

BRIDGMAN COMMUNITY BUZZ

JANUARY 2022



COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN COMMUNICATION

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

COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN COMMUNICATION



SCHOOL NEWS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



*Superintendent
Shane M. Peters*

Where does the time go? It is hard to believe that we are halfway through another

school year and one month into a new calendar year. On behalf of the Bridgman Board of Education and the Office of the Superintendent, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all
READ MORE PG 2

TOWNSHIP NEWS FROM THE SUPERVISOR



*Supervisor
John Gast*

It's a new year already and the holidays have passed. It was a busy time winding

down projects for 2021. Budget planning has begun for 2022. Improvements were made to the cemetery water system at Greenwood, water plant
READ MORE PG10

LIBRARY NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR



*Director
Dennis Kreps*

The time period covered by this issue of the Buzz reflects a diverse representation of

seasons: the stark of winter to the crisp brightness of the spring. Correspondingly, the Library offers programs and activities for all ages which reflect this seasonal diversity.
READ MORE PG 20

CITY NEWS FROM THE CITY MANAGER



*City Manager
Juan Ganum*

Happy New Year Bridgman! We are eager to welcome 2022 and the promise of a better

tomorrow for our special community, as well as the nation and the world. Normally I would begin the first article of the year with positive happenings that are just over the horizon in
READ MORE PG 15

BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM COVER ...

of our stakeholders a Happy, Healthy, and Hopeful 2022!

Bridgman Public Schools continues to produce academically strong students, competitive athletic programs and a quality performing, visual and applied arts curriculum.

Here are just a few of the highlights so far this year:

- The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) recently released the 2020-2021 school report card grades. All three of our schools received an “A” grade.
- The District continues to see an increase in M-Step and SAT scores. These scores have been consistently among the best in the county.
- U.S. News recently published a first ever ranking of public elementary schools. Bridgman Elementary is ranked 54th out of over 3000 public and private elementary schools in Michigan. This places BES among the top two percent of Michigan Elementary schools and the distinction of being a U.S. News Best Elementary School.
- The Bridgman Elementary PTO, staff, students, and families raised over \$31,000 in their annual dance a thon. This money is

being earmarked to help with playground renovations and upgrades.

- The district continues to provide a certified school counselor in each of our three buildings, assisting students with their personal, emotional, social and academic needs.
- We were so fortunate to have been able to hire a highly qualified district Social Worker to work with our students and families.
- Since the last edition of the Bridgman Buzz, we were fortunate to have the following people join our BPS staff: Jane Deaton (BHS Office), Wendy Golob (BHS Office), Jason Hatfield (RMS custodian), and Marty Golob (PAC Director).
- The F.C. Reed Middle School Lego League team Bee Bots captured first place at the Lancer-Bot-Mania Qualifying Event and are now headed to the Michigan First Lego League state competition.
- Bridgman High School has a National Merit semi-finalist and a National Merit commended student.



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



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Our athletic teams achieved a tremendous amount of success this fall.
- The Spirit of Bridgman Marching Band received a Division One rating this fall at the Marching Band Festival. In addition to this rating they had a successful marching band season which included winning the Lakeshore Marching Invitational.

January is National School Board Recognition Month - a time to salute the work of our school board members and to celebrate public education.

Thank you to Eric Ramso, JoAnn DeMeulenaere, Brad Owen, Tishia Roberts, Wayne Hall, Nancy Hawley and Tom LaVanway, who dedicate countless personal hours to ensure the needs of our community are met by our public schools. Our board members are just ordinary Bridgman residents you would see when you are out and about, that take their time and energy to serve our schools and community.

A recent annual audit of the District finances resulted in a clean opinion being issued by our auditors, Kruggel and Lawton. For fiscal year ending, June 30, 2021, the District added \$675,101 to its General Fund balance. This resulted in a General Fund balance of \$3,215,968, which represents a healthy 24.47% of annual expenditures.

Bridgman Public Schools continues to have an excellent reputation throughout the State of Michigan for having high academic standards, fantastic extracurricular activities and numerous opportunities for a small school district for ALL students.

This is all possible because we truly live in a community that continues to believe in public education and cares for and supports their teachers and children.

Once again, I want to thank our entire community for your continued backing and encouragement of myself and of the entire staff at Bridgman Public Schools.

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



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Lori Graves
Elementary Principal



John Truesdell
Middle School Principal



Gerald Heath
High School Principal

Dear Bridgman Community Members,

As we continue to navigate the winter months at Bridgman Public Schools, it's important to recognize and celebrate the contributions of our students and staff as we reach the midpoint of the 2021 - 2022 school year. While COVID-19 continues to present challenges and barriers to the educational process, the efforts of our faculty and learners have been nothing short of tremendous.

Bridgman Public School teachers continue to be lead-learners as the pandemic continues across Berrien County and the state of Michigan. Our teachers have been flexible and responsive to evolving guidelines,

procedures, and requirements; often adapting their instructional practices on the fly to best serve the students of our district. This has required our teachers to support learners both in person and remotely when necessary. This simultaneous instruction is complex, stressful, and time consuming, but has ultimately enabled our students to continue to build relationships and learn throughout the pandemic.

In addition, the contributions of our support staff cannot be overlooked. The school district's secretaries have been critical to helping teachers and administrators stay organized and sustain the daily operations of the district during these difficult and confusing times. Moreover, it is crucial that we do not overlook the

contributions of our paraprofessionals. Throughout the year, these hard working individuals have done whatever it takes to keep our buildings operating in an orderly fashion. From substitute teaching, assisting with lunch/recess supervision, and preparing instructional materials, each one of our paraprofessionals have been nothing short of amazing.

It is also important to recognize the people in our district that are outside of the classroom, but are essential to ensuring that our students are present, healthy, and safe. This includes our Transportation Department, who have worked endless hours to ensure that reliable transportation is available to our families so that students arrive at school and extracurricular activities safely and on time. We are also grateful for the efforts of our Food Service Department. Despite supply chain challenges, Director Ferguson and her team have ensured that students are supplied with a nutritious, free school breakfast and lunch. In addition, the kitchen staff continue to deliver meals to families that have students in quarantine. Finally, the efforts of our custodial, maintenance, and grounds crew continue to be instrumental to operating first class facilities that are sanitary, beautiful, and safe for students and staff.

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





As the COVID-19 pandemic endures, it is critical that we prioritize not only the academic development of our students, but also the social and emotional well-being of everyone involved in the educational process. Throughout the year our three school counselors and district social worker have implemented a number of research based interventions and programs that have ultimately helped students learn in a more productive and healthy environment. These four individuals have also worked hard to support the mental health and well-being of our staff by checking in with them and promoting self care.

As we head into the second semester, it is key to recognize that the accomplishments of the 2021 - 2022 school year would not be possible without the trust, flexibility, and understanding of our students and families. Our students continue to illustrate why they are the best in the state. We are grateful to have the privilege to guide them on a daily basis and appreciate their positivity throughout this challenging year.

If you spot a Bridgman Public School employee or student around town this winter, we invite you to thank them for all their diligence in making the 2021 - 2022 school year a success.

GO BEES!

Lori Graves, BES Principal
John Truesdell, RMS Principal
Gerald Heath, BHS Principal



The Aquatic Center is OPEN, and due to diligent practices by our patrons and staff, is nearly back to 'full strength'! For all details on hours, schedules, class descriptions, daily and membership rates please visit: BridgmanPool.com

NEW! - Masters & Triathlete Swim Practice

Saturday's 7-8 A.M. The BAC is now offering a weekly coach led Masters/Triathlete practice for all levels. Join the workout, swim on your own or just come to get technique tips from a USA Swimming registered coach!

