

# BRIDGMAN COMMUNITY BUZZ

JANUARY 2017



Beautiful days are ahead in Bridgman.

## COMMUNICATION IS KEY ...

In a joint effort with the City of Bridgman, Lake Township, Bridgman Public Library and Bridgman Public Schools, we are **EXCITED** to release this community newsletter.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN COMMUNICATION

As residents of the Greater Bridgman area, we should be proud of the example set forth by all the community partners involved who are working together for this one common cause, better communication with our constituents. We hope you are pleased with the results.

### SCHOOL NEWS

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday season.

Superintendent  
Shane M. Peters

As we reach the half-way

point of yet another school year, our staff and students continue to experience numerous accomplishments

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### TOWNSHIP NEWS

#### FROM THE DESK OF SUPERVISOR JOHN GAST



Happy New Year! The year flew by and the Township finished two major projects. Again we are in the

Supervisor  
John Gast

weather roller coaster, with winter storms, then mild stretches, then rain.

There is discussion about Red Arrow Highway south of I-94. Those who

### LIBRARY NEWS

#### FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR



Director  
Gretchen Evans

Next time you are in the library, check out the fire-place area. This much-loved corner of the library has a fresh look thanks to a gift of furniture from the Friends of the Library. New dark wood tables and wide, comfortable upholstered chairs welcome patrons to settle in to read and relax.

### CITY NEWS

#### FROM THE CITY MANAGER



City Manager  
Juan Ganum

In October 2016 the Bridgman City Council acted to repeal sections of two city ordinances that regulate weeds, grass, brush and other vegetation. The action was taken due to the challenges of effectively and uniformly applying the ordinances to all areas within the City of Bridgman. A six-inch maximum height



COMMUNITY BUZZ

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## Bridgman Public Schools



SHANE M. PETERS - CONTINUED

### Bridgman Board of Education

President  
Eric Ramso

Vice-President  
Lisa Kiewel

Secretary  
JoAnn DeMeulenaere

Treasurer  
Brad Reitz

Trustee  
Pamela Oselka

Trustee  
Brad Owen

Trustee  
Tishia Roberts

### Omission from Fall 2016 Buzz on New Hires:

Ms. Leah Ditto –  
BES Paraprofessional

and achievements in and out of the classroom.

**Bridgman Public Schools continues to produce academically strong students, provide competitive athletic programs and a quality performing, visual and applied arts curriculum. The District continues to see an increase in M-Step and SAT scores. These scores have been consistently among the top in the county.**

**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, Lisa Kiewel, JoAnn DeMeulenaere, Brad Reitz, Brad Owen, Tishia Roberts, and Pam Oselka** 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.

A recent annual audit of the District finances resulted in a clean opinion being issued by our auditors, *Krugger and Lawton*. For fiscal year ending, June 30, 2016, the District added \$341,893 to its General Fund balance vs. a budgeted surplus of \$319,086. This resulted in a General Fund balance of \$1,643,289, which represents a healthy 16.1% of annual expenditures.

In the life of a school, the second half of the school year proves to be a busy time. A good way to stay informed on what all is going on within the Bridgman Public Schools is to visit our updated website at [www.bridgmanschools.com](http://www.bridgmanschools.com).

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

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

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Go Bees!  
*Shane M. Peters, Superintendent*

{ **The strength of our community is our schools and the strength of our schools is our community.** }



## Lake Charter Township



### JOHN GAST - CONTINUED

travel it know the road is deteriorating and needs to be resurfaced, maybe rebuilt. The culvert project in Harbert was completed, and that stretch of road is nice through the affected area. Now we need to have the rest of Red Arrow repaired.

After a review of water/sewer fund balances, our analysts and consultants suggested a need for a rate increase. The Township has been increasing the rate every other year in 2013, 2015 and now 2017. The goal is for the water/sewer fund to be self-supporting without transferring funds from the general fund each year.

Consideration to upgrade the marquee sign to electronic is being reviewed and proposals are being accepted. This will better help us communicate meeting dates and events to the community.

*John Gast, Supervisor*

## From the Desk of Clerk Gloria Payne

### A Year in Review



Gloria Payne,  
Clerk

Major projects for 2016 included replacing approximately 8,000 feet of water main on Shawnee Road from Gast to Jericho. The pipe was increased from 8" to 16" pipe. Phase II of the project

included Gast Road to Lemon Creek, as well. Both projects were completed in September 2016.

In February, Lake Charter Township purchased additional land adjacent to the Lake Charter Township Park. The park is one of our most used assets and anytime we are able to expand it or improve it, we are happy to do so. Plans include a walking trail and maybe an additional disc golf hole.

In March we were able to refinance Capital Improvement Bonds cutting the interest rate from 4% to 2%.

In May we continued with renovations of the old Fire Station that now houses the Medic One personnel. The doors, windows and the entire interior is being updated.

There were three elections in 2016, the Presidential Primary, the local August Primary and the November

Presidential Election. I would like to say "Thank You" to Lake Charter Township voters. Out of 2,481 registered voters, 1,747 (70%) of you came out and voted in the polls on November 8, 2016. That was the highest turnout for Lake Charter Township.

Then, just when you think it's over, Green Party Candidate Jill Stein filed to have a recount. On December 7, 2016 the recount was held in Niles, Michigan at the Berrien County Courthouse. For this particular recount, the ballots had to be counted by hand. As I write this article, Berrien County just finished the recount and Donald Trump received an additional 46 votes, Hillary Clinton lost one vote and Jill Stein remained the same at 662.

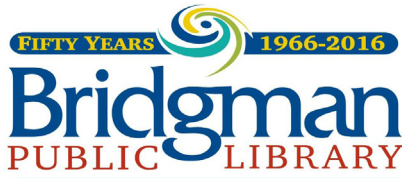
Thanks to all my election workers who helped with all of the elections, and especially those who helped in the recount, you made me proud. Thanks to Sharon Tyler and her staff at Berrien County who organized the recount. Thanks to approximately 160 volunteers who successfully recounted 73,000 ballots from 69 precincts in one day, in about eight (8) hours. Thanks to the State of Michigan for halting this process that would have been on shoulders of the taxpayers.

