

BRIDGMAN COMMUNITY BUZZ

AUGUST 2018



The Miss Bridgman Scholarship Organization thanks the residents of Bridgman and Lake Township. READ MORE PG 11.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY ...

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

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

SCHOOL NEWS

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year!

Hard to believe that another

summer is quickly coming to an end and a new and exciting school year is upon us.

READ MORE PG 2

TOWNSHIP NEWS

FROM THE SUPERVISOR



It is already August and we are heading into fall.

We have had many projects that have

been completed and ones that are winding down. Shawnee Road from Jericho to Holden is complete.

READ MORE PG 7

LIBRARY NEWS

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Last fall during our strategic planning retreat, community members suggested that the library help get the

word out about community events. The idea made a lot of sense to us. We are in the information business, after all. So we decided to start a community calendar and open it up to all organizations

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CITY NEWS

FROM THE CITY MANAGER



As summer winds down and gives way to fall, lawn mowers and rakes will soon trade places with shovels and snowblowers

in Bridgman garages. Before we say goodbye to our yard work I would like to turn your attention to the City's new *Tall Grass and Weed Ordinance*, which is scheduled for adoption at the end of August.

READ MORE PG 10



COMMUNITY BUZZ

BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE - Continued from COVER ...

This summer, we have hired numerous quality people to join our BPS family. The one common thing that we continue to hear through the hiring process is that Bridgman Public Schools is a destination district for employees.

New employees and their assignments:

- Mr. Sam Stine – District Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education
- Mr. Gerald Heath - Bridgman High School Principal
- Mr. Aaron Koleda – District Technology Coordinator
- Mr. Dave McIntyre - District Mechanic
- Mrs. Joanna Davis - Payroll
- Mr. Sam Waalkes – RMS/BHS Spanish Teacher
- Mrs. Michelle Foxworthy – RMS Teacher
- Ms. Emma Cramer – RMS Teacher
- Ms. Kara West – RMS Teacher
- Mr. Robert Bruce – RMS Paraprofessional
- Mrs. Tabitha Caid – BES Paraprofessional
- Mrs. Stacy Litteral – Transportation
- Ms. Wendee Hahn – Transportation
- Mrs. Mary Kennedy – Food Service
- Ms. Caroyln DeFrance – Custodian

Also this summer we have been busy with projects, planning, and preparation for the upcoming school year.

- **STEM Lab HVAC project** – The HVAC infrastructure in the RMS STEM Lab was updated over the summer.
- **Summer Recreation programs** – Again this summer, we were able to offer over 20 extra-curricular camps serving over 300 students. Look for 2019 camp information and registration next spring.
- **Summer Feeding program** – This summer our food service department served over 6,500 meals to students as part of the Meet Up and Eat Up program for students 3 -18 years old. Summer feeding locations were Immanuel Lutheran, Bridgman Public Library, Warren Dunes Estates, and Bridgman Elementary.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The District is beginning its final year of the five-year Strategic Plan. The four strategic goals were established by the Board of Education, along with District administration, with input from various community stakeholders.

- **Goal 1** – Create and Preserve Financial Resources to Support Long-Term District Financial Stability
- **Goal 2** – Provide Diverse Learning Opportunities through Curriculum, Programs, and Schedules
- **Goal 3** – Expand Student Knowledge and Accessibility of Technology
- **Goal 4** – Cultivate Strong District/Community Roles, Relations, and Partnerships

Each goal has several strategies that staff has been working to complete over the past four years. These goals and strategies will enhance our district and continue to produce high quality students. Additional information regarding the Strategic Plan can be found on our website (www.bridgmanschools.com).

We truly live in a community that believes in education and supports its children. I thank the entire community for their continued support of 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 in 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

Job Opportunities

THERE ARE SEVERAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT WITHIN OUR DISTRICT.

If you would like to be part of our organization, please visit our website at www.bridgmanschools.com and click on "Department" then "Human Resources" to apply.

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





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Schools on FACEBOOK.

BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BRIDGMAN ELEMENTARY

Knowledge is our Super Power

WHAT DO WONDER WOMAN, BATMAN, SPIDERMAN, AND THE BRIDGMAN ELEMENTARY STAFF HAVE IN COMMON?

They are all Superheroes! According to Webster's dictionary, "A superhero is any person regarded as having extraordinary ability in some field." The teachers and staff at Bridgman Elementary have the extraordinary ability to build relationships, deliver challenging curriculum, and invest in the success of every child.

In order to celebrate our student Superheroes, the theme for Bridgman Elementary for the 2018-19 school year is: *Knowledge is our Super Power*. Throughout the year, lessons, activities, celebrations and classroom incentives will revolve around the Superhero theme. Our first Superhero event will be our all school *Fun Run* on October 5, 2018. This event is sponsored by our *Parent Teacher Organization* and is their annual fundraiser to promote healthy lifestyles. All pledge money earned supports the students and staff at Bridgman Elementary School.

Bridgman Elementary School is pleased to welcome Lacy Payne to our building as a Literacy Specialist. Lacy has been a teacher at F.C. Reed Middle School for the past twelve years. Lacy brings vast knowledge of language arts, literacy coaching, technology and reading supports to BES. Lacy earned her bachelor and master's degrees from Western Michigan University and is earning her leadership certification from the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals.