NEW! – Adult Learn to Swim Class

Tuesday's 7:30-8:30 P.M. starting January 11 Have you always wanted to learn how to swim but never have? Well wait no more! Led by one of our Senior Staff member who themselves learned how to swim as an adult – ALL are welcome!

Swim Lessons

The next session of lessons will begin on Monday, January 10, with online registration starting on Monday January 3, 2022. These lessons are FREE to children who live in Lake Township, the City of Bridgman or are a Student of Choice at Bridgman Schools.

Boys Co-Op Swimming & Diving

The Boys 2021-22 Bridgman Co-Op swim and dive team will have home meets starting at 6 P.M. on:

- 12/9/21 – Portage Northern
- 12/16/21 – Portage Central
- 1/15/22 – Bridgman Invitational (BAC Closed) – 9 A.M. (Saturday)
- 1/20/22 – Battle Creek Lakeview
- 1/27/22 – Kalamazoo Loy Norrix
- 2/03/22 – Mattawan - SENIOR NIGHT!

GET BAC ALERTS!!

To get text (or email) alerts from the BAC whenever a class is cancelled, the school has a snow day (and the pool is closed) along with any program changes, please visit: <https://www.remind.com/join/hdhc6kd>



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Bees Nation ... Happy New Year 2022!



Ken Schmaltz
Athletic Director

We have chimed in together with another rendition of Auld Lang Syne, saying goodbye to 2021 – another year not without uniqueness and challenges - and excitedly look forward to a new calendar year and what 2022 has in store for Bridgman Athletics and Bridgman Public Schools.

Goodbye to Class of 2021

United States Marine Corp Distinguished Athletes –
Jalynn Krieger & Jarrett Hess

United States Marine Corp Scholastic Excellence Recipients –
Natalee McNeil & Jarrett Hess

Athletic Director Award Recipients – *Skyllar Milius & Jarrett Hess*

Bridgman High School Scholar-Athletes – *Lily Badger & Luke Blesy*

Jim Howard Memorial Award Recipients –
Karsyn Stewart & Luke Blesy

MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award Nominees –
Lily Badger, Luke Blesy & Karsyn Stewart

Gary Owen/David Knowlton Student-Athlete Recipient – *Luke Blesy*

A few highlights from 2021:

- Both the Bridgman Boys Basketball and Bridgman Girls Basketball Teams were Academic All-State in the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan
- Bridgman Baseball, Boys Track & Field and Softball were all BCS Conference White Division champions
- MHSAA Division 3 Boys and Girls Track & Field State Finals qualifiers – *Luke Blesy* (12th Grade), *Karsyn Stewart* (12th Grade), *Jane Kaspar* (11th Grade), *Mallorie Griffiths* (11th Grade) & *Summer Fast* (10th Grade)
- Bridgman Softball claimed district and regional championships while making it all the way to the MHSAA Division 4 State Semi Finals
- All-State Student-Athletes: *Natalee McNeil* (12th Grade; Softball), *Kaylee Shuler* (11th Grade; Softball) and *Arie Hackett* (11th Grade; Softball)
- Bridgman hosted the Annual Berrien County Cross Country Invitational at Lake Township Park back in early October
- Bridgman Girls Cross Country won the MHSAA Division 3 Regional and advanced as a team to the MHSAA State Finals
- *John Sanderson* (11th Grade) qualified for and competed in the MHSAA Division 3 Boys State Cross Country Finals
- *Trey Heyn* (12th Grade) qualified and competed in the MHSAA Division 4 Boys Tennis State Finals
- Bees Football concluded its third season of 8-player football with a 10-0 overall record and were conference champions. First-Team





BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Academic All-State by the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association - just 1 of 4 programs in 8-Player Football across the state to receive this honor

- Bridgman High School served as the host for the MHSAA Volleyball Division 3 District Tournament

Our return from Christmas Break finds us approaching the midst of the 2021-22 school year and, it is very rewarding and satisfying in seeing our Bee student-athletes mature in the classroom, in the athletic setting and as young adults as they progress through high school. It is my sincere hope in that our Bee 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. Bridg-

man High School Athletics provides an opportunity to learn invaluable life lessons in preparation for young adults' future endeavors.

We invite the Community of Bridgman to join us in celebrating our student-athletes throughout 2022 by attending and visiting with us at our upcoming athletic events.

I would invite each of you to follow the Bees at our Athletic Website www.bridgmanathletics.com, on Facebook www.facebook.com/BridgmanAthletics and on Twitter @Bridgmansports.

Up-to-date schedules can be viewed at bridgmanathletics.com

Visit Bridgmanathletics.com it's a one-stop website for Bees Athletics.

You may choose to set up your own account by simply completing the orange box title "Fan Account Login". Once logged in, you will see three tabs:

- My Account Information
- My Favorites/Alerts – This is where you manage your alerts.
- My Content – You now have the ability to provide content for our website by uploading photos.

We look forward to using our new website to improve communication with you and highlight our student-athletes. Please be sure to check the site for future updates!

The Athletic department is using Final Forms to help manage the registration process for both BHS and RMS athletes. Please register at: bridgman-mi.finalforms.com and follow the prompts to create your account, your student's account, and sign forms. Students must also sign in with their gobeego email to electronically sign forms. Please contact the High School Office with any questions, 465-6848.





BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

As a community, we prepare and support all students for lifelong learning.

Mission: We provide resources to inspire resilient and collaborative critical thinkers.

Lloyd F. Hutt Scholarship

Established in 1990, this scholarship program honors the legacy of Lloyd F. Hutt – teacher and founder of LMCU. Each year, we establish a prompt for high school seniors to write about in the form of an essay and award twenty (20) \$2,000 scholarships. We are proud to have provided \$460,000 in scholarships to 272 deserving students over the years.

This year's topic is: There's something special about each and every one of us. Tell us about the YOU of today, and what we can expect to see in the YOU of tomorrow.

The 2021-2022 Hutt Scholarship entry period is open now through January 31, 2022.

<https://www.lmcu.org/about/community-relations/hutt-scholarship/>

ATTENTION SENIORS

The LMC scholarship app is open. Remember, if you are applying to LMC, scholarships are not automatic based on your application, you will need to apply for them and have a Wavelink account set up. Once you click on the link, click on "sign in."

lakemichigancollege.edu/financial-aid/pay-college/scholarships

Apply by March 1 for best consideration. Scholarships are gift funds based on academic achievement, a special talent, your major, or financial need. Best of all, you don't need to repay scholarships! With over \$600,000 in total scholarships awarded each year, all students are encouraged to apply for a scholarship.

Testing Information ACT and SAT National Test Dates and Information

All test dates, information, and registration occur online through each test's website.

For ACT testing information, go to <http://www.actstudent.org>

For SAT testing information, go to <http://sat.collegeboard.com/home>

**Take the ACT on February 12!
Register by January 7 to avoid late fees.**

**Show Colleges You're Ready
Register for the March SAT by Feb. 11.**





BRIDGMAN FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

From the Chairman



Al Barker,
BFEE Chairman

As we ring in the New Year, the Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence would like to take this opportunity to say, "Thank you" to all that have

generously donated to the Foundation over the years. Your support, whether through volunteer time, financial donations or in-kind donations, helps to support our mission to provide enhanced learning opportunities for our students. Thank you for helping our students shine their brightest!

