

FALL 2025



Bridgman

COMMUNITY BUZZ



PHOTO COURTESY OF: Jade Stell

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,

The Board of Education, staff, and I are excited to welcome everyone to the 2025-2026 school year! We're looking forward to another great year in Bee Country.

New Faces in Our Schools

We're thrilled to introduce several new staff members joining our team this fall:

- Mrs. Abby Doig – BES School Counselor
- Mr. Erik Haskins – BHS Special Education / District Special Education Coordinator
- Mrs. Allison LaFond – RMS Special Education
- Mr. David Sokolowski – BES Special Education
- Mr. Eli Southorn – BHS English

Please join us in welcoming them to the Bridgman family!

Summer Success: Boys & Girls Club

This summer, the Boys & Girls Club wrapped up its fourth year at Bridgman Elementary. Students enjoyed a wide range of activities—field trips, swimming, golf,

taekwondo, arts and crafts, dance, and racquet club. Thanks to Director Sarah Worsham and her staff, kids stayed active, curious, and connected while making memories and building friendships.

Facing Challenges, Growing Stronger

This past year, our district weathered the significant financial challenge of the AEP/I&M tax appeal. While the process required difficult decisions, it also highlighted the resilience of our staff, families, and community. Together, we have navigated this storm and emerged stronger, more united, and more determined than ever to provide an outstanding education for every Bridgman student. The spirit of collaboration and support from this community continues to inspire me and is a powerful reminder of what makes Bridgman such a special place.

Join Our Team

Bridgman Public Schools has several job openings for the upcoming school year. If you're interested in working with us, visit BridgmanSchools.com and check out the Human Resources section under "Departments" to apply.

Superintendent Search Process

As many of you know, this will be my final year as Superintendent of Bridgman Public Schools. It has been an honor to serve this district and community, and I am grateful for the partnerships we've built together in support of our students.



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

**BRIDGMAN
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EDUCATION**

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The Board of Education will begin the Superintendent Search Process this fall to identify the next leader of Bridgman Public Schools. Community input will play an important role, and there will be several opportunities for staff, parents, and residents to share their voices. Please watch for details on our website and in upcoming communications—I strongly encourage you to participate. Your perspective will help ensure a smooth and thoughtful transition as Bridgman moves into its next chapter.

Our Community, Our Schools

Bridgman continues to be recognized across Michigan and the United States for our academic excellence, strong extracurricular programs, and big opportunities for students in a small district setting. This success is only possible because of the incredible support of our families and community. Thank you for believing in the power of public education!

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

Go Bees!

Shane M. Peters, Superintendent



Making lava lamps during Boys & Girls Club.



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Bridgman High School News from Principal Gerald Heath

As the leaves begin to change and the crisp fall air settles in, there's plenty of excitement around Bridgman! The start of the school year has been full of energy, and we're looking forward to all the opportunities this season brings.

Homecoming Highlights

Homecoming Week was a wonderful success, filled with school spirit, community pride, and plenty of fun. Thank you to all the students, staff, families, and community members who helped make the parade, game, and events such a special celebration.

Academic Focus

Teachers and students have been diving into learning and setting goals for the year ahead. Fall is a great time for parents to check in with their child's progress and stay connected with teachers. Don't forget—communication is key, and we encourage families to reach out whenever questions arise.

Outstanding Achievements!

We are proud to share that **Bridgman High School has been ranked #15 in the state of Michigan** by U.S. News & World Report! This recognition reflects the hard work and dedication of our students, staff, and families, as well as our community's ongoing commitment to educational excellence. Congratulations to our

students and staff for this outstanding achievement and thank you to our community for your continued support of Bridgman Schools. Together, we continue to make Bridgman a great place to learn and grow!

It is my honor to announce that Bridgman High School received an **84% passing rate for the Advanced Placement (AP) test** in the spring. **The overall average score of all the tests was a 4 (out of 5 total points)**. Many U.S. colleges grant credit and/or advanced placement (permitting students to skip the equivalent course once enrolled in college) for scores of 3 and above. In 2024, the national mean score for AP exams was 3.12, with a passing rate of 60% of all tests taken. At the time of this publication, the 2025 national averages were not published. In comparison, Bridgman High School has achieved scores well above the national average!

We are proud to announce that Bridgman High School senior **Nora Bomar has been named a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist**. This prestigious recognition is awarded to the top students across the nation based on their outstanding academic performance and achievement on the PSAT/NMSQT. Nora's dedication, hard work, and commitment to excellence have earned her this honor, and she now has the opportunity to continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships to be awarded in the spring. Please join us in congratulating Nora on this remarkable accomplishment!



Bridgman High School
9964 Gast Road
Bridgman, MI 49106
Ph: 269-465-6848
Fax: 269-466-0355

A Special Goodbye

Bridgman High School would like to recognize and celebrate **Mr. Mike Miller**, who retired at the end of the 2024–2025 school year after more than **30 years of dedicated service** to our district. Throughout his career, Mr. Miller made a lasting impact on countless students, families, and colleagues. His commitment to teaching, his passion for learning, and his unwavering support of Bridgman Schools have left a legacy that will be remembered for years to come. We thank Mr. Miller for his many contributions and wish him the very best in his well-deserved retirement.

Welcome New Staff

We are excited to welcome two new staff members to Bridgman Schools this year:

- **Mr. Erik Haskins** will be serving as the **District Special Education Coordinator** as well as a **High School Special Education Teacher**. His experience and passion for supporting students will be a great asset to our district.
- **Mr. Eli Southorn** joins us as a **High School English Teacher**. We look forward to the knowledge, energy, and fresh perspective he will bring to our English department and our students.

Please join us in giving both Mr. Haskins and Mr. Southorn a warm Bridgman welcome!

SAVE THE DATE

Oct 30 – Halloween Trunk-or-Treat
6:00 – 7:00 PM at the middle school

Nov 10 – Parent/Teacher Conferences
4:00 – 7:00 PM at the high school

Nov 26-28 – Thanksgiving Break

A Season of Gratitude

Fall always reminds us to pause and appreciate the many things we are thankful for. At Bridgman, we are especially grateful for our supportive families, dedicated staff, and enthusiastic students who make this community such a special place.

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

Feel free to reach out to me anytime at 269-465-6848 or gheath@bridgmanschools.com

Gerald Heath, High School Principal



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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

Dear Community Members,

F.C. Reed Middle School is excited to begin the school year with energy, optimism, and a strong sense of purpose.

We are especially proud to share that our students achieved outstanding results on the Spring 2025 state assessments, outperforming both Michigan and Berrien County averages in every tested category. RMS also posted the top scores in Berrien County for Grade 7 Math and Grade 8 Science. Our 2024–2025 eighth graders earned an average PSAT 8/9 score of 940, 118 points higher than the state average and the best result in our school's history. In Reading and Writing, 88.9 percent of students scored proficient or advanced, while 63.5 percent did so in Math—more than double the state

average. These accomplishments reflect the dedication of our students, the expertise of our teachers, and the support of our families and community. Congratulations!

Looking ahead, please join me in welcoming a new member of our faculty. Mrs. Allison LaFond joins F.C. Reed as our Grade 5 Special Education Teacher and Caseload Manager. A proud graduate of Central Michigan University, she studied Child Development, Psychology, and Youth Studies, and is currently pursuing her Master of Science in Curriculum & Instruction at Concordia University. Her expertise and passion for student development will be an asset to our fifth-grade learners. With this change, Mrs. Yauchstetter will now teach Grade 5 Social Studies and Science.