In an effort to meet all the needs of our students, Bridgman Elementary School is proud to partner with the *Blessings in a Backpack* program. *Blessings in a Backpack* mobilizes communities, individuals and resources to provide food on the weekends for school children across America who might otherwise go hungry. Currently, over 40 students are provided with food to take home each weekend.

If you are interested in assisting with this cause, please contact Lori Graves at lgraves@bridgmanschools.com.

Athletic Information:

FINALFORMS

We are very excited to announce that the Bridgman Athletic Department has partnered with *FinalForms*, an online forms and data management service. *FinalForms* allows you to complete and sign athletic participation forms for your students. The most exciting news is that *FinalForms* saves data from season-to-season and year-to-year, meaning that you will never need to enter the same information twice! *FinalForms* also pre-populates information wherever possible, for each of your students, saving you time. You may review your data at any time to verify it is current. You will be required to sign your forms once per year and after any update.

We are asking that ALL parents of athletes use FinalForms. Please register at: <https://bridgman-mi.finalforms.com> and follow the prompts to create your account, create your students and sign your forms. Thank you for your assistance in streamlining our athletic paperwork processes at Bridgman High School and Reed Middle School.

BRIDGMANATHLETICS.COM

Be in the know with the most up-to-date schedules, transportation times, directions to opposing schools/facilities, updates & changes at our athletic website. Create an account and sign up to follow as few or as many teams as you like to receive immediate text and email alerts as well.

BCS ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Bridgman High School is entering its fifth year as a charter member of the BCS Athletic Conference. Divisions in our league can vary sport to sport. Below is your "cheat sheet" for what divisions our Bees compete in per sport for 2018-19:

SPORT

Cross Country
Boys Tennis
Competitive Cheer
Girls Soccer
Girls Tennis

DIVISION/LEAGUE

BCS Conference (all schools)

CONTINUED PG 6.



F.C. REED MIDDLE SCHOOL



John Truesdell
Middle School Principal

Greetings,

I hope everyone has had a terrific summer and spent plenty of time outside taking advantage of our local natural resources and the many exciting events that have been hap-

pening around town. To say that it has been a busy summer at the middle school would be an understatement. However, I'm thrilled to report that F.C. Reed Middle School is ready for another exciting and engaging year of student learning.

Many major renovation projects have been successfully completed in the last three months. Most noticeably, to keep students comfortable and protect the community's investment, a brand new heating and cooling system has been installed in the RMS STEM Lab. In addition, to promote student wellness, two new water bottle filling stations have been added to the middle school's hallways thanks to the generosity of the RMS Student Council. Finally, a brand new set of display cases have been stationed in the Encore hallway to expand the building's capacity to show off our talented young makers' innovative and creative projects. Thank you to the Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence, the RMS Student Council, and our many community partners/sponsors who have made these renovation upgrades possible! As always, please do not hesitate

to contact me at jtruesdell@bridgmanschools.com if you would like to schedule a tour of the RMS facilities.

The middle school's staff has also undergone a metamorphosis over the summer and we are excited to introduce five new additions to our faculty.

Please join me in welcoming the newest members of the F.C. Reed Middle School team:

Sam Waalkes will teach HS level Spanish to RMS 8th graders and a section of 7th grade Bonus. Mr. Waalkes is from Grand Rapids and attended Michigan State University. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Education in May of 2017. Mr. Waalkes recently completed a yearlong Spanish student teaching assignment at Lowell Middle School during the 2017 - 2018 school year.

Kara West will teach 8th grade ELA and Social Studies. Miss West received her Bachelor's Degree in Education from Central Michigan University in 2014. Miss West taught ELA and Social Studies for Bendle Public Schools at the middle school level from 2016 - 2018.

Michelle Foxworthy will teach 6th grade Social Studies and ELA. Mrs. Foxworthy received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Western Michigan University in 2013.

She has taught students for Berrien Springs Public Schools at Sylvester Elementary from 2013 - 2018.

Emma Cramer will teach 7th and 8th grade Math. Miss Cramer received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Grand Valley State University in 2017. Miss Cramer taught students for Eau Claire Public Schools at the middle school level during the 2017 - 2018 school year.

Robert Bruce will be a new special education paraprofessional at the middle school. Mr. Bruce is from Berrien Springs and has worked as a classroom aid in Coloma Public Schools and Lakeshore Public Schools. Most recently, he was a Title One Paraprofessional at Sylvester Elementary School in Berrien Springs Public Schools.

By utilizing our first class facilities, the dedicated faculty at F.C. Middle School will continue to strive to work with students, parents, and the community to ensure all learners are challenged to succeed during the 2018 - 2019 school year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the middle school or would like to volunteer to support our educational mission.

Go Bees and South County Cougars!

