

BRIDGMAN COMMUNITY BUZZ

SEPTEMBER 2016



1960 Groundbreaking Ceremony at the Bridgman Public Library.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY ...

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

COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN COMMUNICATION

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

SCHOOL NEWS

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Superintendent
Shane M. Peters

On behalf of the Board of Education, faculty, and staff, welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! It's

hard to believe that another Southwest Michigan summer has ended and a new and exciting school year is upon us.

CONTINUED PG 2

TOWNSHIP NEWS

FROM THE DESK OF SUPERVISOR JOHN GAST



Supervisor
John Gast

Everyone is asking when the projects on Shawnee and Gast roads will be complete.

Getting back to normal should be the case when this newsletter is distributed. It has been an inconvenience, but Shawnee Road should be a lot nicer with the extra width on the shoulders. Also the

LIBRARY NEWS

FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR



Director
Gretchen Evans

Thank you Bridgman City voters for passing the millage renewal. We are grateful for your support and commitment to the library.

As our anniversary celebration comes to a close, I would also like to thank to the *Bridgman Women's Club*

CITY NEWS

FROM THE CITY MANAGER



City Manager
Juan Ganum

It's exciting to have a new combined newsletter that allows us to keep everyone up-to-date with the latest news and events in a single publication.

This collaborative effort is but one of many ways that community partners can do things more efficiently and



COMMUNITY BUZZ

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Bridgman Public Schools

SHANE PETERS CONTINUED ...



Board of Education Survey Monkey

The Bridgman Board of Education Survey Monkey link is coming to the district website this month.

Residents can take this online survey to give the Board community feedback on how to better serve the community and its students. Hard copies will also be available at the Bridgman Public Library. The deadline to complete the survey is October 14, 2016.

This summer, unlike any summer before, has been spent hiring twelve (12) quality people to join our BPS family.

The one common thing that we learned through the hiring process is that Bridgman Public Schools is a destination district for employees.

NEW EMPLOYEES AND THEIR ASSIGNMENTS:

- Mr. Sam Stine** - Bridgman High School Principal
- Mr. John Truesdell** - F.C. Reed Middle School Principal
- Mr. Andy Steinbrook** - District Maintenance Technician
- Mrs. Roxanne Allman** - RMS Teacher
- Mr. Tim Antel** - BHS Teacher
- Mr. Josiah Badger** - RMS Teacher
- Ms. Cheri Markham** - BHS/RMS Teacher
- Mr. Joseph Sylvester** - RMS Teacher
- Mrs. Megan Badger** - RMS Paraprofessional
- Mrs. Sarah Douglas** - BES Paraprofessional
- Mrs. Liz Roth** - BES Paraprofessional
- Ms. Casey Williams** - GSRP Assistant Teacher

We have been busy with projects, planning, and preparation for the 2016-2017 school year.

Aquatic Center Locker Room Remodel - Each locker room received new tile; new paint; privacy showers; energy efficient lighting, plumbing and saunas; and refurbished lockers. Stop by and check out the updated facility.

Official's Locker Room Project - This summer we were able to convert an unused custodial closet into an

Official's Locker Room, equipped with shower and restroom facilities. This provides our game officials a spot away from home and opposing teams.

Summer Recreation programs - Again this summer, we were able to offer 11 extra-curricular camps serving over 165 students. Camps included such things as "Let's Explore, BEE Robotics" and several sport specific camps. Look for 2017 camp information and registration next spring.

Summer Feeding program - This summer our food service department served over 3,257 lunches to stu-

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





Bridgman Public Schools

SHANE PETERS CONTINUED ...

dents 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.

New K-12 Math Curriculum – We are implementing a new math curriculum in all of our buildings and grade levels. Our staff has worked hard over the summer preparing for the new curriculum.

New K-12 ELA Curriculum in 2017 – This year all of our buildings will embark on a process of choosing a new English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum. This new curriculum will be implemented next fall.

New Volunteer Screening Process – To better ensure the safety and security of our staff and students, we are instituting a more comprehensive volunteer screening process. Check the district website for additional information.

STEM Education – One of the primary focuses this school year will be to implement a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) lab for the fall of 2017 at F.C. Reed Middle School. Please contact me if you would like additional information on this project.

Update District Website – Please check out our newly updated district website at www.bridgmanschools.com

The District is beginning its third 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 will be completing over the next four years that will enhance our district and continue to produce high quality students. We will be asking for community participation in order to accomplish some of the strategies. If you

are interested in participating, please contact my office. Additional information regarding the Strategic Plan can be found on our website (www.bridgmanschools.com).

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

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

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



Lake Charter Township



JOHN GAST CONTINUED ...

reliability of the water supply to the tower is now increased, as well as the aging pipes replaced.

The township has a Capital Improvement plan which is reviewed each budget year for projected projects.

A cost saving opportunity presented itself upon review of the Bond issue. Interest rates are lower now than the bond rate at that time. The refinancing of that bond saved the township over \$500,000.00.

Large Trash Days

**LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
LARGE TRASH DAYS ARE
SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 15, 2016 AND
SATURDAY OCTOBER 22, 2016
FROM 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 NOON.**



Gloria Payne, Clerk

From the Desk of Clerk Gloria Payne

Tuesday, November 8, 2016, we will exercise our right to vote and elect a new President of the United States of America.

The last day to register for the November 8, 2016 Presidential Election is October 11, 2016.

Lake Charter Township voters, if you wish to check whether you are registered or not, you can do so online at www.michigan.gov/vote or you may contact me, Gloria A. Payne at 269-465-6601.