Thanks to God, that we live in a free democracy.





# BRIDGMAN COMMUNITY BUZZ



## GRETCHEN EVANS CONTINUED ...

### Friends of the Library

#### Spring Fling Dance

Saturday, May 6, 7-9 P.M.

#### Weko Beach House

Move to the music of *Past Tense* while the sun sets over our beautiful corner of Lake Michigan. Groove with your friends and raise money for a good cause.

#### Garage Sale

Friday, May 19 and Saturday, May 20 Don't miss the Friends 35th Annual *Citywide Garage Sale*. It's a tradition! Permits cost \$10 and go on sale at the library Monday, April 17. All proceeds benefit the library. If you want to be on the map, be sure to buy your permit by Saturday, May 13. Plan to shop for treasures? You can pick up a map in the library parking lot on Friday, May 19 from 8 - 10 A.M.

### Library Board

Randy Hill - President  
Lane Kuypers - Vice President  
Carol Siewert - Secretary  
Dorothea Crocker - Treasurer  
Ken Huff - Trustee  
Sue Janoskey - Trustee  
Nancy John - Trustee  
Aaron Noll - Trustee  
John Wilk - Trustee

### Thank you, Friends, for your generosity and for always finding ways to make the library better.

Another special thanks to Harvey and Virginia Kimmel for their continued support of arts education for Bridgman children. This year because of the Kimmels' generosity, Bridgman school students will enjoy visits from the *Kalamazoo Symphony*, and astronomer, Jose Francisco Salgado, as well as, receive new modeling and sculpting supplies. During the past 23 years, thousands of Bridgman students have learned to appreciate the arts through the Kimmel Grant programs. Now the Kimmels have increased their gift to include a program that children can enjoy with their families. Families with children won't want to miss *GreatWorks Theatre Company's* performance of *Fractured Fairy Tales* at the Bridgman High School's Performing Art Center on March 25, at 1:30 P.M.

Did you know you can give to the library every time you shop at *Harding's Markets*? It is easy when you sign up for the *Harding's Community Rewards* program. Unlike the old eScript program, Community Rewards doesn't require you carry a card. Just go to [www.hardings.com](http://www.hardings.com). Select the "Savings and Rewards" tab, and click

Community Rewards and enter your information. In the "My Profile" section, you can choose the library. Then every time you shop at Harding's, just give your phone number, and a percentage of your purchase will go to the library. Harding's makes it simple for you to give back to the community when you shop locally.

See you at the library!  
*Gretchen Evans, Director*



Furniture from Friends of the Library.



Winners of the Teen Story Contest, sponsored by the Friends of the Library - 1st place, Katherine Moore, 2nd place, Spencer Noll, 3rd place, Kyle Buist





## Bridgman Public Schools



Ken Schmaltz  
Athletic Director

### **Ken Schmaltz Athletic Director**

Ph: (269) 466-0227  
Fax: (269) 466-0355  
kschmaltz@bridgmanschools.com

**Be sure to follow the  
Bees on Twitter  
@BridgmanSports**

**GO BEES!**

## Bridgman Athletic Department

### **Bees Nation... Happy New Year 2017!**

We have chimed in together with another rendition of *Auld Lang Syne*, said goodbye to a historic and successful 2016 and are excitedly looking forward to what 2017 has in store for Bridgman Athletics and Bridgman Public Schools.

Our return from Winter Break finds us approaching the midst of the 2016-17 school year. It is very rewarding and satisfying to see our Bees student-athletes mature in the classroom, the athletic setting and as young adults as they progress through high school. It is my sincere hope that our Bees student-athletes are able to say that athletics and life lessons learned through being a part of a team played an integral part in their high school experiences.

**Bridgman High School Athletics provides an opportunity to learn valuable life lessons in preparation for young adults' future endeavors.**

We invite the Community of Bridgman to join us in celebrating our student-athletes throughout 2017 by

attending and visiting with us at our upcoming athletic events.

### **A few highlights from 2016:**

- Kole Hanke and Brian Patrick (Njuguna) were both All-State performers this past season in cross country
- Bees boys basketball coach, Mike Miller, was inducted to the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan Hall of Fame
- Long-time Bees coach and retired educator, John Wismer, retired from coaching at Bridgman High School...we wish you all the best Coach Wiz!
- Bees Volleyball claimed its 2nd straight Class C District championship
- Bridgman hosted its first-ever MHSAA Baseball and Softball Regional Tournaments in June
- Bees 3200 Relay Team – Kole Hanke, Elliott Hanke, Karl Hanke and Brian Patrick (Njuguna) – claimed the state championship
- The start-up of the first Varsity Girls Competitive Cheer Team at BHS

**{ The strength of our community is our schools  
and the strength of our schools is our community. }**



## NOTICE OF POLICY REGARDING NON-DISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of the Bridgman Public Schools Board of Education, the Bridgman Public Schools District, and the practice of its agents and employees, that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, affiliation, sex, age, marital status, height, weight, genetic information, handicap or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefit of, or be subjected to discrimination, in its employment practices, as well as in any and all of its educational programs, activities, and services.

The Bridgman Public Schools Board of Education and the Bridgman Public Schools District reaffirm the policy to comply with:

- Title VI, the Age Act of 1975
- The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- All other applicable federal and state laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination

Concerns about the Title VI, the Age Act of 1975 or Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race/color or national origin, should be directed to:

Bridgman Public Schools  
9964 Gast Road, Bridgman MI 49106  
269-465- 5432

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's "Compliance Officers" (also known as "Civil Rights Coordinators") (hereinafter referred to as the "CO").

Scott Knoll, Business Manager  
Lori Graves, Elementary Principal  
269-466- 0222 269-466- 0240  
9964 Gast Rd. 3891 Lake Street,  
Bridgman, MI 49106 Bridgman, MI 49106

## BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Round-up Great Start Readiness Preschool Progressive 5's & Kindergarten

Enrollment packets for the 2017-2018 Kindergarten and Progressive 5's program will be available the week of February 20-24, 2017 during school hours at the Bridgman Elementary School office.

An evening enrollment will also be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. All new Kdg/Pro-5 students will be readiness screened in March 2017.

