

# BRIDGMAN COMMUNITY BUZZ

DECEMBER 2020



Photograph by: Bob Clark

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN COMMUNICATION

In a joint effort with the City of Bridgman, Lake Township, Bridgman Public Library, the Greater Bridgman Area Chamber & Growth Alliance, and Bridgman Public Schools, we present this community newsletter.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN COMMUNICATION



### SCHOOL NEWS

#### FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Superintendent  
Shane M. Peters

New Year? Yes, Please! On behalf of the Bridgman Board of Education and the Office of the Superintendent,

we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy, and Hopeful 2021!

Hard to believe that we are reaching the halfway point of another school year. No one

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### TOWNSHIP NEWS

#### FROM THE SUPERVISOR



Supervisor  
John Gast

Well, with elections behind us, both National and Local, there will be some new faces. Locally we have two newly

elected trustees, Zach Carson and Mike Essig. Both are involved in local community activities and should bring a new perspective to Township business.

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### LIBRARY NEWS

#### FROM THE DIRECTOR



Director  
Dennis Kreps

Change has become such a part of the fabric of our day-to-day experience. Adaptability and resilience are increasingly

important skills for operating in our current pandemic world. This has been true for us at Bridgman Public Library, and we have very much appreciated the community's kindness and patience during this time.

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### CITY NEWS

#### FROM THE CITY MANAGER



City Manager  
Juan Ganum

When this issue of the Buzz arrives in your mailbox the chapter on 2020 will have just closed. As we eagerly

look ahead for more hopeful days to come, I believe there is reason to be optimistic. There is great promise at the time of this writing, as vaccines are being prepared for widespread distribution to combat the pall that has

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# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## **Bridgman Board of Education**

**President**

Eric Ramsco

**Vice-President**

Brad Reitz

**Secretary**

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**Treasurer**

Brad Owen

**Trustee**

Wayne Hall

**Trustee**

Nancy Hawley

**Trustee**

Lisa Kiewel

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM COVER ...**

has ever experienced a school year like this, but all of our stakeholders have done everything in their power to keep it as normal as possible and continue with face-to-face instruction. As of this writing we are completing our fourteenth (14) week of face-to-face instruction (at least in grades K-8) and are hopeful that our high school students will be able to return to in-person learning soon. These three groups have made the last four months possible and deserve some much-needed recognition.

### **Our Parents/Guardians –**

**Thank you for your support and encouragement during these unprecedented times.**

Thank you for adhering to our safety practices and procedures (even when you personally do not agree with them). Thank you for not sending your child to school when they are sick. Thank you for the two-way communication that occurs between home and school. Thank you for listening/reading the multitude of School Messengers. Thank you for your patience. Most of all thank you for the trust that you have in Bridgman Public Schools to educate your child (even during a pandemic) and keep them safe to the best of our ability. Honestly, a district could not ask for a better group of caregivers for their children.

### **Our Students –**

**Thank you for your ability to adapt to all of the new safety protocols.** Thank you for your resiliency. Thank you for your perseverance. Thank you for your determination to do your best each and every day. Thank you for your steadfastness with the remote learning program. Thank you for your creativeness and innovation. Thank you for

your attendance either in-person and/or virtually. Most of all, thank you for being caring, courteous, conscientious, candid and cautious learners. We definitely have the best student body in Berrien County!

### **Our Staff**

*(inclusive of everyone – administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, office staff, custodians, food service, and transportation)*

**Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the students that we serve.**

Thank you for your flexibility. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we have journeyed these uncharted waters together. Thank you for becoming Canvas connoisseurs. Thank you for providing social and emotional support to our students, families and each other. Thank you for all the extra hours and duties that you have experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of all, thank you all for being true professionals when our families, our children and our community needed you the most. We truly have the best staff in Southwest Michigan!

**Based upon their robust academic performance and student achievement, the United States Department of Education recognized both Bridgman Elementary School and Bridgman High School as two of the 367 National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2020.**

**CONTINUED NEXT PAGE.**

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





# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED ...

Bridgman Elementary and Bridgman High School were two of the fifteen schools selected in the State of Michigan. Bridgman Public Schools was the only district in Michigan that had two schools chosen in their district for this award. CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. Graves and Mr. Heath and their respective staff and students for this awesome accomplishment.

### 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, Lisa Kiewel, JoAnn DeMeulenaere, Brad Reitz, Brad Owen, Tishia Roberts, Wayne Hall and Nancy Hawley (who was recently elected to serve on the school board replacing JoAnn DeMeulenaere), 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, 2020, the District added \$264,777 to its General Fund balance. This resulted in a General Fund balance of \$2,540,867, which represents a healthy 20.38% of annual expenditures.

### Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, the Bridgman Public Schools food service department has provided over 209,242 free meals to our community.

Special THANKS to Peggy Ferguson and her entire team of food service staff for preparing and packaging these weekly meals.

### 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 believes in public education and cares for their teachers and children. Once again, I want to thank our entire community for your continued support and encouragement of myself and of Bridgman Public Schools through this pandemic. It has truly been my privilege directing the district through these unprecedented times.

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.

Stay Safe! Stay Healthy! Stay Positive! GO BEES!

*Shane M. Peters, Superintendent*

## Bridgman Public Schools Daily Schedule

	BES	RMS	BHS
Full Day Schedule	7:45 am - 2:50 pm	8:00 am - 3:05 pm	7:55 am - 3:00 pm
Half Day Schedule	7:45 am - 11:10 am	8:00 am - 11:25 am	7:55 am - 11:20 am
2hr Delay Schedule	9:45 am - 2:50 pm	10:00 am - 3:05 pm	9:55 am - 3:00 pm







## BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Bridgman Elementary School: Keeping Normal in a Not So Normal Year



Lori Graves, BES Principal

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, Bridgman Elementary School has implemented precautions in order to keep the daily routine engaging and safe for learning. Each classroom has been placed into a cohort where they only socialize and learn with the same group of students. Staff is assigned to one cohort which helps in reducing the risk of multiple exposures to various classrooms. Teachers, students

and staff have been diligent in hand washing, wearing a mask and keeping a social distance of six feet apart. Classrooms are deep cleaned and sanitized each day. Visitors and volunteers have been

restricted, and only staff and students are allowed into the building. It is through these efforts that we have had very few Covid-19 cases and classrooms placed in quarantine.

