

SPRING 2024



Bridgman

COMMUNITY BUZZ



PHOTO COURTESY OF: COOPER STEWART

One community working together to serve you better.

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

We hope you find it informative and useful.



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Superintendent News from Superintendent Shane Peters

Dear Bridgman Families and Residents,

On behalf of the Bridgman Public Schools Board of Education and the dedicated staff, I extend heartfelt **congratulations to the Class of 2024**. These 64 graduates from Bridgman High School have excelled over the past four years, showcasing remarkable achievements in academics, athletics and the arts. Your accomplishments are a source of pride for us all, and we wish each of you the utmost success in your future endeavors.

As the current school year comes to an end, we bid farewell to **five valued staff members who have chosen to retire** from their roles at Bridgman Public Schools:

- Pat Cole** – RMS Paraprofessional (21.5 years)
- Dana Emans** – RMS Teacher (29.5 years)
- Jackie Harding** – BHS Teacher (25 years)
- Laura McGee** – BHS Teacher (11 years)
- Dorothy Miller** – Transportation (11.5 years)

While parting ways is never easy, we are confident they will venture into a new and fulfilling chapter in their lives. We extend our deepest gratitude for their dedicated service to Bridgman Public Schools and the students they have positively impacted.

Bridgman Public Schools offers various positions in transportation, food service, and custodial

departments, providing opportunities to work with our students. Visit our website at BridgmanSchools.com for more details, or reach out to the Office of the Superintendent for further information.

Spring typically brings a whirlwind of activities and events. Keeping up with all of the developments within our schools is now simpler than ever, thanks to our updated website at BridgmanSchools.com or follow us on social media.

As we near the conclusion of yet another exceptional school year, I am proud to affirm that we have an extraordinary school district comprising remarkable students, talented staff, and supportive parents and community members. Bridgman Public Schools remains committed to delivering the finest educational experience in Berrien County.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns you can email me at speters@bridgmanschools.com or call 269-466-0271.

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

Go Bees!
Shane M. Peters, Superintendent



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

BRIDGMAN

5k Run/Walk, 10k Run, & 1.1 Mile Fun Run
Saturday, July 13, 2024



BRIDGMAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

President

Eric Ramso

Vice President

Wayne Hall

Secretary

Tishia Roberts

Treasurer

Brad Owen

Trustee

JoAnn
DeMeulenaere

Trustee

Nancy Hawley

Trustee

Tom LaVanway

Register at: runsignup.com/bridgman5k10k

JOIN BRIDGMAN CROSS COUNTRY AND TRACK & FIELD FOR THE 29TH ANNUAL 5K RUN/WALK, 10K RUN, AND 1.1 MILE FUN RUN

THIS YEAR'S RACE WILL ONCE AGAIN START AND FINISH AT
BRIDGMAN HIGH SCHOOL

AMPLE PARKING AND ON SITE BATHROOMS

CHOOSE FROM A SOFTSTYLE T-SHIRT OR UPGRADE TO A TECH T-SHIRT
A DISCOUNTED "NO SHIRT" OPTION IS ALSO AVAILABLE

THIS YEAR'S RACE IS ONCE AGAIN PROFESSIONALLY TIMED BY EPIC RACE TIMING

TO REGISTER NOW, SCAN HERE



QUESTIONS? CONTACT US AT:

BRIDGMAN5K@BRIDGMANSCHOOLS.COM

REGISTRATION

5K RUN/WALK AND 10K RUN

\$30 : THROUGH JUNE 16
T-SHIRT GUARANTEED
WITH OPTION TO UPGRADE

\$35 : JUNE 12 THROUGH JULY 13
T-SHIRT IS NOT GUARANTEED

1.1 MILE FUN RUN

ONLY \$5
INCLUDES FINISHER MEDAL FOR
ALL YOUTH RUNNERS
(RACE IS UNTIMED)

SATURDAY, JULY 13TH

7:00 AM - PACKET PICK-UP & LATE REGISTRATION

8:00 AM - 1.1 MILE FUN RUN

8:30 AM - 5K RUN/WALK & 10K RUN

FOR RACE UPDATES, FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM @BRIDGMAN5K10K



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Bridgman High School News from Principal Gerald Heath

This edition of the Bridgman Buzz finds Bridgman High School (BHS) approaching the finish line to the end of the school year. I am very proud of our students' hard work and the incredible efforts of our teachers and support staff. I am confident that as we finish out the last few weeks of the 2023-24 school year, students will continue to work to make great strides in their education.

On Thursday, March 7, the Bridgman Public School (BPS) counselors and the Children's Advocacy Center of SW Michigan hosted a community forum on digital safety and responsibility for students. The forum addressed the **dangers associated with technology usage among children and teens** and how regular supervision and awareness could help reduce negative consequences with close monitoring. The event also provided safety tips, resources, and tools to assist parents/guardians with monitoring activity on technology devices. The forum's intended audience included parents, guardians, or any adult who supervises student use of technology. If you were not able to attend this important forum, scan the QR code on page 7 for the presentation.

Accomplishments

Sophia Fenech, Bridgman High School Senior, was a Scholastic Writing Award Winner. From a 9-state

region and over 100 high schools, Sophia earned the prestigious Gold Key Award for her poetry submission "The Warrior Ant." A Gold Key Award represents the top 5% of poetry entries and will go on to compete at the national level. We are so proud of all our writers who submitted to the competition this year!

Kylie Ott, Bridgman High School Senior, was named a 2024 Scholar-Athlete Award Recipient. Kylie has played four seasons of varsity volleyball, two seasons of varsity basketball, and is currently competing in her fourth season of varsity track and field. She has earned all-conference and academic all-state recognition in track and all-conference honorable mention in volleyball. Kylie has served as a captain on the volleyball and basketball teams. She is in her fourth year of participating in the student senate, class advisory, and Key Club, where she has served as president for all three organizations. She was selected as a member of the National Honor Society and served as the chapter's vice president. As a four-year member of DECA, she is currently serving as the secretary. Kylie will attend Purdue University in the fall to study biomedical engineering.

A quote from her essay: *"At first sight of the word sportsmanship, you may visualize the act of helping another player up after a fall or encouraging teammates after mistakes. However, true sportsmanship isn't limited by one public gesture, but rather, a consistent pursuit of little things even when no one is watching. It*



is moral behavior that is learned and taught by example and comes not by desire for appraisal but by adamant passion for the game.”

The **BHS Band** performed on Thursday, February 29, at St. Joseph High School and earned a Division I rating! The Drama Department put on a wonderful performance of *Seussical, Jr.*

Club & Organization Activities

This year, Mrs. McGee had 76 students participate in the **DECA** State competition in Detroit, March 14 - 16.

The Interact Club assisted in monthly food distribution events at the United Methodist Church in Stevensville and collaborated with our SADD Club for the Kindness Challenge Campaign. They are currently working on how it can support Bridgman Cares.

After hosting the Homecoming and Winterfest festivities, the **Student Senate** developed a shout-out board where students and staff can write thank-you notes to staff members. They are currently working on planning the annual teacher appreciation luncheon.

Key Club held a carnation sale for Valentine’s Day to support a new initiative called Project Hope. Members also provided childcare at the recent Social Media and Digital Awareness community forum and assisted the Drama Department with set building for the upcoming performance of *Seussical Jr.* Key Club continues to stock the free feminine supply cart at the high school. Donations of cash or feminine supplies are always welcome. Contact Key Club advisor Sarah Conklin sconklin@bridgmanschools.com if you would like to make a donation.

The National Honor Society (NHS) hosted a successful Taco Night in January! April will be a busy month for NHS as we complete the following events: Blanket Brigade on April 14 (making blankets for Hospice patients); a Cystic Fibrosis Foundation fundraiser the week of April 15; writing and delivering spring cheer cards to the residents and staff of Woodland Terrace on April 25. They will conduct their spring road clean-up in May and induct new members into the NHS on May 9. Students continue to recycle and tutor each week.

The Class of 2024

As we inch closer to the end of the school year, our seniors are beginning to prepare for the next step in their lives. I am so proud of how they have grown over the last four years and confident they will flourish in their future endeavors. The future plans of this class represent great diversity, as many are off to college or trade school, most close by, while others plan on continuing their post-secondary education quite a distance away. The high school coursework completed by some students has allowed them the opportunity to jump directly into the workforce. We are also honored to have a few graduates looking to pursue a career in the military. The staff at BHS wishes our senior class the best of luck in their future careers and lives.

Commencement exercises have been scheduled for June 2 at 1 p.m. Details will be shared with students and families as the date approaches.