Students need to be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2017 to qualify for either Progressive 5's or Kindergarten. The student must live within the Bridgman School District. Enrollment packets may be picked up and returned during this week. This will allow us to place your student on the class lists.

#### Parents will need to bring the following information in order to enroll their child:

- child's certified birth certificate (courthouse issued)
- proof of residency (deed, building

permit, rental agreement, tax statement)

- proof of hearing/vision screening (if screened since their 3rd birthday)
- child's up-to-date immunization card
- custody papers, if applicable

#### We will also have preliminary registration for the free GSRP Preschool program for students who turn 4 years old by September 1, 2017.

Applications are reviewed for Head Start eligibility first. Each child must qualify for the preschool program based on guidelines that include income verification and documentation of other school success risk factors. Those children who qualify for Head Start may not qualify for the GSRP program.

#### Parents unable to attend the registration should contact the school office at (269) 466-0241.

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## Bridgman Public Schools



### Community Weight Room

(Located in the balcony of the gym at Bridgman High School.) A punch card is available for purchase and is \$20 for 30 visits, or you can pay a daily fee of \$1. If you purchase an annual pass from the Aquatic Center, use of the weight room is included. **The weight room is CLOSED during all home basketball games. Please check the Aquatic Center website for up-to-date closings.**

### Hours

Monday-Friday 5:45-7:30 A.M.  
Monday-Thurs. 5:00-9:00 P.M.  
Sat. & Sunday 11:30-2:00 P.M.  
Sunday 7:00-9:00 P.M.

### Get Fit In The Mitt

Bridgman Aquatic Center is a community member and is partnering with Lakeland Health in the "Get Fit In The Mitt" program. We participated in a video segment for Lakeland Health showcasing our shallow water aerobics class and the benefits of exercising in the water. A special "Thank You" to Lakeland Health for asking us to participate.

## Bridgman Aquatic Center

Visit [bridgmanschools.com](http://bridgmanschools.com) or call 269-466-0236 for more information.

### Deep Water Aerobics

5 days per week 7:30-8:30 A.M.

**Shallow Water Aerobics** 5 days per week 8:30-9:30 A.M. and Monday and Wednesday 7:30-8:30 P.M.

**Arthritis Class** Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30-10:30 A.M.

**Adult Lap Swim** times vary

**Family Recreation Swim** Tuesday and Thursday 7:00-8:00 P.M. and Saturday and Sunday 1:00-2:00 P.M.

The Aquatic Center offers a **competitive age group swim team** for ages six through high school. Sea Bees will begin practice in June. They participate in SWMSL league and also compete in USA sanctioned swim meets. Please contact the Aquatic Center at 269-466-0236 for more information.

### Community Diving Lessons

Open to divers of all ages and all levels. See the website for details. You may also contact the Aquatic Center at 269-466-0236.

### Community Swim Lessons

Children ages six months and up. See the website for details. Community swim lessons are FREE for children living in the City of Bridgman, Lake Township, or if your children attend Bridgman Public

Schools as a School of Choice student. If your child is a Non-Resident, the fee is \$36/session. Each of our sessions consists of 12 lessons. To register your child for Community Swim lessons, you may either register in person at the Aquatic Center or by phone. If you are registering by phone, please do not leave a message. Please continue to call until you speak to someone to give them your child's information. Contact the Aquatic Center at 269-466-0236 with questions.

### Evening Community Swim Lessons Schedule

Held Monday & Wednesday 6:30-7:00 P.M. and 7:00-7:30 P.M.

#### April 17-May 24

Register: April 10, 6:30-7:30 P.M.

#### June 12-July 19

Register: June 5, 6:30-7:30 P.M.

### Morning Community Swim Lessons Schedule

Held Monday through Thursday 10:30-11 A.M. & 11-12:00 A.M.

#### June 12-June 29

Register: June 5, 6:30-7:30 P.M.

#### July 10-July 27

Register: July 3, 6:30-7:30 P.M.

**Aquatic Center is closed when school closes for inclement weather.**



## NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO CONFIDENTIALITY OF EDUCATION RECORDS (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1975 gives parents/guardians of an eighteen year old or younger student the right to inspect, review, and challenge any and all official educational records related to the student. This may be done by contacting the school for an appointment. The school may not disclose information in a student's record without prior consent of the parent, guardian, or adult student, except in the case of directory information such as used in honor rolls, athletic programs, school newspapers, and yearbooks. Directory information could include a student's name, address, date and place of birth, dates of school attendance, participation in school activities, and honors and awards. This information will be routinely released, unless the parent, guardian, or adult student requests otherwise.

Parents/guardians have the right to challenge if you think that the administrative procedures of the school district are not in compliance with the law, to:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
330 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington D.C. 20201

## F.C. Reed Middle School

**At F.C. Reed Middle School our vision statement is, "Together, challenging our children to succeed."**



John Truesdell  
MS Principal

next generation of Bridgman Bees.

At RMS, one of the ways we embrace this collaborative approach to learning is through our **Informed Families** community events. Organized by the RMS, BHS, and BES school counselors, these events aim to connect internal and external stakeholders in the BPS community and engage all members of the public in fun, engaging learning opportunities. For example, during the month of October the middle school hosted its first annual "Trunk or Treat" event during our week-long celebration of Red Ribbon Week.

Partnering with local businesses, law enforcement, student groups, and civic organizations, over 20 teams of volunteers decorated their vehicles with slogans promoting the importance of staying drug free. Over 350 community members attended the

This collective perspective on the educational process places significant responsibility on students, teachers, parents, and the local community to work collectively to educate, support, and prepare the

"Trunk or Treat" event, enabling nearly 200 children under the age of 15 to collect Halloween candy while simultaneously receiving mini drug abuse resistance education lessons from the diverse array of community teams.

Opportunities like this demonstrate and embrace the spirit of the RMS vision statement, so it is important for the community to know that there will be additional Informed Family community events that they can attend in the upcoming months.

**Our next event will be hosted at F.C. Reed Middle School on February 21 from 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.** and will feature a family game night with "Minute to Win It" style games and information related to the importance of monitoring over the counter medicines and securely storing prescription drugs. All members of the community are invited to bring their families to compete in challenges, win prizes, and learn about ways we can protect the health and safety of our children.