Despite the restrictions placed on our school year, Bridgman Elementary has continued



First Grade Staff dresses up as Candyland Characters to support the Dance-a-thon.

to keep traditions and learning as normal as possible. This year, instead of the Fun Run, we held a Dance-a-thon. In conjunction with Halloween parties, students danced throughout the day. They were shown a motivational video produced by our Parent Teacher Organization and were able to get up and dance at random moments. Prizes and incentives were handed out throughout the fund raising period. Over \$22,000 was raised thanks to parent, family and community support. All of the money raised goes back into the school for field trips, educational magazine subscriptions, classroom needs and student support.

**Lori Graves, BES Principal**

### Bridgman Aquatic Center

**The Aquatic Center and Community Weight Room are currently closed. Please visit: [BridgmanPool.com](http://BridgmanPool.com) for updated information.**

The Bridgman Aquatic Center is a community pool serving Southwest Michigan for over 40 years.

Our facility is a six lane, 25-yard competitive pool with an attached 12' deep diving well and 1m diving board. The BAC can accommodate 225 patrons and 350 spectators. The women's and men's locker rooms include a private sauna, showers, lockers and dressing areas.

Our staff is American Red Cross trained and the water quality is monitored by two National Swimming Pool Foundation certified pool operators. The BAC is ADA compliant with a handicap lift and easy access stairs.

We have equipment for all varieties of water activities from competitive and lap swimming to recreational interests like water polo and basketball. Programming includes:

- Shallow Water Aerobics
- Deep Water Aerobics
- Arthritis Classes
- Competitive Swim & Diving Teams
- Sea Bees Swim Club – ages 6-18
- Girls & Boys Co-op High School
- Community Diving
- Swim Lessons for all ages
- Lifeguard, First Aid, CPR, AED Training

**Thank you to the Bridgman Community for your continued support!**





# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Bees Nation ... Happy New Year 2021!



Ken Schmaltz  
Athletic Director

We have chimed in together with another rendition of Auld Lang Syne, saying goodbye to a challenging and unique 2020, and excitedly looking forward to a new calendar year and what 2021 has in store for Bridgman Athletics and Bridgman Public Schools.

**Our return from winter break will find us approaching the start of the new winter sports season – an unusual time for a very unusual year.**

The one constant this past year is that there has been no constant...our plans and schedules have changed by the day. We appreciate your understanding the rules and regulations we continue to ask of our Bees Nation student-athletes and spectators.

It has been so very rewarding and satisfying to see our Bees student-athletes' maturity shine through in the classroom, in the athletic setting and as young adults as they progress through these challenging last nine months of high school. It is my sincere hope in 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 invaluable life lessons in preparation for young adults' future endeavors.**

I would invite each of you to follow the Bees at our Athletic Website [www.bridgmanathletics.com](http://www.bridgmanathletics.com), on Facebook [www.facebook.com/BridgmanAthletics](http://www.facebook.com/BridgmanAthletics) and on Twitter @BridgmanSports.

**Ken Schmaltz, Athletic Director**

### A few highlights from 2020:

- Both the **Bridgman Boys Basketball** and **Bridgman Girls Basketball** teams were Academic All-State in the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan
- **Mikaela Owen** was selected as the Herald-Palladium Female Athlete of the Year!
- **Jackson Schmaltz** was selected Michigan Scholar-Athlete Award winner by the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA)
- **Bridgman Girls Cross Country** wins the BCS Conference championship for the 6th straight year ... congratulations ladies!
- **Karsyn Stewart** (12th Grade), **Luke Blesy** (12th Grade) and **John Sanderson** (10th Grade) all qualified for and competed in the MHSAA Division 3 State Cross Country Finals
- **Bees Football** concluded its second season of 8-player football with a 7-1 overall record and were Playoff District champions... congrats guys!
- **Bridgman High School** served as the host for both the MHSAA Boys Basketball Division 3 District Tournament as well as the MHSAA Volleyball Division 3 Regional Tournament



# F.C. REED MIDDLE SCHOOL

## From the Principal ...



John Truesdell  
Middle School Principal

During the winter holiday season, I have spent numerous evenings pondering about the best way to update the community as we approach the midpoint of the academic calendar and articulate the state of middle school learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. The challenge with writing a Bridgman Buzz article during the 2020 - 2021 school year is that things have changed quickly over the last few months and will likely continue to shift and evolve before this publication is distributed.

**In such an unpredictable and dynamic landscape, there is one thing that continues to be steadfast: My profound gratitude to our parents/guardians, staff, and students.**

Heading into the 2020 - 2021 school year, the BPS administration team knew that a successful fall hinged upon stakeholders understanding and supporting F.C. Reed Middle School's Return to Learn plan. Families were asked to champion the use of PPE and trust the school's numerous risk mitigation strategies. Parents/Guardians were challenged to become front line protectors, screening their students' health each morning. Adults were asked to sacrifice their privacy and share COVID-19 related information with the RMS office to ensure responsive and effective contact tracing could be sustained. I'm proud to report that our parents/guardians have been AMAZING adapting to these new changes. The vision of

Bridgman Public Schools states that, "As a community, WE prepare and support all students for lifelong learning." The collaborative and cooperative relationship between school and home has never been stronger from my perspective. Thank you to all the parents and guardians that have been true partners as we work together to educate our children during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I'd also like to take advantage of this prime real estate in the Buzz to thank the RMS faculty for their determination, flexibility, and patience during the first half of the 2020 - 2021 school year. While our teachers have been the tip of the spear, it's essential that we also recognize the school counselors, administrative assistants, paraprofessionals, technologists, custodians, and kitchen team members that have kept the building operational during a challenging fall. Every member of the RMS staff has worked tirelessly and sacrificed immensely to ensure the students in our community have the privilege to learn face-to-face for as long as it is responsible to do so during the pandemic. I feel strongly that it is not hyperbolic to characterize their efforts as nothing short of historic. If you spot an RMS staff member around the town this winter season, please take a moment to thank them (from at least six feet away!) for their efforts. Your support will propel them forward as we prepare for a productive and engaging second semester.

Finally, I'd like to take a moment to give a shout out to all the students at F.C. Reed Middle School. Each year we challenge our middle schoolers to embrace a growth mindset and strive to become *Respectful, Responsible, Honest, and Safe* citizens. The stakes were much higher in August as we urged learners to embrace these principles to keep

each other shielded from COVID-19. The middle schoolers have embraced the temporary changes to the RMS learning environment, demonstrating a level of resilience, empathy, and grit that far exceeds developmental standards. Students have worn masks, understanding it's an act of compassion that protects themselves and their neighbors. Our kids have not whined about rigid seating charts and long, spaced out lines. Learners who are required to quarantine have adapted seamlessly, attending classes virtually while developing new organization and communication skills. The RMS Student Council has even stepped up, modeling what inspirational leadership can look like during a statewide epidemic. Since I first moved to Bridgman, I have always felt that it was a privilege to serve the students of Bridgman. Never has this been more true than during the 2020 - 2021 school year.