This year, F.C. Reed Middle School's guiding theme is **BEE Safe. BEE Adaptive. BEE Connected.** In alignment with districtwide updates, staff will focus on mastering the new Standard Response Protocol (SRP) and CrisisGo safety systems throughout the year. These tools are essential for protecting our students and ensuring consistent, effective responses in emergencies. By prioritizing training and practice, we will strengthen readiness while also building confidence, flexibility, and trust among students, staff, and families. By fostering strong classroom communities and promoting resilience, we are confident our students will continue to thrive.

SAVE THE DATE

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES
November 11 & 13, 4:00-7:00 PM

Schedule meetings with teachers to discuss your child(ren)'s progress.



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

Thank you to our staff, parents/guardians, and community partners for making F.C. Reed a place where students are supported, challenged, and inspired. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments, or curiosity about the middle school.

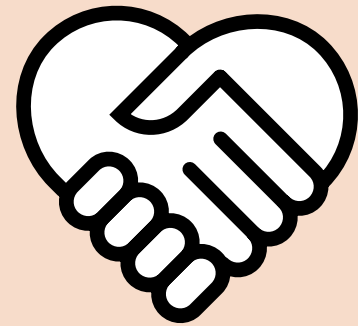
Your partner in education,

John Truesdell, Middle School Principal



RMS students using cooperative team-building activities to develop social skills at the start of the school year.

BRIDGMAN *Cares*



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 and gift cards are also appreciated.

We welcome new people who will join our cause and bring fresh ideas to the table. Our next meeting date and time are posted on our Facebook page. For more information, email, Molly Owen at mowen1@bridgmanschools.com.

facebook.com/BridgmanCares



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Elementary School News

by Lori Graves, Elementary School Principal

Belonging: The Heart of Our School Year

As we begin a brand-new school year, there's a special energy in the air—the kind that comes when students, families and staff all come together with a shared purpose. This year, our focus is on belonging. We believe every child deserves to feel seen, valued and connected. It's through strong relationships—between students, staff and families—that this sense of belonging is built. Together, we will continue to nurture the supportive, caring community that makes our school such a special place.

We are especially excited to welcome two new members to our school family who share this commitment:

- **Mrs. Abigail Doig, School Counselor** – Mrs. Doig brings several years of experience supporting children's social and emotional growth. She believes belonging begins with trust, and she looks forward to helping students feel safe and supported through classroom lessons, small group work and individual guidance. Outside of school, she enjoys looking for beach glass, going to garage sales, and sitting by campfires.



- **Mr. David Sokolowski, Special Education** – Mr. Sokolowski comes to us with a background in teaching second grade and working as a reading interventionist. Mr. Sokolowski describes himself as a very hard worker who strives to be the best in his field. That belief guides his teaching as he creates a classroom where every student feels safe to ask questions, take risks and celebrate successes.

With their passion and dedication, we know Mrs. Doig and Mr. Sokolowski will strengthen our school family and help us live out our mission of belonging for every child.



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

As we look ahead, let's remember that belonging is built one connection at a time—through a smile in the hallway, a kind word in the classroom and the ongoing support of families who partner with us every day. Together, we will create a school year filled with learning, laughter and lasting relationships. And most importantly, we will ensure that every child who walks through our doors knows this truth: you belong here.

We invite families to join us in this mission—whether by attending school events, volunteering, cheering on our students at performances and games, or simply taking a moment to share a kind word with staff and children. Your involvement and encouragement strengthen the sense of belonging that makes our school community thrive.

Here's to a wonderful year of growing, learning, and belonging—together!

Lori Graves, Elementary School Principal

SAVE THE DATE

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES
November 12 & 13, 4:00-7:00 PM

Schedule meetings with teachers to discuss your child(ren)'s progress.



FUN RUN

October 24

FUNDRAISER

This exciting event promotes fitness and school spirit and raises money to support our students in meaningful ways.

Every dollar raised this year will go directly toward new recess toys, field trips, special activities and classroom requests that enhance learning and make school an even more joyful place.

Thank you for supporting our kids and making these opportunities possible!



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Benefits of School Breakfast for Students

Eating a healthy breakfast each morning plays a vital role in a child's ability to learn and thrive, especially for students in grades K–12. For many families, school breakfast programs ensure that children start their day with the nutrition they need to succeed in the classroom.

One of the most significant benefits of school breakfast is improved academic performance.

Research shows that students who eat breakfast at school are more attentive, have better memory, and perform better on standardized tests. A nourished brain is better equipped to absorb new information and solve problems effectively.

School breakfast also supports better behavior and focus. Hunger can lead to irritability, lack of concentration, and disruptive behavior. By starting the day with a healthy meal, students are more likely to stay on task and engage positively with teachers and classmates.

In addition, school breakfast programs promote equity. Not all students have access to a nutritious breakfast at home. Offering breakfast at school helps level the playing field, giving all students—regardless of their background—an equal start to the day.

Finally, a regular breakfast helps support physical health by providing essential nutrients and helping to maintain a healthy weight. It sets the foundation for lifelong healthy eating habits.

In short, school breakfast is more than just a meal—it's a key part of helping students grow, learn, and succeed.





BRIDGMAN ATHLETICS

The Bees are back in action! Fall sports are underway, and our student-athletes are ready to compete with energy, skill, and Bee pride. Whether it's football, soccer, tennis, volleyball, cross country, or swimming both high school and middle school teams are preparing for an exciting season.

BridgmanAthletics.com for schedules, rosters & updates!

Pay online or at the gate via cash, card or mobile payments for all High School & Middle School **HOME** athletic events!

2025–2026 TICKET PRICES

- High School events \$6.00
- Middle School events \$4.00
- Senior Citizens (65 years +) Free
- **Current Bridgman High School Students**
Free admission for all home district athletic events
- **Current Bridgman Middle & Elementary Students**
Free admission for all home district athletic events
ONLY IF accompanied by a parent/guardian.
Otherwise, the full ticket price.
- **Family Bargain Card:** 20 tickets for \$44.
(Previously issued paper cards are still valid.)

GO FAN[®]

FOR TICKETS GO TO
gofan.co/app/school/MI4085





BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence from the Chairman, George Lepeniotis

Links for Education Golf Outing Raises over \$32,000 for Bridgman Public Schools

As many of you know, our Foundation hosts an annual golf outing at Lost Dunes Golf Club called Links for Education. This year's event, held on May 5, was another tremendous success. The weather was perfect and the course was, as always, in impeccable shape. A very special thanks to our Board members and everyone at Lost Dunes for supporting our schools. Not only did the event sell out, but the outing generated enough funds to help mitigate some of the current budget shortfalls facing Bridgman Public Schools. As a result of the generosity of the event's participants, **the Foundation was able to generate over \$32,000 for use by the district! The Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence Board of Trustees has already pledged this sum to the school district to help ensure Bridgman Elementary School will retain its school counselor** - a position that had been eliminated as part of the district's budget reduction for the 2025-26 school year.