Anyone ages 60 or older may vote by absentee ballot. If you have previously signed up for an absentee ballot, you do not need to do so again.

The media has reported that you will not be able to choose a single party on this ballot, however, according to the *Gongwer News Service*, a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction that will block, for now, a law Republicans enacted last year ending the ability for voters to pick a political party's slate of candidates with a single mark on the ballot.

Regardless of what the court's decide, please make an effort to exercise your right to vote.

If you are concerned about long lines, you may request an absentee ballot. The State of Michigan has been trying to enact a *no reason absent voter law*, without success; however, if you are unable to attend the polls, an absentee request is available to you. Just call your local clerk for a form. Forms can be found on Lake Township's website under the "Departments" "Elections" tab at www.lake-township.org

Forms to register to vote and forms to sign-up to be a permanent absent voter are also available on the website.

Remember to bring your photo identification with you to the polls. Polls are open from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.





GRETCHEN EVANS CONTINUED ...

Blood Drive

November 30, 2016
1:00 – 5:00 P.M.

Bridgman High School Yearbooks -- Online

Visit www.bridgmanlibrary.org/communityinformation.asp

Made possible in part by a grant from the Bridgman-Lake Township Historical Society and Phyllis and John Wilk.

Library Board

Randy Hill – President
Lane Kuypers – Vice President
Carol Siewert – Secretary
Dorothea Crocker – Treasurer
Suzy Barnes
Sue Janoskey
Nancy John
Aaron Noll
John Wilk

Thank you to the Bridgman community for your many years of support!

Bridgman Public Library
4460 Lake Street
Bridgman, MI 49106
www.bridgmanlibrary.org
bpl@bridgmanlibrary.com
(269) 465-3663
(269) 465-3249 fax

and its affiliates *Club Twenty* and the *Southgate Service League*. No one did more to bring library service to Bridgman than the women serving in these clubs. The *Women's Club* called the original town meeting that began the library campaign. Its members and the members of *Club Twenty* worked vigorously to secure the votes needed to establish the library. Club members were instrumental in the book drive that ensured the library had enough books to meet the terms of its charter. Throughout the years, the library benefited from the club's philanthropic efforts, most notably through *Southgate Service League's* annual *Literary Ball*. Although the clubs have since disbanded, the many ways in which they improved the community can still be felt, particularly at the library.

Members of the Southgate Service League planning the 1st Literary Ball in 1967



Standing: Gertie Johnson, Pat Dinges, Evelyn Konya, and Mary Ann Thompson. Seated: Marilyn Roth.

test in November, and a holiday sing along in December. Details follow later in this newsletter. I hope you will join us.

See you at the library!
Gretchen Evans, Director

If you or a member of your family was member of one of these clubs, please accept the library's grateful thanks.

The final three activities for our anniversary are a hike lead by Brad Anderson to the First Church Camp in October, a teen story con-



BRIDGMAN COMMUNITY BUZZ

JUAN GANUM CONTINUED ...



Weko Beach Brewer's Festival

Saturday, October 29, 2016
1:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Toast the Coast! on the beautiful
Lake Michigan shore at Weko
Beach!

effectively by working together. The city's administrative team looks forward to providing you with useful information in this and future editions of the *Community Buzz*.

We are pleased to announce that the Bridgman City Council is continuing its focus on citizen-driven initiatives. This twofold effort is aimed at encouraging more citizen participation with an emphasis on engagement and community building. First, the council would like to extend an open-ended invitation to have its citizens participate in the dialogue that will ultimately lead to new programs, projects and policies.

We welcome your ideas, comments and suggestions on current and new discussion items. Bridgman is our community and we want you to have a hand in shaping its direction!

The City of Bridgman is also striving to encourage more people to become directly involved in community projects. A shining example of such a project is Dr. Rambo's town clock located at the intersection of Lake St. and Maplewood. Conceived and advanced in 2015 by Wendy Lozeau with assistance from Rick Fuller, the clock project was accomplished in less than

three months! The clock adds a highly decorative and informative piece to the city, but is also a wonderful tribute to a man who dedicated 57 years of medical service to our community.

Another community project that many of you may have already noticed is the street planters. The same tireless tandem, Wendy and Rick, along with a group of volunteers, teamed up with the city to bring 16 planters out of storage to let them do what they do best - beautify the city. The planters have been "adopted" by many willing residents and business owners and have beautified not only the downtown area, but Weko Beach as well.

We encourage those with ideas to come forward and share them with us. Even the smallest project can have a transformative and enhancing effect on a community, particularly when paired with a collection of other projects.

Please email the city manager at jganum@bridgman.org or visit the Bridgman City Council (which meets at City Hall on the first and third Mondays of every month) at 6:30 P.M. to share your vision.

All meetings are open to the public and input is always welcome.

Working together we can make the Bridgman community a better place to live!





FRIEND Bridgman Public Schools on FACEBOOK.

Bridgman Public Schools

Aquatic Center Locker Room Remodel

The Aquatic Center locker rooms have been completely renovated. The tile on the walls and floors have been removed and updated. LED lighting has been installed. A brand new sauna unit, lighting, benches, walls and flooring installed. The showers now have partitions for added privacy. Automatic faucets and toilets have been installed. The lockers have been powder coated and painted. The walls also received a fresh coat of paint.

The Bridgman Aquatic Center was fortunate enough to have Karen and Craig Vogel donate suit spinners in the men's and women's locker rooms. Karen's father, Dale Breen, is a lifelong lap swimmer who enjoyed countless hours of lap swimming here at Bridgman.