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

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





BRIDGMAN HIGH SCHOOL



Gerald Heath
High School Principal

Are you ready for another exciting school year? I certainly am! As your new high school principal I am thrilled to be joining the Bridgman Public Schools family and am honored to help prepare your children for their future careers and lives. The first day of school, Tuesday, September 4, is just around the corner. Our faculty and staff have been hard at work this summer attending professional development trainings and preparing lessons and activities designed to **CHALLENGE ALL OF OUR STUDENTS TO SUCCEED!** On behalf of the high school team, we are eager to welcome back our students and are excited to begin the 2018-19 school year.

Just as I look forward to learning more about members of the Bridgman school community, I thought you may want to know more about me and my family. My wife, Karen, is a 1997 Bridgman High School graduate. We met while attending Michigan State University. After having worked for the Michigan Senate for a number of years, she is now serving in her 13th year at Berrien RESA as the Supervisor of Communications. Together, we live in Bridgman with our two sons, Owen (6th grade) and Miles (4th Grade). Our children keep us busy and will also be joining the Bridgman Public Schools family this year. As for myself, I have spent the last 13 years of my career at Lake Michigan Catholic Middle/High School where I was a teacher, coach, athletic director, assistant principal and principal.

SUMMER ACTIVITY UPDATES

The Bridgman Marching Band just completed another successful band camp, enjoying comfortable 70 degree temperatures! Thank you to Mr. Reppart, the Band Boosters, and parents for all of your assistance in organizing the week's events. Thanks to this opportunity, the Marching Band is ready to represent the district at athletic events and area competitions.

The fall sports season began on Monday, August 6 with the football team participating in two-a-day practices. The rest of our competitive teams' seasons opened on Wednesday, August 8. It will be an exciting fall sports lineup with the introduction of the South County Cougars; our new cooperative football program with New Buffalo Area Schools.

During the summer break, our custodial and maintenance team dedicated countless hours to deep cleaning, completing minor building repairs, and painting throughout our facilities. All of this work occurred while summer camps and professional development took place in the building. Thank

you to our custodial and maintenance staff for ensuring a clean and efficient work environment for our students and teachers.

The Spanish curriculum material was selected after an extensive search by staff members, Mrs. Lamas and Mr. Noll. Thank you for going above and beyond! *Senderos* by *Vista Higher Learning* is a student-centered learning environment that includes vocabulary and grammar tutorials and will be utilized in Spanish 1, 2, and 3. *Abriendo Paso* is the Spanish 4 curriculum and includes a reading and separate grammar textbook in addition to digital course materials. This coming year, the BHS Science department will be working hard researching a new curriculum based on the *Next Generation Science Standards*. All of these new curriculum developments continue to align with our district's vision statement; *"Together, challenging our children to succeed."*

NEW STAFF AT BHS

Joining us as a shared teacher with the middle school is **Sam Waalkes**. Sam will teach Spanish 1 at the high school.

Cheri Markham, a familiar face at Bridgman Public Schools, will be moving from the middle school to the high school to teach US History and AP US History.

GREAT INFORMATION

The beginning of every academic year is always a busy time. For up-to-date information, please view our website at bridgmanschools.com, then click on the "high school" link. Once on the BHS page, please refer to the helpful links on the left side. This site features our daily announcements, a calendar for the school and athletics, significant student information, and our Twitter feed.

Again, thank you for welcoming me to Bridgman High School. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time by calling (269) 465-6848 or email me at gheath@bridgmanschools.com. I am looking forward to a successful school year!



BRIDGMAN ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



Ken Schmaltz
Athletic Director

In my professional, public school career that has come full circle, and after having served in various administrative roles in two other districts, I can attest that Bridgman Public Schools is a first-class school system. Bridgman Public Schools has an incredibly respected administration, highly-reputable teachers and extremely energetic coaches who are enthusiastic and passionate about athletics and academics. Great things are in place at Bridgman Public Schools and I consider myself blessed as I begin my 4th year leading the athletic department at my alma-mater. Working for this district is very near and dear to my heart and I am very thankful for the opportunity to be an energetic impact as well as a positive role model for the youth and future of Bridgman. **We're loyal to you Bridgman High! Go Bees!**

Ken Schmaltz – Athletic Director | (269) 466-0227 | kschmaltz@bridgmanschools.com

Athletic Tickets

Bridgman High School is a voluntary member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and typically charges a \$5 admission for its home athletic events. Reed Middle School prices are \$3 – adults; \$2 – students. Senior Citizens are warmly welcomed and admitted free of charge – we kindly ask individuals to pick up Senior Citizen cards at the Bridgman High School office ahead of time. Further, student-only pre-sale tickets can be purchased for all home and BCS Conference road contests for \$2 in their respective school office (must be used for date of purchase).

Family Bargain Cards

Once again in 2018-19, Bridgman Public Schools will be selling its Family Bargain Cards that include 20 admissions to any home Bridgman athletic event (non-MHSAA tournament) for the price of \$30 (equaling \$1.50 per event). The cards have no expiration and carry over from each sports season as well as each school year. Purchases can be made in the High School Office and a small number of cards will be available for sale at home athletic events as well.