Finally, I would like to thank Bridgman Public Schools and the larger community for their continued support as we approach the end of another successful school year.

Gerald Heath, High School Principal



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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

Dear Community Members,

Spring has sprung at F.C. Reed Middle School! As the end of the 2023 - 2024

school year approaches, the middle school faculty is excited about the social, emotional, and academic growth that has bloomed over the winter months. Each day has been a productive step towards our mission to prepare students for Bridgman High School and beyond. The collective talents of our students and staff continue to be evident throughout the community, region, and state.

One of the more noticeable displays of students' well-rounded abilities is the **2024 Downtown Bridgman Student Banner Project**. This year, Mrs. Korson hosted a student art competition posing the question, "What Makes Michigan Strong?" RMS students researched, reflected, and then produced over 250 entries for consideration, using various techniques, materials, and skills to develop their visual depictions of what makes our home unique and special. A panel of community judges then selected 52 final pieces that were ultimately displayed on Lake Street beginning March 6. The gallery is one of our county's largest public art displays. I encourage you to venture downtown, support our local businesses, and take a stroll to enjoy each piece along the way.

F.C. Reed Middle School students have also proudly represented our community on a *regional* stage over the last few months.

Mr. Milligan and the **RMS MathCounts team** competed at the regional competition on February 9 at Western Michigan University. A highlight of the competition was when our team tied the RMS program's highest all-time team round score! I'm proud to also report that the **RMS Grade 7th Band** competed in the annual Band & Orchestra Festival at St. Joseph High School on March 1. The band played tremendously, earning the highest "2" rating possible, and were just one judgment away from earning an overall 1 rating. A highlight of the morning was when our students earned a prestigious "1" rating on the daunting Sight Reading portion of the event. Our younger students have also been busy competing on a county level. On March 8, Mrs. Teed and a contingent of young engineers competed at the Region 14 **Science Olympiad**. Facing stiff competition from older students, the team rose to the challenge and battled their way to a Top 5 finish against several teams composed of experienced seventh and eighth graders.

This spring, the middle school's innovative and inclusive programming has also been highlighted statewide. **Mrs. deBest** was invited to present at the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL) Conference in March. Presenting about the impact of the school's STEM Lab, Mrs. deBest taught representatives from over 20 public school districts about our model for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education.



F.C. Reed Middle School
10254 California Road
Bridgman, MI 49106
Ph: 269-465-5410
Fax: 269-466-0393

Key findings included that the STEM program statistically increases student engagement, facilitates higher levels of critical thinking and perseverance, and improves career readiness.

Mrs. deBest also shared how our local STEM program has positively impacted students from lower socioeconomic levels and inspired more females to feel connected to STEM-related workforce pathways. The success of our program was evident, and it continues to be a model for STEM education throughout the Great Lakes State.

By the time you read this, RMS students will have returned from Spring Break and embarked on the fourth and final marking period of the 2023 - 2024 school year. Thank you to all the community members who have embraced the vision of Bridgman Public Schools this year. We would not be able to represent Bridgman Public Schools locally, regionally, and across the state of Michigan without your partnership, support, and collaboration. GO BEES!

Your partner in education,

John Truesdell, Middle School Principal



Keeping Kids Safe in a Digital World!

Allie Kibler-Campbell, Prevention & Outreach Supervisor of the Children's Advocacy Center of Southwest Michigan recently hosted a cyber safety forum for parents and the community. If you missed it scan the QR code below with your phone's camera to see her presentation.





BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Celebrating March Reading Month by Lori Graves, Elementary School Principal

March is designated as National Reading Month in honor of Dr.

Seuss's birthday on March 2. Bridgman Elementary celebrated the love of reading throughout the month with events planned by the student council, Title 1 staff, the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), and teachers.

To support reading at home, the PTO and the Title 1 staff created after-school events to encourage students to read with their families. Each year, the PTO hosts a book bingo. They collected donations of children's books to use as bingo prizes. This is a fun and fast-paced activity. Every child took home several books. The Title 1 night included activities

to make reading crafts to support reading at home.

The most popular reading month activity was our mystery readers! Teachers invited family members, former students, Bridgman staff

and community members. The mystery readers showed up at a designated time and brought a book to share with the class. The students had no idea who was going to show up and when they would arrive.

Librarian Promotes the Love of Reading

Sarah Douglass is the school librarian at Bridgman Elementary School. She and her husband, John, moved to Bridgman 18 years ago when he started working at the Cook Plant. They have two children. Her son is a sophomore at Bridgman High School and her daughter is in eighth grade at F.C. Reed Middle School. She has two Hungarian Vizslas named Cami and Odin. Sarah graduated from Purdue University with an accounting degree but always wanted to pursue education. Sarah has been the librarian at BES for three years after subbing in the building for five years. Besides reading, her hobbies include cooking, gardening and crafting. Sarah also volunteers at her church and in the community.

I Survived is the most popular series at BES. These historical fiction books begin with the story's climax and then go back a few days with the events leading up to it. These books immediately grab students' attention and are often based on lesser-known historical events. John Jory and Mo Willems are the students' favorite authors for picture books. Both authors have a great sense of humor and memorable characters.



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

Sarah strives to keep the library collection current by purchasing books recommended by students, staff and other school librarians. She is intentional about having books that represent all of the students in our school. Last year, Sarah was able to partner with the principal, Mrs. Graves, to purchase popular picture books and chapter books written in Spanish.

Sarah collaborates with teachers to recommend books for their students. Teachers will ask her to pull books that support reading, science and social studies themes. Sarah is also responsible for student technology. She fixes student Chromebooks and loans them out as needed.

Sarah's goal for the BES library is to do everything she can to make books accessible to students. She wants to help students develop a love of reading. One way she does this is by removing books from the collection that are either outdated or worn out and replacing them with newer, relevant books. Sarah introduces a variety of book genres, subjects and characters. She loves it when a student who does not enjoy reading finds the perfect book. Her favorite quote about reading is "Reading should not be presented to children as a chore, a duty. It should be offered as a gift." - Kate DiCamillo

Bee Market Coming Soon

During the 2019 holiday season, a Bee Market was created through food drive donations in partnership with Harding's Friendly Market. The market was housed at the elementary school and gave parents



and caregivers a discreet way to pick up needed nonperishable items. Seventy-five families took advantage of the market.

The principal and school counselor saw the need to create a permanent market for BES families. Through a grant from the Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence, the Bee Market will soon be available! The goal of the market is to provide families with support.

The Bee Market will be located inside Bridgman Elementary School. It will be stocked with nonperishable items, such as food, toiletries, cleaning products, and pet supplies. Monetary and nonperishable donations are always welcome and may be dropped off at the elementary school office.

Lori Graves, Elementary School Principal



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence from the Chairman, Al Barker

With the onset of Spring, the 2024 school year is on cruise control. The Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence (BFEE), in July 2023, approved the project grant budget with an increase of over 15%, setting it at \$17,500. We're excited about our

collaboration this year with the Bridgman Public Schools' administration, faculty and students on project grant initiatives. The funded initiatives have reduced our budget projection to below \$9,000, which is good news. Better news, we expect more project grants to be funded before the school year ends!

We're proud to share the following project grants that have been made possible by you, a community that cares!

School Sponsor	Faculty Member	Project Grant	Amount
Bridgman Elementary	Eding	Phonics Reading Materials	\$355.64
Bridgman Elementary	Graves	Storage Shelving Supplies for BEE Market	\$984.21
F.C. Reed Middle School	Teed	Classroom Board Games/ Social & Emotional Learning	\$550.00
F.C. Reed Middle School	deBest	STEM Lab Portable Camera/SD Cards	\$686.99 (1)
Bridgman High School	Schuchardt	Science Data Recording Boards	\$700.00
Bridgman High School	McGee	DECA International Competition	\$6,000.00
<i>(1) Note: STEM Lab request funded from dedicated STEM account.</i>			



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

Join Us!

We're always looking for volunteers to join our ranks. Your service will support our vision to "Inspire students to positively impact their world." The Foundation trustees are community volunteers who experience a sense of satisfaction from the success stories told by Bridgman students and their teachers. If interested in becoming a Board trustee, please share your desire through our website at: BridgmanFoundation.org under the volunteer tab. **Specific skill-based BFEE volunteers needed are a Public Relations Lead and Web/Graphic Design Lead.** If you have a desire to volunteer, please join us! If you have those skills, please, please join us!

In closing, I want to extend from BFEE congratulations for the accomplishments achieved by our Bridgman students this year and the ones yet to come! I offer to the Bridgman School District and the community, the pride I have for the young women and men who will graduate this year and for their future contribution to our community and beyond.