The Bridgman Aquatic Center staff and patrons would like to thank the Board of Education for the improvements to the locker rooms, and thank you to the Vogel family for their generosity.



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Bridgman Public Schools

Aquatic Center Activities

The Bridgman Aquatic Center offers a variety of activities for both children and adults. We have several different options to accommodate you and your family's busy schedule. We have deep water aerobics and shallow water aerobics five mornings a week, along with an evening shallow water aerobics class Monday and Wednesday. We have adult lap swim times throughout the day, seven days a week. To access our schedule, please visit bridgmanschools.com and click on the Aquatic Center tab.

If you are looking for a fun activity to do with your family on a rainy or snowy day, bring your family to a **Family Recreation Swim**. We offer a family recreation swim on Tuesday and Thursday evening from 7:00-8:00 P.M. and Saturday and Sunday from 1:00-2:00 P.M. Please see our website for the fee schedule as well as closings due to swim meets.

Our **Sea Bee Swim Club** will begin practice October 17. Sea Bees is a competitive age group swim team for children ranging in age from six through high school. They participate in the SWMSL league and also compete in USA sanctioned swim meets.

Please contact the Aquatic Center with any questions at 269-466-0236.

We offer **Community Diving Lessons**. The diving lessons are open to divers of all ages and all levels. They will learn basic and advanced techniques while improving existing skills.

Please see the website for class session dates or contact the diving coach Elaina Paulson at 10ejpaul@gmail.com or contact the Aquatic Center for more information at 269-466-0236.

Bridgman Aquatic Center offers **Community Swim Lessons**. Our website contains information regarding the levels for each of the classes we offer. (See details at right.) Our community swim lessons are FREE for children living in the City of Bridgman, Lake Township, or School of Choice. If your child is a Non-Resident, the fee is \$36.00/session. Each of our sessions consists of 12 lessons. To register your child for community lessons, you may register in person or by phone. If you are registering by phone, please do not leave a message; continue to call until you speak to someone to give them your child's information. If you have questions regarding our lessons or levels in which your child should enroll, please contact the Aquatic Center at 269-466-0236.

Evening Community Swim Lesson Schedule

Evening session classes are held Monday and Wednesday evening at 6:30/7:00 P.M.

Classes held at 6:30 P.M.:
Aqua-Tot, Aqua-Tot 2, Level 1, and Level 2.

Classes held at 7:00 P.M.:
Level 3, Level 4, and Pre-Team.

We may be able to accommodate additional Level 1 and Level 2 at 7:00 P.M. (this is dependent upon class size).

Nov. 7th-Dec. 14th
Register: Nov. 2, 6:30-7:30 P.M.

Jan. 16th-Feb. 22nd
Register: Jan. 9, 6:30-7:30 P.M.

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Community Weight Room

The Aquatic Center offers access to our state of the art Community Weight Room, which is located in the balcony of the gym at Bridgman High School. We offer a “punch card” for the weight room. The punch card is available for \$20/30 visits or the fee is \$1 per visit. If you purchase an Aquatic Center Membership, use of the weight room is included. Community Weight Room hours are listed below and on the Bridgman Schools website. The Community Weight Room is CLOSED during all home basketball games.

Community Weight Room Hours

Monday – Friday

5:45 A.M. – 7:30 A.M.

Monday – Thursday

5:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Saturday & Sunday

11:30 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Sunday

7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

For more information on these and other programs including the latest pool updates, closures and schedules, visit our website at www.bridgman-schools.com and click on the Aquatic Center tab or call the Aquatic Center at 269-466-0236.

Be sure to follow the Bees on Twitter @BridgmanSports

GO BEES!

Ken Schmaltz

Athletic Director – Bridgman High School



Ken Schmaltz
Athletic Director

Welcome Back Bees Nation!

I would like to welcome all of our faculty, staff, coaches, parents, and students back to campus for what is sure to be another successful school year at Bridgman High School.

At Bridgman, we strive to be part of a team comprised of family members, educators, and community partners to assist our young people in achieving their goals while growing into healthy, happy and productive young adults.

We in the athletic department are well underway as each of fall sports teams have already competed in early-season competition.

Since I was blessed to have returned home to Bridgman in 2015-16, it has been a whirlwind of activity here in the department. We have launched a new athletics website at bridgmanathletics.com, incorporated the *Family Punch Card* for athletic admission to home events, and have ushered in new eras to several of our athletic programs with the hiring of new coaches – some whom are very familiar faces – Erin Weber (Varsity Softball), Kim Lundin (JV Softball), Aaron Locke (Varsity Football), Steve Veldman (Asst. Football), Heather Steinbrook (Football Sideline Cheer), Jim Ragosta (Varsity Volleyball), Heather Totzke (JV Volleyball), Ken Schmaltz (Varsity Girls Basketball) and Janet Beemer (Boys Swimming).

Last school year, we celebrated seven BCS Conference divisional titles in football, boys' soccer, girls' cross country, boys' cross country, boys' basketball, golf and softball; competed in seven district championship contests in various sports; won a volleyball district title; claimed a regional championship in cross coun-

try; had three teams qualify for the state finals (boys' tennis, boys' cross country and girls' cross country) while having several student-athletes qualify for state on an individual level; and proudly won a track and field state championship with our 3200 relay team last spring.

In Bridgman, we do not rest on our laurels – our teams and student-athletes could be found conducting workouts across our campus and facilities over the summer months in preparation for 2016-17.

