

WINTER 2025/2026



Bridgman

COMMUNITY BUZZ



PHOTO COURTESY OF: John Truesdell

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,

As 2025 has come to a close, I hope everyone enjoyed a safe, joyful, and restful holiday season! At Bridgman Public Schools, we are proud to celebrate the incredible accomplishments of our students, staff, and community as we reach the midpoint of the 2025-2026 school year.

Academic Highlights

Our students continue to excel academically, and Bridgman Public Schools remains one of the highest-performing districts in Berrien County. Our students consistently demonstrate strong learning outcomes that exceed both county and state averages in core subjects.

These accomplishments are a testament to the dedication and expertise of our staff, the hard work of our students, and the continued support of families and our community. Together, we are ensuring that every student receives a high-quality education and is prepared for future success.

Financial Strength & Accountability

Bridgman Public Schools remains financially healthy. The 2025 audit by Kruggel and Lawton provided a clean opinion, and the District added \$1,636,623 to the General Fund balance, now totaling \$6,841,247—43.10% of annual expenditures. This stability allows us to continue

investing in programs, resources, and facilities that support student success.

Aquatic Center Renovation

Exciting news for our community: the Bridgman Aquatic Center will undergo a major renovation to modernize key systems, improve energy efficiency, and enhance the experience for everyone. The project is scheduled to take place from April through August 2026 and is fully funded by the District. We look forward to welcoming swimmers back to an upgraded facility that will serve students and the community for years to come.

Honoring Our School Board

January is School Board Recognition Month. We thank Eric Ramso, Wayne Hall, Tishia Roberts, Brad Owen, JoAnn DeMeulenaere, Nancy Hawley, and Tommy LaVanway for their time, dedication, and leadership. Their commitment ensures strong local governance and helps prepare our students to become tomorrow's leaders.

Winter Weather Reminders

As we enter the winter season, school delays and closures may occur. **If there is a two-hour delay, start times will be:**

- Bridgman Elementary School: 9:45 a.m.
- F.C. Reed Middle School: 10:00 a.m.
- Bridgman High School: 9:55 a.m.



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

**BRIDGMAN
BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

President

Eric Ramso

Vice President

Wayne Hall

Secretary

Tishia Roberts

Treasurer

Brad Owen

Trustee

JoAnn
DeMeulenaere

Trustee

Nancy Hawley

Trustee

Tom LaVanway

Breakfast and lunch will still be served, and dismissal times will not change.

If school is closed for the day, families will be notified through local news outlets, district social media, and our automated call/text system. Please ensure that your contact information in our system is current so you receive important alerts.

Thank you for your flexibility and support as we navigate Michigan winter weather together!

Stay Connected

The second half of the school year is full of events and activities. Be sure to visit BridgmanSchools.com for the latest updates.

Thank you for your continued support. The strength of our community is our schools—and the strength of our schools is our community.

Go Bees!

Shane M. Peters, Superintendent

JOB OPPORTUNITIES!

- Social Worker
- Substitute Food Service Worker

If you're interested in joining our team, go to BridgmanSchools.com and click on the **Human Resources** tab.



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Bridgman High School News from Principal Gerald Heath

As we settle into the heart of the winter season, I want to acknowledge the incredible work our students, staff, and families continue to do each day. The start of a new calendar year is always a time for reflection and renewal, and I am proud of the perseverance, kindness, and dedication I see throughout our school community.

Celebrating Student Success

Our students continue to shine, both in and out of the classroom. From strong academic performances to outstanding achievements in the arts, robotics, and athletics, our students are demonstrating what it means to be a True Bee. Winter sports are well underway, and our athletes are representing Bridgman with grit, heart, and sportsmanship. In the arts, our band, choir, and visual arts programs have shown remarkable creativity and skill during their winter performances and showcases.

School Safety

The district continues to strengthen its commitment to student and staff safety through implementation of the **“I Love U Guys” Standard Response Protocol (SRP)** and use of the **Crisis Go app**. This year, staff and students have participated in training to ensure clarity and confidence in responding to Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter scenarios. The Crisis

Go app will be utilized as a critical communication tool, allowing staff to access emergency procedures, account for students, and communicate with administration in real time. Together, these systems support a unified, efficient, and well-practiced approach to school safety across the building and county.

Looking Ahead

Winter is also a time of planning for the future. Our high school counselor will soon begin course registration for the 2026–2027 school year, and students will have opportunities to explore new pathways, electives, and programs. We encourage families to discuss these choices together and reach out with questions.

National Honor Society (NHS)

NHS honored local veterans with a special video presentation shown to all students on Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11. The organization also led a Compassion Campaign to collect food, toiletries, and clothing for Bridgman Cares. Looking ahead, the NHS will host a fundraiser dinner during the home basketball game on Friday, January 30, 2026.

Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)

SADD wrapped up another successful Red Ribbon Week from October 27–31. This year’s national theme,



“Life Is a Puzzle, Solve It Drug Free,” was highlighted through student dress-up days and school-wide activities. Student participation was strong and enthusiastic.

Interact Club

The Interact Club coordinated the annual Toys for Tots drive in December as donation boxes were placed throughout the building.

Key Club

During October’s Mental Health Awareness Week, Key Club led activities encouraging open dialogue about mental health and worked to reduce stigma surrounding mental illness.

DECA

Bridgman DECA, under the guidance of Mrs. Douglass, has kicked off the year strong. Students are preparing for the district competition on Friday, January 16, 2026, by participating in role-play practice and professional selling events. Those working on written events—such as business plans, integrated marketing campaigns, and project management projects—have begun their research and drafting. DECA recently completed a successful community spirit-wear fundraiser and will host a fundraiser dinner during the basketball game on Friday, February 6, 2026.

Robotics

Excitement is building as the Robotics Team prepares for another thrilling season! Students are dusting off their tools, brainstorming innovative designs, and refining programming skills in anticipation of the upcoming competitions. With a focus on teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving, the team is ready to take on new challenges and represent Bridgman with pride.