In the September 2020 edition of the Bridgman Buzz, I wrote that the 2020 - 2021 school year promised to be an educational adventure like none other in recent memory. So far, the 2020 - 2021 school year has not disappointed! Thank you for your continued understanding, grace, and positivity as we work to prepare students socially, emotionally, and academically for Bridgman High School.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time at [jtruesdell@bridgmanschools.com](mailto:jtruesdell@bridgmanschools.com) if you have any questions about how we are educating students within the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Your partner in education,  
John Truesdell, RMS Principal**







# BRIDGMAN HIGH SCHOOL

## From the Principal ...



Gerald Heath  
High School Principal

The school year has been off to a smooth start considering all of the new COVID-19 guidelines that have been put in place. Students and staff have been respectful of the new expectations, keeping their masks on

and social distancing throughout school day. On November 18, the high school was placed into remote learning for three weeks as a part of the MDHHS Emergency Order to slow the spread of the disease. I am pleased to announce that our staff continued to offer online "Zoom" lessons with a student attendance rate of over 95 percent. I am amazed with the resiliency that students and staff have shown during this difficult time. They have done their best to continue some of our annual celebrations and provide some routine high school events that the students continue to enjoy.

### We are also excited to share some celebratory news!

We are thrilled to officially announce our **National Blue Ribbon** designation. The credit for this tremendous achievement goes to our outstanding high school staff. They are hardworking professionals. I am proud of their dedication to our students and to the district. They deserve the highest praise.

BHS was recognized as a geographic winner for the **Governor's FASFA Challenge**. Ten high schools from across the

state were recognized for the highest overall FAFSA completion rate in their region. With a FAFSA completion rate of over 75% as of March 1, 2020.

BHS also earned the distinction of being on the **AP District Honor Roll**. The award recognizes school districts committed to increasing access to AP for under-represented students while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher.

National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist **Kai Babcock**, BHS senior, was named as a **National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist**! Kai is one of only 16,000 students nationally to qualify as a 2021 Semifinalist based on his PSAT/NMSQT test scores.

We finished **College/Career Month** at BHS at the end of October. Our seniors did a great job filling out their college applications and/or planning their future opportunities with the military or apprenticeship programs. We had many Universities/Colleges visit virtually with interested students. Some of the teachers decorated their doors to highlight opportunities. We celebrated Mascot Monday every Monday during the month. Staff and students were encouraged to wear a college t-shirt or sweatshirt to further remind students about potential college destinations or career opportunities.

The **National Honor Society** (NHS) created a video that was shown at the end of third hour to all high school students on November 11 to honor local veterans. The video was produced to replace our annual Veteran's Day assembly.

Additionally, during November NHS members collected items for the annual **Stuff-A-Truck** food drive.

**Key Club** was finally able to donate the socks from its sock drive to **The Avenue Family Services** in Benton Harbor and Harbor Country Mission. They collected a record number of socks last February but were unable to drop off the locations due to our shutdown last spring.

Due to COVID-19, Key Club members have been finding new ways to serve the community and school, while staying safe and socially distant! The club organized a **beach clean up at Weko Beach** and a **Mental Illness Awareness** week at the high school. Students were able to participate by wearing Mental Illness Awareness Month pins, sharing ways they help others with their mental health, wearing green clothes to school in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, and signing a Mental Health Awareness poster designed by Morgan Granzow. The Club continues to look forward to helping the school and community in a COVID-19 safe way this year!

During the week of November 2 - 5, **Interact** invited BHS's student body to create virtual Thanksgiving messages for residents at **Woodland Terrace** and **Westwood Nursing Homes** in Bridgman. The messages were well received and made everyone feel very special.

The **High School Counseling Office** continues to support students' social/emotional health through classroom lessons and individual counseling. The Office has also been supporting student career development through **XELLO**, the district's interactive on-line career exploration program.

**Gerald Heath**  
High School Principal





## Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence From the Chairman



Allan Barker,  
BFEF Chairman

**This Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence (BFEF) update is offered as we move into 2021.**

2020 has certainly been a very different year for all of us. We as a community could not have realized that March 2020 would mark the beginning of a “new school day” going forward. This new school day has challenged us to be accountable for a health focused approach to friends and family, and also to our children’s educational needs. On the front lines are the school faculty and administrative staff who rise each day to the challenge of caring for the students of Bridgman Public Schools. These challenges require extraordinary efforts in the classroom, on school buses, in food preparation and serving, in the administrative work of caring for students, and also the effort to hold the educational team together.

The BFEF Trustees take pride in serving Bridgman Public Schools and its front-line workers. Please take the time to encourage and thank the front-line workers of Bridgman Public Schools for their commitment and service!

**I am pleased to highlight just a few Bridgman Public School success stories that demonstrate how our educational community is working together:**

### **Peggy Ferguson, Food Service Director**

Peggy spent countless hours coordinating the food distribution program for the public. Ordering the products and coordinating deliveries from the vendors, organizing the staff to pack the meals and being creative to adapt to find easier and more efficient ways to streamline the distribution to make it work as well as it being a huge accomplishment. As of November 23, Bridgman Public Schools has served 208,973 meals!

### **Michelle Foxworthy, 6th Grade Teacher**

Michelle was placed in quarantine early in November and immediately transitioned to remote learning, teaching from home daily. Since then she has taught remotely everyday while also caring for her entire family, including two elementary school boys, who were also required to stay home. Her dedication to her students and desire to teach (even when given the opportunity to take a day off) demonstrates a level of commitment that deserves recognition.

### **Andrea Countess, Rachel Maxwell, Cheri Hartzler, and Lisa Kreitner, High School Teachers**

The district implemented a new learning management system this year to better organize remote learning. These four teachers used part of their summer break to research and learn the online system, so they could teach it to their colleagues. Because of their efforts, we have been using the new learning management system from day one. This allowed us to seamlessly continue the education for students in quarantine and smoothly transition to building-wide remote learning when the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services closed all high schools.

The BFEF continues to grow in Trustee service. **I am proud to welcome Tara Heiser to the Foundation as our newest Trustee.** Tara brings extensive marketing experience to the Foundation that will contribute to our story now and into the future.

### **Have you ever thought about being part of our story?**

As a Trustee or as a “friend of the Foundation” we welcome all. To provide clarity, a friend of the Foundation is someone we can call upon to help during events or serve on a committee. As a friend, your service is guided by your desire and ability to help out. Being a



**Bridgman Foundation  
for Educational Excellence  
“Opening Doors to the Future”**







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on FACEBOOK.

## Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence From the Chairman

friend is an excellent way to serve the students of Bridgman Public Schools. Please communicate your interest through our web site under the volunteer tab: [www.bridgmanfoundation.org](http://www.bridgmanfoundation.org). We'll be waiting.....and thanks!

### The 2020 Lost Dunes Golf Outing was an overwhelming success!

While all other 2020 golf outings at Lost Dunes were cancelled, we adapted to the health restrictions in-place, stayed flexible in planning the event and continued to move forward. The resulting outcome was all available golfer slots were filled and our incredible sponsor support provided one of our best fundraising events ever! We concluded the day's activities with an awesome meal at Haymarket Taproom. Once again we learned that when our community supporters, participating visitors and surrounding business leaders see a need, they respond in a big way. Together we can accomplish challenging tasks, even a golf outing during a global pandemic! **Next Year's Lost Dunes golf outing is set for May 10, 2021. Save the date!**

For me personally, the Foundation represents a slice of the whole community which is motivated by what can be accomplished together. When I receive the call from Bridgman Public Schools, and Superintendent Peters provides an informative message with encouragement I

consider that community togetherness. I realize that everyone is getting the same call, but I am not left out, I am part of a community that comes together to support each other during challenging times.

### Donation Information

Your donations provide an opportunity for all Bridgman students to experience and learn things that are above and beyond what the school district funds. Any donation, large or small, helps the Foundation to fund projects and activities that expand and enhance the educational experience of all students at every grade level. By investing in education, you also invest in the future well-being of our community and its local businesses. Consider making a difference, by helping the Foundation continue its mission to enhance each student's learning experience. Donate "your way" today.

- One-time, annual or on-going contributions
- In-kind – service, materials, expertise
- Consider a bequest in your will or trust to the Foundation
- Suggest a way – Let's discuss

The Foundation is an independent non-profit 501(c)(3) organization of community volunteers committed to excellence in education.

### About the Foundation

Excellence in public education is essential to the economic and social well-being of any community. The Foundation is dedicated to provide enhanced learning opportunities for our students, staff, and community. We strive to recognize innovation, foster excellence, and make a positive impact on the future of our community through education.

Founded in 2009, the Foundation has enhanced learning opportunities for students of the Bridgman Public Schools. The funds it seeks are utilized to create opportunities for learning above and beyond what the district funds. It is committed to ensuring that the children of today and tomorrow are provided with opportunities to successfully compete in the ever-changing global community.

The Foundation believes its work contributes to a healthy family and business friendly community with a well-educated work force.

**More information is available on our website at: [bridgmanfoundation.org](http://bridgmanfoundation.org)**





## LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

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

The COVID-19 guidelines set forth by the Governor have brought more restrictions on our state through December. Who knows where we will be at by the time you are reading this. Our administrative office is closed to walk in business, but calls and appointments are being taken. Some of the ongoing projects from 2020 will be carried into the new year just because of material delays and manpower issues due to COVID-19. Additionally, conducting meetings electronically via Zoom is challenging at best. As with anything else, we are making adjustments as necessary. This may be the new normal for conducting meetings for a while.

There will be a considerable change in our Building/Zoning Department. James Gast, Building Official, will be retiring early next year after 30 years of service to the Township. Thank you, James and we wish you all the best in your retirement.

**John Gast, Supervisor**

### **From the Desk of Bob Clark, Treasurer**

**The 2020 winter tax bills are out and due February 16, 2021 to avoid interest and penalties.**



Bob Clark, Treasurer

Please remember postmarks are not accepted for payments so please allow plenty of time for delivery when mailing. We have electronic options available if you are running late. Also, the secure drop boxes located just west of the Township Hall near Shawnee Road or the new one near the front door are good ways to make payments without coming into the office. Just note, they must be in the box by 5:00 on the 16th to avoid penalties. We are hopeful the office will be open to the public when this edition is received.

**Tax payments for the summer and winter bills can be paid at the Township until March 1st. After that payments must go to the Berrien County Treasurers office in St Joseph.**

We have upgraded our online payment process to a more modern system. You are now able to retain card information securely for future payments and set up reoccurring payments for utility bills. The system has a shopping cart and is more like you are used to with other online payment processing. Give it a try, we're sure you'll love it. Some fees apply to online payments. Please check our website for more information.

### **Electronic Payments and E check**

Electronic and automatic payments continue to grow every year. The new E check system is being used by more residents all the time. An electronic payment can be made from your checking account for a \$ 3.00 fee. Payments are fast, secure and are significantly less than paying penalties! If you are pushing the due date, use this great new feature to make sure the funds arrive on time. Automatic payments for utility bills are free and make paying easy! Contact me for more information on the electronic payment options.

**Tax bills are due February 16, 2021.**





## LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

### Lake Township Park News

The park has officially closed at the end of October but the fun isn't over! The "off season" lot installed last year is available for parking. The parking lot is located just north of the main gate. This allows you to use the park all year even when the main gates are locked. It was a busy year at the park even with Covid restrictions. The park never fully closed and was a great place for people to enjoy the outdoors while staying safe. Disc golf was very busy all year. We were able to complete several projects including renovation of the back baseball pony field, re-fencing of one of the softball fields, and installing sewer to the north and south pavilions. Sinks will be installed at those pavilions in the spring so each pavilion will now have water and sinks for food preparation and clean up.

We are taking reservations for pavilion rentals for the 2021 season. The park opens fully April 1, 2021. We are looking forward to spring and getting back to normal with athletic leagues and activities as possible. Look for updates in the Buzz spring edition. Come out and visit this great park!

### From The Desk of Lake Charter Township Clerk, Gloria A. Payne



Gloria Payne, Clerk

**The November 3, 2020 General Presidential election was truly the most challenging election of my career as your Lake Charter Township Clerk.**

Sadly, there was more "misinformation" and "non-communication" than I have ever witnessed from the State of Michigan, the County of Berrien, the political parties and the special interest groups. I certainly was taxed to the hilt with questions, requests for absent voter ballots, same day registrations, and Covid-19 responsibilities. But I digress. Every question was answered and every voter was allowed to cast their ballot. No one was disenfranchised.

**I would like to take this opportunity to "shout out" to my awesome election workers. We have been a good team for a very long time and all of them performed beautifully. They are to be commended for working during a pandemic situation.**

As election day finally approached, all of you, 962 walk-in voters, who came to the polls are to be commended as well. There were virtually no issues. Everyone social distanced, wore masks and respected the rules that we had to follow, from the State of Michigan.