South County Cougars Football

The Bridgman and New Buffalo Football Programs, respectively, have formed a new cooperative agreement in both JV and Varsity football beginning with the Fall 2018 sports season. Separately, the strong reality existed that neither school's programs would continue to exist for the duration of the 2018 season. Aaron Locke and Matt Johnson are the co-head coaches and both school's respective former coaching staffs have joined together as well. Each school will host two Varsity home games this season while the Cougars will also enjoy multiple Homecomings – Sept. 14 at Bridgman and again on Oct. 19 at New Buffalo. The Bridgman and New Buffalo cheer teams have also joined forces for this fall and will be led by co-coaches Lisa Kreitner and Patty Daniel. All past traditional Bridgman home event admissions will be honored for home football games played at both venues. Current JV and Varsity schedules can be found by visiting bridgmanathletics.com.

2017-18 Year in Review

BCS CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS:

Bees *Girls Cross Country* won its third straight conference championship and 4th overall in school history.

MHSAA STATE FINALS QUALIFIERS:

Girls Swimming – Mackenzie Knowlton
Boys Cross Country – 3rd Place at MHSAA Division 4 Regional Tournament
Girls Cross Country – 2nd Place at MHSAA Division 4 Regional Tournament
Boys Track – Drew Dow, Jayden Pribyl, Spencer Noll, Connor Blesy
Girls Track – Kaitlin Essig, Mikaela Owen, Karsyn Stewart
Girls Tennis – 3rd Place at MHSAA Division 4 Regional Tournament
Boys Golf – Ty Barschdorf

ALL-STATE ATHLETES

Girls Track – Mikaela Owen

NEW COACHING HIRES FOR 2018-19:

Cross Country – Spencer Carr
Girls Swimming – Emily Nannfeldt
Competitive Cheer – Lisa Kreitner
JV Volleyball – Morgan Adkins
JV Girls Basketball – Michelle Foxworthy
Boys Varsity Track – Spencer Carr
RMS Track – Aaron Locke
Varsity Softball – Elaine Starbuck
7th & 8th Grade Girls' Basketball – Steve Rumsey
JV Baseball – Scott Wessendorf
RMS Football – Erik Haskins

MHSAA TOURNAMENTS HOSTED BY BRIDGMAN HIGH SCHOOL IN 2018-19

Winter Sports Season – Division 3 Girls Basketball District Tournament





LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

SUPERVISOR - JOHN GAST CONTINUED FROM COVER ...

Baldwin Road from Rambo to Snow is finished. Some other roads received chip and seal applications.

Red Arrow Highway is still on the table, with overlay of asphalt from the Bridgman City limits to Browntown Road. This will commence after Labor Day Weekend.

The water plant continues to have upgrade work done to equipment with some original components to make the operation more energy efficient.

A new roof is currently being applied to the original part of the plant.

Greenwood Cemetery is having the back loop resurfaced this fall, complimenting the resurfacing of the front loop.

If you see street lights that are not working, please call in with the pole number. There is a tag on the pole, and the Township will forward your request to AEP/I&M.

John Gast, Supervisor

Lake Charter Township Water Department

HELLO TO ALL!

I hope everyone has had a great summer. It is hard to believe that summer is almost over.

I would like to mention a national water issue that you may have heard about in the media. It is called PFAS, which is an acronym for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. These chemicals are a class of organic chemicals that are fire resistant and repel stains, oil grease, and water. PFAS has been used/manufactured since the 1950s and has been used in numerous industrial and consumer products, such as fire fighting foams, stain repellents, nonstick cookware, waterproof clothing and fast food wrappers. The manufacturers of PFAS agreed to phase out the production of these compounds around a decade ago, but they are still used in the field. The State of Michigan is carrying out a proactive initiative to sample community water supplies and other sites to identify where PFAS compounds occur.

You may have heard on the news about communities in Michigan that have

found PFAS in their water. Some of the systems are well systems. We will do everything necessary to stay on top of this issue. If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call and I will try and answer them. A few good resources are the following websites -www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse, www.epa.gov/pfas, www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas.

Also, an update on a project that we started this summer is the Date Road water-main replacement project. This project is on the south end of Date Road and will improve reliability in this area. The project should be completed in a couple of months. You may want to avoid this area while the construction is progressing. If you do travel this way, please exercise caution for everyone's safety.

I continue to present the offer for plant tours if you are interested and these can be scheduled during the week. Enjoy the remainder of your summer as we look forward to fall.

*Jeff Burkhard
Water Plant Superintendent*

Electronic sign

We are sure by now you have seen the new sign in front of the hall. We have received many positive comments about it. We will be posting Township meetings and events on the sign as well as larger community events. Please keep your eyes out for events and upcoming meetings.





LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Lake Township Treasurer Report

The 2018 summer tax bills are out and due September 14th to avoid interest and penalties.

Did you know there are summer tax payment deferrals available for people over the age of 62, many veterans, and on certain agricultural properties?

Please check out the requirements and further information on the State of Michigan website (www.michigan.gov) or ours (www.lake-township.org). Deferral forms must be filed by the due date deadline of September 14th. This allows eligible taxpayers to defer paying the summer tax until February 14th without paying interest or penalties.

Did you also know that you are able to make partial payments towards the taxes you owe?