Spring Musical

Looking ahead, the drama department is preparing for this year’s spring musical. Students are rehearsing songs, lines, and choreography, promising an unforgettable performance of “Dare to Dream Jr”. Be sure to mark your calendars for March 20-22 to support our talented performers on stage!

Thank You

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Our accomplishments are made possible by the strong collaboration among our students, families, and staff.

I wish all our families warmth, rest, and renewal this winter season. Let us continue moving forward together and embrace the opportunities this new year will bring.

Gerald Heath, High School Principal



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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

Dear Community Members,

As we head into the winter season at F.C. Reed Middle School, I'm reminded how powerful it is when a community pulls together with purpose. Even during the busiest stretch of the school year, our students, staff, and families continue to shine and demonstrate what makes Bridgman such a special place to learn and grow. This semester has been filled with achievements that reflect both the heart and the collective effort of our school community, and I'm excited to share several highlights that showcase this shared success.

First, F.C. Reed Middle School was recently named one of the **Best Middle Schools in Michigan by U.S. News & World Report, ranking #78 statewide and placing us within the top 6% of all middle schools in Michigan.** This 22-place improvement reflects student performance that exceeds expectations in both math and reading. It is a tremendous honor and a direct result of the dedication and perseverance shown by our students, staff, families, and stakeholders. RMS continues to be a leader in public education across Southwest Michigan and the state, and I could not be prouder of our academic accomplishments.

We also have exciting news on the robotics front. **Congratulations to Coach Foxworthy and the RMS BeeBots on qualifying for the FIRST Robotics State Tournament** in Mason on December 20. The team placed second overall at their regional competition, earning a spot among Michigan's top programs. Their teamwork, creativity, and resilience as they explore the intersection between engineering and archaeology have been inspiring, and I look forward to proudly displaying their new hardware in the RMS office once the season concludes.



RMS BeeBots

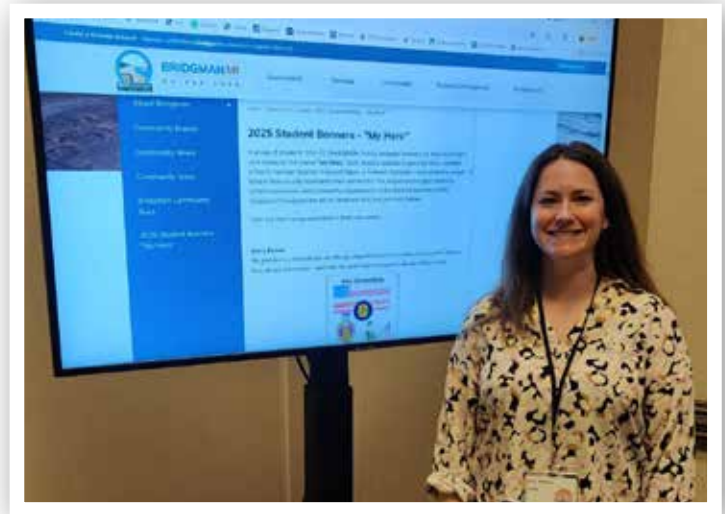


F.C. Reed Middle School
10254 California Road
Bridgman, MI 49106
Ph: 269-465-5410
Fax: 269-466-0393

I'm also pleased to share that one of the most rewarding partnerships between Bridgman Public Schools and the City of Bridgman was recently recognized statewide. **RMS Art Teacher Mrs. Erin Korson presented at the 76th Annual Michigan Art Education Association Conference in Traverse City, where she highlighted our Downtown Bridgman Banner Project.** She shared how she manages artwork creation, project timelines, and collaboration with the city, along with practical strategies for educators looking to launch or grow their own public art displays in partnership with local municipalities. We are proud to see this special BPS initiative represented across Michigan and grateful for the creativity and leadership Mrs. Korson brings to this partnership. **New banners will debut this spring** - so stay tuned in early spring!

Finally, this winter marks an important transition in our front office. **After more than 27 years of exceptional service, Mrs. Beth Jones will retire at the end of the first marking period.** Beth's steady presence and deep care for students, families, and staff have supported generations of RMS learners, and she will be dearly missed. THANK YOU, BETH!

I am also pleased to welcome **Amber Lowry** as our next RMS Administrative Assistant. Amber joined us on November 24 and has been training alongside Mrs. Jones throughout December. She brings a wealth of experience from New Buffalo Area Schools and a warm, student-centered approach that is a perfect fit for RMS.



Mrs. Korson presenting at MAEA

As we move into the darker, snowier season, I hope each of you finds time for rest, celebration, and connection with those you love. Thank you for your continued support, trust, and partnership—every accomplishment we celebrate this semester brightens our district and is rooted in the strength of our community working together. I'm confident that this momentum will carry us into the new year as we continue preparing every student for success at Bridgman High School and beyond. Our collective efforts make RMS a place where students feel seen, supported, and challenged to excel.

Your partner in education,
John Truesdell, Middle School Principal



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Elementary School News

by Lori Graves, Elementary School Principal

Bridgman Elementary's Bee Market: A Year- Round Resource for Our School Community

The Bee Market at Bridgman Elementary School continues to be one of the most meaningful and heartfelt programs within the Bridgman Public Schools community. What began during the 2019 holiday season as a small food pantry created from generous family donations has now grown into a year-round support system for students and families. **The Bee Market is rooted in the belief that when children's basic needs are met, they can focus, learn, and thrive—and that our community is strongest when we take care of one another.**

What Is the Bee Market?

The Bee Market is a discreet, school-based food and essentials pantry located within Bridgman Elementary School. It provides a private and welcoming space where caregivers and families connected to Bridgman Public Schools can select items that best meet their household needs. Unlike traditional food pantries, the Bee Market operates on a flexible, as-needed basis. Families simply reach out, schedule a time, and are welcomed to choose what will be most helpful to them. The process is confidential and judgment-free, designed to ensure dignity and comfort for every family.