The Foundation approved the following grants:

- **Digital Camera** - students learn how to take high quality photographs of their finished artwork, create digital art portfolios, and learn about a variety of art professions that use photography. The cameras will also be used in the production of the school's yearbook.
- **Artwork Display Rails** - students love seeing their artwork displayed securely in the hallways and enjoy

sharing it with their peers. This also helps them envision other artwork displayed in the public realm.

- **Glowforge System** - students are able to design, measure, edit and produce multiple projects with this new design and laser engraving system and 3D printer. This provides students with learning opportunities well beyond those in a traditional classroom environment.

In October, the Foundation launched our first STEM Inspired Contest with high school and middle school students. Our goal was to learn how the STEM Lab at RMS had inspired Bridgman students through their educational journey. We received many essays, photos and videos which offered a sense of excitement for the Foundation! We will soon begin sharing the contest entries on our Facebook page. In the meantime, please join me in congratulating the following winners:

High School Winners:

- 3rd place: Ellie B (9th grade) received a \$50 Amazon gift card
- 2nd place: Zac M (10th grade) received a \$75 Amazon gift card
- 1st place: Sky D (9th grade) received a \$100 Amazon gift card

Middle School Winners:

- 3rd place: Haley W (6th grade) received a \$50 Amazon gift card
- 2nd place: Emma P (6th grade) received a \$75 Amazon gift card
- 1st place: Sam F (8th grade) received a \$100 Amazon gift card

The Foundation continues to grow in Trustee volunteer service. I would like to welcome **John Royse** to the Foundation as our newest Trustee. John is a project manager specializing in the IT industry. He brings extensive fundraising experience that will help us ensure our organization continues to grow. To learn more about the Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence, please visit our website at www.bridgmanfoundation.org.

As I close this article, I want to offer a new beginning where we all can do something "new" in the coming year to enhance someone's learning experience. If we all pause for a moment in our daily lives, I know each of us can find a way to contribute. The Foundation's mission of providing enhanced learning opportunities takes a Community to fully achieve. I am proud to be part of this Community, sharing in the success of our Bridgman Public School students!





LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

From the Desk of Bob Clark, Treasurer



Bob Clark, Treasurer

Lake Township Treasurer

The 2021 winter bills should have been received by now and are due on or before February 14, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. to avoid penalties. If for some reason you haven't received your bill, please contact our office. Summer and winter bills can be paid at the Township until February 28, 2022. After that they must be sent to the County, and additional penalties will apply. The payment must be received at our office by then so be sure to leave ample mailing time if paying by mail (postmarks are not accepted). **We have had more taxpayers using our E check payment option, credit card payments, and utilizing the on-line system to obtain tax and assessment information.** Please visit our website at www.lake-township.org for more information about these payment options. We have two drop boxes for after-hour payments, one by the road and one near the front door. Please contact our office if you have any questions about your bill, assessment, or other information.

Lake Township Park News

We had another busy year at the park. Soccer returned to play for the first time in a year and a half and had a great season and turn out. Players and families enjoyed being back out at the park. Baseball and softball both had successful seasons as well.

Last years projects included: further work on the pony baseball field, completion of the softball fencing project and installation of sinks, counters, and hot water heaters in the north and south pavilions. We appreciate the rec fund help with the fencing and pony field renovations. Disc golf also had a busy year at the park with a lot of play and several events.

We are very excited to announce the Township is planning to put in a non-motorized trail from the high school to the park along Gast Road in the coming years. The trail will give residents of the Township, students using the rec fields and park, and people living in Bridgman a safe way to access the park. There are no shoulders on Gast Road and travel speeds make it very dangerous to bike or walk on the sides of the road. We are finalizing plans and will seek funding in 2022. The trail should be constructed in 2023. Besides that large project, we plan to renovate both concession buildings next year, complete the pony field, install some exercise stations, create a walking trail and establish cross country ski trails at the park. We are also beginning plans to create some type of pet friendly area within the park. Many of these ideas came from our parks and recreation survey we completed last fall (see related article).

Chamber and Economic Development News

The CGA is planning to revive the Makers Trail Festival at Weko Beach on June 11, 2022. Look for more information in early 2022. The local chamber group has been working on planning for the Red Arrow corridor as we anticipate that area to be a great place for future development. Cornerstone Alliance continues to work on finding a suitable business or developer for the former Leco property. The housing market in Lake Township has been very robust in the past few years and we are working on ways to provide more affordable housing in the Township.





LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

From the Desk of Bob Clark, Treasurer

Trail News

Besides our local trail project to the park, Berrien County and the SW Michigan Planning Commission are busy with many other trail plans throughout the County. The Friends of Berrien County Trails has coordinated fund raising for a countywide trail master plan. This plan will coordinate a trail vision throughout the area and be completed in 2022. A portion of this trail plan will involve Lake Township with a trail along Red Arrow Highway. Covid has taught us how important our parks and recreation are to us. A trail system is important to good health, safety, quality of life and has significant economic impact to the area. The State of Michigan has allocated significant funding to parks, trails and recreation. Warren Dunes State Park is making plans for a trail through the park to allow visitors and campers a safe way out to visit Lake Township, Bridgman and head south to Sawyer and beyond.

Lake Township Recreation Master Plan and Survey

The Township recently completed a parks and recreation survey to use to develop our 5-year master plan. We appreciate many of you who completed the survey. We received a great response with 460 surveys being returned! We wanted to share some highlights of the survey with you. They are:

- Parks and recreation are very important to people (70%) and another 26% responded they are somewhat important.
- A non-motorized trail from the high school and city limits to the park is very important to the respondents (44%). Another 33% said it is somewhat important. Many people commented about the lack of trails in our area and specifically about the need for a trail along Red Arrow Highway. Fifty-nine percent indicated pedestrian connectivity is very important and 30% more said it is somewhat important.
- People are happy with Lake Township Park and the amenities that have been added. Many positive comments were made about the park and maintenance of it. Maintaining existing parks was very important to 88% of the people responding.
- Many commented about having an area to allow dogs in the park somehow (35%). The plan would be to develop a way to allow dogs while keeping them off athletic fields and away from areas with children and more public playgrounds and areas.
- A nature trail for walking and jogging would also be a nice addition. Seventy-two percent responded they are most interested in a place to walk or run. Another forty-eight percent said they are interested in the pavilions and forty-four percent in more children's playground equipment. People also indicated they are interested in cross country ski trails and more winter activities (20%).
- Other items requested were exercise stations (25%), grill improvements (comments), a movie night (27%), younger children playground equipment (comments).
- Larger requests were for pickle ball courts (21%), a splash pad (42%), and a skate park (comments). These bigger ticket items will be taken into consideration for future planning.



Full survey results and comments can be found on the Township website at lake-township.org. The master plan should be approved by publication time and also available on our website.





LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

**SUPERVISOR
JOHN GAST
CONTINUED
FROM COVER...**

updates and the distribution system. Roads are being selected for seal coating and paving projects.

Park upgrades and a non-motorized trail from the high school to the park is in the planning mode, with estimated construction in the spring of 2023. The Township has openings on boards and committees. If anyone is so inclined to serve, please contact myself or go online at lake-township.org and fill out an application.

**FROM THE DESK OF GLORIA A. PAYNE
Lake Charter Township Clerk**



Gloria Payne, Clerk

Lake Charter Township is responsible for three cemeteries.