We would like to once again thank those who participated in the Links for Education Golf Outing. It was a resounding success thanks to our participants, volunteers, and especially our event sponsors:



- CR Lawn Service
- Edgewater Automation
- Enviro-Clean
- Four Flags Family Dentistry
- GTA Containers
- Honor Credit Union
- Krieg DeVault
- Lost Dunes Golf Club
- Midwest Family Broadcasting
- Signature Dealer Group
- United Federal Credit Union
- Watermark Brewing Company
- Brink, Key & Chludzinski
- Convergix Automation Solutions
- CRC Pro-Temp Mechanical Contractors
- Dominion Automotive Group
- Joshi Family Charitable Trust
- Four Winds Casino
- Liskey Insurance Agency
- Mail Max
- Michigan Independent Colleges & Universities
- Pebblewood Country Club
- SiteLogIQ
- Varnum
- D & M Heating



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This is just another example of how the Foundation supports our schools. Since its inception in 2009, the Foundation has been bridging the gap between standard funding and exceptional opportunities, providing innovative classroom technology, specialized learning programs, and so much more! We are proud to provide financial support that helps the district maximize its resources and deliver impactful opportunities for our students and educators. We invite you to support our mission. Stay connected and learn about upcoming fundraising activities by following us on Facebook (@bridgmanfoundation) and Instagram (@bridgmanfoundation) or visiting our newly updated website. Together, we are making a lasting impact on our children's lives and learning!



You Can Still Support Bridgman Public Schools!

With the 2025-2026 school year underway, now is the perfect time to help support our schools.

Learn more about our Foundation and even make a direct contribution through the Foundation's website www.BridgmanFoundation.org. **Tax-deductible donations can be made monthly as well as through one-time donations.** Contributing is fast, easy, and most importantly, vital to keeping Bridgman Schools at the forefront of education. Thank you in advance for your support!

George Lepeniotis, Foundation Chairman



BRIDGMAN
AQUATIC CENTER

Your Community Pool!

Proudly offering a wide variety of water-based classes and lap swim for nearly 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 at BridgmanPool.com.

SCHOOL SWIM LESSONS

We are extremely fortunate to be able to offer swimming lessons for every Bridgman student grades 2-9 that attends. These lessons are part of the Physical Education program and take place during the school day.

Bridgman Elementary Grades 2-4

Oct 27 – Dec 3; Mon, Tue, Wed

Bridgman MS Grades 5-8

Jan 26 – Mar 6; Mon-Fri

Bridgman HS Grade 9

Jan 5-16; Mon-Fri

The pool will be open to the public from 6:00 – 11:00 AM on the days students are here.

MAKING WAVES: Emily Nannfeldt Leads Bridgman Aquatics with Passion and Purpose

For Emily Nannfeldt, water isn't just part of her job — it's part of who she is.

Recently promoted to Aquatic Director at the Bridgman Aquatic Center, Nannfeldt brings not only experience but also a lifelong connection to swimming and the southwest Michigan community she proudly calls home.

Born and raised in the area, Emily was once a young swimmer with the Sea Bees Swim Club and a member of the very first cooperative high school swim team at Bridgman High School — the same program she now has the honor of coaching. Her journey from competitive swimmer to leadership is

one marked by commitment, growth, and a desire to give back.

A Career Built in the Water

Nannfeldt began her professional aquatic career as a lifeguard at Olivet College, where she also competed in both swimming and diving as a student-athlete. From there, she gained valuable experience working at Weko Beach, South Shore Health and Racquet Club, and later as Aquatics Director at the Benton Harbor-St. Joseph YMCA.

She joined the Bridgman Aquatic Center eight years ago, serving for 7.5 years as Assistant Director before stepping into the top leadership role. Her time at Bridgman has been shaped by dedication not just to program management but to the broader mission of water safety and lifelong fitness.

Teaching, Coaching, and Inspiring

With a strong belief that everyone should know how to swim, Nannfeldt actively teaches swim lessons, is a certified lifeguarding instructor, and leads a variety of water-based fitness classes, including deep water workouts and GlideFit — a floating fitness program that builds balance and core strength.

Whether she is coaching the co-op high school swim team or guiding a GlideFit class, Emily's passion for water, safety, and wellness is unmistakable.

"With a love for the water and a respect for the lake," she says, "it's important that everyone learns to swim."

Her leadership style blends professionalism with personal connection — built from years of being in the water, on the deck, and in the community. Students and swimmers don't just see her as a coach or director, but as someone who understands



the importance of building confidence and safety skills in and around water.

A Lifelong Commitment to Community and Aquatics

As Aquatic Director, Emily oversees a wide range of programs including:

- Youth & adult swim lessons
- Competitive swim and dive programs
- CPR, First Aid, & Lifeguarding certification
- Recreational swim opportunities
- Water fitness programs for all ages

Her goal is clear: to make the Aquatic Center a hub for health, safety, and personal growth — accessible to all members of the Bridgman community and beyond.

Emily Nannfeldt's story is one of coming full circle — from swimmer to coach, from lifeguard to director — and making a lasting impact along the way. With every lesson, lap, and leadership decision, she is shaping a safer, healthier, and more confident generation of swimmers.



CITY OF BRIDGMAN



City of Bridgman News from the City Manager, Juan Ganum

A Parting Message

As I write this article, only a few weeks removed from my last day as Bridgman's

City Manager, I find myself reflecting on what an extraordinary journey the past ten years have been. It has truly been an honor to serve this community and to work each day for the betterment of Bridgman and all who call it home.

When I first began, I could not have imagined the many ways the Bridgman community would shape me, both professionally and personally. I have been fortunate to be part of Bridgman's steady growth and resilience, and to see the spirit of collaboration that makes this place so special (the way residents came together to help each other following the flooding event of August 2021 immediately comes to mind). Together, we have celebrated accomplishments, faced challenges, and always looked ahead with optimism.

What I will miss most are the people I have had the privilege to work alongside every day. My colleagues at City Hall, across our departments, and throughout the community have not only been partners in service but also dear friends. Their dedication, care, and willingness to go above and beyond for Bridgman have inspired me time and again.

I leave with great confidence in Bridgman's future. The

City is in good hands thanks to the commitment of our talented employees and the steady leadership of the City Council. Their teamwork and devotion ensure that Bridgman will continue to thrive and that residents will always be well served.

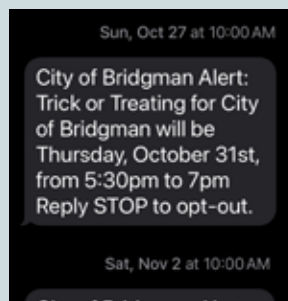
I step away with a heart full of gratitude—for the chance to serve, for the trust you have placed in me, and for the many relationships that I know will last well beyond my time as City Manager. Bridgman will always hold a special place in my life, and I look forward to watching this community continue to grow and succeed.

With sincere appreciation,

Juan Ganum, City Manager _____



Sign up to receive important notifications, reminders, and updates about meetings, leaf collection, community events, beach conditions and more.



Text **BRIDGMAN** to **91896** to begin receiving notifications. Opt out anytime.



November 4, 2025 **SPECIAL ELECTION**

LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE CHARTER MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSITION FOR OPERATING AND GENERAL PURPOSES

\$0.6655 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation
for twenty (20) years

LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE CHARTER MILLAGE RENEWAL AND REDUCTION PROPOSITION FOR CAPITAL PURPOSES

\$0.24 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation
for ten (10) years

*Full text of the ballot propositions may be obtained at the
administrative offices of Lake Michigan College,
2755 E. Napier Avenue, Benton Harbor, Michigan 49022*

Absentee Voting Deadlines

Oct. 11, 2025 5 PM – Last day ballots can be mailed.

Nov. 3, 2025 4 PM – Last day to request/complete a ballot
in person at City Hall.

Election Day Voting

Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025 – Polls open 7 AM – 8 PM

Location: City Hall, 9765 Maple Street

Returning Absentee Ballots

Must be received by 8 PM on Election Day.