Al Barker, BFEE Chairman

BRIDGMAN Cares



facebook.com/BridgmanCares

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

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



BRIDGMAN
AQUATIC CENTER

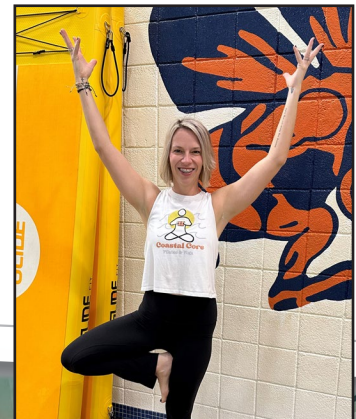
Your Community Pool!

Proudly offering a wide variety of water-based classes and more for almost 50 years! If you are a senior (62 years or older) and reside in Lake Township or the City of Bridgman, ALL of our classes are FREE. You can find detailed information on all of our classes, schedules, rentals, swim teams, lap swim and more on our website.

GLIDEFIT YOGA

My name is Nikki Zalewski, and I own Coastal Core Pilates and Yoga. I lead a **Float Yoga Class** at the Bridgman Aquatic Center **every Tuesday at 9 am**. This is a one-hour yoga class on the glide fit floats. All levels of yoga are welcome in this class. We work on strengthening, stretching, and balancing while connecting breath per movement. Practicing yoga on the floats adds a lot to one's practice, as it requires a lot of core engagement, mindfulness and awareness to find balance. However, it is absolutely okay to fall in the water and have fun with it! In addition to leading the Float Yoga class, I also do yoga

with the High School Swim teams and the Bridgman Sea Bees Swim team. When I



am not at the BAC leading yoga, you will find me in my hot room studio leading Inferno Hot Pilates and Hot Yoga classes.

AQUA YOGA

Embark on a journey of serenity with **Aqua Yoga**, where the gentle embrace of water supports every pose, breath, and meditation. By understanding the reasons behind each pose and movement, you will find these exercises both enjoyable and beneficial in your daily life. Aqua Yoga will help you strengthen and balance your body, improve flexibility, ease pain, and increase your range of motion with minimal impact on your joints. Everyone is welcome to explore and thrive, regardless of prior yoga experience. All you need is an open mind and a love of learning.



MEET JIM STINE

The pool recently had a new swimmer, but this friendly gentleman had a HUGE role in the significant updates that were done at the BAC back in the early 2000's. As the Bridgman School Board President, Jim Stine was instrumental in advocating for a millage that would provide the Bridgman community with another 30 years of aquatic enjoyment, water safety and swim lessons.

We are grateful for Jim and his leadership during a challenging time, which allows all of us to enjoy the pool we love. Be sure to say 'hi' when you see his smiling face!



CITY OF BRIDGMAN



City of Bridgman News from the City Manager, Juan Ganum

This year marks a remarkable moment in our city's history - **Bridgman's 75th anniversary** since its incorporation as a city in 1949. As we reflect on this significant milestone, we're not only celebrating our past but also embracing the journey that has brought us to where we are today.

In the fall of 1856, George Bridgman (1813-1895), along with his partners Warren Howe and Charles F. Howe, formed the Charlotte Lumber Company. A large steam-powered sawmill was set up near the present intersection of Lake Street and Red Arrow Highway. A narrow-gauge railway ran from the mill to the lake with several branches into the wooded areas.

The area around the mill became known as Charlotteville in honor of Mr. Howe's wife, Charlotte. In 1863, the original mill was destroyed by fire. Two subsequent mills were erected on the same site, both succumbing to fire. When the last mill was destroyed in 1870, the Howes moved on to other pursuits.

George Bridgman decided to stay in the area.

Having acquired several hundred acres of land, including most of present-day Bridgman, he and other residents began growing fruit trees, grapes and berry plants. The market for produce was limited to what could be sold locally. In 1869, Mr. Bridgman entered into an agreement with the Chicago Michigan and Lakeshore Railroad, granting the company right-of-way through his land. In

return for access rights, along with a reliable supply of water, the railroad agreed to erect and maintain a depot. In 1871, the depot was constructed, and the railroad company assigned it the name "Bridgman".



George Bridgman, the Founder of Bridgman, was born in Belchertown, Massachusetts in 1813.

Growing Bridgman

The nursery business would prove highly profitable in Bridgman. In 1888, Ozro Baldwin noticed that his raspberry plants had an unusually large amount of suckers. He ran a three-line ad for the plants in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania "Farm Journal" and

received orders for all the plants. In the spring of 1889, several hundred folders were sent out quoting prices for strawberry and cane plants. The mail-order nursery business would become a million-dollar industry in Bridgman. Many local names are associated with the nursery business: Baldwin,





Weston, Whitten, Ackerman, Stahelin, Essig, Dass and Rokely. The Krieger and Rambo families, which were not in the retail and mail order trade, operated successful wholesale nurseries that still exist in Bridgman.

Initially owned by Lake Township, the Lake Michigan shoreline in Bridgman became popular in the 20's. Weko Beach, named for partners Henry Weber and Bruno Kolander, who built a pavilion on the waterfront, became a destination for residents and visitors from all around, especially Chicago. The pavilion served homemade fish and chicken dinners, held dances and hosted concerts by Chicago Symphony members. In 1945, Henry and Bruno dissolved their partnership, and the pavilion (which became known as the beach house) remained open to the public as a concession-type venue.



From Village to City

During the fall of 1949, Bridgman's leaders established a City Charter Commission to incorporate the village as a city under Michigan's Constitution and the Home Rule City Act. On November 8, 1949, the Commission adopted a final version of Bridgman's first city charter, which was transmitted to Michigan's Governor G. Mennen Williams for approval. On December 27, 1949, Bridgman's new City Commission, consisting of Bun Baldwin Jr., Henry Batson, Early Bruner, James Harris, Harry Liskey, William McCort and Charles Reck, held its first meeting. Thus, the City of Bridgman was born!



** The Bridgman/Lake Township Historical Society contributed to this article.*



CITY OF BRIDGMAN

Together, let's make this anniversary celebration a memorable and cherished occasion for generations to come!

Community Celebration

To commemorate this historic milestone, the City of Bridgman is excited to announce a special community celebration on **Saturday, July 13, 2024**. The following is a sneak peek of the day!

We invite everyone to join us in honoring Bridgman's 75 years as a city and celebrating our community's unique character and vitality.

We are grateful to have our talented students from Bridgman Elementary School, who will be designing birthday cards for display in business windows throughout the summer. Be sure to look for them!

Juan Ganum, City Manager



- 5K Run/Walk, 10K and 1 Mile Fun Run hosted by the Cross Country and Track & Field Teams
- Celebrate Bridgman Parade hosted by the Miss Bridgman Scholarship Organization
- Autos n' Ales car show at Haymarket
- Pop-up market at Transient Artisan Ales
- Music in the Courtyard by The Spaniels
- Children's games in the Courtyard hosted by the Bridgman Public Library
- Movie in the Courtyard hosted by the Miss Bridgman Scholarship Organization

Bridgman businesses will be participating with a variety of their own activities as well!

Please check the City's website for more details as the celebration draws closer.



Please Extend a Warm Welcome to Two New Staff Members



We are delighted to introduce **Chris Fisher** who is the newest addition to the Bridgman team, serving as our dedicated **City Clerk**. Although she is stepping into this role for the first time, Chris brings with her a wealth of experience and a deep connection to our community, having lived in Bridgman for 42 years.

Bridgman holds a special place in Chris's heart; it's not just where she resides but where she has raised her children and now watches her grandchildren grow. Her roots run deep within our city, providing her with a profound understanding of its needs and aspirations.

With a background in payroll and budgeting, Chris has spent the past 15 years refining her skills at Cook Nuclear Plant. Now, she eagerly anticipates leveraging this expertise to serve the residents of Bridgman in her new capacity as city clerk.

We are also thrilled to introduce **Jodi Mattner** to the front office at City Hall as Bridgman's **Utility Billing Clerk**. Jodi comes to us with a wealth of experience, having dedicated four years to serving the residents of Buchanan Charter Township before joining our community in mid-February.

Beyond her professional pursuits, Jodi's heart lies in spending quality time with her family. She shares a deep bond with her husband, Brad, and their beloved 5-year-old Great Dane, Mack. As the proud mother of twin boys, Jacob and Joshua, who are both 24 and Bridgman High School graduates.