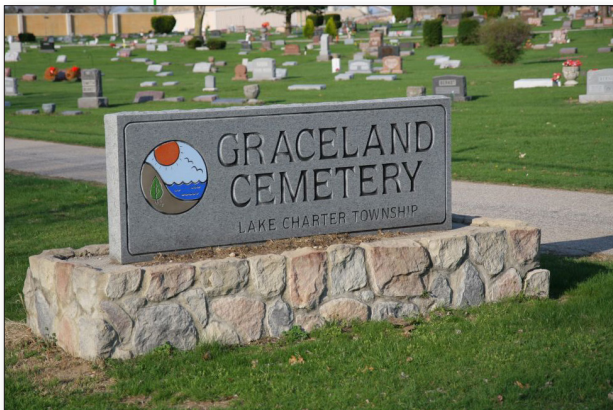
California Road Cemetery located at the corner of California and Snow Road holds military personnel and is the oldest cemetery in Lake Charter Township. We no longer bury anyone in this cemetery.

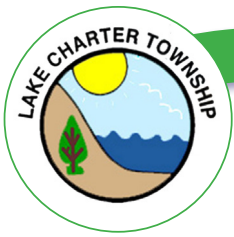
Greenwood Cemetery is located on California Road in the city limits, however, is owned by Lake Charter Township. This past summer the sprinkler system broke down and has suffered major damage. We are in the process of collecting quotes for replacement of the entire system and hope to tackle this project in the spring 2022.

Graceland Cemetery is located on Red Arrow Highway. In 1999 we purchased our first columbarium, which houses cremated remains. In 2014 our second was purchased and we have planned to purchase our third unit, and it is scheduled for delivery spring 2022. These units hold 48 niches each. One niche holds two cremated remains. A plaque can be purchased with names, dates of birth and dates of death, much like a cemetery marker. Purchasing these units have been advantageous in saving land for full burials. However, we do allow up to four cremated remains on one cemetery lot. I caution people to be mindful of their cemetery marker, to be sure it can hold four names with dates of birth and dates of death.

Also, for a spring project, we plan on extending the most southern road in the cemetery and link it to the existing roadway just behind the columbariums.

Visit our website, lake-township.org for current lot rates, niche rates and opening and closing fees.





LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Lake Charter Township Water System

Hello to Everyone.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday -- and we are off to a new year!

This last year has been challenging, with the supply chain disruption and projects taking longer than expected. If you have driven past the water treatment plant, you will have noticed a new fence around the property, which will limit accessibility and add a layer of security. We are not offering tours to the public at this time, but if you would like information about our process or have general questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

I want to thank everyone who participated in our lead and copper sampling program in July, and report that we met all regulatory requirements. Our lead and copper sampling program has been in place since the early '90s, and we are currently on a three-year sampling cycle. The program has evolved over the years with changes that have been made at the Federal and State levels. The target sites that are considered first involve sites consisting of a lead tap to the water main or a lead ser-

vice line. Both do not exist in Lake Township. With our system being relatively young, these products were not installed in our water system. The following criteria consider connections that have copper plumbing with lead-based solder (before 1987). These are the sampling sites that we use

for our sampling program, and once we have established these sites, we are required to continue to use them unless they no longer qualify (changes to plumbing). If you ever change out a fixture in your residence, you will want to make sure it is certified as lead-free. There are imposters out there selling inferior products. If you have older plumbing, running the water to flush out your plumbing or fixture before use is wise. It is always a great idea to clean out the aerator on the end of the faucet regularly to remove any debris and help prevent an environment for bacteria growth. Sometimes we will receive a call from a resident of low flow, and it turns out to be a clogged aerator on a faucet. If you have any questions regarding our lead and copper sampling program, please reach out to me again.

I like to remind everyone each year as we move into winter that if you have a fire hydrant near your driveway, please do not plow snow up around it. These need to be accessible for our fire department in the event of an emergency. Everyone have a great winter season, and if you ever have questions about your Lake Township water, please give us a call. We are here to service your water needs.

Jeff Burkhard

Superintendent - Lake Township Water System

269-465-3850

jburkhardltwater@lake-township.org





LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

You can find helpful information on our website including: building forms, permits, zoning forms, zoning maps and so much more!

Visit us at: lake-township.org



Building/Zoning Department

Community growth ... a good thing or a bad thing?

To some, community growth means giving up something; a way of life, an open space for a new home, more people that don't live here, and unwanted development. I'm not saying they are against growth in the community, I believe they are concerned it will destroy what is really good about this community. Personally, I believe community growth is a good thing as long as we are prepared for it. Being prepared, now that's the challenge. What do we prepare for? Where? How much is too much? Where is that magic ball to tell us the future? Well, of course none of us have this knowledge, but in local government we try to measure the (good thing, bad thing) and prepare plans for the community the best we can in advance.

Recently I was invited to participate in the Master Parks Plan update for the township. Part of the process was a survey requesting information from the community.

Your response back was remarkable and to me indicated that as a whole, this community considers growth a good thing.

We will be using your responses to not only help with the Township Park Master Plan but also the Township Master Plan update that the Planning Commission will be working on starting early in 2022.

Back to my statement about being prepared. Just what does that mean? Prepared to me means when a plan comes in for a building or a development, we as a community will have answered their questions long before they submitted the request. You might ask how is that possible and my answer is this. If we create Master Plans and zoning correctly now, and follow those written plans without major exception, the developers will either build it the way we want it (good thing) or find some place that is not prepared and build something they don't want (bad thing).

*Thank you,
Rich Kubsch
Building Administrator
(269) 465-6601, ext 114
rkubsch@lake-township.org*





CITY OF BRIDGMAN

CITY MANAGER - JUAN GANUM | CONTINUED FROM COVER ...

Bridgman, however, that outlook will have to wait until the spring edition of the Buzz, in order to focus attention on a critically important matter that our community is facing now.



John Bonkoske

The article below was published as a guest column in the Harbor Country News and the Herald-Palladium late last year. Written by Bridgman City Councilmember John Bonkoske, it brings to light the proposed legislation that would impact communities across the state; most notably the City of Bridgman, due to longstanding restrictions against short term rentals within our neighborhoods. Councilmember Bonkoske’s article reflects the overall view of your elected leaders on the Bridgman City Council, which unanimously passed a resolution on May 17, 2021 to voice strong opposition to House Bill 4722 regarding short-term rentals.

Statewide short-term rental law threatens sense of community

By JOHN BONKOSKE (Harbor Country News and the Herald-Palladium)

Michigan House Bill 4722, which would allow short-term residential rentals anywhere in the state, would create a variety of unintended consequences, a common problem when a broad-swathed statewide decision is put into play.

Despite the dissent of multiple thousands of Michiganders, this bill, which would supersede any local government ordinance, stealthily passed in the House at 2 a.m. Oct. 27, 2021. My local representative, Pauline Wendzel, voted for this bill stating her steadfast belief in property rights alone, exhibiting minimal forethought of the larger consequences and changes in community makeup that could take place by enacting this bill statewide. Another local representative, Brad Paquette, a co-sponsor of HB 4722, voted against this bill after listening to his

constituents’ concerns. The decision at this juncture now lies directly within our Senate. I am urging Sen. Kim LaSata, R-Bainbridge Township, to vote against this bill should it reach the Senate floor.