I am honored to say that my election Chairs, Sandy Dina and Abby Roose both performed with professionalism and respect for all voters.

I am happy to report that Lake Charter Township had both Poll Watchers and Poll Challengers. Watchers can only watch the precinct; however, challengers can challenge any voter, look at the laptop poll-book, check out our paperwork, etc. They came at 7:30 a.m. and at around 11:00 a.m., both the Poll Watchers and the Poll Challengers came to my Chair and said "You've got this, we are being summoned elsewhere." This is a great compliment to the way the precinct is managed.

This election was the first election wherein, an Absent Voter Counting Board was used. This board processed ALL of the 1,168 absent votes. They too, are held to a high standard of counting the ballots, opening the ballots, tearing off the stub, placing them in a secrecy sleeve, and processing them through the tabulator.

Lake Charter Township swelled from 2,200 registered voters to 2,700, and 2,130 total voters voted in this election. This is a record for Lake Charter Township.

I continue to be proud to represent Lake Charter Township as your Clerk. Elections is still one of my favorite tasks, amid the numerous duties that a Clerk performs.

**See you at the next election, which will be for Governor of the State of Michigan, November 8, 2022.**







## LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

### Lake Charter Township Water System

#### Hello to everyone.

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. In my last article I mentioned the impact that COVID 19 was having, and as we have all experienced, it has really changed how we do things today. We continue to monitor the situation as it relates to our staff because we operate 24/7, and it can really have an impact if someone comes down with the virus.

#### **We have been able to complete upgrades to the plant this year, which include a \$500,000.00 filter valve replacement project.**

We replaced 66 filter valves to improve reliability.

We moved into Phase 2 of the SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) upgrade. This is how we monitor and control the treatment process. We also rehabilitated a large chemical storage tank that used up its normal service life. This is just to name a few of our projects.

On the distribution side of our operation we have been installing new water meters to replace some of the older and incompatible meters that do not work with the new water meter radio read system. This will enhance the efficiency of our meter reading. For 2021 we will continue to replace aging distribution valves, and again this will improve reliability for emergency situations.

I always like to remind our customers, that as we move into the colder weather, it is important that you do not plow snow up around a fire hydrant near your residence. If your water meter is in an area that is prone to freezing, please take the necessary precautions to prevent it from freezing.

In an earlier article, I talked about an emerging chemical contaminant that was being talked about -- PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). These chemicals were used in waterproofing, food wrappers, firefighting foam, stain repellents, cleaners, and many other applications. Michigan regulators adopted extraordinarily strong regulations on the amounts of these chemicals that were acceptable to be found in drinking water earlier this year. Michigan's standards for PFAS are stronger than the EPA regulations and are the most stringent and comprehensive in the nation. You can read more about this on the State of Michigan's PFAS website (<https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/>). You can also access our Consumer Confidence Report from the townships website and get information on Lake Townships water quality. So new for 2021 will be new mandatory monitoring for PFAS along with our normal compliance sampling requirements. If you have any questions about this feel free to give me a call. One last thing to mention for 2021



is the requirement from the State of Michigan EGLE of enforcement on us to perform residential cross connection inspections. We have been conducting inspections on all of our commercial accounts for 30 plus years, and the State is now enforcing it on the residential side. This is going to be conducted by a company called Hydro Corp -- so when you receive information in the mail you will have an idea as to what this is about. We have a great example of what a cross connection is on the Water Departments website: <https://www.lakechartertownshipwater.org>) under resources.

**We are currently not allowing visitors to the water plant due to COVID. I hope we are able to resume offering tours in the future. If you ever have any concerns or questions, please feel free to give me a call. Have a safe and happy holiday season.**

#### **Jeff Burkhard Superintendent**

[jburkhardltwater@lake-township.org](mailto:jburkhardltwater@lake-township.org)  
Lake Charter Township Water System



## LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP 2021 RECYCLE SCHEDULES

**NORTH OF SHAWNEE ROAD**

Jan-21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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Feb-21

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Mar-21

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Apr-21

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May-21

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Jun-21

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Jul-21

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Aug-21

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Sep-21

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Oct-21


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Nov-21

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Dec-21

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 Yellow is your scheduled recycle day

**BOTH SIDES OF SHAWNEE ROAD  
South Of Shawnee Road & Dunewood**

Jan-21

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Feb-21

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Mar-21

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Apr-21

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May-21

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30	31					

Jun-21

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Jul-21

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Aug-21

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Sep-21

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Oct-21


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Nov-21

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Dec-21

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

 Yellow is your scheduled recycle day



# CITY OF BRIDGMAN

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

been cast over the world. Our community, and indeed, our nation and all other nations, will get through this.

**At the local level, despite the economic headwinds, we see budding signs of growth and investment.**

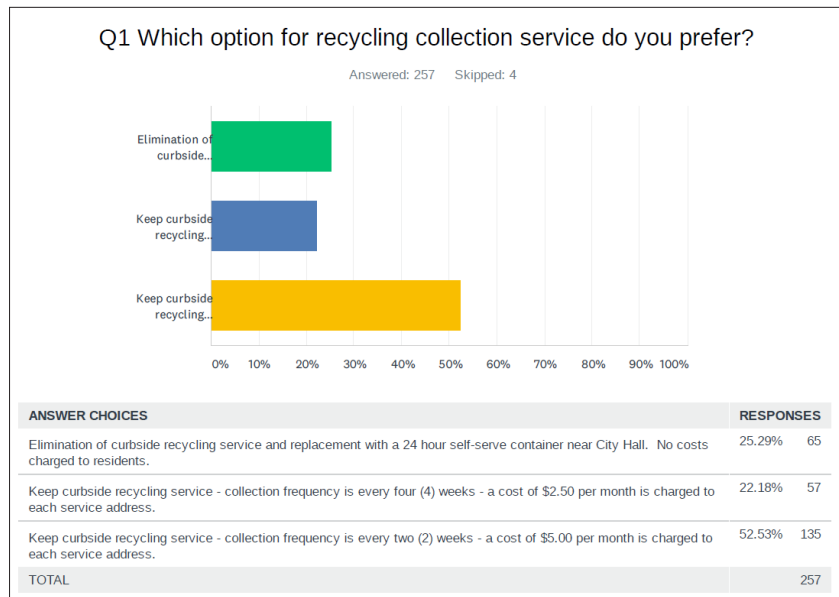
During the latter half of last year the City Council was presented with separate plans for new housing developments along Vineyard Street and in the vicinity of downtown by City Hall. The Vineyard Street development involves up to seven dwellings comprised of single-family homes and duplexes on City-owned property adjacent to Toth Park. The project is an exciting new partnership with Harbor Habitat for Humanity that sprang up just ahead of the March shutdown. Since then plans have been refined and the Council has entered into an agreement with Harbor Habitat for the sale of the property.