Jodi's commitment to her family and her community reflects her values of dedication and service. We extend our warmest welcome to Jodi as she embarks on this new chapter with us and we look forward to the positive contributions she will undoubtedly make to our team and the residents of Bridgman.





CITY OF BRIDGMAN

Do You Have an Illegal Connection to the Sanitary Sewer System?

What is an illegal connection?

An illegal connection is any connection that drains clear water (rain or sump pump water) to the sanitary sewer system such as:

- Downspouts that discharge underground and are connected to the sanitary sewer.
- Sump pumps that are connected to a floor drain, stack pipe, or wash basin.
- Yard drains that are connected to a sanitary sewer.

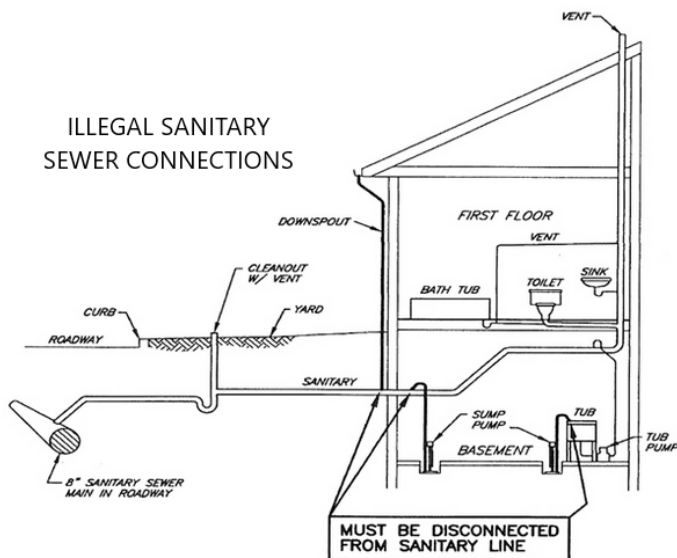
Where does the City's sanitary sewer go?

Wastewater travels through the City's sanitary sewer system roughly 12 miles to the Galien River Sanitation District (GRSD) Sewer Authority Wastewater Treatment Plant. The GRSD Sewer Authority is an intergovernmental agency responsible for wastewater treatment in southwestern Berrien County which serves New Buffalo and Bridgman City, New Buffalo, Chikaming and Lake Charter Townships, and portions of Lincoln Charter, Baroda, and Weesaw Townships.

How do illegal connections impact the City?

The city has a fixed capacity for wastewater treatment with the GRSD and pays a fee for each gallon entering the system. Illegal connections like sump pumps and downspouts can cause:

- Overloading of the sanitary sewer system.
- Sanitary sewer backups into basements.
- Strains on infrastructure, particularly lift/pump stations.
- Disruptions and maintenance challenges on the sanitary sewer system.
- Unnecessary treatment at GRSD.
- Increased wastewater treatment costs, which are passed along to all ratepayers.





If connected to the sanitary sewer line, as few as 200 homes with a sump pump running for 10 minutes an hour can discharge over 2 million gallons per day!

How can I determine if I have an illegal connection?

Determine where your downspouts and sump pump discharge to. If your downspouts or sump pump discharge onto the ground, an approved drainage way or designated storm sewer then that is acceptable. If the location is unknown, then further investigation may be warranted. Typically, a plumbing contractor can assist in locating and correcting an illegal connection.



What do I do if I have an illegal connection?

- Disconnect any downspouts that are directly connected to a sanitary sewer. Cap the underground pipe and extend downspouts 6-10 feet away from your home.
- Disconnect any sump pumps that are directly connected to the sanitary sewer. Discharge to grade or underground to a garden or ditch. Make sure that your discharge pipe is far enough away from your foundation and that the discharge location is not detrimental to neighboring parcels.
- Disconnect yard drains from the sanitary sewer. Discharge drains to ditches or re-grade your yard to improve drainage.

What do I do with excess water?

Now that you have disconnected your sump pump and downspouts from the sanitary sewer, you will need to manage the stormwater on your property.

- If available, connect sump pumps to the city storm system.
- Grade should fall a minimum 6" within the first 10' from foundation.
- Harvest water using rain barrels and re-use for non-potable uses such as irrigation or car washing.
- Divert excess water to rain gardens or an infiltration basin.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the city at 269-465-5144 or visit Bridgman.org.



CITY OF BRIDGMAN



Your Community Needs You! from the City Clerk, Chris Fisher

Hello Bridgman residents!

This November 5, the City of Bridgman is looking forward to an exciting General Election with **three city council seats up for grabs**. If you've ever considered stepping up and making a difference in our community, now is your chance!

We invite all passionate and committed members of our community to consider running for a four-year term on the City Council. It's an opportunity to serve Bridgman and contribute to its future direction.

Interested? Here's your first step: Stop by the City Clerk's office at City Hall and pick up a nominating petition packet. This packet is your gateway to becoming a candidate. It contains all the essential information you'll need to kickstart your campaign.

Important!

Filing nominating petition information for candidates for the November 5, 2024 General Election:

- Be sure to read the back of the petition form to ensure proper completion and that every signature counts.

- Complete the petition form heading before circulating it.
- Per the City Charter – the petition shall be signed by not less than twenty (20) nor more than fifty (50) qualified electors of the City.
- A person cannot sign a petition on behalf of another person, sign a petition more than once, or sign more petitions for the same office than there are persons to be elected in the office.
- All signatures submitted on a qualifying petition must have been collected within 180 days immediately preceding the date of filing (signatures dated more than 180 days prior to the date of filing are invalid).
- All candidates must submit an Affidavit of Identity form to the City Clerk.
- All candidates must file a Statement of Organization Form to the County Clerk within 10 days of filing their nominating petition forms.
- **Return petitions to City Hall no later than 4 p.m. on July 23, 2024.**



The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, August 6, 2024.

The last day to register to vote in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is **4 p.m. on Monday, July 22**. If you would like to register to vote or see where you are currently registered, you can visit Michigan.gov/sos. You may also register to vote at the City Clerk's office at Bridgman City Hall, 9765 Maple St.

As always, if you have any questions about your eligibility to vote or the voting process in the City of Bridgman, please call me at 269-465-5144 or email me at sreitz@bridgman.org.

Chris Fisher, City Clerk



Free Admission!

May 26 - Aug 4, 7-9 P.M.
Aug 18 & Sep 1, 6-8 P.M.

May 26	Chicken Dolphin <i>Reggae-Rock</i>
Jun 9	Van Dyke Review <i>Rock n' Roll</i>
Jun 23	Blue Shoes <i>40's Hits to Today</i>
Jul 7	BoneAFyde <i>Variety</i>
Jul 21	The Resurrection Blues Band <i>Rock n' Roll</i>
Aug 4	PT and The Cruisers <i>Variety</i>
Aug 18	Not So Acoustic <i>Variety</i>
Sep 1	Whateverly Brothers <i>Acoustic Goodness</i>

Weko Beach Campground

5301 Lake Street, Bridgman, MI 49106

The City reserves the right to cancel at any time due to health regulations and inclement weather.



CITY OF BRIDGMAN

Assessing Department Updates

from the Assessor, John Baumann

Assessment Change Notices were mailed in February. These notices are sent to inform property owners of the new current year Assessed Value (AV), State Equalized Value (SEV) and Taxable Value (TV). They also indicate any changes that may have occurred to the property due to transfers of ownership or PRE (principal residence exemption) changes. It is important to review these notices to ensure they correctly reflect this information and your current mailing address. **Please pay close attention to the PRE percentage. Your summer tax bill will be incorrect if the PRE percentage is incorrect.** If you find any errors with the mailing address and/or PRE percentage, please contact the Assessing Department.

The State Tax Commission requires assessors to **inspect** a percentage of properties in each class **annually**. You may see me in your neighborhood reviewing properties and updating photos of property improvements this spring, summer

and fall. I am looking for changes to properties and verifying that the City's property information is updated and accurate. I will be wearing City of Bridgman identification tags while performing these property reviews. If I stop at your house, I will knock on the front door and/or leave a tag so you know I was there. These inspections are necessary to maintain current and accurate property data. This data, combined with sales studies, are used to develop fair and accurate assessed values.

The Assessing Department has property record cards on file for every parcel of land in the city. You are always welcome and encouraged to visit City Hall and review your property record card(s).

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the assessing department by phone at 269-465-5144 x104, by email at jbaumann@bridgman.org or visit the City of Bridgman website.