This helps spread out the burden of paying one large bill all at once. Any amount can be paid at any time. Also, many area financial institutions have created a tax savings account to help with this as well. You pay your taxes monthly throughout the year (much like an escrow for a mortgage) and the money is reserved for tax payments. Check with your bank or credit union to see if they have this option available.

We all know how difficult it is to come up with that money every September and February. Deferring taxes, making partial payments, and using a tax savings account are all great ways to make it easier on you and your budget. Please give me a call if you would like any further information about these options.

Lake Township Park News

The park is very busy this summer! The disc golf course is finally completed! The new astro-turf tee pads are all installed, mulch has been spread on the holes and trails, and the new tee signs are up. The new course lay-out is available in PDF version on our web site home page. Many thanks to our park employees, Tom and Tim, for all their hard work in completing this project. Thanks also to Dave Brunsteg, Larry Leonardi and many other members of the Sand Ridge Disc Golf Course League for volunteering many hours to help make this happen. They had their first Professional Disc Golf sanctioned tournament on the completed course on July 14th. Thirty-two players from around the area attended and had great things to say about the newly renovated course. More events and tournaments are planned for later in the year. The park pavilions have been regularly rented all summer. We hope you were able to enjoy the park this season. Fall soccer and other leagues are gearing up to start soon.

Electronic Payments and E Check

Electronic payments continue to grow every year. The new E check payment option is becoming more popular with twenty-five residents using the system to make tax payments this past season. The savings by using E check over conventional card payment systems was over \$ 900! E check is available for utility payments also. The cost is only \$ 3.00 for up to a \$ 10,000 payment. It is fast, easy to use, and secure. Automatic utility payments also continue to increase. Some payment cycles are seeing as much as half of all payments being made this way. Payments are deducted when due from the checking account you choose when due. There is no charge for this convenient service. Please contact our office or visit our website for more information about these new, secure and convenient payment options.

Recycling News

We have been working hard on getting recycling going at the park. Challenges have been getting users to take a minute to dispose of recyclable materials in the proper containers. We purchased new "recycle only" containers to try to alleviate the problem. We believe over 50% of all refuse at the park is able to be recycled. Please help by taking an extra minute and disposing of your recyclable materials in the proper containers. Your help is greatly appreciated and our earth thanks you!





LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

From the desk of the Lake Charter Township Clerk . . .



Gloria Payne
Township Clerk

PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018.

The polls are open from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE!

QUESTION: Do I need to register to vote for each election?

ANSWER: While there is a deadline set by the State of Michigan for each election, once you are registered to vote, you do not need to register again. The deadline for unregistered voters for the November Governor's election is October 2, 2018.

QUESTION: Where can I check to see if I am registered to vote?

ANSWER: <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/MVIC/>

QUESTION: What form do I fill out to register to vote?

ANSWER: The form can be obtained on Lake Charter Townships' website www.lake-township.org Click on the Clerk's tab. You can also register at any Secretary of State's office.

QUESTION: Do I need to declare a party, in order to vote?

ANSWER: No. The State of Michigan did away with declaring your party some time ago, however, from time to time you will need to request either a Republican, Democratic, or Libertarian ballot in certain elections. Please note that this is governed by the parties, and not the State of Michigan.

QUESTION: Do I need to show photo identification when I come to vote?

ANSWER: Yes, in 2016, the State of Michigan enacted a law that voters needed to show photo identification to cast a ballot. However, if they forget to bring their photo identification to the polls, they may sign an affidavit affirming their identity under threat of perjury, an option 18,388 residents used in the Nov. 8, 2016 elections, according to the Michigan Secretary of State.

QUESTION: I am 60 years old, do I have to come and vote in the precinct.

ANSWER: If you are 60 years old, a ballot can be cast by voting absentee. A form must be signed to be placed on the absent voter list, and can be obtained on Lake Charter Township's website: www.lake-township.org. Click on the Clerk's tab.

QUESTION: I signed the paperwork, do I have to sign up for an absent voter ballot every election?

ANSWER: No once your local Clerk places you on the absent voter ballot list, you will automatically receive an application for an absent voter ballot, for each election. The application must be signed (in two places, highlighted in yellow). This form can be obtained on Lake Charter Townships' website: www.lake-township.org Once you have turned the application in, you will be mailed a ballot. The ballot will be in a secrecy sleeve, you will vote the ballot, place the ballot back in the secrecy sleeve, and sign the outside of the envelope (in the red box), and return the ballot to your local Clerk. In Lake Charter Township, there are three ways to return the ballot. Walk it into the Township Hall, place it in the blue drop box out front of the old fire station, or snail mail it. (It requires two stamps).

Any other questions, please contact me at Gloria A. Payne, Lake Charter Township Clerk, 3220 Shawnee Road, P.O. Box 818, Bridgman, Michigan 269-465-6601 Ext. 11





CITY OF BRIDGMAN

CITY MANAGER - JUAN GANUM CONTINUED from cover ...