**A larger scale housing project was introduced to the Council in November.**

Developers, which have scouted Bridgman for some time, presented conceptual plans for the parking area north of City Hall to the alley behind Lake Street. The concepts were well received, but the Council and administration have a due diligence responsibility to the community, which means that numerous discussions will be taking place, centered around a development that reflects what

is in the best interests of the entire Bridgman community. We encourage all of our residents (and our friends in Lake Township) to follow the project's progress by visiting our website at [www.bridgman.org](http://www.bridgman.org).

Heading into the new year there is also carryover issue you may recall from the last edition of the Buzz. In the September issue I described the City's efforts to address increasing costs associated with the provision of trash and recycling collection services. Prior to deciding upon changes to our service the City Council sought the input of our residents through a recycling collection survey. On behalf of the Council, thank you to all who completed the survey and allowed us to achieve an excellent response rate of nearly 25% (257 responses out of 1055 service addresses). The chart below shows a summary of the responses, which the Council will weigh when making a decision. At a glance, about 75% of respondents favor maintaining curbside recycling and are willing to pay for the service.



Shortly following the recycling collection survey concluded the City sought more input from its residents through a "Red Arrow Highway and Lake Street Community Investment Survey." The Bridgman Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) is a group of residents, business owners and other stakeholders connected

**CONTINUED NEXT PAGE.**





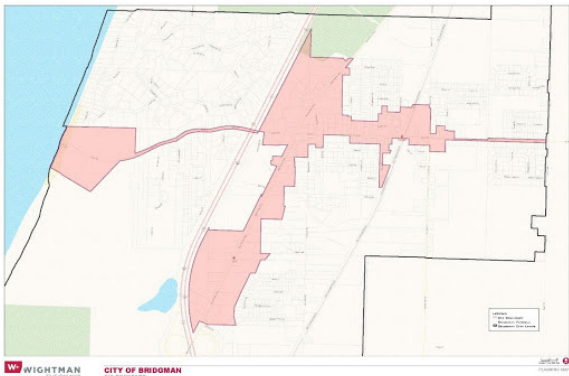


## CITY OF BRIDGMAN

### CITY MANAGER - JUAN GANUM CONTINUED ...

to the area along Red Arrow Highway and Lake Street. CIA members are appointed by the mayor and approved by the Bridgman City Council to explore and present options to the Council for improvements to those streets and the businesses along them.

The purpose of the survey is to learn more from residents, business owners and property owners about their preferences for improvements within the area guided by the CIA, which is called the CIA District (shown below). If you have not completed the survey please take a few minutes to share your suggestions by visiting the City's website at [www.bridgman.org](http://www.bridgman.org). Your answers will help guide the CIA in allocating its financial resources over the next several years. Thank you for helping us keep Bridgman a city that listens to its residents!



Corridor Improvement Authority District

### Assessing Department

#### Personal Property –

Many small businesses were eligible for an exemption of Personal Property taxes for 2020 but did not file the exemption. These affidavits are mailed in December along with the Personal Property statements. Business owners who qualified and filed the 2019 or 2020 small business taxpayer exemption will NOT have to file the form again in 2021. It is very important that those business owners who did NOT file the small business taxpayer exemption in 2019 or 2020 and qualify for the exemption, file it in 2021 in order to be exempted from 2021 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 2020 assessment and tax bills were calculated based on how your property appeared on December 31, 2019. Currently we are working on the 2021 assessments and will base those assessments on the condition of your property as of December 31, 2020.

#### 2021 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 2020 to 2021. 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](mailto:assessor@bridgman.org) or at 269-465-5144 x104.

The Assessing Department has property record cards on file for every parcel in the City. You are always welcome to access your property record card(s) by contacting the Assessor, John Baumann.

**If you would like more information, please phone or email the Assessing Department or visit the City of Bridgman website at [www.bridgman.org](http://www.bridgman.org).**





## 2021 Spring Cleanup Schedule

APRIL

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MAY

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JUNE

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JULY

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AUGUST

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- BAGGED LEAF PICKUP
- BRUSHED PICKUP
- LARGE TRASH PICKUP

**Bagged Leaf Pick Up** is indicated in **GREEN** on the calendar. The city requires the use of biodegradable paper leaf bags. City workers will not pick up leaf bags made from any other material.

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

**Brush** is indicated in **YELLOW** on the calendar. Please limit this to your yard cleanup. Commercial tree removal and/or trimmings will not be picked up. City workers will spend no more than 15 minutes at each property.

**Large Trash Pick Up** is indicated in **PINK** on the calendar. Items not accepted include those larger than a refrigerator, tires and construction material. Refrigerators and air conditioners must have the freon removed with a tag attached indicating as such. A complete list of accepted items is available on the city's website and at City Hall. Republic Services also will pick up your extra-large items for a fee. To schedule such a pickup, call Republic Services at (269) 465-3773.

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection** Berrien County has set the household hazardous waste collection dates for 2021. Details, including a schedule, are available on the county's web site.

<http://www.berriencounty.org/564/Household-Hazardous-Waste-Collections>, or by calling the County Environmental Specialist at (269) 983-7111 ext. 8234.



## CITY OF BRIDGMAN



### The City has closed its PO Box.

Please direct all of your mail to:  
9765 Maple Street  
Bridgman, MI 49106



### Bridgman Police Department

9765 Maple Street, Bridgman, Michigan 49106  
Phone: 269-465-3880 Fax: 269-465-3701  
Daniel J. Unruh, Sr.  
Chief of Police

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 until April 1. 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 around, not just during the summer months (except at the very south end within Warren Dunes State Park, where permitted). They must remain on leashes while on the boardwalks, stairs, and parking lots.

PLEASE make sure you always lock your vehicles and homes, don't make it easy for undesirables to victimize you or your property! Beware of "porch pirates," those that choose to steal packages dropped off or delivered to your porches.

Remember, we also provide property checks of our residents' homes while they are out of town. Please contact us to arrange a property check before your next trip.

**Chief Dan Unruh**  
**Bridgman Police Department**

### Safe Plowing

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





# CITY OF BRIDGMAN

## 2021 City of Bridgman Trash & Recycling Pickup

January

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April





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June

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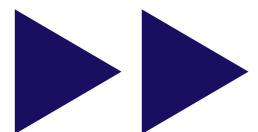
-  Yellow is Trash and Recycle day
-  Blue is Trash pick-up day
-  Green is Trash & Bulk Pick up
-  Gold is a Holiday



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

**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



## Forms

**Are you making improvements to your property or have you hired a contractor to do the work for you?**

Fences, decks, pools, sheds, roofing, siding, windows, doors and additions require permits that are issued by the Building Official and Zoning Administrator, Brad Mattner.