Return via mail, drop box at City Hall, in person, or at your precinct.

Need an application or want to join the permanent absentee list?

Call the Clerk's Office: (269) 465-5144

Every vote counts!



CITY OF BRIDGMAN

Assessing Department News from the City Assessor, John Baumann

Tax Day –December 31

In Michigan, December 31 is designated as “Tax Day.” Your property’s assessment is based on its condition as of that date. For example, your **2025 assessment and tax bill were calculated using how your property stood on December 31, 2024.** Right now, we are preparing the 2026 assessments, which will be based on the condition of your property as of December 31, 2025.

2026 Assessment Notices

By the end of February, every taxpayer in the City of Bridgman will receive a Property Tax Assessment Notice for real and personal property. This notice includes:

- **Changes in your assessed and taxable values** from 2025 to 2026
- Your **homestead percentage**
- Information on any **transfer of ownership** that caused your taxable value to “uncap”

Please take time to carefully review your notice when it arrives. If you spot an error or have questions about your assessed or taxable value, contact the Assessing Office at jbaumann@bridgman.org or 269-465-5144 x104.



Online Access to Property Records

The Assessing Department keeps a property record card for every parcel in the city. You are welcome—and encouraged—to review your record card at any time. Property information is also available online through the City of Bridgman website at BSA Online.

Questions?

If you have questions or would like more information, please reach out:

Phone: 269-465-5144 x104

Email: jbaumann@bridgman.org

Website: Bridgman.org

John Baumann, City Assessor



Parks & Recreation Department

from the Parks & Recreation Director, Sara Ball

The Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank the community, visitors, and staff who made this summer at Weko Beach and Campground, Toth Park and the Bridgman Courtyard a memorable one. From days spent on the shoreline to evenings enjoying live music, the support and enthusiasm from everyone helped make summer 2025 a great success.

While the beach and campground are quiet this time of year, the Parks and Recreation Department is preparing for the upcoming season. We are working on the 2026 concert lineups at Weko Beach and the Bridgman Courtyard. If you are interested in performing or know

a singer/band who may, please send an email to Sara Ball, at sball@bridgman.org.

We look forward to welcoming you back next season, when we look to begin implementing projects identified within Bridgman Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which is being developed and will be posted on the city's website soon after this Buzz edition is released. Until then, thank you for being part of our community and for supporting your Parks and Recreation Department.

Sara Ball, Parks & Recreation Director

WEKO BEACH HOUSE RENTALS

Looking for a unique facility with spectacular Lake Michigan views to host an event? The Weko Beach House is the perfect place! We are now accepting reservations for 2026.

MONDAY-FRIDAY

Resident: \$75/hour

Non-Resident: \$100/hour

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Resident: \$85/hour

Non-Resident: \$120/hour

Residents are from Bridgman or Lake Township. 3 hours minimum is required. Visit Bridgman.org or call 269-465-5144.





CITY OF BRIDGMAN

Your Role in Protecting Our Community Water System from the Water & Sewer Director, AJ Mottl

When you turn on the tap, fill a glass of water, or take a shower, it's easy to take for granted just how much work goes into delivering clean, reliable water to your home. Your local Water Department's job is to maintain the system, test for quality, and make sure water is always there when you need it. But keeping our community water system safe isn't something we can do alone—it's a partnership between the city and its residents.

Here are a few simple but powerful ways you can help protect our water system and ensure it continues to serve our community for generations to come:

- 1. Report Leaks Promptly** – If you notice a leak in your home, yard, or street, don't ignore it. Even small leaks waste large amounts of water over time and can cause damage to pipes and property. By calling the Water Department as soon as you spot an issue, you help us respond quickly and prevent bigger problems down the line.
- 2. Use Water Wisely** – Every drop counts. Turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth, fixing dripping taps, and running full loads in the dishwasher or washing machine are small actions that add up to big savings. Smart water use not only lowers your bill but also reduces the strain on the system, especially during peak times.
- 3. Think Before You Flush** – Toilets and drains are designed for water and waste only. Flushing wipes (even ones labeled "flushable"), paper towels, grease, or other items can clog pipes and damage pumps. These blockages are costly to repair and can cause backups in homes and neighborhoods.
- 4. Keep Storm Drains Clean** – Storm drains flow directly into our lakes, rivers, and groundwater. Leaves, trash, fertilizers, oils, and chemicals washed into drains don't get treated—they go straight into the environment. Keeping storm drains clear and being mindful about what goes down them helps protect the water we all share.
- 5. Call Before You Dig** – If you're planning to plant a tree, install a fence, or do any digging on your property, always call 811 before you start. Underground water mains and service lines can be damaged easily, and one mistake can interrupt water service for you and your neighbors.
- 6. Stay Informed** – The Bridgman Water Department regularly shares updates, reminders, and annual water quality reports. Taking a few minutes to read these notices helps you stay aware of what's happening. You can find the City's water quality report at www.bridgman.org/DocumentCenter/View/2740/2024-Water-Quality-Report.



When each of us takes a little responsibility, we make a big difference. Together, we can ensure that our water stays clean, safe, and reliable for everyone, today and in the future.

A Community Effort – Protecting our water system is about more than pipes and pumps—it’s about people. When each of us takes a little responsibility, we make a big difference. Together, we can ensure that our water stays clean, safe, and reliable for everyone, today and in the future.

AJ Mottl, Water & Sewer Director

Adjustment to Ready-to-Serve Fees

Beginning with the October 1, 2025 billing, the City’s water ready-to-serve fee for a standard 5/8” meter will increase by \$0.31 per month, moving from \$10.45 to \$10.76.

The ready-to-serve fee is a fixed, monthly charge that helps cover the costs of maintaining and operating the water system, including infrastructure, service availability, and system reliability. This adjustment is a small but necessary step to ensure the continued delivery of safe and reliable water service to all customers.

Contact City Hall at 269-465-5144 with questions.

Water Bills are Going Green!

You can now choose **paperless billing** for your water bills. With this new option, your monthly statement will be sent directly to your email instead of through the mail.

- It’s faster
- Less paperwork to manage
- Reduces paper and printing costs

Paperless billing is secure, convenient, and environmentally friendly.

For added convenience, the City also continues to offer **auto-debit**, which allows your payment to be automatically deducted from a checking or savings account on the due date.



These options make paying your bill easier, reduce paper use, and help lower costs. To enroll, visit Bridgman.org or contact Jodi at jmattner@bridgman.org or call 269-465-5144.



CITY OF BRIDGMAN

Remember to Rake 'em Right!

As the nights become cooler, we are reminded that leaves will be falling before we know it. The fall cleanup schedule is included on the back cover, available at City Hall *and* on the city's website. The following are important reminders and requirements about the leaf collection program.

- Rake leaves curbside to the grassy area between the street and the sidewalk or to the curb. Never put leaf piles in the street. Leaves placed in the street will wash down storm drains where they can cause algae, clogging and water quality impacts. Leaves will also clog drain inlets and cause flooding.
- Collections occur on Monday during pickup weeks between 7 am and 4 pm. Have leaves to the curb by 7 am the Monday of pickup. Collection will start on

the east side of the city and work westerly. Crews will make one pass each week through the entire city.