In addition, on the evening of **March 9, RMS will be hosting a district wide Empty Bowls Event** in the middle school cafeteria. At this event families will be able to enjoy a hearty meal of soup, bread, and salad using ceramic bowls designed and created by BPS students. During the

Continued PAGE 10.

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## Bridgman Public Schools

### NOTIFICATION OF ASBESTOS RE-INSPECTIONS

In compliance with the 1989 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), we have performed inspections of each of our school buildings for asbestos containing building materials. The inspection findings and asbestos management plans are on file in the district administrative office.

The EPA requires us to perform re-inspections of the asbestos materials every three years. The three year re-inspections were performed by an accredited asbestos inspector in September 2016. We perform the six month periodic surveillance as required by the AHERA regulations.

The results of the re-inspections and management plans are on file in the district administrative office. Everyone is welcome to view these at any time during normal school hours (Monday – Friday, 8:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.).

### 2016/2017 ADVISORY TO ALL PARENTS

Bridgman Public Schools has adopted an Integrated Pest Management program. Inherent with this are the District's efforts to reduce pesticide use as much as possible. While it may occasionally be necessary to apply a pesticide, this program does not rely on routine pesticide applications to resolve problems. We use various techniques such as habitat alteration, sanitation, mechanical means, exclusion, etc. to prevent pest from becoming a problem.

As required by Michigan law, you will receive advanced notice of non-emergency application of a pesticide (insecticide, fungicide, or herbicide), other than bait or gel formulation, which is made to the school, school grounds, or buildings. This advance notice of a pesticide application will be given 48 hours before the application by the following two methods:

- 1) Posting at the primary entrances to your child's school. The entrances that will be posted are the main entrance and those that have a sidewalk that leads directly to a parking lot.
- 2) Posting in the common area located by the main office of the school.

Please note that notification is not given for use of sanitizers, germicides, disinfectants or anti-microbial cleaners. In certain emergencies, such as an infestation of stinging insects, pesticides may be applied without prior notice to prevent injury to students, but you will be promptly notified following any such application, via the two posting methods identified (above).

You may review the school's Integrated Pest Management program and records of any pesticide application upon request by contacting Scott Knoll at (269) 466-0222 or sknoll@bridgmanschools.com.

Parents or guardians of children attending the school are also entitled to receive the advance notice of a pesticide application, other than a bait or gel formulation, by first class United States mail postmarked at least three days before the application, if they so request. If you would like to be notified by mail please contact Department and/or person name at the following number (269) 466-0222. Please give the Department person's or secretary, your name, mailing address and what school(s) your child or children attend and they will put your name on the advance notification by US Mail list.

Please note that after the school year is completed and during the months when school is not in regular session (summer), those parents who requested advance notice by mail, will be notified using an alternative method consisting of a telephone message notification system. Parents and guardians may call (269) 466-0222, at least one day before an application, for advance notification. The school will also continue posting advance notification at the school by the methods identified above.

*Shane M. Peters, Superintendent*  
Bridgman Public Schools  
Superintendent  
(269) 466-0271



## Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence Enhancing and Enriching Learning Opportunities

### CONTINUED - JOHN TRUESDELL

evening we also share tips and tools for strengthening families, encourage acceptance and unity in the community, and raise awareness and donations for hunger in Southwest Michigan. All members of the Bridgman community, regardless if you currently have students in the district, are invited to join us for this festive, exciting evening.

At F.C. Reed Middle School, our mission is to create an accepting and nurturing environment, which guides adolescent growth toward independence and responsibility, while also encouraging students to become contributing members of the community. This goal cannot be achieved through the efforts of our teachers alone. Our guiding vision recognizes the importance of community support and challenges the good people of Bridgman to embrace the educational efforts that take place within our school's walls on a daily basis.

Please take a moment to add the two upcoming Informed Family dates to your calendar and keep an eye on the BPS district calendar for more details as we quickly approach these events. If you have any questions regarding these events, please do not hesitate to contact the counseling department at your child's school.

Your Partner in Education,  
*John Truesdell, RMS Principal*

## Food, Fun, and Fundraising! Sunny Days Ahead: Don't worry, Bee happy!



The Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence presents: *For Now & Forever* annual fund raiser benefiting Bridgman Public School students.

**Saturday, February 11, 2017**

6:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.

Bridgman American Legion

4241 Legion Street, Bridgman, MI

49106

Tickets: \$35 per person

Includes one drink ticket, heavy appetizers, beverages and cash bar  
Door prizes, Ugliest Hawaiian Shirt Contest  
Silent & Live auction: 6 P.M. - 9 P.M.  
Live Band - *Top Secret*: 9 P.M. - 11 P.M.  
Tickets may be purchased at Bridgman Superintendent's Office.  
[www.bridgmanfoundation.org](http://www.bridgmanfoundation.org)

## Buy-A-Brick Campaign



**It's time to think about supporting the Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence and "Bee" a part of Bridgman Public Schools history by purchasing a brick today!**

These bricks make great remembrances and gifts. Order today at [www.bridgmanfoundation.org](http://www.bridgmanfoundation.org)!

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## Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence Enhancing and Enriching Learning Opportunities



**Bridgman Public Schools and the Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence are working together to bring STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education to F.C. Reed Middle School next fall.**



### Bee an elemental part of STEM education at Bridgman Public Schools!

Bridgman Public Schools and the Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence are working together to bring STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education to F.C. Reed Middle School next fall.

We want to transform a regular classroom into a high-tech work space that will be utilized by every middle school student in grades 5-8. It will become part of the framework of required core classes so that every student will have the opportunity for enhanced learning in the areas of math and science.

We would like to purchase a *Smart-Lab Integrated Learning System*, a STEM program with curriculum specifically designed for middle school students that is hands on, project based and student driven.

Projects and experiments are designed to keep students engaged while fostering creativity, innovation, teamwork, and a love for learning. Students will benefit from the program by learning 21st century skills that are necessary for both gainful employment and pursuit of higher education.