Through participation in Bridgman Athletics, our student-athletes will represent themselves, their families, their teammates and coaches. Most of all, they will be considered representatives of Bridgman High School.

Bees Nation has tremendous student-athletes in our school in all of our sports, all striving to become greater on and off the field. We invite everyone to join us in celebrating our student-athletes throughout the year by joining us at our athletic events.

From the High School Principal



Sam Stine
High School Principal

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school

year. With summer camps completed, fall sports in full swing, and another successful band camp concluded, our staff is excited to begin another school year.

Throughout the summer our custodial staff spent time deep cleaning the building. Along with the cleaning, our maintenance team did a terrific job fixing several minor items, while also touching up the paint throughout the building. All cleaning

and maintenance occurred while the community continued to utilize the building on a daily basis throughout the summer.

It is with pride and excitement that I take a brief moment to introduce myself as the new Principal at Bridgman High School.

This "Bee" pride is the result of being raised in this community and graduating from BHS in 1990. Starting any new endeavor can be challenging, but I truly believe that my 15 years of experience as a teacher and five years as an administrator has prepared me for this new journey.

While familiar with the role of principal, I am eager to learn about the systemic processes within the high school. The BHS math department will implement a new program that was approved by the Board of Education last spring. The adoption process will begin in

earnest this fall for our ELA team. Staff continually add new and innovative technology to their course offerings, as we move forward with year two of the 1:1 initiative.

I am pleased to announce two new additions to our team:

Cheri Markham accepted a Math/Social Studies teaching position in July. Cheri worked at Berrien Springs and St. Joseph Public Schools during the 2015-2016 school year. Ms. Markham received her bachelor's degree from Andrews University.

Tim Antel recently joined our Science department. Tim received his bachelor's degree from Grand Valley State University, while also playing baseball. He spent the past 25 years teaching chemistry at Lowell Public Schools.

Website

The beginning of the year is always a busy time, for the most UP-TO-DATE information, please view our website at www.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 student announcements, a calendar for the school and athletics, important student information, and our Twitter feeds as well as many other important announcements.

New State Testing Results:

The State of Michigan altered the assessment landscape last year by moving away from the ACT and adding the College Board SAT, as the state provided college readiness assessment. The BHS staff began preparing for this test in the fall, as our students in grades, 9-11 took the PSAT (Preliminary SAT) to prepare for the new assessment. BHS students were 14% more proficient than the statewide average. Additionally, we were third in Berrien county in student proficiency percentage. We are pleased with the initial results and look forward to defining our growth edges on the SAT.

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Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence Enhancing and Enriching Learning Opportunities

How you can help?



All of the projects, teacher grants, field trips and the other great things the Foundation does for the students of BPS would not be possible without you.

Attending and helping with events, asking businesses you know to help, and making individual donations are all critical to our success.

You can make a one-time donation or use the automatic donation process, which allows smaller monthly donations to be made automatically from your account. All donations are tax deductible. Please visit our website to make your donation at: bridgmanfoundation.org and "pick and click."

The students are counting on us!

STEM Lab project

The Foundation's next major project will be to assist in raising funds for a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) lab that will be located at the middle school.

These state-of-the-art labs are excellent tools for students to learn about various technologies available and ways to accomplish projects using these resources. Students choose a project that interests them, work independently or in small groups, and are graded on their final presentation to the class.

The lab is comprised of workstations, computers, video displays, and a filming production studio. All students will have the opportunity to use the lab in a rotation similar to other encore classes. The exposure to technology from these labs is essential to students who have interests in these types of careers. This also allows them to choose similar courses and set a direction for high school. What a great opportunity to expose these students, early on, to determine a possible career interest.

Several Bridgman School administrators and Bob Clark, BFEE Chair, visited three labs similar to the one being proposed in Bridgman. It was amazing how much the students loved the labs and learned by problem solving in groups and on their own. Studies show the need for these types of educational tools and we continue to strive to provide all the best and latest opportunities to the students of BPS.

As you can guess, STEM labs are costly. The funds needed will have to come from a variety of sources: grants, business sponsors, Foundation funds, and individual donations. Please help us with this very important and infectious project

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Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence

Enhancing and Enriching Learning Opportunities

Recent Grants Made Possible by Your Generous Contributions to the Foundation

Biography Books for the BES Library

The seeds for the enjoyment of reading are planted in elementary school. The students at BES are excited about the biography series. When they find a book series they love, the books are flying off the shelves! Often there are no more than five left at a time as kids are reading them, taking accelerated reader tests on them, and checking out more.

BHS Request for 3D Printers Granted

Dr. Dale Quatrain submitted a grant request for two 3D printers and six printer material kits for the high school engineering class. The class will be able to experience the full *Engineering Design Algorithm* process by addressing a problem, creating a design, and producing a product. They will be able to integrate the existing machining, welding, and foundry equipment, to be used with the 3D printer.

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



Join us with your closest friends for an evening of food, fun, and fundraising! This third annual *Now and Forever* event is being held at the *Bridgman American Legion Hall* on February 11, 2017 and is only \$35 per person. Hors d'oeuvres, beverages, cash bar, silent and live auction starts at 7 P.M. The silent auction will end at 8:45 P.M. to announce winners and start the live auction.

You must be present to win. Make it a date night or just a casual fun evening. Music and dancing from 9 -11 P.M. This year's theme, "Sunny Days Ahead: Don't worry, Bee happy!" features fun in the sun and summer days soon to come!