- Leaf collection is weather dependent. If there is a significant snowfall, pick up will be delayed and/or suspended.
- The final brush chipping and curbside leaf bag collection will be November 26. Collection will resume in April 2026.
- Leaf piles do not kill grass, although they may cause it to temporarily discolor. To prevent grass from discoloring rake your leaves just prior to the scheduled pickup date.
- After the loose-leaf collection period ends, leaves are to be placed in biodegradable paper yard waste bags. The bags should weigh no more than 50 pounds each when filled and will be collected as part of the normal curbside-composting program in the spring. Residents may drop off leaf bags in the designated area behind the Department of Public Services Garage located at 9825 Maple Street (blue building south of city hall) any time of year.
- Residents are reminded that leaf piles mixed with grass trimmings, branches, brush or other non-leaf content will not be collected.





2025 FALL CLEAN-UP SCHEDULE

NOTE:

BAGGED LEAF & BRUSH WILL BE PICKED UP ON THE SAME DAY

Bagged Leaves & Brush Pick-up are indicated in **GREEN** on the calendar. The city requires the use of biodegradable paper leaf bags. City workers will not pick up leaf bags made from any other material. Please limit to yard cleanup.

City workers will spend no more than 15 minutes at each property. If you have a large quantity of brush, arrangements can be made for you to haul the brush to the city composting site. Commercial tree removal/trimmings will not be picked up and should be disposed of by the tree service hired.

Remember the storage bins located at the DPS building are open for City residents for brush and leaf bag drop off.

September bagged leaves & brush pick-up are different Mondays due to Labor Day and Large Trash Pick-Up.

Leaf & brush burning within the city is prohibited

Curb-side Leaf Pickup is indicated in **ORANGE** on the calendar. The leaf vacuum will begin on Mondays on the east side of the city and attempt to complete one pass per week through the city. Leaves must be raked to the roadside/curb.

To prevent flooding from leaves clogging the storm drains DO NOT rake leaves into roadways.

Christmas Tree Pick Up – January 7 and 14, 2026 (weather permitting)

Large Trash Pick Up – **September 15, WEST OF RED ARROW HWY and Septembert 17, EAST OF RED ARROW HWY.** Items not accepted include large plastic drums, tires, yard waste, hazardous waste, medical waste and construction material. A complete list of accepted and not accepted items is available on the city’s website and at City Hall.

Last day for the season will be November 26th. Service will resume April 2026.

Lakeshore Recycling & Disposal also will pick up your extra-large items for a fee. To schedule such a pickup, call Lakeshore Recycling & Disposal at (269) 231-5623.

SEPTEMBER

	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				

OCTOBER

			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	

NOVEMBER

						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						

- BAGGED LEAF & BRUSH PICKUP
- CURBSIDE LEAF PICKUP
- LARGE TRASH PICKUP - WEST SIDE
- LARGE TRASH PICKUP - EAST SIDE





CITY OF BRIDGMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT



Hello Residents,

Our police department is dispatched through the Berrien County Emergency Dispatch Center.

- **For emergencies, always dial 9-1-1**
- For non-emergencies, call 269-983-3060
- To leave a non-emergency message for the police department, call 269-465-3880.

Stay safe!
Chief Dan Unruh

OVERNIGHT PARKING

Parking is not allowed on city streets from 2:00 - 6:00 AM from November 1 to March 31. Signs are posted at each entrance to the city limits advising motorists of this ordinance. Residents may request a parking pass if overnight guests are expected—weather conditions will also be considered when officers issue passes. Optionally, if you are hosting a number of overnight guests, consider having them park in the large free parking lot to the south of City Hall on Maple Street.

PHONE SCAMS

We continue to see scams targeting seniors. These calls often come from out of state or overseas and cannot be investigated. **Never give out personal information over the phone, just hang up.**

THEFT PREVENTION

Please lock your vehicles and secure valuables in the trunk while shopping. Thieves often target unlocked cars. The same goes for homes, garages, and sheds—keep them locked and call us immediately if you see or hear anything suspicious. **We need your eyes and ears!**

PROPERTY CHECKS

Heading out of town? We provide property checks for residents while you're away. Contact us to arrange a check for your home.



facebook.com/bridgmanpd



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.



School Bus Safety Tips for Drivers: Stop Means Stop!

The majority of bus-related deaths and injuries involve pedestrians - mostly children - who are struck by a bus or injured when they are exiting the bus to cross traffic.

- Slow down and prepare to stop when a slowing bus has its overhead yellow lights flashing.
- Stop at least 20 feet away from buses when red lights are flashing, unless driving in the opposite direction on a divided highway.
- Slow down in or near school and residential areas.
- Look for clues-such as safety patrols, crossing guards, bicycles, and playgrounds-that indicate children might be in the area.
- Watch for children between parked cars and other objects.

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. This is mandatory on all 2-way streets and multi-lane highways.**





Growing Our Community Together

Director, Nancy Kiernan

Salute the Troops Fundraiser – Bridgman American Legion Post 331

Save the Date! The Bridgman CGA, in conjunction with the City of Bridgman and the Bridgman American Legion Post 331, are raising funds to develop a playground honoring American Service Men and Women on Legion property. A Stars and Stripes themed dance and silent auction will be held **on November 8 at 6:30 pm** in the Legion Hall. Tickets are \$40 per person, \$30 for veterans and active duty personnel, and a table of 8 costs \$300. They can be purchased at the Legion, United Federal Credit Union and Harding's, or online at tinyurl.com/Bcgatroops or by scanning the QR code.



The Trails of Bridgman

Discover the unique charm of The Trails of Bridgman, a thoughtfully designed neighborhood nestled in a well-established community. Located in the picturesque town of Bridgman —celebrated for its stunning Lake Michigan shoreline, inviting downtown, and top-rated schools (rated in the top fifteen districts in the state) this is a place where families and professionals alike can thrive. Select from several models ranging from 1,000 to 2,000 square feet, with options for one or two stories and two to four bedrooms.



This community combines the site's natural beauty with innovative features such as: stormwater harvesting techniques, curvilinear street design, open space integration and great connectivity to city trails and educational facilities. The result is a holistic, environmentally conscious neighborhood that is grounded in community and built to last.

Reserve your lot and home today!

Call 269-486-9350

Email info@trailsofbridgman.com





BEACHSIDE SALT AND SOUL
SAND SALT AND BAREFEET

NEW Business Opening! Beachside Salt and Soul

Beachside Salt and Soul will be opening its doors in Bridgman this fall. The owner, **Sarah Buist**, is a resident of Lake Charter Township and is a Licensed Massage Therapist. With her medical background, she has put together a plan to create a “spa” environment that will enhance the wellbeing of her clients in both mind and body. Halotherapy (Salt Room) will be a featured experience offered at **4209 Lake Street** in downtown Bridgman.

This alternative treatment dates as far back as the 12th century. Clients may benefit from the Himalayan Salt Room through its anti-inflammatory and anti-microbial action. And if you are looking for a relaxing self-care visit

you can combine a massage with a Salt Room session and top it off with the purchase of essential oils or an assortment of other gift offerings.

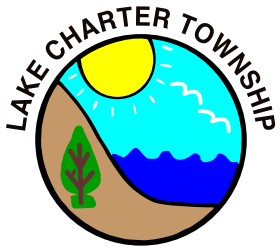
Renovation of the space and construction of the Salt Room has already begun, and the opening is anticipated for this fall. “The CGA helped me create a business plan, find the right space and paved the way for the needed capital to purchase the building and accomplish the needed renovation.” She appeared before the Bridgman City Council at their July 7 meeting and got approval for a small business loan through the Bridgman Corridor Improvement Authority’s Revolving Loan program.