The total cost of this project is \$332,000. We want to give you the

opportunity to be an elemental part of STEM education at Bridgman Public Schools. The Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence has already committed \$41,000, and is working hard to raise additional funds. In addition, we have already received \$10,000 from the Frederick S. Upton Foundation, and The Pokagon Fund has awarded us a matching grant of \$10,000. That means your tax deductible donation will be matched dollar for dollar.

**All donations to the STEM Lab project will be recognized on a “Periodic Table of Donors” that will be displayed in the STEM Lab upon completion.**

Members of our foundation, our superintendent, middle school staff, and community leaders are very excited about this project and this opportunity for our students. Please consider giving a tax deductible gift made payable to BFEE with STEM written on the memo line of your check.

Thank you for being an elemental part of STEM education at Bridgman Public Schools.

*Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence*







## Recycling

Many Lake Township residents have signed-up for our single stream curbside recycling. It is picked up every two weeks at no cost to the resident. We constantly hear from people what a great improvement this is and how much it has reduced their garbage going to the land fill. Visit the web site to see what is accepted, the pick-up schedule and information about the process. If you haven't signed-up yet, please do. Just contact the office and we will get you started on helping reduce the need for landfills.

## Lake Township Website

If you haven't visited the Lake Charter Township website lately, come visit! We are seeing big increases in use as residents and others use it to get information on activities, make on line water/sewer payments, access forms, get answers about services, obtain information about taxes or utilities, cemetery, building code and many other areas. The address is [www.lake-township.org](http://www.lake-township.org).

## Lake Charter Township

### Lake Township Treasurer Report From the Treasurer

The 2016 winter tax bills have been sent out and are due without interest or penalty charges on or before February 14, 2017. Both summer and winter 2016 taxes may be paid at the Township office until February 28, 2017. After that, they must be paid to the Berrien County Treasurer's Office in St Joseph. Please remember that tax bills must be received at our office by the due dates to avoid additional charges. Postmarks are not accepted for payment purposes. Taxes may be paid at the office, mailed, or left in our drop box (just west of the Township office in the blue depository box).

We continue to have more water/sewer customers sign up for automatic payments. Contact the office or get more information from our website. It is a free service. You can also pay water/sewer payments online through our website. There is a small processing fee we are charged that is passed on to you but this allows you to control the time payments are made. Also, there is a lot of information about current bills, history, water usage and tax information at [www.lake-township.org](http://www.lake-township.org).

### Lake Township Park News

The park is closed for the winter season. It officially re-opens April 1 but we will open it sooner if weather permits. The park staff and committee were able to complete several projects in 2016. They included completion of a drainage project, paving of a large parking lot, installing scoreboards at three youth softball fields (the Recreational Fund paid for the scoreboards and the Bridgman Softball Association installed them), purchased an additional 10 acres of land adjacent to the park for future development, coordinated the installation of the handicap swing with Isabel Widdis (Isabel's PLAY Place) and completed many smaller projects involving painting, lighting, etc. We are excited about the upcoming year and have plans to continue the paving projects and renovation of the disc golf course. We are looking for hole sponsors for the new course. Please contact Bob Clark at the Township office if interested.



## Lake Charter Township From Lake Charter Township Water Department

### Mark Your Calendar!

**WHO:** Lake Charter Township

**WHAT:** Electronic Recycling Event  
Along With On-Site Shredding

**WHERE:** Old Fire Station/Medic  
Quarters, 3240 Shawnee Road, Bridg-  
man, Michigan

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 22, 2017

**TIME:** 8:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Elec-  
tronic Recycling  
9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon - Shredding

**COST:** The cost is FREE for Lake  
Township residents (someone will  
be checking). For all others, there is  
a fee – call Lake Township Hall for  
details 269-465- 6601.

For those wishing to have items  
shredded, the on-site shredding is  
new this year and is added to the  
recycling event. We must limit shred-  
ding to ten (10) boxes. For those hav-  
ing more than ten (10) boxes, please  
call ahead of time to make additional  
arrangements.



## Lake Charter Township Water Dept.

### Happy New Year to all.

As you know, winter is upon us. This is a friendly reminder to those who have fire hydrants near their driveways. When plowing, please try to keep from covering the hydrant so that in case of emergency fire crews can gain access to them. Thank you for your efforts.

A note to township residents: there will be a water rate increase beginning in the next billing cycle. Rates will increase from \$2.20 per thousand gallons used to \$2.86 per thousand gallons used. This equates to about a 7 cent per day increase. If you have any questions, please contact the Township Hall at (269) 465-6601.

To all teachers/students: I would like to again let you know that we offer tours of the water plant. We can give information on how we treat our source water supply (Lake Michigan). We can also talk about career opportunities in the water industry. In the near future, there will be an increasing demand for licensed water treatment and distribution operators. You can contact us at (269) 465-3850.

Water is an important resource. Here is another tidbit of information - the water (or hydrologic) cycle explains in-

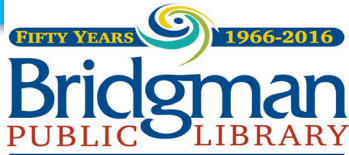
teractions between the atmosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere.

The water (or hydrologic) cycle is a major driving force on our planet. Water is in constant motion, evaporating into the atmosphere from oceans, lakes, rivers and streams. When the atmosphere can no longer support the moisture within the clouds, we experience rain, snow, hail or sleet. Some water is locked in the form of ice at the polar caps and in glaciers. Water melts in the spring, producing runoff, which percolates through the earth as groundwater (subsurface) or makes its way back to the sea (surface). The oceans contain most of the water, but it is salt water which is unusable by most organisms. Only pure H<sub>2</sub>O (water) can interact with organisms. We are very fortunate to have Lake Michigan as our source supply.

Again as always if you have questions, please contact us at (269) 465-3850.

Thank you,  
Mark Panzegrau  
Water System Superintendent





## Adult Programs at the Library

### DOES YOUR COMPUTER HAVE A VIRUS?

**Saturday, February 18, 10 A.M.**

Learn how to spot signs that your computer may be infected with a virus or malware. Learn the difference between viruses, spyware, and Trojans. Get tips on using and installing free anti-virus and anti-malware software. Bring your computer. Registration required.