Proceeds will benefit the Foundation's STEM project and the endowment fund. Watch for information as it becomes available on our website at www.bridgmanfoundation.org.

2016-2017 Buy-A-Brick Campaign



With school back in session, it's time to think about supporting the Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence and "Bee" a part of Bridgman Public Schools history by purchasing a brick today!

These bricks make great remembrances and gifts. And, it's not too early to think about a unique holiday gift! Order now and have it installed before the holidays. Order today at www.bridgmanfoundation.org!

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F.C. Reed Middle School



Welcome John Truesdell



John Truesdell
MS Principal

“It is a tremendous honor to have the opportunity to become a Bridgman Bee and

join the F.C. Reed Middle School community. I am humbled and thrilled to have been selected as the next Principal of RMS! ”

From the F.C. Reed Middle School Principal

Since I am new to Bridgman Public Schools, please let me share a brief introduction about myself...

First, I will admit, I am not originally from Southwest Michigan! Growing up in the Ann Arbor area, I became a huge fan of Michigan athletics. As a result, I am a proud alumni of the University of Michigan, where I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Social Studies and Earth/Space Science Education in 2011. Upon graduation, I moved to St. Joseph, MI and worked for St. Joseph Public Schools, teaching World History, Criminal Law, AP Economics, Geology, and 8th Grade Science at St. Joseph High School and Upton Middle School from 2011-2016. I was also St. Joseph Public School's United Way Campaign Chairperson from 2014-2016. In addition, this spring I will be completing a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Western Michigan University.

Reflecting on my career, I am proud to brag that the Third Coast has become my home over the last six years. I own a house in St. Joseph Township, married my wife Samantha on the beaches of Jean Klock Park, and welcomed our first son Abbott into the world at Lakeland Hospital in January of 2016. As I have begun to make the transition to serving the students and families of Bridgman Public Schools, Samantha and I have been stunned by the community's generosity and support. Thank you for your kindness and warm welcomes!

At F.C. Reed Middle School our goal is to foster lifelong learning by working together to challenge ALL students to be successful.

This year, we aim to achieve this vision by continuing the successful implementation of our 1:1 technology initiative, Product vs. Process report cards, and ASCA certified comprehensive school counseling program. Through collaboration between teachers, students, parents/guardians, and support staff, RMS will continue to provide a safe, positive, and supportive learning environment for students. I'm looking forward to the start of another great school year! Please feel free to contact the office at 269-465-5410 should you ever have any questions or concerns.

Your Partner in Education,
John Truesdell



Bridgman students are:

Quality Producers... who collaboratively and/or independently create intellectual, artistic, practical and physical products which reflect originality, high standards and the use of advanced technologies.

Responsible Learners... who formulate constructive, positive attitudes and values in order to create a vision for their future, set priorities and goals, create options and take responsibility for pursuing these goals while monitoring and evaluating their progress.

Critical Thinkers... who identify, access, integrate and use available resources and information to question, reason, and make decisions and solve complex problems in a variety of contexts.

Effective Communicators by using process skills and creative expression.

Community and Global Contributors... who use their time, energy and talents cooperatively to enhance the quality of life, preserve the environment and promote mutual respects.

Effective Life Managers... who develop constructive interpersonal relationships and strive for physical, emotional and social growth.

We want all graduating Bridgman students to fit this profile, and we design our curricula accordingly.

New Staff at RMS

Josiah Badger is a new 6th grade ELA and Social Studies teacher at RMS. Mr. Badger is a graduate of Cornerstone University and was a long term substitute at Bridgman High School during the 2015-2016 school year.

Joe Sylvester is a new 5th grade Science and Social Studies teacher at RMS. Mr. Sylvester is a graduate of Grand Valley State University. He also earned a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from GVSU in 2015. Mr. Sylvester was a 5th grade teacher at Marcellus Middle School from 2005-2008 and a Title One Reading Teacher at Patrick Hamilton School in Dowagiac from 2008-2016.

Roxanne Allman is a new 5th grade ELA and Math teacher at RMS. Mrs. Allman is a graduate of Western Michigan University where she originally studied Criminal Justice. She then obtained her elementary education teaching licensure from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in 2008 and earned her Master's Degree in Elementary Reading & Literacy (K-6) from Marygrove College in 2015. Before joining the RMS team, Mrs. Allman taught at Ellis Elementary in Niles from 2012-2016.

Cheri Markham is a new 8th grade Social Studies teacher at RMS. Ms. Markham graduated from Andrews University in 2015 and was a long term substitute at St. Joseph High School during the 2016 school year. She will also be teaching at Bridgman High School throughout the school year.

Megan Badger is a new paraprofessional at RMS. Mrs. Badger is in the process of finishing her associate's degree from Grand Rapids Community College. She is also the new 8th Grade Volleyball Coach.

REMINDERS:

Please remember that all parent drop-offs and pick-ups **MUST** occur near the front entrance of the school **ONLY**. Please **DO NOT** arrive to pick up your child before 3:00 P.M. on a regular schedule school day. Thank you!

Please follow F.C. Reed Middle School on Twitter at @RMS_BEES for school updates and highlights!

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



FIRST Robotics Competition



Bridgman students compete in the FIRST Robotics competition at held at St. Joseph Public High School.



The two-day event drew 41 high school robotics teams from all over the region. Each team was ready to compete with the bots they built over a six week period. The competition this year was based a game called “Stronghold.”

Stronghold is medieval themed capture the flag game where robots had to shoot “boulders” into castles and attempt to climb the castle walls.