For a list of Recycling Events hosted by Berrien County, go to [Berriencounty.org/564/Berrien-County-Community-Recycling-Event](https://berriencounty.org/564/Berrien-County-Community-Recycling-Event)



Parks & Recreation Department

from the Parks & Recreation Director, Sara Ball

The Parks and Recreation Department is happy to announce that the Bridgman Courtyard has been designated a city park by the City Council. As a city park, the Department will oversee and manage its maintenance, operations, and programming.

Residents and visitors can expect live musical performances throughout the summer on Friday evenings to complement the Sunday evening concerts at Weko Beach. To make the space welcoming for gatherings, various yard games will be available next to the Courtyard (currently referred to as the 'sideyard'). The Parks Department will also experiment by installing a temporary pickleball court in the sideyard. Other ideas being considered include: exercise classes, outdoor movies, theatrical performances, storytelling, and pop-up markets!

If you have a suggestion or would like to become involved in programming the space (perhaps you have a talent for storytelling or are a member of the World Mime Organization), please reach out to Sara Ball, Parks and Recreation Director, at sball@bridgman.org.

**BRIDGMAN
COURTYARD
CONCERTS**

**2024
FREE
ENTRY**

FRIDAY MAY 24TH: THE WEKO BOYS
FRIDAY JUNE 7TH: SEAN MILLER
FRIDAY JUNE 21ST: GRACE THEISEN
FRIDAY JULY 5TH: "O" BROTHER
FRIDAY JULY 19TH: PAMELA KIRKHAM
FRIDAY AUGUST 2ND: LEANN STUTLER
FRIDAY AUGUST 9TH: DAVE & JOHN
FRIDAY AUGUST 30TH: DON SAVOIE

CONCERTS START AT 7:00PM

MORE INFO
WWW.BRIDGMAN.ORG



CITY OF BRIDGMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT



We encourage all residents and visitors to enjoy the City of Bridgman. While doing so, we ask that they **obey all speed limits** throughout the city and **watch for people walking and riding bikes**. We will again be placing the department's radar signs throughout the city in efforts to slow speeders down.

Besides speeding violations, officers will also be strictly enforcing other traffic laws:

- Operating vehicles while impaired
- Disobeying/rolling through stop signs
- Passing vehicles on the right
- Improper lane use
- Distracted or Violation of Hands-Free driving
- School bus passing

**** Drivers should slow down and prepare to stop when the yellow flashing lights are on and MUST STOP when flashing red lights are activated on school buses.**



WEKO BEACH & CAMPGROUND RULES

- NO ALCOHOL or DRUGS allowed.
- NO animals or livestock allowed on the beach, sand, or boat launch areas. Signs are posted.
- Animals must always remain on leashes and can reach Warren Dunes State Park by walking south via the boardwalk only, again, signs are posted.
- NO fireworks allowed.
- All vehicles must have either a daily parking receipt (obtained from one of the parking kiosks) or a season pass visible at all times, and be properly parked.





facebook.com/bridgmanpd

BRIDGMAN.ORG

9765 Maple Street
Bridgman, MI 49106
269-465-5144

The Bridgman Police Department provides 24-hour coverage, along with certain services such as: vehicle lockouts, property checks, bank escorts, background checks and unwanted/expired medication disposal. We also have several dedicated part-time and reserve police officers available to assist us when needed.



Go Hands-Free. Just Drive. It's the Law. Distracted driving law in effect:

In June 2023, Governor Whitmer signed into law a bill making it illegal to manually use a cell phone or other mobile electronic device while operating a vehicle on Michigan roads. Under the law, a driver cannot hold or support a phone or other device with any part of their hands, arms, or shoulders.

Even if a cell phone or other device is mounted on your dashboard or connected to your vehicle's built-in system, you cannot use your hands to operate it beyond a single touch.

As a result, you cannot manually do any of the following on a cell phone or other electronic device while driving:

- Make or answer a telephone or video call.
- Send or read a text or email message.
- Watch, record, or send a video.
- Access, read, or post to social media.
- Browse or use the Internet.
- Enter information into GPS or a navigation system.

Penalties for Distracted/Hands-Free Driving Violations

1st Violation – \$100 fine and/or 16 hours of community service.

2nd or Subsequent Violations – \$250 fine and/or 24 hours of community service.

3 Violations within a 3-Year Period – complete a driving improvement course.

Fines will be doubled if a traffic crash occurs and the at-fault driver was holding or manually using a mobile device while operating the vehicle; any civil fines will be doubled.

Please do your part to help keep yourself and our community safe!

Chief Dan Unruh

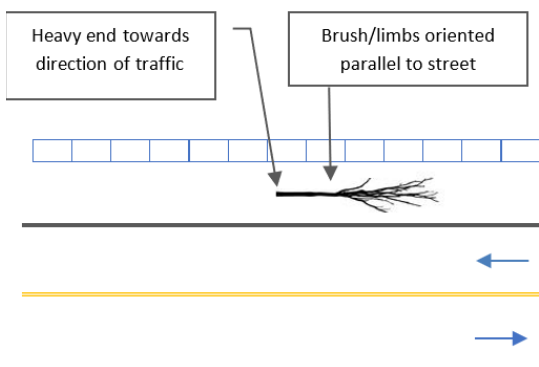


CITY OF BRIDGMAN

Brush Collection Policies

Brush Collection Requirements

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



Prohibitions & Limitations

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

The City's brush collection program is for the sole use of the residents of Bridgman and not intended to be a tree removal program. It is the responsibility of a property owner (or his/her contractor) to remove dead, dying or unwanted trees from their property. Property owners may dispose of their trees at the City's brush dump Monday through Thursday, 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. Arrangements may be made by calling City Hall at 269-465-5144.

If brush materials do not meet these guidelines they may be tagged with a postcard, which will indicate the problem. If a resident or property owner makes the proper corrections, their brush will be collected during the next regularly scheduled pickup day.

Exceptions to the collection schedule are possible due to holiday schedules and weather conditions.





Introducing our New Director

Director, Nancy Kiernan

Greetings Bridgman!

My name is Nancy Kiernan, and I am delighted to step into the role of Director for the Bridgman Chamber and Growth Alliance. I am also thrilled to be back in Southwest Michigan, having spent my formative years in St. Joseph surrounded by its charm and beauty.

Before returning to this beloved region, my path took me through unforgettable experiences in the City of Chicago. I met my husband, Louis, while attending the University of Chicago. Together, we established and managed a used, rare, and out-of-print bookstore, followed by specialty toy stores on the Southside of Chicago. We also raised our four beautiful and accomplished daughters there, of whom we could not be more proud.

As both a parent and business owner, community engagement became a natural extension of our family life and is a value carried forward from my childhood, having passed my first petition to create a riverfront park, the Margaret Upton Arboretum, at just 12 years old.

This value also shaped my professional trajectory, leading me to serve as an urban planner for three Chicago mayors. I have earned a certification

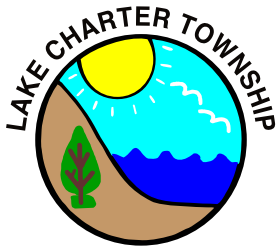
in urban planning (AICP), an accreditation in sustainable design (LEED AP), and have been recognized as a leader in community development and establishing effective public-private partnerships.

My responsibilities have encompassed a wide range of tasks, including overseeing brownfield remediation efforts, spearheading initiatives focused on job creation and retention, and even developing industrial, residential, and commercial properties. What drives me is the tangible impact of my work on people and communities. From spearheading growth in Chicago's industrial corridors to revitalizing neighborhoods with new, mixed-income residential developments, my focus has always been on enhancing the lives of individuals, families, and businesses.

I see boundless opportunities for growth and community enrichment in the Greater Bridgman Area. Projects like the Bridgman Courtyard and the Bridgman Trails residential development exemplify the exciting momentum already underway. I am eager to contribute to this momentum and am deeply grateful for the chance to serve this vibrant community.

Warm regards,

Nancy Kiernan, Director



LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



Township News from Supervisor, Zach Carson

Dear Township Residents,

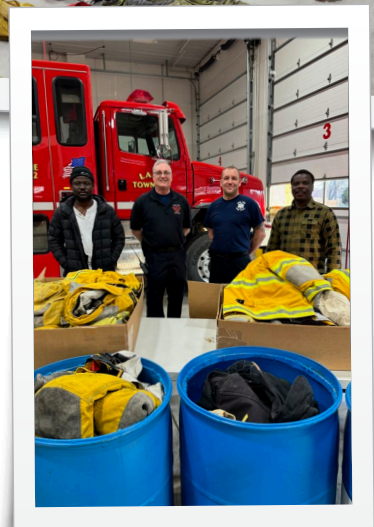
Spring has arrived, and with the change in season, it's time for the crews to begin their annual spring cleanup and maintenance in the park and cemeteries. As such, we'd like to remind you to remove any seasonal decorations you may have put out. Additionally, you may have noticed, there are many aging trees in the cemetery that have reached the end of their life, and a few have already been removed. New trees will be replanted in their place to provide shade for anyone who would like to sit under them while visiting loved ones. The veteran's memorial columbarium will also get some updates, including a fresh coat of paint on its steel members.