When you are in the planning stages of your project please do not hesitate to contact him with any questions you may have regarding your proposed improvements - (269) 465-5144 x 107 or [inspector@bridgman.org](mailto:inspector@bridgman.org). Any forms you may need can be found on the City's homepage under the 'Building & Zoning Applications' section of the 'Forms' link.



## City of Bridgman Parks and Recreation

*From the Director of Parks and Recreation,  
Sara Ball*

Though winter's cold and blustery weather may chase us inside, we encourage people to bundle up for some fresh air at Weko Beach, at local parks and along our extensive sidewalk system.

Take your four-legged furry friend for a walk, but please remember to keep them leashed and off the sand at Weko Beach. For those who wish to trek their dogs to the water's edge, we invite you to use the boardwalk on the south side of Weko to visit the "dog beach" on the northern end of Warren Dunes State Park.

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

requesting \$50,000 each were submitted to the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund program to develop a playground structure at Toth Park and to renovate the restrooms at the Weko Beach House.

To increase the likelihood of securing the grants the City has pledged matching funds of \$30,000 for the playground and \$25,000 for the restrooms. Grant recipients were announced by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources on December 2, 2020, so by the time this publication reaches your hands we will know whether our efforts were successful. Please check our website at [www.bridgman.org](http://www.bridgman.org) for the news.

Lastly, please be advised that campground reservations will be accepted online only begin January 1, 2021.





# CITY OF BRIDGMAN

## November 2020 Election

The City of Bridgman welcomes newly elected council member **John Bonkoske** to the Bridgman City Council and thanks departing member Rick Fuller for his four years of service.

**Vince Rose** and **Georgia Gipson** have been re-elected to a second term.

Bridgman has a council / city manager form of government, with the council consisting of seven council members elected at-large in even years to four-year terms on a staggered schedule (four members are elected in one election and three in the following election).

The November General Election was certified on November 17, 2020 and the three council members were sworn in ahead of the regular meeting held on November 17, 2020. The City Council appointed Vince Rose as Mayor and Stacy Stine as Mayor Pro-Tem. All council meetings are open to the public and the regular meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month. For more information on agendas, meeting packets, and minutes please visit the City's website [www.bridgman.org](http://www.bridgman.org).



John Bonkoske

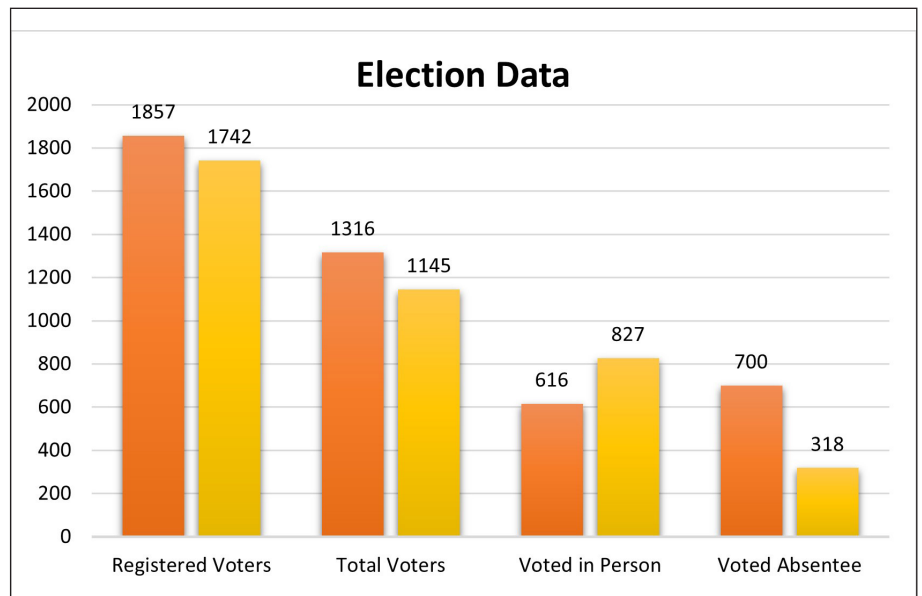


Vince Rose



Georgia Gipson

**The chart below shows voting statistics for Bridgman over the past two presidential elections.**





## BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

### DIRECTOR - DENNIS KREPS CONTINUED FROM COVER ...

The library's COVID-19 reopening plans and policy will continue to guide our response, as will recommendations from state and local health professionals. In the meantime, possible changes include:

- Our public service hours may change over the Winter/early Spring months
- We will be adding programs and activities to correspond with the changing seasons and community health situation

Amidst all of this change, what remains is our commitment to service to our patrons. Thus, we will continue to do the following:

- Provide laptops for use in cars from the parking lot
- 24/7 WIFI access and wireless printing
- Create and present virtual programming for all ages
- Develop *Take and Make* projects for all ages
- Provide print/copy/fax services

Most importantly, we want to stay connected with you, our community. Please be sure to check the Library's website and social media sites (Facebook and Instagram), and subscribe to our email list from the website to make sure you stay up to date!

**Sincerely,**  
**Dennis Kreps**  
**Director, Bridgman Public Library**



### LIBRARY COMMUNITY GARDEN



Mike Heckathorn

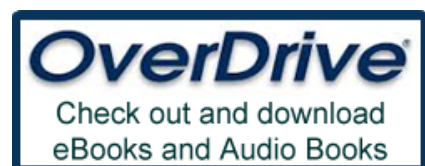
### A Friend Gone But Not Forgotten

The Bridgman Public Library and the library's Community Garden will miss Mike Heckathorn, who passed away on October 24, 2020.

What began for Mike as routine walks for exercise soon led to his collecting stray golf balls gleaned from local courses. This developed into a hobby that not only brought him joy but also produced a collection of many, many dozens of golf balls over the years. From the start of the garden in 2009, Mike donated these golf balls, each one cleaned by hand and neatly packed in egg cartons, for the library to sell to support the garden. Mike donated golf balls to the Bridgman Public Library and other libraries in the area as well. Mike gave of himself unselfishly to a number of communities. His kindness and generosity will not be forgotten. We extend our most sincere thanks to Mike and his family for supporting our library.