Robotics is a fun educationally based system to encourage learning. It includes problem solving, designing, engineering, and more. It is a great way to promote science while giving the students a taste of what it would be like to study engineering or technology in the future.

“To transform our world by creating a culture where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and technology heroes.”
-- Dean Kamen, Founder of FIRST





Recycling

The recycling service has been well received by the township residents. It is picked up every two weeks at no cost to the resident. We constantly hear from people what a great improvement this is and how much it has reduced their garbage going to the land fill. Visit the website to see what is accepted, the pick-up schedule and information about the process. If you haven't signed up yet, please do. Just contact the office and we will get you started on helping reduce the need for landfills.

Why Lake Charter Township is a great place to call home:

- Great schools
- Located close to Chicago, Grand Rapids, South Bend and Kalamazoo
- Excellent parks and awesome beaches on Lake Michigan
- A safe, small town atmosphere
- Taxes and utility rates are some of the lowest in Southwestern Michigan

Lake Charter Township

Lake Township Treasurer Report From the Treasurer

By publication time, the due date to avoid penalties and interest charges on the summer tax bills has passed. The summer tax bills can still be paid locally at the township office until February 28. Please contact our office for updated amounts due. The 2016 winter tax bills will be coming out in early December and due without interest or penalty charges on February 14, 2017. They also can be paid at the township until February 28. After that they must be paid to the Berrien County Treasurer's office in St Joseph. Please remember that tax bills must be received at our office by due dates to avoid additional charges, postmarks are not accepted for payment purposes. Taxes can be paid at the office, mailed, or left in our drop box just west of our office (blue depository box).

If you haven't signed up yet for automatic water/sewer payments, join the hundreds of others who are using this convenient, free system to make payments.

All you have to do is complete an authorization form, provide a voided check and we do the rest. You receive a bill as normal that indicates you are set-up on automatic payments and the payment is deducted from your account on the due date (or next business day if it falls on the weekend or a holiday). Forms are available at the office or on our website. No more worries about getting it here on time or forgetting when you are out of town. You can also pay water/sewer payments online through our website. There is a small processing fee we are charged that is passed on to you, but this allows you to control the time payments are made. There is a lot of information about current bills, history and water usage on the site. Tax information can also be accessed through that site. Visit our website at www.lake-township.org for more information.



Lake Charter Township From Lake Charter Township Water Department

We would like to thank everyone for understanding the inconvenience during the Shawnee and Gast Road main replacement.

We realize the impact it had on mobility on the roadway. Please understand that we are striving to improve our infrastructure for the future of the township.

The project should be completed mid September.

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



The Facts About Water

Water is an important resource.

We use it every day for our health, for agriculture, for industry and manufacturing. So we have a few interesting facts that you can ponder.



1. Today, drinking water meets over a hundred different standards for drinking water quality.
2. Public water supplies must meet or exceed certain standards. The kinds of standards that are used differ for each country. Many public water supplies consistently supply water that is much better than the minimum standards.
3. Water moves around the earth in a water cycle. The water cycle has five parts: evaporation, condensation, precipitation, infiltration and surface run-off.
4. Water is the only substance that is found naturally on earth in three forms: liquid, gas, solid.
5. In a 100-year period, a water molecule spends 98 years in the ocean, 20 months as ice, about 2 weeks in lakes and rivers, and less than a week in the atmosphere.
6. Frozen water is 9% lighter than water, which is why ice floats on water.
7. Less than 1% of the water treated by public water systems is used for drinking and cooking.
8. About 25,700 liters (6,800 gallons) of water are required to grow a day's food for a family of four.
9. It takes 450 liters (120 gallons) of water to produce one egg.
10. Two-thirds of the water used in a home is used in the bathroom.

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

Thank you,
Mark Panzegrau
Water System Superintendent





Website

If you haven't visited the Lake Charter Township website lately, come visit!

We are seeing big increases in use as residents and others use it to get information on activities, make online water/sewer payments, access forms, get answers about services, obtain information about taxes or utilities, cemetery, building code and many other areas. The address is www.lake-township.org.

Lake Township Park News

It has been a busy year at the park.

We are proud that our park is the home of a new handicap accessible swing named *Isabel's Play Place*. The swing project was completed by Isabel Widdis, a local township resident. The project was to earn her *Girl Scout Gold Award*, the highest award available. Isabel raised all of the \$7,000 required to complete the project and worked with the Township's Park Committee to make it happen.

Isabel is a member of Girl Scout Troop No. 30599 and has been a Scout since kindergarten where she has earned every badge including bronze and silver awards. She has been the top cookie seller in the troop for 11 years!

The swing is known as the *Freedom* swing and provides greater stability, security and comfort for kids with limited core and upper body strength. Isabel, who has had juvenile rheumatoid arthritis since she was an infant, said she chose the project "because I know what it is like to have a body that does not work right. I believe that every child deserves a chance to swing and feel the weightlessness and happiness that swinging in a swing brings to me."

The ribbon cutting ceremony and numerous awards were presented to Isabel at the park on August 7. She thanked many supporters: her mother, Angie Widdis; family; relatives; scout leaders; numerous sponsors who helped by donating money or materials; Lake Charter Township and Bob Clark who coordinated the township part of the project; the St Joseph- Benton Harbor Elks Lodge 541; George Rice (project advisor), and others. This was truly a great project and organized very well by Isabel.