While the Bee Market supports families during the holidays, it is intentionally open all year. Needs do not follow a calendar, and **families may experience unexpected challenges at any time—job changes, medical bills, rising grocery costs, or temporary financial strain.** The Bee Market offers stability during these times, helping families bridge the gap and keeping students focused on school rather than stress.

What Donations Are Needed?

The Bee Market stays stocked because of the generosity of our Bridgman community. Donations of non-perishable



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

food are always needed, including items such as canned fruits and vegetables, soups, pasta, rice, beans, boxed dinners, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, oatmeal and shelf-stable milk or juice. Hygiene items are especially important, as they are often expensive for families; shampoo, conditioner, body wash, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes and feminine hygiene products are consistently in demand. Household essentials like laundry detergent, dish soap, cleaning wipes, paper towels and toilet paper are also greatly appreciated, as they help families maintain a healthy and comfortable home environment. Additionally, kid-friendly extras—such as individually packaged snacks, new hats, gloves, socks and basic school supplies—help students feel confident and prepared each day. All donated items should be unopened, new and within their expiration dates. Every item, large or small, makes a difference.

Donations may be dropped off at Bridgman Elementary School at 3891 Lake Street or at the Bridgman Administration Office at 9964 Gast Road, Bridgman, MI 49106.

How Families Can Access the Bee Market

The Bee Market is open to all families within Bridgman Public Schools and access is intentionally simple. Families can visit throughout the school year by scheduling a confidential appointment. Whether a family needs one-time help or ongoing support, the Bee Market is here to assist without barriers or questions. Many families express appreciation for how private and respectful the

process feels, and the school takes pride in offering a place where needs can be met with compassion and care.

Who to Contact

For questions or to schedule a visit, families should contact the Bridgman Elementary School office at 269-465-0241 or the Principal, Lori Graves, at lgraves@bridgmanschools.com. Our counselors and social workers also help coordinate the Bee Market and are available to assist families or community members.

Gratitude for Our Community

The Bee Market remains successful because of the kindness, generosity and ongoing support of the Bridgman community. Each donation, each act of giving, and each moment of care strengthen the network of support surrounding our students. Thank you to everyone who continues to uplift the Bee Market and ensure our Bridgman Bees have what they need to grow and thrive.

Lori Graves, Elementary School Principal —————





BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence from the Chairman, George Lepeniotis

As the holiday season settles in and the snowy winter months arrive, we're reminded of the importance of slowing down, reflecting, and expressing gratitude. For the Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence (BFEE), this time offers a meaningful pause to appreciate the extraordinary kindness and support shown by our community throughout the year. Because of you—our donors, volunteers, business partners, and school supporters—Bridgman Public Schools continue to thrive. Every day, students and staff benefit from opportunities made possible through your generosity to our Foundation.

This past year has been marked by meaningful activity and planning, all aimed at positioning the Foundation for even greater impact. From successful fundraisers to strategic board development, BFEE has remained focused on strengthening the support structures that serve our district. Allow me to give you an overview of what I consider to be an extremely successful year.

District Needs

This year, facing unprecedented budgetary challenges, the Foundation responded to the District's request for financial support to hire a part-time counselor at Bridgman Elementary School. The Board was proud to

step in, together with the District, to ensure that our youngest learners had access to the resources they needed to thrive without concerns about funding.

Community Fundraisers

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Bridgman American Legion, Lost Dunes Golf Club, Third Coast Championship Disc Golf, business sponsors, and the many community members who generously hosted fundraising events on our behalf. Your commitment has helped expand enrichment opportunities for students and staff—and we are truly grateful.

Board Development

This spring, the Foundation launched a redesigned website, offering the community a more user-friendly and informative experience. The Board welcomed new members, refined trustee roles, and began preparing to develop a new strategic plan in partnership with the District's incoming superintendent. This plan will focus on community outreach—including alumni engagement—and on identifying major projects that will guide future investments in educational innovation, student well-being, and expanded learning opportunities.



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

Student Leadership - A New Logo and a New Name

We are especially excited about our partnership with the Bridgman High School Marketing Class to redesign the Foundation’s logo. This project-based collaboration offers students a real-world learning experience that will strengthen their knowledge and enhance their graduation portfolios. Students are currently in the design phase and will “pitch” their concepts to the Foundation later this school year. We cannot wait to see their ideas come to life!

When the new logo launches, the Foundation will also transition to its new name, the Bridgman Education Foundation. The shorter name more clearly defines who we are. It aligns with how other education foundations identify themselves across the country, making it easier for community members, partners, and alumni to find us online and on social media.

Each of these efforts reflects our ongoing commitment to enriching the educational experience for every Bridgman student. None of it would be possible without the sustained generosity and partnership of our community.

Your Support Makes the Difference

As we prepare for another year of service and impact, please consider contributing to the Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence. Your donation—no matter the size—helps ensure we can continue funding classroom grants, enrichment programs, student wellness

initiatives, and other opportunities that strengthen our district. Please give to ensure the future strength and relevance of our kids’ educational needs!

Donations can be made anytime at BridgmanFoundation.org. And remember—your contributions are tax-deductible.

George Lepeniotis, Foundation Chairman



How much would you like to donate today?
All donations directly impact our organization and help us further our mission.

Choose your donation frequency

One Time Monthly Yearly

Donation Amount * USD \$

\$10.00 \$25.00 \$50.00

\$100.00 \$250.00 \$500.00

Enter custom amount



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Links for Education Golf Outing

Monday, May 4, 2026
Lost Dunes Golf Club

We are already looking ahead to one of our most beloved traditions—the Annual Links for Education Golf Outing, returning on Monday, May 4, 2026, at the premier Lost Dunes Golf Club.

Registration information will be shared later this winter. We hope you'll join us for this special event in support of our students and educators.





BRIDGMAN ATHLETICS

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.)



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





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.

AQUATIC CENTER RENOVATION

The Bridgman Aquatic Center will be **temporarily closed from April through August 10, 2026** while crews complete a major renovation project designed to modernize key systems, improve energy efficiency, and enhance the experience for all users.