The **water line project on Snow Road** will be start again soon and should not take long or cause much disruption. There are only a few things on the punch list left to finish up, ranging from site grading, reseeding, and road repair.

The **Lake Township Fire Department** is proud to have partnered with the Niles Township Fire Department and the College Missionary Church to donate unused fire gear to Malawi, an East African country. The donation consisted of 37 pairs of pants,

18 coats, and five pairs of boots. Although the gear was outdated per the National Fire Protection Association standards, it was still in good working order. The gear was thoroughly cleaned and boxed up, then delivered to Niles Fire before being loaded into a Conex container and shipped to Malawi.

Zach Carson, Supervisor



Pictured in the center are Captain Mike Essig (left) and Supervisor/Firefighter Zach Carson (right).



Building & Zoning News from Building Administrator, Rich Kubsch

In 2021, the Planning Commission and Township Board introduced a concept into our Zoning Ordinance that allows for more than one house on a property in residential districts. It is called an **Accessory Dwelling Unit** (ADU). It enables you to build a separate living space on your property for guests or family as long as you live in the principal dwelling. An ADU cannot be separated and sold separately from the principal residence and currently cannot be a rental unit. This concept has been catching on, and a fair amount of people have considered or constructed one. There are some restrictions on living areas (400 sq ft min to 800 sq ft max), and proper setbacks still need to be followed. This is a unique opportunity, and if you are interested in learning more about Accessory Dwelling Units, please contact the Zoning Department at the Township for more information.

In other news, the **new housing development off California Road** across from the middle school is still moving forward. The developers have gone through preliminary approval processes, and the plan is currently being reviewed by the Drain Commissioner, Township Engineer, and other authorities. If everything goes according to plan, we should see 34 new homes being built soon!

Unfortunately, the **rental and solar ordinances** are currently on hold due to legislation being introduced by the State of Michigan that may override local authority. We'll have to wait and see what happens with these issues.

As always, we encourage you to attend Township meetings to stay informed on these and other community developments. You can find the meeting dates and times on the new Township website at Lake-township.org.

We hope this update has been helpful and informative. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

Rich Kubsch, Building Administrator

LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Supervisor

Zach Carson

Treasurer

Bob Clark

Clerk

Miranda
Companion

Building Admin

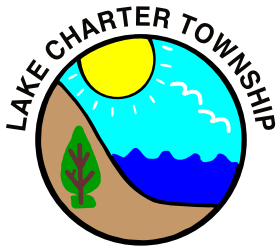
Rich Kubsch

Water

Superintendent

Jeff Burkhard

**Find helpful info
on our website
including
building forms,
permits, zoning,
tax assessments,
forms, maps,
online payments
and more!**



LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



Treasurer, Park & Trail News from Bob Clark

Greetings,

I hope this newsletter finds you doing well. Another tax season has come to a close, and I would like to take this time to remind you that summer tax bills will go out in the first part of July. I always suggest reviewing your bill carefully when you receive it. You can find tax payment history, assessment information, and a wealth of other details on our website under the Treasurer's tab in the information section.

I am excited to announce that **Jennifer Adams** has joined the Township team as the **Deputy Treasurer**. Many of you have already met her, and she is looking forward to serving you! She has been a great addition to our team.

Park Updates

I am delighted to see that the park is already bustling with activity since its opening on April 1st. This year, we have 136 youths playing baseball, 84 girls playing softball, and 162 players registered for soccer. When you add them all up that's a lot of players, spectators and visitors to the park!

We are planning several improvements to the park in 2024, including new backstops and fencing for the baseball and adult softball fields in the eastern

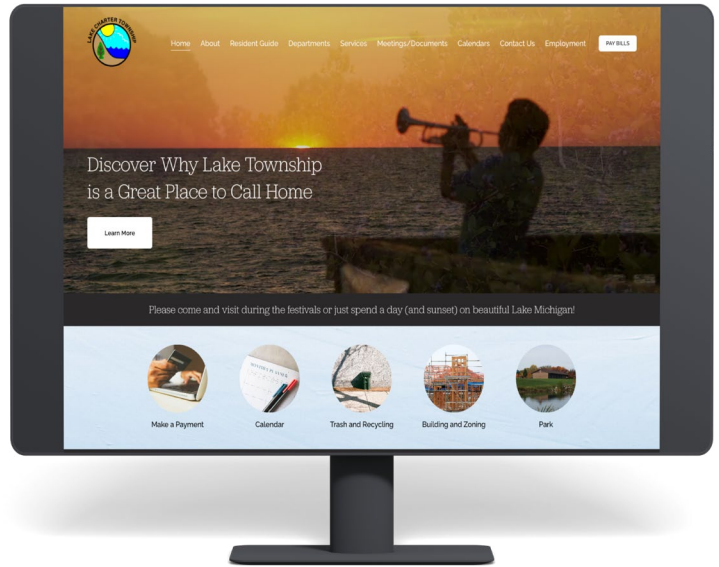
portion of the park. Additionally, we will install two new drinking fountains equipped with bottle fillers by the main restrooms and by the pony field. We also plan to seal and resurface roads and parking lots as needed, install a bike rack and upgrade disc golf hole #10. We recently removed many dead trees and will be planting new replacement trees too!

The renovated concession stands and new playground structure have received a warm welcome from the community.



Trail News

I am thrilled to share with you that the final plans for the John Gast Memorial Trail from the High School to the park are being made. The goal is to complete this project this year. It will be a fantastic enhancement to the community and will provide much safer access to the park. The Marquette Greenway trail to New Buffalo and the Linear Trail along Red Arrow Highway are also being worked on this summer. Trails are great for health, safety and economic impact.

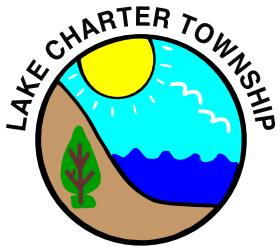


New Township Website

Our website upgrade was completed around year's end. If you haven't been there yet, check it out at **Lake-Township.org!** The new look is much cleaner, easier to navigate, and provides news and announcements, upcoming events, bill payment and other essential information, all accessible from the home page. You will find a wealth of information within the site regarding all Township services such as most forms and a variety of links to other important sites are there are well. If there's something else you'd like to see included, please let us know!

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. I hope to see you soon in the park or on the trails!

Bob Clark, Treasurer



LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



Clerk News

from **Miranda Companion, Township Clerk**

Dear Residents,

Following a successful February Presidential

Primary Election, which saw a commendable turnout of 767 voters through Absentee Ballots and in-person voting. We had 384 Absentee Ballots turned in out of 429 distributed. We had 383 voters walk through the door on election day.

I want to thank the Lake Charter Township Hall employees for pulling together and helping me tremendously with my first election. I couldn't have done it without their knowledge and help. Thank you!

After being in this position for five months, I can say that I love this job! I have learned so much and look forward to learning more as I continue.

Now, we turn our attention to the **May 7, 2024, Special Election for Lakeshore School District.** The Election Commission met and decided it would be beneficial to consolidate with Baroda Township for ONLY this election. If you are a Lakeshore School District resident, you will be able to vote at:

Baroda American Legion Post 345
9214 First St.
Baroda MI

The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on May 7.

To view the ballot in advance, visit <https://vote.michigan.gov/mvic/> or the Clerk's office will be open the weekend of May 4-5. If you need to register to vote, please see our website for updated times closer to the election date.

Once the May Election is finished, we will begin preparing for the August 6, 2024 Primary Election and then the November 5, 2024 General Election. As usual, these elections will be held at Lake Charter Township Hall.

You should have received a letter asking if you want to be on the permanent absentee ballot list. If you did not receive one but would like to be on the list, you are more than welcome to pick one up at the Township offices; e-mail me at clerk@lake-township.org or call 269-465-6601, ext. 111 and I will send you one.

