @ [bridgmanlibrary.com](http://bridgmanlibrary.com)

9964 GAST ROAD, BRIDGMAN, MI 49106

BridgmanSchools.com

Office: 269-465-5432

Fax: 269-466-0221

# CITY OF BRIDGMAN 2024 TRASH/RECYCLE SCHEDULE

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	29		

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						

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



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