### Library Board

Ed Valauskas – President  
Liz Bogue – Vice President  
John Wilk – Secretary  
Jim Kole – Treasurer  
Susan Collins - Trustee  
Dorothea Crocker – Trustee  
Randy Hill - Trustee  
Sue Janoskey – Trustee  
Aaron Noll - Trustee



[Michiganactivitypass.info](http://Michiganactivitypass.info)

## BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

### RECURRING LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

#### KNIT N YARN

The Knit N Yarn members have created over 300 items to be donated and distributed locally to those in need. Unable to meet in-person, they nonetheless came together to help others, weaving a sense of caring and hope in the community. Congratulations, knitters! An additional shout out to those who donated yarn and accessories to the group. Thank you!

#### ZOOM YOGA

**Thursdays at 5:30 P.M.**

Join certified Yin Yoga instructor Cheryl Meadors for her virtual yoga class suitable for beginner or intermediate students. Zoom link available on [www.bridgmanlibrary.com](http://www.bridgmanlibrary.com)

#### SECOND WEDNESDAY BOOK CLUB

**6:00 P.M.**

Join our friendly, interactive reading group led monthly by Rick Fuller. Titles, descriptions, and updates are available on the library website at [www.bridgmanlibrary.com](http://www.bridgmanlibrary.com).

#### ADULT WINTER READING "STAY SAFE AND READ"

**December 18 – February 6**

Complete the challenge by reading a total of five books (printed and/or audio) checked out from the library, and claim your theatre sized box of candy! Your name will then be entered in a drawing for a Full Circle Café gift certificate.

### SPECIAL SCHEDULED PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Find the Zoom links for events on [www.bridgmanlibrary.com](http://www.bridgmanlibrary.com)

#### JANUARY

##### THE SNOW KILLINGS BY MARNEY RICH KEENAN

**January 19, Tuesday @ 6:00 P.M.**

##### Zoom Event

Hear journalist Marney Rich Keenan describe her research telling the story of one of the oldest unsolved serial murder cases in the country, which was set in Oakland County, Michigan in 1976 and 1977.

#### FEBRUARY

##### THE REAL MAE WEST BY MARTINA MATHISEN

**February 2, Tuesday @ 6:00 P.M.**

##### Zoom Event

Without her, Cary Grant may have remained an unknown. Her one-liners scandalized the censors of her day, and made her an icon. Meet the woman behind the wit -- the real Mae West as portrayed by Martina Mathisen.

##### OUT-SMARTING THE SCAMMERS BY DOUGLAS WALL

**February 23, Tuesday @ 2:00 P.M.**

##### Zoom Event

Incidents of fraud are on the rise. Get expert advice in noticing suspicious behavior, protecting yourself from fraudulent encounters, and learning about helpful resources in the event you are targeted.

#### MARCH

##### RUFFAGE: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO VEGETABLES BY ABRA BERENS

**March 2, Tuesday @ 6:00 P.M.**

##### Zoom Event

Abra is part of the team at Granor Farm in Three Oaks. She combines her love of farms and restaurants to create unique meals, which celebrate the best of the region's agriculture. Abra will introduce herself, discuss her book, and present a pre-recorded cooking demonstration.

##### TAKE AND MAKE CRAFT PROJECT: CREATE YOUR OWN SPRING WREATH

Supplies for making a festive spring wreath will be available starting March 15. Call us at 269-465-3663 to reserve your supplies while they last!

##### MICHIGAN NOTABLE AUTHOR ERIN BARTELS

**March 16 at 6:00 P.M.**

Her novels set in Michigan, this award-winning author of *We Hope for Better Things* and *The Words Between Us* will describe what inspires her writing and provide a glimpse of her upcoming book.

#### APRIL

##### SALLY RAND: AMERICAN SEX SYMBOL BY WILLIAM HAZELGROVE

**April 13, Tuesday @ 6:30 P.M.**

##### Zoom Event

Sally Rand appeared in over 30 films, was arrested six times in one day for



## BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

indecency, and lived on as the iconic symbol of the Chicago World's Fair of 1933. Hear author William Hazelgrove describe how her career in silent films was launched with the help of two ostrich feathers, and was decimated by the advent of talking (talkies) pictures.

### YOUTH SERVICES

#### WINTER READING CHALLENGE

**Continues: Dec. 18 – Feb. 6, 2021**

Complete five reading challenges during the winter months and receive a cocoa prize! For youth ages 2-18

Login/create your Wandoo account on the library's website.

<https://wandooreader.com/bridgman-library/youth-winter-reading-challenge-2020-21>

#### POTAWOTAMI ZOO PRESENTS ANIMALS AROUND THE WORLD

**January 9, Saturday @ 11:00 A.M. Zoom Event**

Meet animals from different continents and learn about their habitats in this live Zoom presentation. The Zoom link will be posted at [bridgmanlibrary.com](http://bridgmanlibrary.com) the day before the event.

#### PALAMAZOO HULLABALOO CONCERT

**February, TBD**

Singing Susan is back with her Palamazoo puppet pals! Join the fun with song, dance and puppets! The concert link will be available online for one week.

#### DIGITAL BUILD CHALLENGE

**February 15 & April 19**

Attempt our build challenges from the comfort of your own home using computers or building bricks, then share a picture of your creation. Sign up on the BPL website. All ages. Registration opens Feb. 1/April 1.

#### PI DAY

**March 14**

Celebrate circles and everyone's favorite irrational number! Pick up your Pi Kit March 8-13. Registration opens Feb. 22. Age 5 and up.

#### GEOCACHING CLASS WITH SARETT NATURE CENTER

**April 1, Thursday @ 3:30 P.M.**

Students use GPS technology to navigate to locations where teams complete a variety of natural science challenges. Hybrid workshop: watch the video before coming to our outdoor session. For grades 4-12. Registration opens online March 1.

#### MONTHLY TAKE & MAKE BAGS

Activities include gyroids, shoebox houses, slime, and more! The library will provide supplies for monthly projects now through May. Watch the library website for details.

#### SNEAK PEEK:

**SUMMER READING 2021 IS COMING!**

The theme is Tails and Tales. [bridgmanlibrary.com/teens.asp](http://bridgmanlibrary.com/teens.asp) for the link to our Zoom meetings.



### THE 2021 COMMUNITY GARDEN

The gardening season is right around the corner! 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.

### Community Calendar

Find even more events on the Bridgman Public Library Community Calendar at [www.bridgmanlibrary.com](http://www.bridgmanlibrary.com).

### BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS

**Tentative hours of operation during COVID-19. Check the website for updates.**

**Mon. - Thurs. 11-6**

**Fri. 10 - 5**

**Sat. 10 - 2**





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

## **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

## **Greater Bridgman Area Chamber & Growth Alliance**

P.O. Box 871  
Bridgman, MI 49106  
269-465-4413