Miranda Companion, Clerk



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

Jan-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Feb-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

Mar-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Apr-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Jun-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Jul-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Aug-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Sep-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Oct-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Nov-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Dec-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**Both sides of Shawnee Road
 South of Shawnee Road and Dunewood**

Jan-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Feb-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

Mar-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Apr-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Jun-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Jul-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Aug-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Sep-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Oct-24

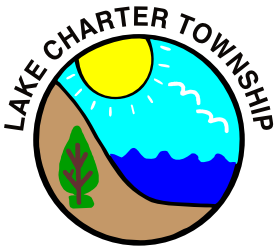
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Nov-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Dec-24

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Water System News from Jeff Burkhard

Hello, Everyone.

I hope everyone had a great winter season. We continue to perform maintenance projects in the water plant to improve reliability and ensure our infrastructure will last for years to come. Just as in your residence, our systems require constant upkeep. Last year, we completed the Snow Road water main upgrade project. While this project was inconvenient for those living and traveling through the area, it was much needed and we appreciated your patience. We do not have any significant distribution system upgrades planned this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to announce that our 2023 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), or sometimes referred to as the Water Quality Report (testing conducted in 2023), is now available at: lakechartertownshipwater.org/ccr1

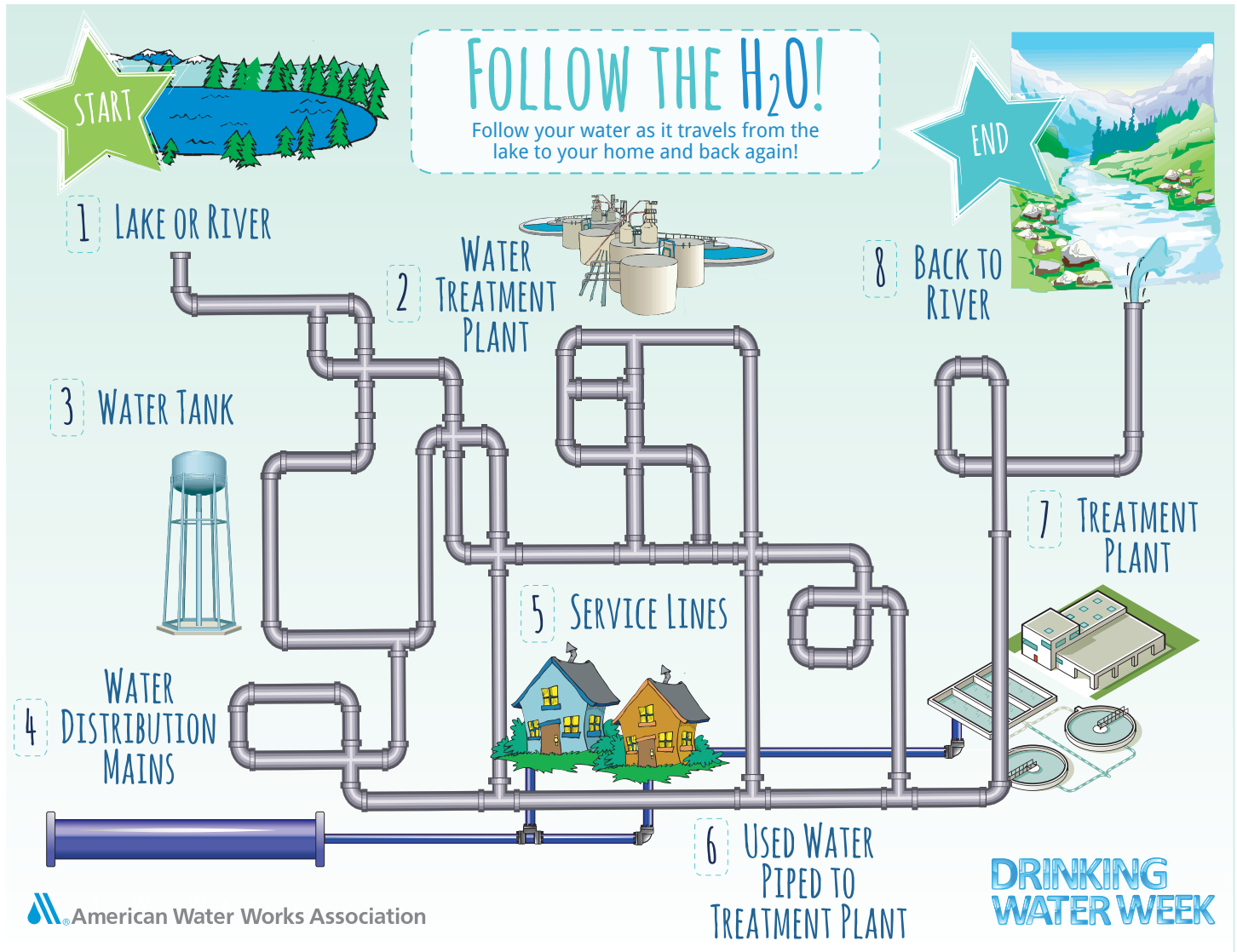
The EPA and Michigan Department of Energy and Great Lakes (EGLE) require this report to be available annually with specific language and information. We encourage everyone to take a moment and learn more about where your water comes from, the quality of it, and other important information for vulnerable populations. Lake Charter Township is constantly testing the water before it enters the distribution system, and compliance sampling is conducted throughout the year at independent certified labs. New studies and investigative sampling are continually being undertaken by the EPA and the State of Michigan.

We are currently involved in an EPA study that tests for Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances (PFAS) and lithium in drinking water. Another initiative is for PFAS compounds in our raw water or Lake Michigan water source, and EGLE is conducting this. Over the past few years, during the warmer months, we have been involved in a study by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services that tests for levels of cyanotoxins produced by cyanobacteria due to algae growth in Lake Michigan. There is talk among the regulators regarding microplastics as an emerging contaminant, with the overuse of plastics in our environment and the influence on the foods we eat and the water we drink. The area of water quality is constantly changing and evolving.

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) is an organization that supports water treatment and quality, and is an advocate for the Municipal water industry. They help with input to water regulators, both local and national, for practical means, and discussion on the feasibility of different testing and treatments. AWWA is an excellent promoter of water quality for all people. I encourage you to learn more at awwa.org.

May 5 – 11, 2024, is Drinking Water Week and is a time to take the opportunity to learn about your local drinking water. Discover its journey from its source to your faucet and the efforts that go into ensuring safety and high quality. Understanding our water is the first step to conserving and protecting it. For more than 40 years, the American Water Works Association and its





members have celebrated Drinking Water Week – a unique opportunity for water professionals and the communities they serve to recognize water’s vital role in our daily lives.

Enjoy your spring, and as always, we are happy to offer a tour of our facility and answer any of your questions.

Feel free to call me at 269-465-3850 or email me at jburkhardtwater@lake-township.org.

Jeff Burkhard, Superintendent Lake Charter Township Water System



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY



Library News from Sarah Skinner, Director

Happy Spring to our beautiful community!

We have many fun activities planned for all ages so we hope to see you soon!

Back by popular demand, **Family Nerf Nite!** Mark June 20 on your calendar and prepare for mandatory fun! All supplies will be provided, but bring a Nerf Blaster if you have one.

Our youngest patrons should get their favorite stuffie ready for the next **Stuffed Animal Sleepover!** Drop off your pal at the library on July 11 for a night full of fun! Come for breakfast with your stuffie Friday morning and take home a photo album of all the evening's activities.

Attention all gardeners! Local author and gardener, Bevin "Ben" Cohen will discuss planning, planting, and growing your most productive garden ever. If you're interested in tips on soil health, seed starting and transplanting, mulching and weeding, and when to harvest your perfect produce, this program is for you! Be sure to invite all of your gardening friends!

Don't forget about our fun **Summer Reading Program** beginning in June! We have programs for all ages.

My team and I can't wait to serve you!

Sarah Skinner, Director

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- FACEBOOK @BRIDGMANPUBLICLIBRARY
- INSTAGRAM @BRIDGMAN_LIBRARY
- YOUTUBE @BRIDGMANLIBRARY
- TIKTOK @BRIDGMANPUBLICLIBRARY

AND BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR FUN LIBRARY VIDEOS

- Modern "Teen" LIBRARIANS ON A MISSION
- CAPTAIN LITERACY
- FALL IN LOVE WITH A BOOK

Ongoing Adult Programs

- Writing Group**
3rd Mondays 11:00
- BPL Book Group**
2nd Wednesdays 5:30
- OPEN CRAFT**
3rd Wednesdays 3:30-7:30
Sewing, Cricut, Arts & Crafts & 3d Printing
- Knit & Yarn**
Mondays 1:00 & 3rd Tuesdays 6:00
- Artplay for Adults**
1st Wednesdays 6:00
- CHAIR YOGA**
MONDAYS AT 9
- ROOTS TO REMEMBER**
Learn Genealogy 1st Tuesdays, 5:00
- ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION Caregiver's Support Group**
Last Tuesdays, 2:00



MON – THUR: 10 A.M. TO 8 P.M.**FRI:** 10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.**SAT:** 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.**SUN:** CLOSED

4460 Lake Street

Bridgman, MI 49106

Ph: 269-465-3663

Email: bpl@bridgmanlibrary.com

Please find a full calendar of events and additional program information on the library website at BridgmanLibrary.com. Registration is not required unless noted.