Street Dance 2025

The **CGA Special Events Committee** put on a great event this July in downtown Bridgman. The return of the Street Dance in conjunction with the Queen’s committee parade was a big hit with over 1,300 party goers. Three bands, a DJ, food trucks, and local Brewers and Vintners contributed to the atmosphere of community celebration. Planning is underway for next year’s event.

Nancy Kiernan, Director





LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



Township News from Supervisor, Zach Carson

Dear Township Residents,

Our community continues to make significant strides in improving infrastructure and public safety services. Here's what's been happening in your community this summer and what's ahead this fall.

John Gast Memorial Trail Nears Completion

The much-anticipated John Gast Memorial Trail is in its final stages of completion. This important community asset will provide residents with a safe dedicated space for walking and biking, connecting Lake Township Park directly to the City of Bridgman. The trail represents a significant investment in our community, offering families and fitness enthusiasts a safe and secure route to travel to the Township Park.

Water & Sewer System Improvements

Our commitment to reliable water service continues with a major water plant project scheduled to begin this fall. This comprehensive upgrade will increase our water capacity to meet growing community needs while replacing aging infrastructure with newer, more reliable technology. These improvements ensure our residents will have dependable water service for years to come.

Throughout the summer, we've conducted thorough smoke testing on another portion of our sewer sys-

tem to identify areas needing attention. The testing revealed several maintenance needs, including leaking manhole covers, yard clean-out caps, and other system components. Our public works team will address these repairs as time and resources allow, continuing our ongoing efforts to maintain and improve our wastewater infrastructure.

Fire Department Training Excellence

Our Fire Department remains committed to providing the highest level of emergency service through continuous training. This summer, many of our firefighters participated in various training opportunities to enhance their skills.

Recent training highlights include participation in multiple live burn scenarios, search and rescue exercises, and ladder operations, including entering structures through windows at the Lincoln Township smoke house and training tower. With Chief Chiarello as our Fire Chief, our relationship with Lincoln Township has given us the opportunity to use this facility whenever our members need training. This allows our firefighters to train in the most realistic conditions possible, preparing them for actual emergency situations. Additionally, our team has completed training in vehicle extrication techniques and several other training excersizes ensuring they're prepared to respond effectively to traffic accidents and similar emergencies.



**LAKE
CHARTER
TOWNSHIP**

Supervisor

Zach Carson

Treasurer

Jennifer Adams

Clerk

Miranda
Companion

Building Admin

Rich Kubsch

Water

Superintendent

Toby Riley

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

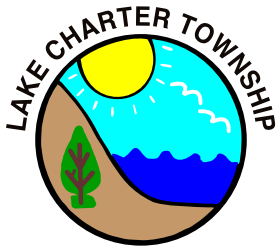
Looking Ahead

These infrastructure improvements and training initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to serving our community's needs. From recreational opportunities like the John Gast Memorial Trail to essential services like water and sewer systems, we continue investing in the foundations that make our community a great place to live.

We appreciate your patience during construction and improvement projects, and we're excited to see these enhancements benefit residents for years to come.

Zach Carson, Supervisor





LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



Clerk News

from **Miranda Companion, Township Clerk**

Hello Neighbors,

I hope this finds you all enjoying the vibrant turn of the season! It's been a busy quarter, and I wanted to share a peek behind the scenes at what's been happening in your Township Clerk's Office.

Day-to-Day Operations

It has been a very busy few months in the Clerk's Office, and I'd like to take a moment to share some updates with you. Much of my work involves the behind-the-scenes details that keep our township running smoothly. On a regular basis, my office handles payroll for our staff, processes bills and payments, and maintains our cemetery records. These may not be the most visible tasks, but they are essential to making sure services are carried out properly and on time.

Election System Upgrades

One key highlight this quarter: our election equipment has been upgraded and thoroughly tested to ensure everything runs smoothly for the **November 4, 2025 Special Election**, when residents will vote on the **Lake Michigan College Millage renewals**. These enhancements are part of our ongoing commitment to keeping the voting process accurate, efficient, and secure. Everything has been checked and is functioning properly, giving us great confidence heading into November!

Preparing for November 4

As we approach the election, here's what the Clerk's Office will continue focusing on:

- Keeping voter rolls up to date
- Processing absentee ballot requests promptly—especially for those who may be out of town or prefer to vote early
- Confirming polling locations and staffing needs
- Being ready to assist you with any election-related questions or support

Your vote matters, so if you're planning to request an absentee ballot, please do so early to ensure it's processed in time. And if you're unsure about your polling location or how to vote, don't hesitate to get in touch—we're here to help every step of the way.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. Have a wonderful fall season, and I look forward to helping you cast your vote this November!

Miranda Companion, Clerk



NO EARLY VOTING FOR THE NOVEMBER SPECIAL ELECTION

POLLS WILL BE OPEN ON ELECTION DAY
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025
7:00 AM — 8:00 PM

On the Ballot

For the purpose of voting on the following proposals:

I.

LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE

CHARTER MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSITION FOR OPERATING AND GENERAL PURPOSES

\$0.6655 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation for twenty (20) years

II.

LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE

CHARTER MILLAGE RENEWAL AND REDUCTION PROPOSITION FOR CAPITAL PURPOSES

\$0.24 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation for ten (10) years

*Full text of the ballot propositions may be obtained at the administrative offices of Lake Michigan College,
2755 E. Napier Avenue, Benton Harbor, Michigan 49022-1881, telephone: (269) 927-8600.*

ELECTION INSPECTORS: WE NEED YOU!

Election Inspectors—also known as poll workers—play **a vital role in keeping our elections fair and efficient.**

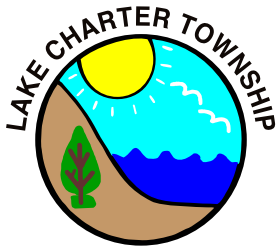
Depending on assignment, duties can include:

- Greeting and checking in voters
- Issuing ballots and assisting with tabulation
- Helping with absentee ballot processing or operating electronic pollbooks

Election Inspectors are **paid positions** and are critical for supporting safe, secure, and well-run elections.

Every inspector helps ensure voters are served respectfully and accurately.

If interested – Fill out an application with the Clerk’s Office at Lake Township Hall.



LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



Treasurer, Park & Trail News from Jennifer Adams

As we transition into fall, I wanted to provide residents with an update on our township's financial position and some critical upcoming matters.

Current Financial

I am happy to share that Lake Charter Township is in strong financial health. Our general fund maintains healthy reserve levels, and we are on track with our budget projections for 2025. Through careful management and planning, we have addressed infrastructure needs while ensuring fiscal responsibility status.

Property Tax & Assessment Information

Property owners in Lake Charter Township received their summer tax bills during the first week of July. Payments were due by September 15 at 5:00 PM to avoid penalties. Please note that residents must submit their payments to our office, as postmarks will not be accepted. Allow sufficient mailing time to ensure timely delivery.

As fall approaches, the winter tax collection period will begin, and property owners can expect to receive their tax bills in early December. **The due date for winter taxes is Tuesday, February 17, 2026.**

There are several options available for making your tax payments. Please visit our website at lake-township.org

for more information on these options. If you have any questions about your bill or property assessment, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

The John Gast Memorial Trail

We completed several important projects funded by our capital improvement plans. These investments in our community's infrastructure will provide long-term benefits while remaining within our approved budget.

One significant project that has been in development for the past three years is the John W. Gast Memorial Trail.

This 1.2-mile, non-motorized, 10-foot-wide asphalt multi-use trail connects Bridgman City Limits and



Trail path after first pavement layer application.