Because the district has carefully saved recreation millage funds, a millage first approved by voters in the 1990s, this \$4.2 million improvement project is funded entirely by this long-standing millage, with no tax increase and no impact on classroom or education dollars.

The updates will help ensure that the pool continues to serve everyone who relies on it — from lap swimmers and PE classes to youth teams, therapy users, and families.

What's Being Upgraded

- New pool HVAC system for better air quality, comfort, and humidity control.
- Replacement of the pool roof to address aging infrastructure and improve energy efficiency.
- UV treatment upgrades for cleaner, safer water.
- Re-caulking and structural maintenance to extend the facility's lifespan.
- Updated fire alarm systems to meet current safety standards.
- Refreshed pool deck and finishes for a more welcoming, durable environment.

These improvements reflect Bridgman's commitment to maintaining high-quality, community-centered recreation facilities that meet the needs of all users, today and for years to come.

For the most up-to-date information check out BridgmanPool.com.



BRIDGMANPOOL.COM



CITY OF BRIDGMAN



City of Bridgman News from the City Manager, Debbie Lambrix

Hello Bridgman, from Your New City Manager

As we begin a new year this January, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. I'm Debbie Lambrix, and I'm honored to be stepping into the role of City Manager.

I've been with the City of Bridgman for nearly ten years as Treasurer. Before coming here, I spent more than 20 years serving the City of Flat Rock and 4 years at New Buffalo, building my career in public service. When I joined Bridgman, I quickly discovered a community that felt like home — welcoming, caring, and proud of our small town on the lake.

Upon Juan Ganum's announcement of accepting a position with the City of Holland, I was appointed as Interim City Manager. I chose to take on the role permanently for the short term to help guide the city through this transition. This allows us to train our new treasurer and the Council time to think about long-term leadership. I've grown even more connected to the work we do and to the people who keep this city running every day. I'm grateful for the Council's trust in allowing me to continue in this role.

My approach is simple: listen, be fair, and work together. We have a dedicated staff and a community that truly cares, and I'm excited to continue supporting Bridgman in a positive, steady way.

As we head into this new year, I look forward to seeing you around town or at City Hall. Please feel free to reach out — I'm here to help, and I'm proud to serve this wonderful community.

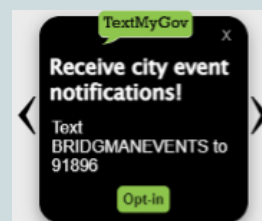
Debbie Lambrix, City Manager



Stay Informed with the TextMyGov Alert System!

Receive notifications on things important to YOU. Reminders and updates about meetings, elections, leaf collection, community events, beach conditions and more.

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



Please Give a Warm Welcome to Debbie Wishart, City Treasurer

We are pleased to introduce **Debbie Wishart**, the newest member of the Bridgman team, stepping into the role of **City Treasurer**. Debbie brings a strong blend of professional experience and deep community roots to this position.

A proud resident of Lake Township for 40 years, Debbie has long been connected to the people and places that make Bridgman special. Her commitment to public service is supported by a diverse background that includes experience as a Baroda Village Clerk and 10 years in human resources, giving her a well-

rounded understanding of organizational operations, financial processes, and community needs.

Debbie is eager to bring her skills, dedication, and long-standing love for the community into her new role as treasurer. We warmly welcome her to the team and look forward to the positive impact she will have on the City of Bridgman.



WINTER TAXES DUE

2025 winter tax bills are due February 17, 2026 by 4 pm to avoid penalties. Be sure to leave ample time when paying by mail (postmarks are not accepted).

You may pay at City Hall, by mail or online at **Bridgman.org** through **March 2**. After that, payments must be made at the Berrien County Treasurers Office at 701 Main St. in St. Joseph.



CITY OF BRIDGMAN

Bringing Life Back to Local Buildings: Why Reviews Are Needed Before New Businesses Move In

from the Building & Zoning Administrator, Brad Mattner

Residents often ask why some commercial buildings in Bridgman stay empty for a period of time or why a new business cannot simply move in after another one leaves. The answer comes from state law, not local preference. Michigan's building codes require a safety review whenever the activity inside a commercial building is going to change. This applies in every community across the state.

When a building is for sale or lease, the listing usually focuses on square footage and location rather than the specific uses it is approved for. Because of that, buyers and tenants often assume they can open their new restaurant, shop, fitness space, office, or mixed-use idea immediately. Only later do they learn that a review is required before the space can be occupied.

Understanding Use and Occupancy

A change of use or occupancy is what triggers the required review. In the simplest terms:

Use refers to what happens inside the building. Examples include retail sales, office work, food service, fitness activities, or storage.

Occupancy refers to how the building is classified for safety. This classification groups buildings by the level of fire, life-safety, and structural risks associated with the activity within.

If the planned activity changes the use or shifts the building into a different occupancy category, Michigan law requires the city to evaluate the space to make sure it is safe for the new purpose.

Why This Review Is Required

Every type of business brings different safety needs. A space designed years ago for light retail may not have the exits, fire protection, accessibility features, or structural capacity needed for assembly uses, food service, or higher-risk storage. The review ensures the building can support the new activity safely and that the public is protected.

Even when no construction is planned, a change in activity can increase life safety risks. This statewide requirement exists to prevent tragedies and to help older buildings safely support modern business needs.



How This Affects Spaces Changing Tenants or Uses

Many commercial spaces have been used for different purposes over the years without ever being updated to current safety standards. When a business moves out, and a new one wants to take its place, or when a space that has been idle for a while shows renewed interest, these missing updates must finally be addressed. This can delay occupancy, and sometimes the owner chooses not to complete the necessary work.

Understanding this helps explain why some spaces take longer to reopen for the next business. It is not about discouraging development. It is about meeting statewide safety requirements that protect everyone.

We Are Here to Help

The building and zoning department is always available to talk with potential business owners early in the process. A short conversation can determine whether a review is required and what steps may be involved. Early communication helps prevent surprises and supports the safe and successful use of our commercial buildings.