Visit the Park

The paving of the large parking lot by the soccer complex was completed and new scoreboards are being installed at the youth softball fields thanks to the Bridgman Softball Association, Bridgman Public Schools recreational fund (funded the scoreboards), and Lake Charter Township for purchasing the I- beams. The fall soccer program is in full swing with about 180 youth playing recreational soccer at the park. Plans are being made for the renovation of the disc golf course incorporating some new holes on the 10 acres the township purchased this summer. The new course plan is for concrete tee pads, new signage, and an improved design. Once completed the course is expected to be one of the nicest in the area. **Come out and enjoy a nice fall day at the park!**



Adult Programs at the Library

GHOST CAMP HIKE

★ 50th Anniversary Event

October 8 at 10:00 A.M.

Join Brad Anderson for a hike along the dune trails and a tour of the ruins of the First Church Camp. Learn a little history while enjoying the scenery along our beautiful lakeshore. Meet at Weko Beach House at 10:00 A.M.

BOOK CLUB SPECIAL EVENT NEW DATE

October 12 at 6:30 P.M.

Meet at Tapestry Brewing Company for an evening with Chriss Lyon author of *A Killing in Capone's Playground*.

See machine guns recovered in Berrien County that were used in the St. Valentine's Massacre and tip a glass of Tapestry's special Scully Stout. Books are available for purchase at the library. This event is open to the public. Register now; space is limited.

Join us back at the library on Nov 9 when our book will be *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr.

GAME NIGHT HAS MOVED TO GAME AFTERNOON!

Fridays at 2:30 P.M.

Beginning October 14

If you like Kings of Tokyo, Catan, and Ticket to Ride or classic games like Monopoly, this is the group for you! Come join in the fun! Game on!

HOME BREW DEMONSTRATION BY MICHIGAN HOME BREW SUPPLY

October 22 at 12:00 P.M.

Learn how to make beer at home from start to finish. The class will cover all of the ingredients that make up beer as well as what contributes to the final product. Recipes and instructions will be provided. Registration required.

HOLIDAY APPETIZERS

November 1 at 6:30 P.M.

Join us for another informative and delectable evening as Lisa Micunek from Martin's Cooking School shares recipes for holiday parties.

INTERNATIONAL GAME DAY @ YOUR LIBRARY

November 19

10:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Bridgman Public Library along with more than 2,000 other libraries around the world will celebrate the 9th annual International Game Day. Help us celebrate by dropping in to play one of our many board games.

HOLIDAY SING ALONG

★ 50th Anniversary Event

December 7 at 6:30 P.M.

Get in the spirit of the season by listening or singing classic holiday songs and enjoying hot chocolate and cookies.

NEW! READ, POST AND REPEAT! ONLINE BOOK CLUB

The Bridgman Public Library Online Book Club is a group that meets exclusively online. Every six weeks the group will take on a new book, one that is available at the library in print or e-book form. Our first selection will be *Size 12 is not Fat* by Meg Cabot, then *Rocky Ride* by Vivian Arend, and finally, *The Unsung Hero* by Suzanne Brockmann. Visit the library's website bridgmanlibrary.org for additional information.

YOGA

Thursdays at 6:00 P.M.

Cheryl Meadors, certified yoga instructor, leads a class at the library every Thursday. The class is open to beginners, experts and everyone in between. Bring a yoga mat, some water, and a \$10 participation fee.

**Get Inspired
at the Library!**



BRIDGMAN COMMUNITY BUZZ



FRIEND the Bridgman
Library on FACEBOOK.



Youth Programs

EARLY LITERACY

Sing, dance, and listen to stories with Miss Tami at our early literacy programs.

Mondays at 10:45 A.M.
--Baby & Me

Tuesdays at 9:30 or 11:30 A.M.
--Toddler & Me

Tuesdays at 10:30 A.M.
--Story Hour

YOUNG MUSICIANS

Tuesdays at 6:00 P.M.
Grades 2-4
Music education at the library! Learn the basic fundamentals of music through fun games, activities and instruments with Monika every Tuesday. Registration is required.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

October 20 at 6:30 P.M.
Kids of all ages and their families are invited to join us in a costume (or not) for a night of fun games and sweet treats to delight everyone. Come play games, take scary photos and trick or treat at the library!

LEGO TIME

December 21 at 6:30 P.M.
Join us for an hour of free and structured building. Build, play and have fun! This program is open to kids of all ages who love Legos!

MAKE IT TAKE IT

December 27-30
Looking for something to do during the holiday break? Come to the library for a crafty, makerspace program December 27-30. Each day will feature a different craft (located in the children's section) for you to do at the library and take home the same day. Make sure you stop in every day so you can do all the projects.

**Have fun at
the Library!**

Teen Programs

TEEN STORY CONTEST

★ 50th Anniversary Event
Grades 7-12
Do you like to write? Well, here is your chance to make your creativity pay! The Friends of Bridgman Public are sponsoring a story contest to honor the library's 50th anniversary. Write a story of romance in the stacks, a mysterious disappearance, a historical event, or even a space opera. The only catch, your story must prominently feature the Bridgman Public Library. Entries must be 500-1500 words and submitted by November 18. The first place winner will receive \$200 and have their story published on the library's website. Contest winners announced on the library website on November 30.

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

October 12 at 3:30 P.M.
Are you a teen who wants to make a difference in the library and the community? Then come join us at the Bridgman Public Library for the teen advisory meeting.

ZOMBIE MAKEUP

October 15 at 11 A.M.
Dying to look like a zombie for Halloween? Register for this program and learn how. When your look is perfected, we'll have a group stagger around town. Feel free to bring your own zombie clothing. Ages to teen to adult.





FRIEND Weko Beach
Campground on FACEBOOK.