### BASIC COMPUTERS

**Friday, February 3, 10, 17, and 24,  
9:30-10:30 A.M.**

Learn how to create a document, an email account, use a mouse and a thumb drive. This class will help participants get comfortable with computers over four sessions. Space is limited. Registration required.

### VALENTINE HEART RAG WREATH

**Tuesday, February 7 at 6:00 P.M.**

Come and create an adorable Valentine heart for your home with Kerry Bolin of Country Stitches. Registration required.

### SECOND WEDNESDAY BOOK CLUB

**2nd Wednesday of the month,  
6:00 P.M.**

Join our friendly and interactive reading group lead by Rick Fuller. Books are available for checkout one month before the meeting. New members are always welcome.

### Upcoming selections include:

**February 8** – *The Water is Wide* – Pat Conroy.

**March 8** – *Stolen Postcards* – Jan Acker-son. Special event with a local author at a local pub. *Stolen Postcards* is a collection of 365 vignettes on 365 different characters, one for each day of the year. Books available for sale at the library.

**April 12** – *The Last Resort: A Memoir of Mystery and Mayhem on a Family Farm in Africa* – Douglas Rogers.

**May 10** – *A Man Called Ove* – Fredrik Backman.

### ANDREW UNIVERSITY MUSIC RECITALS

**Wednesday, February 22, 6:30 P.M.**

**Wednesday, March 29, 6:30 P.M.**

**April TBA**

Enjoy music performed by talented musicians from Andrews University.

### BOARD GAME AFTERNOON

**Fridays at 2:30 - 4:30 P.M.**

Friday is *Board Game Afternoon* at the library. Play games like *Ticket to Ride*, *Apples to Apples*, *Uno*, *Catan*, or bring a game you like to play! Open to adults and teens.

### COMMUNITY GARDEN

**March through October**

Experience the satisfaction of growing your own food while getting to know your neighbors. Plot registration is open now to returning gardeners. On March 1, registration will open to new gardeners. Prospective gardeners must pay a \$10 fee per plot and commit to giving five hours of volunteer work for the upkeep of the common areas. For more information email [bplcommunitygarden@bridgmanlibrary.com](mailto:bplcommunitygarden@bridgmanlibrary.com)

### A PROBLEM WITH HOARDING AND CLUTTER

**Saturday, March 4 at 11 A.M.**

Do you or someone you know have a problem with clutter? Learn about hoarding with Terry Shulman, who has been an addiction therapist for over 20 years and is the Founder/Director

of the Shulman Center for Compulsive Theft, Spending and Hoarding.

### FANDOM FEST

**Saturday, April 1, 11-5 P.M.**

@ The Mendel

Calling all geeks, nerds, and fans of nerdy, geeky culture. BPL and other area libraries are hosting Fandom Fest at the Mendel. This “comic-con” style event will host artists, exhibitors, a gaming space, maker activities, a LARPing demo, costume contests, and more. Don’t miss out on this unique, free event. Fandom Fest will appeal mostly to adults and teens. Families with younger children are encouraged to attend during 11-1 P.M. which is family fun time.

### WILDFLOWER WALK

**Saturday, April 22 at 10 A.M.**

@Weko Beach

Learn more about the beautiful flowers that grace our wooded dunes in springtime with guide Brad Anderson. Participants should be prepared for a hike of medium difficulty. Meet at the Weko Beach House. No registration is required.

### DECLUTTER YOUR DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

**Wednesday, May 3 at 6:30 P.M.**

After using your computer for any amount of time, the space on your hard drive starts filling up. Learn how to clear-up your digital footprint and hard drive. Bring your computer. Registration required.







## Youth Programs

### EARLY LITERACY

Early literacy programs teach the fundamental skills that children need before they learn to read and write, like developing fine motor skills and understanding that stories have a beginning, middle and end. Join Ms. Tami at:

**Baby and Me** (ages 0-2) – Monday at 10:45 A.M.

**Toddler and Me** (ages 3-5) – Tuesdays at 9:30 or 11:30 A.M.

**Story Hour** (ages 3-5) – Tuesday at 10:30 A.M.

### PAINTING WITH LORI

**Saturday, February 11 at 1:00 P.M.**

Let Lori Ehлке guide you step-by-step through the painting of a picture. Create something to decorate your room or to give to someone special for Valentine's Day. Registration is required.

### PRINCESS ELSA PARTY

**Saturday, March 11 at 1:00 P.M.**

You are invited to a party hosted by Princess Elsa. Dress in your best princess or prince costume. Join Princess Elsa for songs, snacks, and crafts. Celebrate the coming of spring!

### THE ROYAL TEA

**Saturday, April 22 at 1:00 P.M.**

Join Miss Bridgman and her court for a tea party. Listen to a "majestic" story and do a "queenly" craft.

### FRACTURED FAIRY TALES

**Saturday, March 25 at 1:30 P.M.**

Meet us at Bridgman High School's Performing Arts Center for a matinee performance of *Fractured Fairy Tales*

by GreatWorks Theatre Company of Chicago. Kids ages 4-11 will enjoy this humorous look at *Cinderella*, *the Tortoise and the Hare*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and other tales. Don't miss this special event for families brought to you in partnership by the library and Bridgman Public Schools and sponsored by Harvey and Virginia Kimmel. Tickets available at the Bridgman Public Library and for students at Bridgman Public Schools beginning in March.

### COASTLINE CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL

**March 11-March 18**

The library is once again a screening location for the *Coastline Children's Film Festival*. Coastline's mission is to bring great films to young people everywhere. Sponsored by the Krasl Art Center with financial support from, The Virginia and Harvey Kimmel Arts Education Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation.

**Saturday, March 11** at 11:00 A.M. - *Stolen Ship*

**Tuesday, March 14** at 3:30 P.M. - *I Hate Math*

**Wednesday, March 15** at 3:30 P.M. - *Mateo* (Spanish film)

**Saturday, March 18** at 11:00 A.M. - *Kid Flix 1* (Film Shorts)

### STAR WARS VS. STAR TREK

**Thurs., May 4 at 3:30 - 4:30 P.M.**

May the *Force Be With You* or *Live Long and Prosper*? You decide! Be prepared to be a Jedi or Federation officer, then compete to see which side wins. Costumes are encouraged.