In short, this new law would mean that your neighbor next door, across the street, down the block, etc., could choose to rent out their home to any person or group for up to 30 days, or as few as one day anywhere in the state. This would also apply to rental companies like VRBO or Airbnb. The bill also states that it would limit short-term rentals to 30% of a city’s residences. That’s roughly every third home on a block or across a community.

Proponents of this bill will argue current local laws exist which protect against issues such as noise coming

from the rental, traffic, increased and/or improperly disposed of trash, or the number of persons that may occupy a dwelling. These laws, however, are reactive and put the onus on citizens to “police” it. In the case of excessive noise, for example, it would be up to those living near a short-term rental to call police, further taxing already-limited local resources.

As a councilmember for the City of Bridgman, I am against Lansing thinking they know better in making local decisions. I believe that local governments exist to make decisions as determined by the local makeup of the community.

Beautiful lakeside Bridgman, known for its strong sense of community, excellent education, and beaches, is one of many shoreline communities particularly threatened by this bill.

(Continued NEXT PAGE)



CITY OF BRIDGMAN

Following are topics that I believe should be “food-for-thought” before a state-wide, blanket decision is made – each rendering an unintended consequence of the bill:

1 Our cities could become “diluted”; our community ties will weaken.

I believe we will see towns diluted by “for-profit” thinking. I worry that homes or condos purchased by out-of-towners for the sole purpose of renting them to others besmirches tight-knit communities. Homes that were once filled with permanent or semi-permanent (summer, weekend) residents would now be filled with transient individuals not tied in any way to, or vested in, the local milieu. Once several homes are purchased for this sole purpose, we lose our sense of belonging and slowly cease to be good stewards to our hometown.

Don’t get me wrong, I have no problem with for-profit. I do believe, however, that any stated profit-seeking at the expense of others – community, neighbors, and collective cohesiveness – is wrong. In short, it eats at the very fabric of the American neighborhood.

2 Our strong educational backbone will be threatened.

Bridgman has one of the highest educational systems and rankings in the state. This is due to many factors, most of which center upon three: an excellent, forward-thinking administration, parents that are involved and honor education for the opportunities it brings, and a strong sense of community that binds children together allowing them to learn in a safe and open environment.

Our neighborhoods in Bridgman are kid focused. They are safe. They are cohesive. They are strong. Of all the external issues that our kids are bombarded with today, the one thing that can be relied upon is their solid footing in their own neighborhood.

Once homes in neighborhoods begin to be purchased by those who seek to rent them short-term, our kids’ neighborhoods and their sense of safety and belonging, becomes diminished. As this occurs more and more, parents no longer want to live in these neighborhoods and seek to move away. Once too many parents move away the school district diminishes and is neither as effective nor as solid as it once was. In essence, the very thing we seek to preserve is lost by lack of a local decision on how we’d like to run our community.

This is not a doomsday scenario. This is exactly what happened to one of our neighboring communities. Their once robust population of students has dropped annually for greater than 5 years running. Much of this is due to transient, non-invested, short-term renters. This community has now enacted a zoning ordinance amendment to curb this issue. If there’s anything more important than education and our children’s safety, I don’t know what it is – but I’m certain that a change in our law to allow transients to rent short-term would not be helpful in maintaining either.

3 Property rights would be emphasized over being a good neighbor.

I, like most Americans, are in favor of Property Rights. They exist to protect one’s property and exclude others from the uses and benefits of that property.

That stated, property rights should never exist to exploit one’s property at the expense of one’s neighbor’s property. Imagine a scenario where anyone can do anything they want to or with their property which does harm, seen or unseen, to their neighbor’s property. That would not be palatable to any of us – and when





CITY OF BRIDGMAN

this occurs it not only pits neighbor against neighbor; it also creates unnecessary lawsuits.

I posit this: We live collectively in a community. That which is done by you can affect your neighbor; something that should always be considered.

4 This is a diametrically opposed goal of the real estate lobby.

The real estate lobby is strong and powerful across our state. They purport that denying HB 4722 will diminish their ability to sell homes to desirous buyers. In certain areas, this may be true. However, when Realtors seek to sell housing to investors for the sole purpose of short-term renting, they become diametrically opposed to the community in which they are selling, i.e., The realtor's goal is to sell a home to anyone who is interested, regardless of motive, to produce a commission for themselves; some communities in which the home is sold don't want transient, revolving-door renters next door.

Motive matters. As such, I posit that this strong group needs to be understood clearly as their motive is often not aligned with communities in which they desire to sell.

5 Lack of affordable housing would get worse for those in need and work among us.

Continued discussions occur at our city council meetings about affordable housing. Such discussion centers both on the need for it and how we might choose to build this type of housing for the many in our area that desire it. In Bridgman's case, if we were to build 200 new, affordable housing units, they'd probably sell within a month – this, the need for permanent housing in our community.

Our concern lies in a situation already familiar to us and other Michigan communities: How do we ensure that those who need this housing can obtain it?

Like Bridgman, many communities have local ordinances to prohibit the use of said properties for certain purposes. If investors were allowed to buy properties anywhere for the sole purpose of short-term rentals – at prices that were above market value – where does that leave our local nurse, welder or teacher who wants to live permanently in our community? We don't want those who desire to live permanently among us to either be priced out due to investment pricing competition or be forced to live in a community of transient renters.

In short: Community is diluted, school districts languish, prices surge, rentals abound, neighbors start to fight, people move away due to changes in their community, and there's no place for those most in need of affordable housing to live locally. There is no win-win scenario here.

I'm a community guy. Strong communities are stable, desired, and safe – and they turn out kids that can go into the world with the assurance of successfully grown wings – because they have hometown roots. Adding a statewide edict that suggests that Lansing knows better than one's own town diminishes all our communities.

We are not cookie-cutter bergs with the same goals. Perhaps other towns might see things differently – which is the point: Let local issues and decisions remain local.

And answer yourself this question: Would you like to live next door to a rental house with different people in-and-out weekly?

I encourage every reader who either agrees with these points, and/or believes local governments should be able to make their own local decisions, to write Senator LaSata with your thoughts at: SenKLaSata@senate.michigan.gov



CITY OF BRIDGMAN



Bridgman Police Department

9765 Maple Street, Bridgman, Michigan 49106

Phone: 269-465-3880 Fax: 269-465-3701

Daniel J. Unruh, Sr.

Chief of Police

PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

Our new radar speed trailer is in full operation thanks to generous donations and hard work by our Department of Public Services. You will see the trailer moved about throughout the city in hopes of slowing traffic down in order to create a safer environment for pedestrians and motorists alike.

We would like to remind everyone that there is no parking allowed on city streets from 2 A.M. - 6 A.M. from November 1 to March 31. There are signs

posted at each entrance to the city limits advising motorists of this ordinance. Residents can contact the police department and request a parking pass if overnight guests are expected. Weather conditions may be considered by the officers and dictate the issuance of parking passes.

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

or hear suspicious activity in your neighborhood. We need your eyes and ears!

We also provide property checks of our city residents' homes while they are out of town. Please contact us to request a property check before your next trip.

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

ACCEPTED: Prescription medications, over the counter meds

NOT ACCEPTED: Illegal drugs, needles/syringes, lotions/liquids, inhalers, aerosol cans, thermometers, hydrogen peroxide

*Chief Dan Unruh
Bridgman Police Department*

Please make sure your vehicles are locked and all valuables have been removed or secured in a locked trunk while shopping. Thieves often target unlocked vehicles so don't make it easy for them. The same warning goes for resident's homes, garages, and sheds as well. We encourage you to call if you see



CITY OF BRIDGMAN

**From the desk of Tim Kading, Director of Public Service
Cross-Connection Control**

What is a cross-connection?