In October 2016 the City repealed its ordinances which regulated weeds, grass, brush and other vegetation within the City. As the City researched a better way to regulate tall grass and weeds in a community of such varied landscape and development patterns, the vast majority of Bridgman property owners, unsurprisingly, continued mowing their lawns. Clearly, most of our residents do not require a local law to prompt them to maintain their yards and keep their lawns at a reasonable height.

Unfortunately, there will always be a need for laws which address grass height and noxious weeds as not every property owner is focused on maintaining their property. Without regulations to require that lawns be kept below a certain height (in Bridgman, it's six inches) there are some who might allow their yards to grow unchecked, thereby creating a blighting effect on neighborhoods.

The newly adopted *Tall Grass and Weed Ordinance* attempts to draw a balance between protecting public health, safety and welfare and preserving the City's natural environment. Rather than applying a one-size-fits-all approach, the ordinance acknowledges that a significant portion of Bridgman's land is comprised of dunes, wetlands and woodlands, which should not be subject to the "six inch rule." Essentially, if a home or property contains a lawn area, that lawn should be kept at or under the standard height, but vegetation within a natural area or planting bed may be allowed to grow provided it is not a noxious weed as defined within the ordinance.

Another noteworthy change from our previous ordinance is a provision which requires that a buffer of twenty (20) feet be created by maintaining grass and vegetation at a height of six inches when the property abuts a public street or residential property. The purpose behind this provision is to minimize blight along our roadways and create buffer strips where undeveloped or vacant properties are adjacent to residential areas.

The Bridgman Police Department will function as the code enforcement authority for the *Tall Grass and Weed Ordinance*. When violations are identified our police officers will mail notices to property owners and/or occupants which shall give owners ten (10) days from the date of the notice to cut the tall grass and weeds. If owners fail to comply the City shall have the authority to hire a contractor to cut the tall grass and weeds. Owners will then be assessed for actual costs plus an administrative charge of fifteen (15%) percent. If a property owner does not pay the bill within sixty (60) days of the date of invoice the cost shall become a lien on the land or property assessed.

Though the enforcement provision of the ordinance may seem heavy-handed, its language is quite common among cities across the country which are striving to protect the property values and welfare of residents and property owners. To view the entire ordinance please visit the City's website at www.bridgman.org.



November General Election

THE GENERAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD IN THE CITY OF BRIDGMAN ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018.

The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at City Hall, located at 9765 Maple St. The last day to register for the election is TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2018 by 5:00 p.m. Persons residing in the City of Bridgman registering after the deadline will not be eligible to vote at that election. Persons planning to register may do so in person at the City of Bridgman's Clerk's office, Berrien County Clerk's office, or the Secretary of State driver's license bureau during regular business hours. You can also visit the Secretary of State's website www.michigan.gov/sos and register online. Regular business hours for the City of Bridgman City Hall are Monday – Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The City Clerk's office will be open on Saturday, November 3, 2018 between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the City Clerk's office or can be found at www.mi.gov/vote.





FOLLOW Weko Beach
Campground on FACEBOOK.

CITY OF BRIDGMAN

Summer Taxes Due Soon

2018 Summer taxes are due September 14, 2018. Beginning September 15 there will be interest added to the total. Please call the treasurer's office to acquire the correct payoff amount. Winter Taxes will be mailed out by December 1, 2018. If you do not receive your taxes within a week after the mailing deadline, please contact the office for a duplicate copy. Remember, the law does not forgive you for not having the bill. It is the taxpayer's responsibility to contact the office if you have failed to receive a bill.

Always double check your payment amount written on your check. Check to make sure that the amount being paid is the amount written on the check. We often receive checks with the figure transposed, amounts that do not match the written amount on the line. So please take a few extra moments to look over your check before mailing or bringing in your payment.

New Tax Savings Accounts Available

The *Berrien County Treasurer's Office* has recently partnered with area financial institutions to launch a new tax savings account program. Five Berrien County financial institutions now offer a tax savings account to help residents save for their property taxes. The new accounts are available at *Edgewater, United Federal Credit Union, New Buffalo Savings, Honor Credit Union and 1st Source Bank*. Please contact one of the banks or credit unions to learn more about the program.

CPR/AED & First Aid Training

The *Bridgman Fire Department* is now offering **CPR/AED and First Aid Training**. Join hundreds of Americans already certified in these potentially lifesaving skills and become an asset to your community.

CPR = cardiopulmonary resuscitation

AED = automated external defibrillator

Current scheduled classes:

8/25/2018	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	CPR/AED
9/6/2018	6:00 am - 10:00 pm	CPR/AED
9/8/2018	9:00 am - Noon	First Aid

For more information, pricing, and to register please visit www.bridgman.org/157/fire and click on the CPR link. We hope to see you in one of our classes!



SAVE THE BRIDGMAN COMMUNITY FLOAT

The *Miss Bridgman Scholarship Organization* wishes to thank the residents of Bridgman and Lake Township for their ongoing support of our community float. An 81-year tradition, the float has served as an iconic platform for the young men and women of the court during the Blossometime, Memorial Day, Flag Day and Celebrate Bridgman parades.

At present the float does not have a home base and is too fragile to be outside in inclement weather. The *Miss Bridgman Scholarship Organization* is raising money to fund a permanent building for storing and redecorating the float each year. As a non-profit, the scholarship organization is funded solely on donations and fundraisers.