Offering Online Payments Soon

In an effort to enhance its service delivery options the city is pleased to announce that online payments are on the way!

In mid-autumn the City of Bridgman will be offering online payments for utility bills, property taxes, permits, and other fees. A convenience fee will be added depending on the method of payment. If using an e-check there will be a flat \$1.00 fee and if using a debit/credit card a 2.75% fee will be added to the transaction. This will allow customers the flexibility to pay online, by mail, or in person at City Hall. Please check the News Flash on our website at www.bridgman.org in October for an announcement on service activation.

November General Election

The General election will be held in the City of Bridgman on Tuesday, November 8, 2016. 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 11, 2016 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. 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 5, 2016 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.

New City Clerk Allyson Holm



Allyson Holm
City Clerk

The City of Bridgman is pleased to introduce Allyson Holm as its new City Clerk following the retirement of longtime Clerk, Pam Hahaj. Allyson was born and raised in Berrien County and purchased a home in the City of Bridgman two years ago to make Bridgman the place she calls home. Allyson was previously the City of New Buffalo Clerk where she worked for the last four years and was appointed the Bridgman City Clerk on July 11, 2016. Allyson is an active member of the Berrien County Clerks Association (BCCA)

and serves as the organization's Board Treasurer for a two-year term ending in 2017. She is also a member of the Michigan Municipal Clerk's Association (MAMC) and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). Allyson is a Certified Michigan Municipal Clerk.



City of Bridgman



Assessing Department

Assessment Change Notices are mailed in February of each year. The notices are sent to inform property owners of the 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, Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) changes, and new or reduced values. It is important that you as a property owner review the notices to make sure that they correctly reflect this information as well as your mailing address. Please pay close attention to the PRE %. Your summer tax bill will be incorrect if the PRE is incorrect. The notice will include the Inflation Rate Multiplier used for calculating the taxable value of your property. The multiplier is the rate of inflation or 5%, whichever is lower. This figure is applied to all properties in the State, not just the City of Bridgman.

The State Tax Commission requires assessors to annually inspect a percentage of properties in each assessing classification. In the fall you may see assessing staff in your neighborhood reviewing properties and updating photos of property improvements. We are looking for changes to the property that have not been brought to the attention of the assessor. For example, if you have demolished a shed or deck or removed an in-ground pool and have not taken out a permit for the demolition then you may continue to be assessed for improvements that are no longer there. The staff will be wearing ID tags while conducting inspections. If we stop at your house, we will knock on the front door. These inspections are necessary in order to maintain accurate property data. It is this data, collected during inspections and combined with sales studies, which is used to develop fair and accurate assessed values.

In the Assessing Department there are property record cards on file for every parcel in the city. You are always welcome to come in and review your property record card(s). For more information and useful assessing forms, please visit the City of Bridgman website at www.bridgman.org and click on *Departments*, then follow the *Assessor* link. The city employs a contractual assessor, Nancy Williams, who has office hours at City Hall every Wednesday from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

New City Treasurer Joins Bridgman Team



Debbie Lambrix
City Treasurer

This past July the City of Bridgman welcomed its new Treasurer, Debbie Lambrix. Debbie has been in public service for almost 24 years. She moved to Bridgman in 2012 when she began her

employment as Treasurer for the City of New Buffalo. Her previous experience also includes 20 years with the City of Flat Rock, a suburb of Detroit, where she served as deputy treasurer and treasurer. Her credentials include an Associate in Business from Henry Ford Community College, Certified Public Funds Investment Manager and Certified Public Finance Administrator from the Association of Public Treasurers of United States and Canada. Debbie is a Michigan Certified Professional Treasurer.





City Council Meetings

The City of Bridgman is a City Council and City Manager form of government. The City Council consists of the Mayor and six Council Members elected at large in the city. City Council are elected to 4 year terms on a staggered schedule, (4 of the Council are elected in one election and 3 in the following election), with regular elections held in even years). To be eligible for City Council, the candidates must have resided in the City for at least one year and be a registered voter of the city.

Regular Meetings
6:30 P.M.

1st and 3rd Monday of every
month

City Council Chambers
9765 Maple Street
Bridgman, MI 49106

2016 Fall Clean Up Schedule

Bagged Leaves - ***** (Please note new schedule) *****

September 6 and 19, October 3 and 17, November 7 and 21

Bagged leaf collection will resume in April with a spring clean up schedule. The city requires the use of biodegradable paper leaf bags. City workers will not pick up leaf bags made from any other material.

Curb-side Leaf Pick Up - October 17, 24, 31, November 7 and 14

During fall clean-up, 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. 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.

Brush - ***** (Please note new schedule) *****

September 7 and 20, October 4 and 11, November 22 and 29.

Brush collection will resume in April with a spring clean up schedule. Please limit this to yard clean-up. City workers typically spend no more than 15 minutes at each property in order to provide timely service on a citywide basis.

Christmas Tree Pick-Up - January 4 and 11, 2017 (Weather Permitting)

Large Trash Pick-Up performed by Republic Services - October 12 and 19, 2016.

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

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

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Program details are on Berrien County's website, <http://www.berriencounty.org/recycle> or by calling the County's Environmental Specialist at (269) 983-7111, extension 8234.



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

BRIDGMAN *COMMUNITY BUZZ*



One community working together to serve you better.

Bridgman High School

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

F.C. Reed Middle School

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

Bridgman Public Library

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

Bridgman Public Schools

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

Bridgman Elementary

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

Lake Charter Township

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

City of Bridgman

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