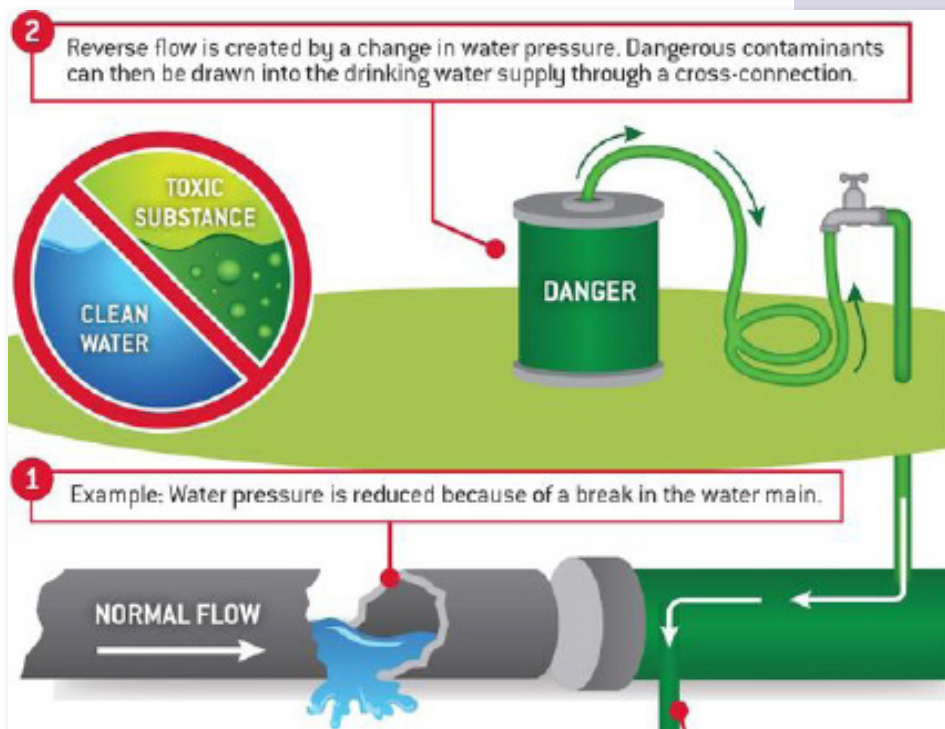
A cross-connection is a connection between the potable (drinking) water supply and a contaminant source. Some examples include: a garden hose with one end submerged in a solution (soapy water, fertilizer, or a pool) a supply line, a toilet, or a lawn irrigation system.

Why should I be concerned?

Cross-connections can allow the backflow of an undesirable toxic substance or contaminant into the Bridgman drinking water supply. This can occur when water pressure is lower than normal as the result of maintenance or repairs. Back siphonage can also occur which is caused by negative pressure.

What are some common household cross-connection hazards?

Hose connections are an extension of the water system. The installation of vacuum breakers on each hose connection ensures no harmful materials are drawn back into the water supply.



Boilers build-up pressure from the expansion of water and can result in the boiler water being pushed into the water supply. The installation of a backflow preventer can eliminate this risk.

If not properly installed, lawn irrigation systems can allow contaminants to enter the drinking water system. Protection can be provided by installing backflow prevention devices such as an atmospheric vacuum breaker or a reduced pressure device.

Do I need backflow prevention?

If you have any questions regarding cross-connections or would like more information, please contact the Bridgman Water Department at 269-465-5407.





CITY OF BRIDGMAN

The City of Bridgman has various boards and commissions that play a vital role within the city. Each board has a different duty and purpose, composed of electors within the City of Bridgman. WE NEED YOU!

The following boards have open seats available:

- Board of Review
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA)
- The Greater Bridgman Area Chamber and Growth Alliance (CGA)

Applications to serve on a board may be found on the city's website under "forms" www.bridgman.org or can be picked up at City Hall, 9765 Maple Street, Bridgman, MI 49106.

PLANNING COMMISSION

The duty of the Planning Commission is to make and adopt a master plan for the physical development of the City of Bridgman, including areas outside its boundaries which affect the planning for the city. The Bridgman City Planning Commission consists of seven (7) members who represent different segments of the community, such as economic, governmental, educational, and social development of the local unit of government. The members should be representatives of the entire

geography of the city to the extent practicable. Members of the Planning Commission are appointed by the mayor, subject to approval of the City Council to three (3) year terms expiring in April of each year. The board meets monthly on the third Thursday.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Michigan Zoning Enabling Act allows the establishment of a Zoning Board of Appeals. This board's principal function is a quasi-judicial one that involves interpreting and implementing the legislative intent of the zoning regulations. The Bridgman City Zoning Board of Appeals consists of seven (7) members recommended by the mayor and affirmed by the City Council for three (3) year terms expiring in May of each year. The Planning Commission Chair serves as the Chair for the Board of Appeals. One (1) member of the City Council serves as long as they remain on the Council. Five (5) members of the Board of Appeals are electors of the City of Bridgman. This board meets as needed.

CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY (CIA)

The Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) was established in 2007 under Public Act 280 of 2005. A CIA allows the use of tax increment financing to make capital improvements within an established commercial district. CIA's promote economic development and redevelopment by creating and implementing a development plan. The CIA consists of the City Manager or his or her designee and six (6) members from the Community. The majority of the members are residents having an ownership or business interest in property located in the Development Area. At least one (1) of the members shall be a resident of the Development Area or of an area within ½ mile of any part of the Development Area. The CIA members are appointed by the mayor, subject to approval by the City Council for three (3) year terms expiring in October of each year. This board meets monthly on the second Monday.





CITY OF BRIDGMAN

BOARD OF REVIEW

The Board of Review is a three (3) member board whose duties and functions include revising and correcting assessments, hearing complaints of all persons considering themselves aggrieved by assessments, and endorsing the assessment roll. The Board of Review members are property taxpayers of the city and are appointed by the Council each year during the month of January for two (2) year terms. Two (2) alternates may be appointed for the same term as regular members of the board of review. This board meets for the Board of Review meetings held in March, July, and December.

THE GREATER BRIDGMAN AREA CHAMBER AND GROWTH ALLIANCE (CGA)

The Greater Bridgman Area Chamber of Commerce and Growth Alliance (more commonly known as the CGA) is organized for the specific purpose of undertaking programs and activities that contribute to the ad-

vancement of the greater Bridgman community as a place to visit, live, work and play. The CGA is responsible for the promotion of economic development opportunities for new businesses and the facilitation of expansion for existing businesses. Currently the CGA is affiliated with the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber. The Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber is a 501c6, member-driven organization working to achieve economic prosperity throughout the region.

The CGA's Board of Directors consists of twelve (12) members, four (4) of which are appointed by the City, four (4) by Lake Charter Township, and four from the Chamber membership at-large for a three (3) year term. This board meets monthly on the second Thursday.

2021 Winter Taxes Available

The 2021 winter tax bills have been mailed out. If you haven't received your statement or would like a copy of your tax statement, please call City Hall at 465-5144 or email dlambrix@bridgman.org. As a friendly reminder, 2021 winter taxes are due February 14, 2022. You may pay at City Hall, by mail or online at www.bridgman.org. Tax payments received after the deadline will be subject to late payment penalties regardless of the postmark date. Taxes are collected at City Hall until February 28, 2022. Beginning March 1, 2022 delinquent taxes will only be accepted at Berrien County Treasurer's office at 701 Main Street in St. Joseph.