Brad Mattner, Building & Zoning Administrator

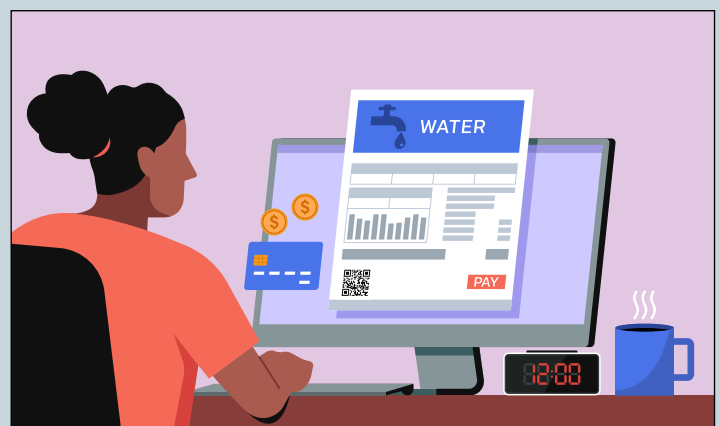
Water Bills are Going Green!

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](https://www.bridgman.org) or contact Jodi at jmattner@bridgman.org or call 269-465-5144.



CITY OF BRIDGMAN



Parks Department Awarded Grant for Weko Beach Boardwalk Renovation

from the Parks & Recreation Director, Sara Ball

The Parks Department is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a grant through the **Michigan Coastal Management Program** in partnership with the **Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)** and **Water Resources Division (State)**. This funding will support the renovation of the iconic boardwalk at Weko Beach, a well-loved community asset that provides a safe and accessible path to the shoreline for residents and visitors.

The renovation project will focus on **improving the boardwalk's structural integrity, enhancing accessibility, and strengthening long-term shoreline resilience**. In addition, the project scope includes updated sustainable lighting and additional seating

bump-outs to create more areas for visitors to enjoy the lakeshore.

While the project timeline is still being finalized, the Parks Department anticipates a completed project by Spring 2027.

The city is grateful for the support of these partners, whose commitment to coastal stewardship continues to enhance and protect Michigan's natural resources. Additional project updates will be shared as planning moves forward, and all information will be available at [Bridgman.org](https://www.bridgman.org).

Sara Ball, Parks & Recreation Director





2026 General Election from the City Clerk, Chris Fisher

November 3, 2026, the City of Bridgman is looking forward to an exciting **general election** with **four city council seats up for grabs**. If you've ever considered stepping up and making a difference in our community, now is your chance!

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

If you're interested in running, stop by the City Clerk's office at City Hall and pick up a "Nominating Petition Packet". This packet is your gateway to becoming a candidate. It contains all the essential information you'll need to kickstart your campaign.

Important Guidelines to Know

Filing nominating petition information for candidates for the November 3, 2026, General Election:

- Be sure to read the back of the petition form to ensure proper completion and that every signature counts.
- Complete the petition form heading before circulating it.
- Per the City Charter – the petition shall be signed by not less than twenty (20) nor more than fifty (50) qualified electors of the City.

- A person cannot sign a petition on behalf of another person, sign a petition more than once, or sign more petitions for the same office than there are persons to be elected in the office.
- All signatures submitted on a qualifying petition must have been collected within 180 days immediately preceding the date of filing (signatures dated more than 180 days prior to the date of filing are invalid).
- All candidates must submit an Affidavit of Identity form to the City Clerk.
- All candidates must file a Statement of Organization Form to the Berrien County Clerk within 10 days of filing their nominating petition forms.

Return petitions to City Hall no later than 4 pm on July 21, 2026.

If you have any questions or want to know more, please email me at cfisher@bridgman.org or call City Hall.

Chris Fisher, City Clerk



CITY OF BRIDGMAN

Street Department Updates

from the Street Department Crew Leader, JT Adkerson

January: Winter Weather & Around-the-Clock Response

January keeps our three-person Street Department busy with frequent snow and ice. Our top priority is keeping the roads safe for residents, school buses, and local businesses. **Thank you to those who move vehicles off the streets during major storms**—it helps us clear curb-to-curb, especially in tighter neighborhoods.



February: Freeze-Thaw & Pothole Management

February's temperature swings often mean freeze-thaw cycles and potholes. While permanent repairs must wait for spring, we stay on the road with cold-patch fixes to keep things drivable.



Between weather events, we focus on equipment maintenance, changing cutting edges, checking hydraulics, and prepping for spring. Residents can help by calling in any major potholes or icy spots they notice.



March: Stormwater Prep

As snow melts and early rains arrive, our attention shifts to stormwater. We clear debris from storm drains to prevent flooding and begin prepping for spring street sweeping. We also inspect signs, tree lawns, and winter-related pavement damage. Sweeping will begin once temperatures stay consistently above freezing. Residents can assist by keeping gutter lines clear and using the open bays at the Street Department to drop off sticks, leaves, and excess gravel.

Thank You to the Community

Winter is our toughest season, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation. With a small crew handling the entire city, your support truly helps us stay efficient and responsive. If you have concerns or notice an area needing attention, please contact City Hall.

JT Adkerson, Street Department Crew Leader —



Snow & Ice: Myths vs. Facts

How winter road clearing really works in Bridgman

Winter in Southwest Michigan brings big waves, lake-effect snow, and plenty of “I swear it was clear ten minutes ago!” moments. With that comes many assumptions about how plowing and salting work. Let’s clear up a few common misconceptions:

MYTH: “Just put down more salt!”

FACT: Salt only works when pavement temperatures are above 15–20° F. When it’s colder, rock salt barely melts anything, no matter how much of it we use.

TIP: When it’s extremely cold, the salt is treated with beet juice brine (yes... beet juice!) to help it stick to the pavement and melt ice at lower temperatures. It looks strange, but it works.

MYTH: “Plows should come down my street right away.”