## Teen Programs

### T.A.B. MEETING (TEEN ADVISORY BOARD)

**2nd Wed. of the month, 3:30 - 4:00 P.M.**

Are you a teen? Do you want to make a difference in the library and the community? Then join us at the Bridgman Public Library for a Teen Advisory Board meeting.

### FANDOM FEST 101: COSTUMES AND PROPS

**Jan 5 - March 23, 3:30-4:30 P.M.**

In preparation for our Fandom Fest on April 1, we are offering DIY tutorials in costume making. Come to one class or come to them all!

**Jan 5 - Belt Pouch**

Whether you are a Superhero or Steampunk Mechanic, you need a tool belt, so come and learn the basics of hand sewing to create a Belt Pouch. Bring your own belt.

**Feb 2 - Arm Guard**

Make a faux leather arm guard out of craft foam and paint that any archer would be proud of.

**Feb 23 - Steampunk Top Hat**

Create a fantastic metal-looking top hat using only cardboard, hot glue, and paint.

**March 2 - Steampunk goggles**

Turn cheap safety glasses into Steampunk goggles using paint and hot glue molds. Glasses provided.

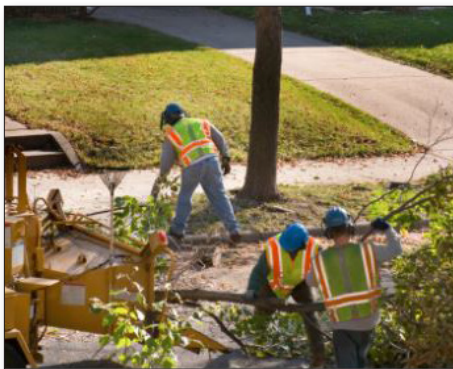
**March 23 - Hooded Cape**

Make a simple hooded cape that can transform you into Little Red Riding Hood, a Ronan warrior, or a Wise Old Wizard.





**Bridgman has offered brush collection and Christmas tree disposal service to its residents for many years. In an effort to make the service more effective and user friendly the City wishes to provide its residents and property owners with the program's details.**



## City of Bridgman Brush Collection & Christmas Tree Disposal Policy

Bridgman has offered brush collection and Christmas tree disposal service to its residents for many years. In an effort to make the service more effective and user-friendly the City wishes to provide its residents and property owners with the program's details:

### Brush Collection Basic Requirements

- Collection days are the first and third Tuesday of each month, beginning in early April and continuing through the end of October.
- Brush must be placed within the tree lawn (area between the sidewalk and street) no later than 7:00 A.M. on collection days.
- Brush may not be larger than 6 inches in diameter.
- Brush must be stacked in one direction, parallel to the street (this makes it quicker to feed the chipper so our crews can reach more houses on collection days)
- The heaviest/densest part of the brush should be oriented towards the direction of traffic flow (this makes it easier and safer for larger limbs to be chipped).
- The program is limited to brush and limbs.
- There is a limit of 15 minutes of staff time per household.

### Prohibitions and Limitations

#### Brush:

- May not be placed within an alley or upon a street.
- May not include loose leaves, stumps, vines, grass clippings, ornamental grass, flowers, sod, plants, roots or root balls.
- May not include trash, nails, building materials, dirt or rocks.
- May not be tied with string, twine, wire or any other material.
- May not be left by a commercial tree removal or trimming contractor.

#### Christmas Tree Collection

The City will collect your Christmas tree on the first and second Wednesday of each January. Trees should be placed within the tree lawn (area

Continued NEXT PAGE.





FRIEND Weko Beach  
Campground on FACEBOOK.



## DISPOSAL - CONTINUED

between the sidewalk and street) no later than 7:00 A.M. on collection days.

The City's brush collection program is for the sole use of the residents of Bridgman and not intended to be a tree removal program. It is the responsibility of a property owner (or his or her contractor) to remove dead, dying or unwanted trees from their property. Property owners may dispose of their trees at the City's brush dump from Monday through Thursday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Arrangements may be made by calling City Hall at 269.465.5144.

If your brush materials do not meet the following guidelines they may be "tagged" and the problem will be indicated on the postcard. If you make the proper corrections your brush will be collected during the next regularly scheduled pick-up day.

Exceptions to the collection schedule for brush and Christmas trees are possible due to holiday schedules and weather conditions.

## Bridgman Activation

**A recent economic development concept spurred Bridgman activation like no other in recent years.**

*The following article was prepared by Rick Fuller, Bridgman City Council Member*

Mr. Brett Boyd, of widely-known Classic Catering, floated the concept of an event venue at Weko Beach. This well-intentioned business proposal was first presented at an early summer Bridgman city council meeting. Additional planning progressed through the summer and a refined presentation was again made to the city in the autumn.

By this time public attention began to focus on the proposal. As we might expect with any community-interest issue, forces began to coalesce both for and against the proposal. Noting the high public interest, the Bridgman City Manager, Mr. Juan Gannum, and the Bridgman City Council decided to conduct a public forum dedicated to the Weko Beach event venue issue.

As we might expect, emotions ran high in the packed house. Interest groups had marshaled to question motives and speak strongly – generally against – the proposal. The bright spot was that even through the heat of the debate, respect for a few simple parliamentary rules and respect for fellow citizens prevailed. A couple of weeks later, in the interest of community unity, Brett Boyd retracted his proposal.

**Isn't this the best of how it's supposed to work? Bridgman should be complimented.**

- Let's compliment Mr. Brett Boyd for originating a well-intentioned economic development proposal. Let's compliment Brett even more for having the insight – and the courage – to graciously retract his offering in favor of community unity.
- Let's compliment our city leadership – city manager and city council – for conducting open and transparent business in city council meetings and public forums.
- Let's compliment the citizens of Bridgman for their attention and active involvement in a volatile public issue. Our citizens discussed, debated, and sided over a highly charged issue while maintaining respect and tolerance for one another and for the process.

Well done Bridgman. This is how local governance and public involvement are supposed to work. Where can we go from here? As we move forward, let's take some positive lessons from this recent experience.

Continued on PAGE 18.





# BRIDGMAN COMMUNITY BUZZ



FRIEND the Bridgman Police  
Department on FACEBOOK.