An appropriately sized building will cost around \$20,000 for materials, however, a first stage goal of \$5,000 has been set. Please consider donating to the *Go Fund Me Campaign to "Save the Bridgman Community Float,"* and share the campaign with family and friends so our community can continue its longstanding tradition. Any person, family or business that donates \$100 or greater will be recognized on the 2019 float, though donations of all values are welcomed and greatly appreciated. To learn more and donate please visit www.gofundme.com/save-the-bridgman-community-float.



2018 Fall Cleanup Schedule

Bagged Leaves are 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. Residents have the option of raking their leaves to the curb, where they will be picked up by city workers using the city's leaf vacuum. **Last day for the season will be November 19. Service will resume April 2019**

Leaf & brush burning within the city is prohibited

Curb-side Leaf Pickup is indicated in **ORANGE** on the calendar. The leaf vacuum will begin on the east side of the city and complete one pass per week through the city. Leaves must be raked to the roadside/curb. **To prevent leaves clogging the storm drains DO NOT rake leaves into roadways.**

Brush is indicated in **YELLOW** on the calendar. Please limit to yard cleanup. City workers will spend no more than 15 minutes at each property. **Last day for the season will be November 20. Service will resume April 2019**

Christmas Tree Pick Up – January 2 and 9, 2019 (weather permitting)

Large Trash Pick Up – October 3 and 10. 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.

SEPTEMBER





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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

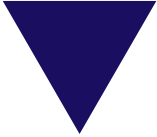
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-  BAGGED LEAF PICKUP
-  BRUSHED PICKUP
-  CURBSIDE LEAF PICKUP
-  LARGE TRASH PICKUP



**FOLLOW Weko Beach
Campground on FACEBOOK.**

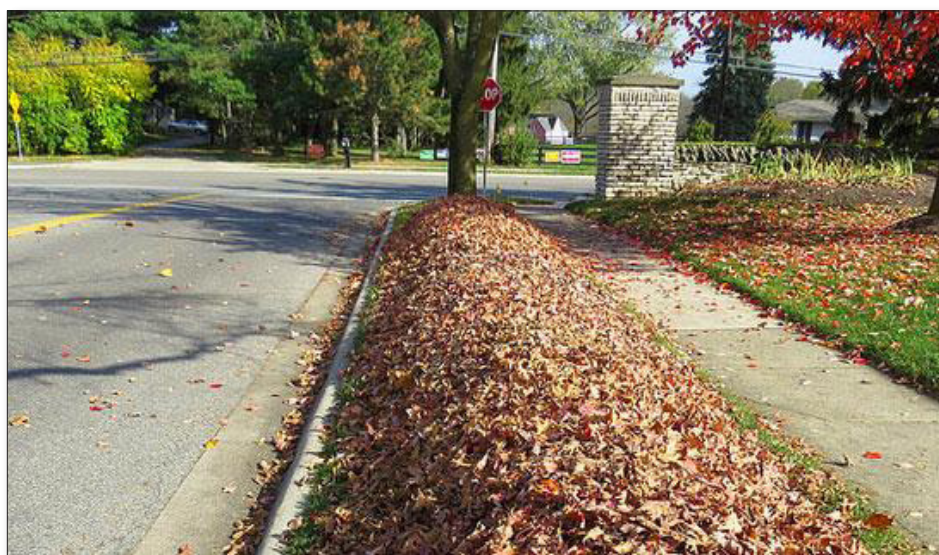
CITY OF BRIDGMAN



Remember to Rake them Right

As the nights become cooler we are reminded that leaves will be falling before we know it. Here are some important facts about the city's leaf and brush collection starting in September. The fall cleanup schedule is in this issue of the Community Buzz and available at City Hall.

Rake leaves curbside to the grassy area between the street and the sidewalk or to the curb. Never put leaf piles in the street. Leaves placed in the street will wash down storm drains where they can cause algae, clogging and water quality impacts. Leaves will also clog drain inlets and cause flooding.



Collections occur on Monday of each pickup week between 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Have leaves at the curb by 7 a.m. the Monday of pickup. Collection will start on the east side of the city and work westerly. Crews will make one pass through the entire city.

Curbside collection will be weather dependent. If there is a significant snow fall, leaf collection will be delayed and/or suspended.

The final brush chipping and curbside leaf bag collection will be November 19 and 20. Collection will resume in April 2019.

Leaf piles do not kill grass, although they may cause it to temporarily discolor. To prevent grass from discoloring rake your leaves just prior to the scheduled pickup date.

After the loose leaf collection period ends, leaves are to be placed in biodegradable paper yard waste bags. The bags should weigh no more than

50 pounds each when filled and will be collected as part of the normal curbside-composting program in the spring. Residents may drop off leaf bags in the designated area behind the Street Department Garage located at 9825 Maple Street (south of city hall).

Residents are reminded that leaf piles that are mixed with grass trimmings, branches, brush or other non-leaf content will not be collected through this service.