FACT: Major roads, school routes, and emergency access come first. Neighborhood streets are cleared next. Why? Fire trucks, ambulances, and buses need clear routes before anyone else.

MYTH: “My road wasn’t plowed because I didn’t see a truck.”

FACT: Crews often work overnight or early morning. You might be asleep while they’re out battling snowdrifts as early as 3:00 AM.

MYTH: “Plows push snow into my driveway on purpose.”

FACT: It’s unavoidable. Plows are designed to push snow off the roadway. With nowhere else to go, driveways get a little love (we wish there was a magic switch to prevent it).

How You Can Help

- Keep garbage/recycling carts out of the street on snow days.
- Park off the roadway during storms so plows can get through.
- Give equipment plenty of space — flying snow and slippery roads make close passes dangerous.

A Final Thought

Our Department of Public Works crew work long hours in tough conditions to keep our roads safe. A friendly wave, a little patience, or even just moving a trash bin out of their way goes a long way in winter weather.





CITY OF BRIDGMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT



Hello Residents,

The Bridgman Police Department is dispatched through the Berrien County Emergency Dispatch Center. Officers routinely patrol the city and check voicemails for any non-urgent information residents wish to leave.

- **For emergencies, always dial 9-1-1**
- For non-emergency police response, call 269-983-7141
- Bridgman Police Station (non-emergency), 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 expecting overnight guests may request a temporary parking pass** by contacting the police department. **Weather conditions may affect approval.** 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.

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.

ANIMALS AT WEKO BEACH

City ordinances prohibit animals on Weko Beach year-round. Animals must also remain leashed while on the boardwalks, stairs, and parking areas.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Your voice matters and we rely on the community's awareness and willingness to report concerns. Your eyes on the street make a real difference.



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.



Safe Snow Removal

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

Additionally, we kindly ask that you **avoid piling snow around fire hydrants** so they are accessible in an emergency.





Looking Back on 2025 — and Looking Ahead to an Exciting 2026

Director, Nancy Kiernan

As we close out 2025, we're proud to reflect on a year defined by collaboration, investment, and community spirit. From major planning initiatives to vibrant local events, Bridgman has continued to grow in ways that strengthen our economy, enhance our quality of life, and build momentum for the future.

Highlights of 2025

Community Planning & Engagement

This year marked the kickoff of the Strong Towns Central County Local Conversation Group, which produced invaluable community input for the upcoming **Courtyard Phase II** development. Residents voted at the Street Dance for their favorite concept, which will further inform the development of this public space, funded through a **\$150,000 MDOT grant**. We also secured a **Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) \$40,000 grant** to continue our long-term planning efforts by pursuing the **Redevelopment Ready Communities certification**, updating plans, and incorporating additional best practices into public processes and procedures.

Our **Commerce & Conversation** meeting featured Governor's Community Engagement Specialist Carly

Swanson, helping to strengthen connections between residents and state leadership. We also held a successful **Business Unwind** at United Federal Credit Union, where local businesses gathered to network and converse with BCGA leadership.

Events & Promotion

This year's events brought our community together in significant ways. The return of **Street Dance** on July 12 drew more than 1,300 attendees, displaying the spirit that makes Bridgman such a vibrant place to live. And **Holiday Village** was once again this year a family favorite and well attended.

With the help of Andrews University, we also developed a **new Social Media plan** and then, in collaboration with Bridgman High School students, produced engaging Facebook and Instagram content.

Business Growth & Local Support

Our work supporting local entrepreneurs continued steadily throughout 2025. We provided technical assistance for those interested in launching or expanding small businesses—offering business planning, site selection, loan packaging, and incentive consulting services. We assisted **Lake Side Fit** relocate and were



thrilled to share that one of our favorite businesses expanded with **Petals by Classic**. We celebrated the opening of **Lake Time Brewing and Spirits**, which quickly became a destination for locals and visitors alike to enjoy year-round hospitality. **Beachside Salt and Soul** has also joined our growing business community, offering massage therapy and halo therapy in a new salt room venue on Lake Street.

We have made considerable progress on major economic development initiatives. The **Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development** (MDARD) awarded **\$95,000 grant** for a feasibility study to develop the **Transient Market** in the former Chase Bank building. Additionally, a successful grant application secured a **\$1.5 million MDOT grant** toward the **total reconstruction of Willard and Mathieu Streets**—critical infrastructure for the planned expansion of **Industrial Fabrication**.

Looking Forward to 2026

Our community also rallied behind the new **Salute the Troops Playground** at the Bridgman American Legion. The project's design and capital campaign launched this

year, with the **CGA raising \$75,000 at a Veterans' Day Silent Auction** held at the American Legion, which included a big band, memorabilia, and a silent auction. Representatives of the Berrien Community Foundation and Cook Nuclear Plant were on hand to support the presentation of an **AEP Foundation \$50,000 grant** toward the project.

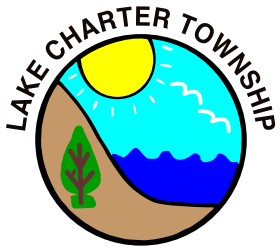
The year ahead promises even more exciting progress and **several new businesses** and services set to strengthen Bridgman's economic vitality and convenience for residents:

- **Ace Hardware** will open a full-service store in the former Rite Aid building at the corner of Shawnee and Gast roads.
- **Corewell Health** is planning a **walk-in clinic** for its facility on Red Arrow Highway.
- **Tiny Town**, a new sustainable and fun lodging option on Red Arrow Highway, will expand local hospitality offerings in a tiny home format.
- **Bridgman Manufacturing Center** is a collaborative workspace being developed for tool and die businesses growing and thriving in our area.

These additions reflect Bridgman's continued appeal as a place to invest, build, and dream. Next year, we will turn our attention to several other small businesses and housing developments in the pipeline. As we turn toward 2026, we extend our sincere gratitude to the residents, businesses, volunteers, and partners who make our community strong. Together, we've built an incredible foundation—and the best is yet to come.