Bridgman High School to the north with Lake Township Park to the south. The trail honors the memory of John Gast, the Township Supervisor who devoted 20 years of service to Lake Township.

Construction of this long-awaited recreational trail began in 2025, providing residents and visitors with a safe, paved pathway for walking, jogging, cycling, and other non-motorized activities. The trail serves as both a practical transportation corridor and a fitting tribute to a dedicated public servant who was instrumental in envisioning and developing this community asset for the residents in southwest Michigan.

Lake Township Park

Lake Township Park is a leading recreational destination for the community, offering a wide range of facilities and activities for residents and visitors. The park will remain open from dawn to dusk until November 1, with restrooms and pavilions closed for the off-season. However, the park is open year-round with access via the off-season lot.

The park features various amenities, including facilities for the Bridgman Softball and Baseball Association, as well as the Bridgman Lake Township Youth Soccer. Visitors can enjoy an 18-hole disc golf course, a scenic fishing pond with an overlooking gazebo, and multiple playgrounds for children.

In an exciting development for the township, **Sand Ridge Disc Golf Club has announced that Lake Township Park’s disc golf course was officially selected as a qualifying site for the Disc Golf Q-Series.** This impressive recognition brought the park into the national spotlight as it **hosted the Third Coast**



Morning light over soccer and portion of disc golf facilities at Lake Township Park

Championship 2025, sponsored by Westside Discs.

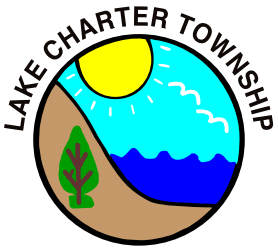
The DGPT Q-Series tournament took place October 3-5, 2025, that attracted competitive disc golfers from the region and beyond to compete on the park’s challenging 18-hole course.

In addition to its role as a tournament venue, the park also offers three pavilions—North, South, and now Lake—that serve as excellent venues for community gatherings, graduation parties, and family reunions.

Looking Ahead

The township board will begin preliminary discussions for the 2026 budget in the coming months. We remain committed to providing essential services while being mindful stewards of taxpayer dollars. Our focus continues to be on maintaining our roads, supporting public safety, and preserving the quality of life that makes Lake Charter Township a great place to call home.

Jennifer Adams, Treasurer



LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Water & Sewer Department News: New Leadership and System Improvements from Toby Riley

Honoring Four Decades of Dedicated Service

After 46 years of unwavering dedication to our community, Jeff Burkhard has retired from his role as Water Superintendent. Jeff's journey with our department began in the late 1970s as a billing clerk, but his commitment to learning and serving our residents led him through every level of our operation. He advanced to plant operator, then lab manager, before being named superintendent in 2017.

Jeff's nearly five decades of service represent an invaluable wealth of institutional knowledge and hands-on experience with every aspect of our water and sewer systems. His dedication has ensured reliable, safe water service for our community through decades of growth and change. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Jeff for his exceptional service and wish him a well-deserved retirement.

New Leadership, Continued Excellence

I'm honored to step into the superintendent role as of August 1, 2025. With 25 years of water industry experience, including 18 years in our water treatment plant, I've had the privilege of working alongside Jeff and learning from his expertise. My journey began as a plant operator before moving into administration as assistant

superintendent in 2017. I'm committed to maintaining the high standards Jeff established while leading our department into the future.

Recent Sewer System Assessment Shows Results

We recently completed comprehensive sewer smoke testing across a large portion of our township. This important diagnostic process helps us identify potential issues in the sewer collection system by introducing harmless smoke that reveals leaks, illegal connections, and other problems.

The testing identified approximately 70 areas of concern, primarily missing cleanout caps and manhole deficiencies. While this might sound alarming, these findings are actually valuable data that allow us to prioritize repairs and prevent more serious problems down the road. We'll be addressing these issues systematically to maintain system integrity.

Important Reminder for Residents: This testing reinforces the importance of proper connections to our sewer system. Please remember that gutter downspouts should never be connected to the sewer system, and water-operated sump pumps also cannot be tied into the sewer (these are both ordinance violations). These connections can overwhelm our treatment capacity during heavy rains and cause system backups.



Capital Improvement Projects on the Horizon

Water and sewer infrastructure upgrades and replacements are significant factors in our ongoing capital improvement plan. With costs continuing to rise and an aging infrastructure, it is essential that we implement our capital improvement plan strategically. Over the next 5-10 years, we will replace or upgrade all 16 sewer lift stations and continue to replace aging distribution valves and water mains. These investments demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing safe, reliable water service for current residents while preparing our infrastructure for future growth. With proper planning, we have scheduled these upgrades without a millage/property tax increase.

Major Water Plant Upgrade

This October marks the beginning of our most significant capital improvement project since our membrane filtration plant was added in 2007: A \$9 million water treatment plant upgrade. This project will modernize our flocculation and sedimentation processes, enhancing our ability to provide high-quality treated water to our community.

The upgrade represents a significant step forward in treatment technology and will improve efficiency and water quality. While construction will span approximately 18 months with completion scheduled for spring 2027, we've planned carefully to maintain uninterrupted service throughout the project.

Critical Sewer Infrastructure Replacement

In addition to our water system improvements, we're planning a \$2 million project to replace our two main

sewer lift stations beginning in spring 2026. For those unfamiliar with lift stations, these are essential pump facilities that move wastewater from lower elevations to higher ground when gravity flow isn't sufficient. They're critical components that keep sewage flowing properly through our collection system to the treatment plant.

These two lift stations are over 40 years old and well past the end of their useful life. Replacing them proactively ensures reliable service and prevents potential failures that could impact service to large portions of our community. This project represents another significant infrastructure upgrade to our sewer distribution system.

Welcome to the Team

As we take on these significant infrastructure projects, we're pleased to welcome two new team members. **Bryce Ponegalek** is replacing a retiring distribution operator and joins us to work in water distribution and sewer maintenance, bringing fresh energy to our field operations. **Matt Cluff** replaced an outgoing maintenance operator and will work in plant operations and maintenance, adding valuable support to our treatment facilities.

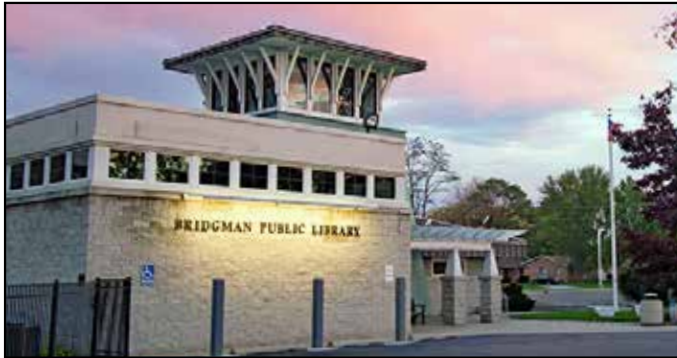
Looking Ahead

As we transition leadership and embark on these significant system improvements, our core mission remains unchanged: providing safe, reliable water and effective wastewater treatment for our community.

Toby Riley, Water System Superintendent —————



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY



Library News

from Board President, Ed Valauskas

October is just around the corner! What an exciting month, with Halloween and a festive Library celebration of so many friendly spirits and characters. The annual Halloween Party will take place on Thursday, October 9, from 5 pm to 6:30 pm. Families are encouraged to drop in for a variety of games and other activities. Wear a costume, or not, but join us for a good old spooky time!