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Director -- Gretchen Evans ... Continued from cover

in Bridgman. That way, instead of consulting many sources, residents could find out about all Bridgman events in one place. We got help from *LocalHop*, a Michigan software company.

Organizations can get a free account to post to the Bridgman community calendar by going to www.getlocal-hop.com, clicking GET STARTED, and entering the organization's information into the form at the bottom of the page. *LocalHop* will respond with login instructions. Each organization controls their own free account and decides what to post.

Of course, having organizations post to the calendar is only part of it. Please help the Bridgman community calendar grow by using it and telling people about it. You can view the community calendar on the library's website or the *LocalHop* website (search for Bridgman under Communities). Or you can download the *LocalHop* app from your favorite app store.

If you have comments or questions about the calendar, please contact Cindy Gast or me at the library 269-465-3663.

Adult Programs

KNIT N YARN

Every third Tuesday at 6:00 p.m., and every Monday and Thursday from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Learn to knit or crochet, share your latest project, or get help with a yarning problem.

LAKE TREASURES

Wednesday, September 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Weko Beach House

Join Janet Schrader, the sand pirate, at Weko Beach House for an informative program about things you can find on the beach. Bring along your favorite find!

THE ORPHAN TRAIN IN MICHIGAN

Tuesday, October 9 at 2:00 p.m.

Al and David Eicher will give a presentation on the history of Orphan Trains in Michigan. From 1854 to 1927, approximately 12,500 orphans were placed in Michigan, many coming from the *New York Children's Aid Society*. Don't miss this program on a fascinating bit of history.

WASHER NECKLACE

Tuesday, December 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Create a unique necklace using household washers. All materials will be provided. Space is limited so please sign up at the front desk.

SECOND WEDNESDAY BOOK CLUB

2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Join our friendly and interactive reading group lead by Rick Fuller. Books are available for checkout one month before the meeting. Check with the library for the latest book club title. New members are always welcome.

YIN YOGA

Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

Cheryl Meadors, certified yoga instructor, leads a class at the library every Thursday. The class is suitable for beginning or intermediate yoga students. Just bring a yoga mat, some water, and a \$10 participation fee. 50% of the proceeds benefit the Bridgman Public Library.

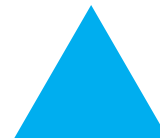
BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 10-8

Friday: 10-5

Saturday: 10-4

Sunday: Closed



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Youth Programs

EARLY LITERACY CLASSES WITH MISS TAMI

Classes resume **September 10.**

Baby and Me (ages 0-2)

– Monday at 10:45 a.m.

Toddler and Me (ages 3-5)

– Tuesdays at 9:30 or 11:30 a.m.

Story Hour (ages 3-5)

– Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

SPICE UP YOUR LUNCHBOX

**Wednesday, September 12
at 3.30 p.m.**

Learn new ways to make lunch beyond the same old PBJ. If you ever pack your lunch, this workshop is for you! Ages 8 and up. Register at the library by September 7.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

**Wednesday, October 24 at 6:30
p.m.**

Bring the family to our annual Halloween Party. Enjoy games, activities, and treats! Costumes are encouraged but, not mandatory.

Community Garden

We have come a long way. The Bridgman Public Library Community Garden started in 2012 with raised beds. Now six years later, there are 48 beds. Thank you to all the volunteers who make this community garden a continued success. Check out what's growing on the Bridgman Public Library Community Garden Facebook page. Support the garden by buying a dozen clean used golf balls for five dollars. Come grow with us!

Teen Programs

Teen Programs are designed for **ages 13-18.** Check www.bridgmanlibrary.com/teens.asp for upcoming activities and registration.

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD KICKOFF MEETING (GO AHEAD, BOSS US AROUND!)

Saturday, September 8 at 1 p.m.

There WILL be pizza. Register at www.bridgmanlibrary.com/teens.asp
TAB—teen advisory board—is a group of teens (grades 6-12) who are interested in becoming more involved in the library. Teens meet monthly with library staff to give input on teen book purchases, help create programming, volunteer at library events, and more!

COMING THIS FALL

**Teen Read Week celebration
- October 7-13**

**Teen Story Contest, Escape Room,
and Teen Book Club**

Get a Library Card and Check Out Something Incredible!

September is *National Library Card Sign-up Month*, and a library card is the most important school supply of all.

BPL library cards are free to those living in the city of Bridgman, Bridgman Township, or Chikaming Township and attending Bridgman schools. To apply all you need is identification and proof of residency and the signature of a guardian for students under age 18.

**Join us for a special showing of
The Incredibles on Wednesday,
September 26 at 6 p.m. Rated
PG.**

Library Board

Randy Hill – President
Lane Kuypers – Vice President
John Wilk – Secretary
Ken Huff – Treasurer
Liz Bogue – Trustee
Susan Collins – Trustee
Dorothea Crocker – Trustee
Sue Janoskey – Trustee
Aaron Noll – Trustee



9964 GAST ROAD, BRIDGMAN, MI 49106

bridgmanschools.com

Office: 269-465-5432

Fax: 269-466-0221

BRIDGMAN *COMMUNITY BUZZ*



One community working together to serve you better.

Bridgman 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.org
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