ADULT PROGRAMS

ON THE GO LEGAL SELF-HELP

MAY 2, JUN 6, JUL 11, AUG 1, 4-6 P.M.

Drop in to meet with Lincoln Township Public Library Navigators who are trained to assist individuals in accessing legal information, completing forms, and identifying community resources through the Michigan Legal Help website.

GROW A GREAT GARDEN

MAY 14, 6 P.M.

Bevin Cohen, award winning author and host of the Seeds & Weeds Podcast, will teach you how to plan, plant and grow your most productive garden ever!

OUR CRITICAL DUNES

JUN – DATE & TIME TBD

The Michigan Association of Conservation Districts will speak about how they help nurture and protect our spectacular dune ecosystems.

COOKING WITH SUMMER PRODUCE

JUL 30, 6 P.M. *via Zoom*

Tune in to another edition of Cooking with Mary Spencer and learn to create delicious recipes using Michigan's summer produce. **Find the Zoom link on our website.**

LIBRARY EMAIL NEWS

Stay in-the-know! Sign up to receive library emails on all of our upcoming programs and events. Register on the library website at BridgmanLibrary.com

FAMILY PROGRAMS – ALL AGES

OPEN CRAFT TIME

MAY 15, JUN 19, JUL 17, AUG 21**3:30–7:30 P.M.**

Work on your craft projects in the company of others! For \$10 you will get a punch card good for 12 sessions and gives you access to our craft supplies and our craft specialist's expertise.

UPCYCLED CRAFTS

MAY 25, JUN 15, JUL 20, AUG 17**10:30 A.M. – 12 P.M.**

Transform unwanted materials into something new! Fun for the whole family.

EXPLORING THE NIGHT SKY

MAY 11, 9:30 P.M.

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

NERF-NITE

JUN 20, 5–7:30 P.M.

Featuring team games and a practice range to hone your skills. Darts will be provided. Please bring blasters if you have them. Ages 6+

SUMMER READING ADVENTURES

JUN 24, JUL 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 11 A.M.

Every Monday during Summer Reading, join us for a fun filled experience for the entire family. See website for more details & activities.



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

FAMILY PROGRAMS – CONT.

SUMMER MOVIE DAYS 2 P.M.

Beat the heat with an afternoon movie and popcorn.

July 2 – Puss in Boots, Rated PG

July 16 – Chronicles of Narnia, Rated PG

July 30 – Super Mario Bros., Rated PG

KRAFTING WITH KATHARINE

JUL 11, 18, 25, AUG 1, 1–2 P.M.

Crafting for the whole family. Tie-dye, sunprints, rock painting and more! We will try to meet outdoors. Watch the website for project details.

LIFE-SIZED CLUE

JUL 18, 10 A.M., 11 A.M., 12 P.M.

Become part of the mystery at Life Sized Clue! Three sessions to choose from and you may participate in as many as you like! Rain date: July 19.

SUNDAE DAY

JUL 22, 12 P.M.

Back by popular demand! Join us for a free single scoop sundae or root beer float on the patio. While supplies last.

D & D CAMP

JUL 23 & 24, 12–3 P.M.

2-day camp for ages 6+

Part 1 – Learn how to play D & D

Part 2 – Learn how to be a Dungeon Master

VISIT BRIDGMANLIBRARY.COM FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER!

ADVENTURE BEGINS AT YOUR LIBRARY

Summer Reading Program
AT Bridgman Public Library

SIGN UP BEGINS: JUNE 17TH

PROGRAM RUNS: JUNE 24TH - AUGUST 3RD

YOUTH PROGRAMS

CHOCOLATES FOR MOM

MAY 2, 5–6:30 P.M.

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

STORYTIME WITH MISS BRIDGMAN

MAY 8, 6 P.M.

Children of all ages will enjoy listening to magical tales read by Miss Bridgman and her court.

3D ANIMATION FOR BEGINNERS

MAY 18, 10:30 A.M. – 12 P.M.

Learn how to create a simple animation that you can share with friends and family. Please bring a laptop. Grades 5 – 8



MON – THUR: 10 A.M. TO 8 P.M.

FRI: 10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

SAT: 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

SUN: CLOSED

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

WATER FUN DAY

JUN 28, 11 A.M.

Join us on the patio for an exciting program combining bubbles, squirt blasters, and tons of water! Be sure to wear clothing that you don't mind getting wet and bring a towel.

POKEMON TOURNAMENT

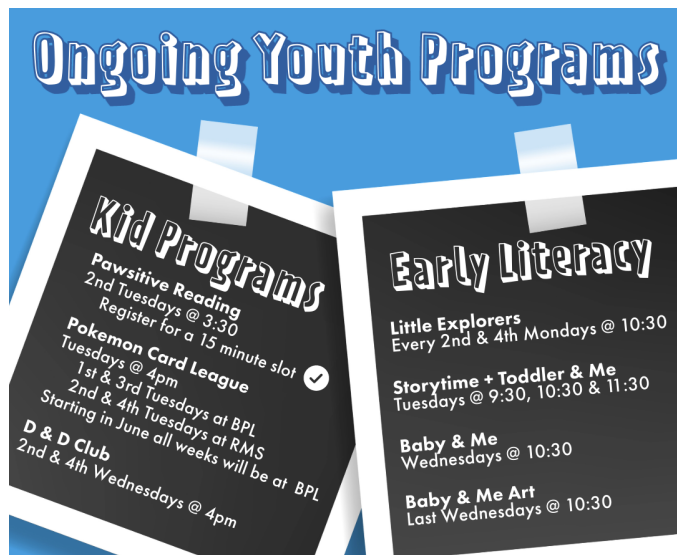
JUL 2, 4–6 P.M.

Welcome to the summer square-off between Bridgman and Lincoln Twp libraries! Players will compete for bragging rights and prizes. No registration necessary. Each participant must bring their own play legal deck. Grades 1 – 5.

STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER

JUL 11-12

The Stuffed Animal Sleepover is back! Drop off your stuffie between 6-7:30 pm on Thursday, July 11th and pick them up the following morning at 10:30 am for a reunion brunch with special guest, Miss Bridgman! Photo albums of their adventure will be given to each child.



SARETT NATURE CENTER

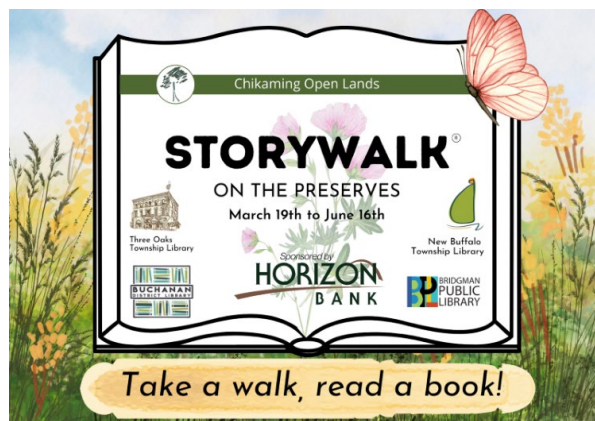
JUL 26, 1 P.M. & 2 P.M.

Sarett Nature Center will talk about local wildlife and bring along some of their animal friends. Space is limited. **Please register for one session on the program calendar found on the library website.**

ROZ PUPPETS

AUG 2, 1 P.M.

Join the Roz Puppets as they present *The Frog Prince* and discover that sometimes happiness is just a hop away. **Please register on the program calendar found on the library website.**



9964 GAST ROAD, BRIDGMAN, MI 49106

BridgmanSchools.com

Office: 269-465-5432

Fax: 269-466-0221

CITY OF BRIDGMAN 2024 TRASH/RECYCLE SCHEDULE

At the time of this newsletter's production the City was in the process of bidding its trash and recycling collection service contract. Please watch your mailbox for a notice from the City regarding any changes in service as of July 1, 2024.

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April





S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

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



For recycling information and helpful tips visit:

www.republicservices.com or www.recyclingsimplified.com