## 2017 Upcoming Events

### Summer Concerts

at Weko Beach – 7:00 P.M.  
May 28, June 11, June 25, July 9,  
July 23, August 6, August 20,  
September 3

### Lake Michigan Shore Wine Festival

June 17, 2017 – 1:00 – 10:00 P.M.

### “2017 Celebrate Bridgman”

July 6 – 9

## City Council Meetings

The City of Bridgman is a City Council and City Manager form of government. The City Council consists of the Mayor and six Council Members elected at large in the city. City Council are elected to four-year terms on a staggered schedule, (four of the Council are elected in one election and three in the following election), with regular elections held in even years). To be eligible for City Council, the candidates must have resided in the City for at least one year and be a registered voter of the city.

### Regular Meetings

6:30 P.M.  
1st and 3rd Monday of every month

### City Council Chambers

9765 Maple Street  
Bridgman, MI 49106

## CITY NEWS, JUAN GANUM - CONTINUED

for all plant growth simply does not make sense in a community of such varied development patterns and natural areas.

For example, the heavily wooded dunes by Lake Michigan contain a great variety of native plant growth which gives the area its unique character, while the more traditional subdivisions such as Hidden Creek, Stelter Farms and Water Tower Place have much less natural vegetation. A one-size fits all regulatory ap-

proach is unworkable and diminishes residents' quality of life through the enjoyment of their property.

Over the course of the winter months the city administration will work towards adopting a new set of ordinances which address property maintenance in a manner that is well reasoned and serves to enhance the Bridgman community. Please keep informed by visiting the city's website as we move the process forward.

## BRIDGMAN ACTIVATION - CONTINUED

Ideally – and especially at the local level – governing should be all about close contact between citizens and elected representatives. In our system of government, the community level is as close as we can get to our elected officials. We have a real opportunity to have on-going conversations about local issues.

Certainly, a first step is to be engaged. Citizens should speak – leaders should listen. We invite you to come to city council meetings, open to the public and held on a regular schedule – first and third Mondays, 6:30 P.M. at City Hall. Admittedly, not every meeting is a ball of fire; most activity is routine city business. At least you can get the flavor of what is happening by attending and offering your thoughts.

The City Council will be listening. Perhaps that's the prime duty of your council members. We are listening. We want to hear what the people of Bridgman have to say. It's important. Need evidence? In our recent community issue, when you think about it, the Council said little.

Rather, the people spoke – the Council listened.

**To repeat, there are compliments to be given – to Mr. Brett Boyd, to the city leaders, and to the citizens of Bridgman. The resolution of our recent, potentially divisive, issue was handled well – by all parties. It's why we are here – Bridgman is a truly exceptional place to call home.**



COMMUNITY BUZZ



FRIEND the Bridgman Police  
Department on FACEBOOK.



## From the Police Department

Residents are urged to lock their vehicles and remove all valuables. It takes very little time for thieves to enter an unlocked vehicle and steal anything of value. Don't make it easy or inviting for them!

It is illegal to plow or remove snow from driveways into the street or roadway. This is not only dangerous, but a safety hazard for passing vehicles and snow removal crews. Violators can be cited.

Parking on city streets is not permitted from 2 A.M. to 6 A.M. from November to April in order to allow city plows to clear the streets. Violators will be cited.

If you plan on being away from your home or business for extended periods of time (vacation, family emergency, illness, etc.), please contact the Police Department's non-emergency phone number (269-465-3891) so our officers can keep an eye on things through our property check service.

Remember, if you see or hear something suspicious - please report it immediately.

Chief Daniel Unruh  
Bridgman Police Department

## 2017 Spring Clean-Up Schedule

### Bagged Leaves (Mondays)

Beginning in April, bagged leaves will be picked up on the first and third Monday of each month. (NOTE: With the exception of July & September, due to the holiday, pick up will be on the second and third Mondays.)

**\*\*\*Leaf and brush burning within the city limits is prohibited\*\*\***

### Brush (Tuesdays)

Beginning in April, brush will be picked up on the first and third Tuesday of each month. (NOTE: With the exception of July and September, due to the holiday, pick up will be on the second and third Tuesdays.)

### Large Trash (Bulk Item) Pick Up

Wednesday, May 3rd

Wednesday, May 17th

Items not accepted include those larger than a refrigerator (refrigerators and air conditioners must have the freon removed with a tag attached indicating as such), tires and construction material. Republic Services also will pick up your extra large items for a fee. To schedule such a pickup, please call Republic Services at (269) 465-3773.

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Berrien County has set the household hazardous Waste Collection dates for 2017. Details, including a schedule, are available on the county's web site: <http://www.berriencounty.org>. Click on "Hazardous Waste Collections" under "Helpful Links" on the right side of the page, or by calling the County Environmental Specialist at (269) 983-7111, extension 8234.



9964 Gast Road, Bridgman, MI 49106  
bridgmanschools.com  
Office: 269-465-5432  
Fax: 269-466-0221

# BRIDGMAN *COMMUNITY BUZZ*



**One community working together to serve you better.**

## **Bridgman High School**

9964 Gast Road  
Bridgman, MI 49106  
Office: 269-465-6848  
Fax: 269-466-0355

## **F.C. Reed Middle School**

10254 California Road  
Bridgman, MI 49106  
Office: 269-465-5410  
Fax: 269-466-0393

## **Bridgman Public Library**

4460 Lake Street  
Bridgman, MI 49106  
bridgmanlibrary.org  
269-465-3663  
bpl@bridgmanlibrary.com

## **Bridgman Public Schools**

Central Administration  
9964 Gast Road  
Bridgman, MI 49106  
bridgmanschools.com  
Office: 269-465-5432  
Fax: 269-466-0221

## **Bridgman Elementary**

3891 Lake Street  
Bridgman, MI 49106  
Office: 269-466-0241  
Fax: 269-466-0248

## **Lake Charter Township**

3220 Shawnee, P.O. Box 818  
Bridgman, MI 49106  
lake-township.org  
269-465-6601

## **City of Bridgman**

9765 Maple Street  
Bridgman, MI 49106  
bridgman.org  
269-465-5144