Nancy Kiernan, Director





LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



Township News from Supervisor, Zach Carson

Dear Township Residents,

John Gast Memorial Trail Now Open

We're pleased to announce that the John Gast Memorial Trail has been officially completed and is now open for community use. This trail has already begun bringing families, students, and walkers outdoors, including a recent school field trip to the park.

At this time, the trail will not be maintained during the winter months; however, this could change in the future as community needs evolve and as we collect feedback from residents. We appreciate everyone's enthusiasm and encourage users to enjoy the non-motorized trail.

Water & Sewer System Improvements

Significant progress continues on our Water and Sewer System Improvement initiatives. The water plant construction project is moving forward steadily. Some major recent events include the removal of the lime silo and the old clarifiers, clearing the way for a needed storage room and the updated plate settling system. These improvements will help ensure that our water system remains resilient and able to meet the community's needs for many years to come.

Sewer inspections naturally slow down during this time of year due to weather conditions, but our team remains active. Even during winter months, repairs will continue as weather allows, and our crews will continue planning upcoming improvement projects so that work can begin once conditions improve. As we wait for the snow to recede, the focus remains on preparation.

Fire Department Training & Preparedness

The Fire Department continues to prioritize readiness, professionalism, and strong leadership. Our firefighters are training harder than ever to ensure we are prepared for any situation the community may face. Several members of the department, including myself, are currently enrolled in a 46-credit-hour "Blue Card" command class. This program is designed to strengthen our command capabilities and ensure we have well-trained incident commanders who have



**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!**

simulation-based training prior to an incident. These simulations include managing firefighter mayday situations, coordinating complex scenes, and improving communication under pressure.

We firmly believe that a lack of enforced fireground policies or disorganized operations can pose a significant risk—not only to our firefighters but also to the residents we serve. For this reason, we remain committed to raising our standards, training, and improving overall coordination. Our goal is a safer, more efficient response system that protects both our community and our fire service personnel.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the coming months, we are excited about the continued growth and improvements taking shape across the community. From recreational opportunities like the John Gast Memorial Trail to essential upgrades within our water, sewer, and emergency service systems, each project represents our dedication to creating a safer, healthier community. We appreciate your continued support, patience, and involvement as we work together to build a bright future.

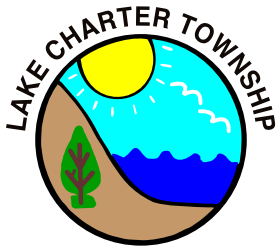
Zach Carson, Supervisor

ELECTION INSPECTORS: WE NEED YOU!

Election Inspectors/poll workers—play a **vital role in keeping our elections fair and efficient.** These paid positions can include:

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

If interested, applications are available at the Clerk’s Office at the Lake Township Hall.



LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



Clerk News

from Miranda Companion, Township Clerk

Dear Residents,

It has certainly been a busy quarter in our Township! On November 4th, we held the Special Election for Lake Michigan College, and I'm pleased to share our participation results with you. A total of **711 absentee ballots** were issued, with **432 ballots returned**, and **202 residents voted in person** on Election Day. Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate—your vote truly makes a difference in our community.

Thank You to Our Election Workers

I would also like to extend a deep and heartfelt thank you to our dedicated election workers. These individuals arrive early, stay late, complete extensive training, and uphold the legal and ethical standards required to run an election. Their attention to detail, willingness to serve, and continued professionalism ensure that every voter is assisted, every ballot is handled properly, and every election runs smoothly from open to close.

Election work requires patience, accuracy, and a genuine commitment to our community. We simply could not conduct elections without these individuals who step forward to serve. To each and every one of you—thank you for your time, energy, and dedication.

If you are interested in becoming an election work-

er and being part of this important civic duty, we would love to hear from you! Please contact me at: clerk@lake-township.org

A Memorable Visit from Bridgman Elementary

Earlier this year, we had the wonderful opportunity to host the Bridgman Elementary 2nd grade class for a hands-on government field trip. Their visit was filled with curiosity, excitement, and lots of great questions. Students were able to experience what a Township Board Meeting looks like firsthand, including how board members discuss topics, how motions are made, and how votes are taken to make official decisions. We even introduced them to the idea of a special election, which they got to participate in themselves!

With real ballots in hand, each student had the chance to vote on which type of tree would be planted at Lake Township Park in honor of their class. Just like adult voters, they checked in and marked their ballots. After tallying the results, the Dogwood tree came out as the winner!

If you walk into Lake Township Park from the new trail, you will now see a small Dogwood planted to the right just inside the fence. This spring, a plaque will be placed beside the tree that reads:





“This tree was selected and dedicated by the Second Grade Class of 2024–2025. May it stand as a symbol of growth, wisdom, and the lasting impact of young voices.”

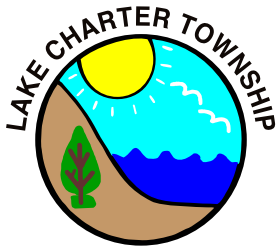
This experience was truly inspiring. Not only was it fun, but it helped show children that their voices matter and that participation is an important part of our government. I cannot wait to welcome the next 2nd grade class and see their excitement as they discover how their choices shape the world around them.

Looking Ahead

Now that the election has wrapped up, our days are filled with regular township responsibilities, along

with preparing for end-of-year wrap-up and getting ready for the upcoming audit next year. There is always work to be done, and we appreciate the continued support of our community as we keep moving forward.

Miranda Companion, Clerk



LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



Treasurer, Park & Trail News from Jennifer Adams

Hello Bridgman residents,

As your Lake Charter Township Treasurer, I would like to provide some updates as we begin the new year!

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.

Your property tax bill includes detailed information regarding your property's assessed value and the various millage rates that contribute to your total tax amount. Please review the revised version of the back of your tax bill, which includes essential and detailed information.