The Library is fortunate to have a very supportive and active organization known as the Friends of the Bridgman Public Library. Celebrate National Friends of the Library Week between October 19 and 25 by joining the Friends group for a mere five dollars. The Friends have an amazing shop in the Library where you can find all sorts of gently used books, DVDs, and CDs for a fraction of their original cost. The Friends use their funds to support a variety of Library programs and projects.

On November 10, 1975, the SS Edmund Fitzgerald sank in Lake Superior at the height of a massive storm, with the loss of the entire crew. On November 10 at 5 pm, for the fiftieth anniversary of this incredible disaster, the Library will sponsor a program on the sinking of the Fitz,



a noteworthy vessel that completed over 700 round trips on the Great Lakes before its demise.

In December, for all mystery lovers, the Library will feature a delightful Mystery & Mocktails on December 11 at 5 pm. A night of mystery solving and delicious non-alcoholic drinks!

The Bridgman Public Library is always your place to escape, to meet, to learn, to have fun, and of course, to read. We hope to see you soon at the Library!

Ed Valauskas

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.



FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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

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

EDMUND FITZGERALD, 50TH ANNIVERSARY

NOV 10, 5:00 – 6:00 PM

It has been 50 years since the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald. Learn about the life and death of the Titanic of the Great Lakes. Theories of how she met her end at the hands of the November Witch will be discussed.

HENNA TATTOOS

NOV 11, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Learn about the history of Henna and get a (temporary) tattoo! Tattoos last for 5+ days and are suitable for all skin types. Sponsored in part by the Friends of BPL. Ages 16+ *Please register on the library website.*

MYSTERY & MOCKTAILS

DEC 11, 5:00 – 7:30 PM

Fictional trouble is afoot at the library! Join us for a night of mysteries and mocktails. All beverages are non-alcoholic. Ages 13+ *Please register on the library website.*

MONDAYS	Chair Yoga 9:00am	Library Therapy Dog 11:30am	Knit & Yarn 1:30pm
TUESDAYS	Roots to Remember 1st Tuesdays 5:00pm	Knit & Yarn 3rd Tuesdays 6:00pm	Alzheimer's Support Group Last Tuesdays 2:00pm
WEDNESDAYS	Artplay 1st Wednesdays 6:00pm	BPL Book Group 2nd Wednesdays 5:30pm	
THURSDAYS	Magic the Gathering Last Thursdays 4:00pm - 5:30pm		

HOURS

Mon – Thur
10 AM TO 8 PM

Friday
10 AM TO 5 PM

Saturday
10 AM TO 4 PM

Sunday
CLOSED

LIBRARY BOARD

- President**
Ed Valauskas
- Vice-President**
Rick Fuller
- Secretary**
Sue Collins
- Treasurer**
Jim Kole
- Trustee**
Connie Etter
- Trustee**
Sue Janoskey
- Trustee**
Aaron Noll
- Trustee**
George Shaver
- Trustee**
John Wilk
- Trustee**
Catherine Worcester



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

FAMILY PROGRAMS

HALLOWEEN PARTY

OCT 9, 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Join us for games, candy and spooky family fun! Costumes are encouraged, but not required. For all ages.

CRAFTING FOR HALLOWEEN

OCT 11, 11:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Drop in for some Halloween crafting fun! There will be several spooky crafts to make and take. All supplies included. Ages 9+

ROCK BAND DAY

OCT 25, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Join us for an interactive video game event and rock out like its 2007! Unleash your inner rock star and enjoy music, games and good vibes! Ages 9+

MAKE A 3D PRINTED BIRD FEEDER

NOV 8, 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Learn how to make a bird feeder from a 3D printed heart shape. A quick, easy craft for the whole family. One per family. While supplies last.

Please note: peanut butter, nuts and seeds will be used in the suet recipe.

CRAFTING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

DEC 13, 11:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Drop in for holiday crafting fun for the whole family. There will be several holiday crafts to make and take. All supplies included. Ages 9+



YOUTH PROGRAMS

NEW! HANDIKRAFT

**OCT 16, NOV 6 & 20, DEC 4 & 18
4:30 – 6:30 PM**

Let your imagination run wild in this evening craft program for kids. Drop in for a guided craft, as well as time to create original designs, using a variety of available materials. Every first and third Thursday. All supplies included. Ages 5 – 12

CRITTER CONNECTION

NOV 15, 12:00 – 1:30 PM

Get up close to lizards, snakes and arachnids! Library staff members will bring in some of their cool critters and teach you all about them. *Please register on the library website.*



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

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 @BridgmanPublicLibrary	 @Bridgman_Library	 @BridgmanLibrary
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ONGOING EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS

MONDAYS	Little Explorers 2nd & 4th Mondays 11:00am		
TUESDAYS	Toddler Storytime 9:30am, 10:30am & 11:30am		
WEDNESDAYS	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Baby & Me 10:30am</td> <td>Baby & Me Art Last Wednesdays 10:30am</td> </tr> </table>	Baby & Me 10:30am	Baby & Me Art Last Wednesdays 10:30am
Baby & Me 10:30am	Baby & Me Art Last Wednesdays 10:30am		



ONGOING YOUTH PROGRAMS

MONDAYS	Library Therapy Dog 11:30am		
TUESDAYS	Pokémon Card League 4:00pm - 5:00pm		
WEDNESDAYS	Dungeons & Dragons 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 4:00pm - 5:00pm		
THURSDAYS	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>HandiKraft 1st & 3rd Thursdays 4:30pm - 6:30pm</td> <td>Magic the Gathering Last Thursdays 4:00pm - 5:30pm</td> </tr> </table>	HandiKraft 1st & 3rd Thursdays 4:30pm - 6:30pm	Magic the Gathering Last Thursdays 4:00pm - 5:30pm
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FOOD FOR FINES

From November 17, 2025 to January 3, 2026 bring in non-perishable goods for those in need and we will waive your overdue fines. All donations benefit the local Bridgman area.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

- November 26 – Thanksgiving Eve**
Closing at 2:00 PM
- November 27 – Thanksgiving**
Closed All Day
- December 24 – Christmas Eve**
Closed All Day
- December 25 – Christmas Day**
Closed All Day
- December 31 – New Year’s Eve**
Closing at 2:00 PM
- January 1, 2026 – New Year’s Day**
Closed All Day



WHO ARE THEY?
The Friends of Bridgman Public Library (FoBPL) unite people who are committed to enriching the services and activities at BPL.

WHAT DO THEY DO?
They financially support library programs, projects and services through their memberships and fundraising.

HOW CAN I HELP?
Become a member!
Memberships start at \$5/yr.

Volunteer
- Staffing the Book Shoppe
- Sorting donated books
- Setting Up/Working Book Sales

FILL OUT A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AT THE LIBRARY!

9964 GAST ROAD, BRIDGMAN, MI 49106

BridgmanSchools.com

Office: 269-465-5432

Fax: 269-466-0221

PRSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST. JOSEPH, MI
PERMIT #29




CITY OF BRIDGMAN 2025 TRASH & RECYCLING SCHEDULE

2025 City of Bridgman Trash & Recycling Pickup

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

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

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

 Symbol - Trash and Recycle day
 Blue is Trash pick-up day - WEST OF RED ARROW TO LAKE MICH.
 Pink is Trash pick-up day - EAST OF RED ARROW TO GAST RD

Large Trash Pick-Up will be
 May 12 & 14 and September 15 & 17



For recycling information and helpful tips visit:
www.lakeshorerecycle.com/recycling-info