Visit BRIDGMAN.ORG

Our website was built to serve our community. Check it out for information on services, government, community, business development, and so much more!





CITY OF BRIDGMAN

Dollars and Sense from the Treasurer

Have you wondered how your tax dollars are divided among different taxing entities?

The City of Bridgman is responsible for billing and collecting taxes for other entities such as the Bridgman Public Schools, Berrien County, Berrien RESA and Lake Michigan College, as well as for the City. The image below shows how an individual dollar is allocated in percentage terms. Thus, Bridgman Public Schools receives \$ 0.38 of every dollar you pay in taxes, the City \$0.34, Berrien County \$0.14 and so on.



If you would like to learn more about the City’s financial health, please check out our transparency page on the city’s website at <https://www.bridgman.org/266/Transparency-Accountability>. This page has an interactive Financial Data Matrix tool that allows you to look at the current and historical data for the City, as well as compare our performance with other communities in Michigan. Its user-friendly interface makes it easy to navigate and dig into the City’s financial positions.

ASSESSOR

John Baumann, Assessor

Personal Property

Personal property statements, including the Small Business Taxpayer Exemption, will be mailed out to all businesses in the city by January 10, 2022 and are due to the assessor by February 22, 2022. Many small businesses were eligible for an exemption of personal property taxes for 2021 but did not file the Small Business Taxpayer Exemption. Business owners who qualified and filed the 2019, 2020 or 2021 small business taxpayer exemption will NOT have to file the form again in 2022. It is very important that those business owners who did NOT file the small business taxpayer exemption in 2019, 2020 or 2021 and qualify for the exemption, file it in 2022 to be exempted from 2022 personal property taxes.

Tax Day

December 31st 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 2021 assessment and tax bills were calculated based on how your property appeared on December 31, 2020. Currently we are working on the 2022 assessments and will base those assessments on the condition of your property as of December 31, 2021.





CITY OF BRIDGMAN

2022 Assessment Notices

Property Tax Assessment Notices will be mailed out by the end of February for real and personal property. These notices show the change in assessed and taxable values for your property from 2021 to 2022. The notice also shows your homestead percentage and if there was a transfer of ownership which resulted in an uncapping of your assessment. It is very important to review this notice when you receive it to verify that all the information is correct. If you find any errors or you have any questions on the assessed or taxable value change, please contact the assessing office at assessor@bridgman.org or at 269-465-5144 x104.

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

If you would like more information, please phone or email the assessing department or visit the City of Bridgman website.

Parks & Recreation Department

On November 19, 2021 the City held a ribbon cutting for the Weko Beach Dune Restoration and Stabilization Project. Funded through a Michigan Coastal Management Grant and the City's Parks and Recreation Fund, the project replaced an aging wooden retaining wall along the south boardwalk at Weko Beach. In accordance with a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association approved environmental protection plan, the \$130,000 project included restoration of critical dune habitat and protection of public infrastructure through planting of native dune grass, installation of sheet pile to replace sections of the failing retaining wall along the western and northern base of the south dune and protection of the south boardwalk. The project will allow the Parks and Recreation Department to make further improvements to the boardwalk in the near future.

In recent months the Department has worked on enhancing grant applications that were submitted to the state earlier this year. The

City is pursuing a grant through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the development of a new playscape at Toth Park. Grant recipients will be announced in early December 2021, so we hope to have good news to share in time for the holidays (and before this Buzz goes to print).

Currently, the Parks and Recreation Department is investigating the implementation of a parking kiosk system at Weko Beach. Kiosks will allow beach visitors to travel freely into the Weko parking lot and seek their



New retaining wall along the south boardwalk

own vehicle spot, similar to systems in place along the shoreline in New Buffalo and Saint Joseph. Residents will continue to be accommodated with season passes. More detailed information about using the system will be shared in the spring edition of the Buzz.



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Board

- Ed Valauskas, President
- Liz Bogue, Vice President
- Rick Fuller, Secretary
- Jim Kole, Treasurer
- Susan Collins, Trustee
- Sue Janoskey, Trustee
- Aaron Noll, Trustee
- John Wilk, Trustee
- Catherine Worcester, Trustee
- Dennis Kreps, Director



Michiganactivitypass.info



Hours

- Monday - Thursday: 10-8**
- Friday: 10-5**
- Saturday: 10-4**
- Sunday: Closed**

DIRECTOR - DENNIS KREPS CONTINUED FROM COVER ...

If the snow starts to get you down and you find yourself pining for the Spring:

- Plow through our **Winter Reading Challenge** and receive a flower seed packet
- Be comforted by the warmth of the Library fireplace

Since we remain in a not-yet-past COVID world, we will continue our three-pronged approach to programs and activities:

- Virtual
- Outdoors
- Take-and-make style projects

Our virtual programs this quarter combine the earthy and philosophical with the practical and educational. For example:

- Experience the Far East with Mindful Vagabond Brian Michalski
- Learn how to become your own boss from entrepreneur Connie Hallinan Lagan
- Create Dream Catchers, paint pots, and build robots

Other transformations from winter to spring:

- We are consulting with experts from Fernwood Botanical Gar-

den to transform the landscaping on the north berm of the Library grounds.

- Repairs and upgrades of raised-bed plots will be made in the Community Garden.
- Look for the Library and the Friends of the Bridgman Public Library at the Open-Air Market in the Spring

The Library also welcomes Rick Fuller and Catherine Worcester to the Board of Trustees, representing the City of Bridgman.

We want to stay connected with you!

- Sign up for our email news list
- Recommend book titles for purchase through the website
- Check out the website regularly
- 'Like' us and stay connected through our Facebook and Instagram sites

We have greatly appreciated the community's adaptability and support as we move forward together.

*Sincerely,
Dennis Kreps, Director*



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Please find Zoom links and additional program information at www.bridgmanlibrary.com

ADULT PROGRAMS

~ ONGOING PROGRAMS ~

KNIT N YARN

Mondays, 1:00 - 3:00 P.M. and 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:00 P.M. // Library Community Room

The Knit N Yarn members have created over 250 items to be donated and distributed locally to those in need. Well done, ladies!

Learn to knit or crochet, share your latest project, or get help with a yarn-ing problem. The group meets every Monday from 1-3 P.M. and every third Tuesday evening of the month from 6-8 P.M.

ZOOM YOGA

Thursdays, 5:30 P.M.

~ Zoom Program

Join a virtual yoga class led by certified Yin Yoga instructor, Cheryl Meadors. Suitable for beginning to intermediate students.

SECOND WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP

5:30 P.M.

In-Person and via Zoom

Check out a copy of this month's

book selection and join the conversation! Rick Fuller leads this in-person group at the library or participate from the comfort of your own home on Zoom.

January 12

The Splendid and the Vile, by Erik Larson

February 9

Woman of No Importance, by Sonia Purnell

March 9

The Book of Lost Friends, by Lisa Wingate

April 13

Midnight in Siberia, by David Greene

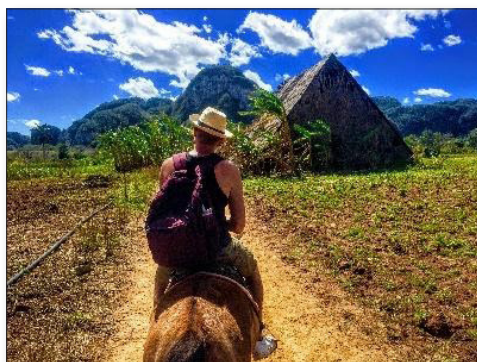
~ SPECIAL SCHEDULED EVENTS ~

ATYPICAL GLOBETROTTING

Presented by: Brian Michalski

January 11, 6:00 P.M.

~ Zoom Program ~



Do you dream of long-term travel and exploring faraway places? Do you crave a more authentic understanding of our world? Then

come along with Brian Michalski, the Mindful Vagabond, on his 22-month solo backpacking journey through Australia, Southeast Asia, India and Cuba and learn to travel

like a pro. Brian will share insider information on planning, budgeting, dealing with culture shock, realities of hostel life and coping with setbacks.

WRIGHT BROTHERS, WRONG STORY

Presented by: William Hazelgrove

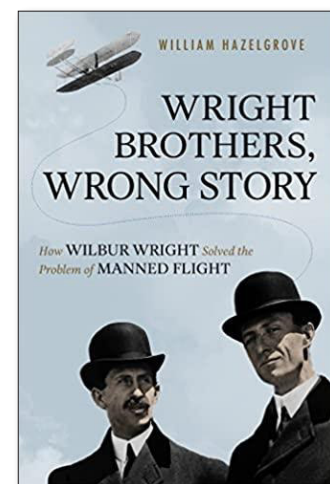
February 1, 6:00 P.M.

~ Zoom Program

How could two brothers who never left home, were high school drop-outs, and made a living as bicycle mechanics figure out the secret of manned flight? National Bestselling author William Hazelgrove reveals how each brother had a distinctive role in creating the first successful airplane and makes a convincing case that it was actually Wilbur Wright

who designed it, not Orville.

Richly researched and well-told, the tale of the Wright brothers' landmark achievement



is illustrated with rare historical photos and captures the excitement of the times at the start of the "American Century."

BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

DREAM CATCHER WORKSHOP

February 22, 6:00 P.M.

Library Community Room

Don't miss the opportunity to team up with the Craft Duo to create a unique dream catcher! This is a FREE program for adults. All materials are provided by the library. Please register by calling the library.

THE ART OF HERBAL TEA

Presented by: Bevin Cohen

March 1, 6:00 P.M.

~ Zoom Program ~

Join herbalist and author Bevin (Ben) Cohen for a fun and informative exploration of herbs. Discover the benefits of various cultivated and foraged herbs and learn about their histories and uses - including the basics of crafting an herbal tea.

EMPLOYEE TO ENTREPRENEUR

Presented by: Connie Hallinan Lagan

April 26, 6:00 P.M.

~ Zoom Program ~

Americans are facing the reality that layoffs, downsizing, unemployment and underemployment have become a way of life as a result of the current worldwide pandemic. Constance Hallinan Lagan, director of The Entrepreneurial Center for Small Business Development, will share how self-employment may be a viable option for you. Topics include personality analysis, assets assessment, prioritizing, goal-setting and steps to business formation.

ADULT WINTER READING CHALLENGE

"Think Spring"

Now - February 5

It's not too late! Sign up and complete the challenge by reading five books (printed and/or audio) checked out from the library and earn your flower seed packet. Your name will also be entered in a drawing for a gift certificate to the Emma Hearth & Market in downtown Bridgman.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

~ ONGOING PROGRAMS ~

EARLY LITERACY CLASSES

Every Tuesday

Toddler and Me (ages 2 - 5)

9:30 A.M. and 11:30 A.M.

Story Hour (ages 2 - 5)

10:30 A.M.

NEW!

LITTLE EXPLORERS PROGRAM

Begins January 14, 10:00 A.M.//

Library Community Room

Every 2nd & 4th Friday of the month

Explore process-based art, sensory play, and STEAM activities.

Ages 2 - 5.

PAWSITIVE READING

2nd Tuesday of the month

Jan 11, Feb 8, Mar 8, Apr 12

Elementary school children can read to Zuzu, the licensed therapy dog. Parents may sign up their child for a 15-minute time slot in between 3:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M. by calling the library.

~ SPECIAL SCHEDULED EVENTS ~

MINI MINI-GOLF

January 19, 4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Drop-in at the library

Create a tiny miniature golf hole. We'll bring the greens; you bring the creativity. Age 4 and up. Families welcome.

BRISTLEBOT TAKE & MAKE

Registration opens: January 24

Pick up your kit: February 14 - 19

Build a robot! You will learn basic engineering, circuitry, and more. Grades 1 - 4. Adult assistance may be needed.

FERNWOOD BOTANICAL GARDEN

March 5, 10:30 A.M.

Registration opens: February 3

Learn about native plants and pollinators with Fernwood. Make and take home a project too! More details on the library website. Grades 3 - 6.

COLOR-A-POT TAKE & MAKE

Registration opens: March 28

Pick up your project: April 11 - 16

Decorate a small planter for yourself or somebody else. Age 2 and up.



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

POEM-A-DAY

April 1 - 30

In celebration of National Poetry Month, there will be free copies of a poem available to take home each day in April. That's 30 different poems featuring different poets, eras, and subjects!

Kids of all ages can also visit the write-your-own poetry station and try crafting their own poem.

YOUTH WINTER READING CHALLENGE

Now - February 5

The challenge continues! Pick up a Winter Reading Challenge bingo card at the library, complete five challenges and win a book!

Age 2 - Grade 12.

TEEN PROGRAMS

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD (TAB)

Keep an eye on bridgmanlibrary.com for upcoming TAB meetings and activities.

COMING IN JUNE!

Summer Reading Program 2022



LIBRARY OF THINGS

Remember, in addition to books, the library has a collection of "things" available to borrow. Check out an Internet hotspot, Chromebook, metal detector, record player, ukulele or even a sewing machine! Resident adult cardholders can borrow these practical, hands-on items for two weeks in order to learn new skills, explore areas of interest, or to help with everyday tasks.



THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Thanks to funds received from the Heart of Cook grant administered by the Berrien Community Foundation, the Community Garden was able to purchase a new storage shed. The shed replaces a well-used one that was in need of many repairs. Thank you!

The Community Garden at Bridgman Public Library has 4'x 8' plots for rent for \$10 each. If you are a returning gardener and haven't already done so, please fill out a new registration form and reserve your plot by February 28. Beginning March 1, all new gardeners are welcome on a first come, first served basis.

DISPLAY CASE

The library has plenty of openings for our display case for the year 2022. If you would like to showcase a hobby or collection, please contact Deb at 269-465-3663 or deb@bridgmanlibrary.com.



FREE ALL DAY, EVERY DAY, AT THE LIBRARY

Expanded Wi-Fi coverage is available throughout the library grounds. Come inside, hang out on the patio, or sit in the parking lot and enjoy free online access. Sign-on to: BPL Public Wi-Fi. No password required.

LIBRARY EMAIL NEWS

Stay in-the-know! Sign up to receive emails from the library to get information on all of BPL's upcoming programs and events. Go to www.bridgmanlibrary.com to register.



9964 GAST ROAD, BRIDGMAN, MI 49106

bridgmanschools.com

Office: 269-465-5432

Fax: 269-466-0221

BRIDGMAN COMMUNITY BUZZ



WEKO BEACH, PHOTO BY BOB CLARK

One community working together to serve you better.

Bridgman Public Schools

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

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 Elementary

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

Bridgman Public Library

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

City of Bridgman

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

Lake Charter Township

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