New Property Assessor

Lake Charter Township was fortunate to have Scott Cunningham as a long-time Level 4 Assessor. After 30 years with Lake Charter Township, Scott decided to retire in August to spend more time with his family. We want to take this opportunity to introduce everyone to Joe Van Hassel, a Michigan Master Assessing Officer (MMAO). Joe brings professional expertise to the community's property assessment services, holding the highest level of professional designation for assessors in Michigan. This designation demonstrates his extensive knowledge of property valuation, Michigan tax law, and assessment administration, positioning him to provide accurate and defensible property assessments for the township. Please go to the Lake Charter Township Website for additional contact information.

Property Tax Interest & Penalty

Between September 16, 2025, and February 28, 2026, a charge of 1% per month will be applied to any unpaid summer taxes. Winter tax payments received after February 17, 2026, will incur a 3% penalty. Starting March 3, 2026, residents must pay any outstanding summer and winter taxes to:

Berrien County Treasurer's Office
701 Main Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 983-7111

Property Tax Bills

Property owners in Lake Charter Township received their winter tax bills during the first week of December. Payments are due by 5:00 PM on February 17 to avoid

There are several options available for making your tax payments. Please visit our website at www.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.



Lake Township Park

While Lake Township Park closes its restrooms, pavilions, and main entrance for the off-season on November 1, residents can still enjoy the park throughout the winter months. The park remains open for disc golf and cross-country skiing when weather permits, offering outdoor recreation for those seeking to stay active during the colder months. Whether you want to practice your disc golf skills on the course or glide along the park's scenic trails on cross-country skis after a fresh snowfall, Lake Township Park continues to offer enjoyable outdoor experiences even after the summer season ends. Access the park using the off-season parking lot.

Residents interested in reserving one of Lake Township Park's three pavilions for family gatherings, celebrations, or reunions in 2026 can begin making reservations. The pavilions are available for rent at a very reasonable cost to residents. You can make your reservations by contacting Lake Township Hall at (269) 465-6601. Planning and reserving early ensures that residents can secure their preferred date and pavilion for their special events during the 2026 season.

Looking Ahead

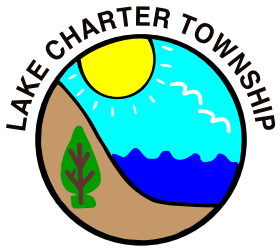
The Lake Charter Township Board will review and approve the 2026 budget in the coming weeks. This comprehensive budget process involves careful

consideration of the township's fiscal priorities, including funding for essential services such as road maintenance, park improvements, public safety, and administrative operations. The board works diligently to balance the needs of our growing community while maintaining responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars. The budget will outline planned expenditures for infrastructure projects, equipment purchases, personnel costs, and community programs that will serve our residents throughout the year. Once approved, the 2026 budget will be available for public review. We encourage residents with questions about township finances to contact our office or attend board meetings.

I want to thank each of you for being part of our Lake Charter Township community. It's truly an honor to serve as your treasurer, and I'm grateful for the trust you place in our township team. Please remember to pay your winter taxes by February 17 to avoid penalties, and don't hesitate to reach out if you need any assistance. Here's to a bright start to 2026!

With gratitude,

Jennifer Adams, Treasurer



LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Water & Sewer Department News: Protecting Your Pipes & Understanding Your Water from Toby Riley

As temperatures drop, it's time to think about protecting your home's water system from winter's challenges.

Frozen Pipes & Meters: Prevention is Key

When temperatures dip below freezing, unprotected water pipes and meters are at risk. We want to remind residents that property owners are responsible for protecting their water meters from freezing. A frozen meter can lead to costly repairs and service interruptions.

Here are some simple steps to protect your system:

- Keep your meter room or basement adequately heated, especially during extended cold snaps.
- Insulate exposed pipes, particularly those in unheated areas like crawl spaces, garages, or exterior walls.
- If you have pipes in cabinets along exterior walls, consider opening cabinet doors during extreme cold to allow warm air circulation.
- Let faucets drip slightly during periods of severe cold—moving water is less likely to freeze.
- If you're planning to be away during winter, don't turn your heat off completely; keep it set to at least 55°F.

If you do experience a frozen meter or pipe, contact our office immediately. The sooner we know about the problem, the sooner we can help you get your water service restored.

Cloudy Water in Cold Weather? No Need to Worry!

You may notice something interesting about your water during the winter months: occasionally, it may appear cloudy or milky white when you first pour it. Before you worry, try this simple test—set the glass on your counter and watch it for a minute or two.

If the water clears up from the bottom to the top, what you're seeing is dissolved oxygen, not a water quality issue. As water temperatures drop during winter, water can hold more dissolved gases, including oxygen. When this cold water comes out of your tap and reaches room temperature, those gases are released, creating tiny bubbles that give the water a cloudy appearance.

This is actually a sign of well-aerated, fresh water, and it's completely safe to drink. Think of it like carbonation in soda—the bubbles are harmless and disappear quickly.



Employee Spotlight: Dan Scheer

This month, we're recognizing Dan Scheer, who has dedicated **37 years** of service to Lake Charter Township. Dan recently stepped up to take on the role of Distribution Supervisor for our Water and Sewer Department, adding leadership responsibilities to his already extensive expertise.

Whether it's 10 below zero in the middle of winter or a scorching summer day, you can count on Dan working hard to keep your water flowing. His commitment to reliable service, no matter the weather conditions, exemplifies the dedication of our entire water and sewer team.

Dan's service to Lake Charter Township extends beyond the water department. He has also served on our Fire Department for over 30 years and currently holds the position of Assistant Fire Chief. It's not uncommon for Dan to respond to an emergency call and then head right back to work on a water or sewer project—truly going above and beyond for our community.

Dan's decades of experience with our systems and his willingness to serve in multiple capacities make him an invaluable asset to Lake Charter Township. Thank you, Dan, for 37 years of outstanding service, for taking on the challenge of Distribution Supervisor, and for your continued dedication to protecting our community as Assistant Fire Chief!

Questions?

Our team is always here to help. If you have concerns about frozen pipes, meters, or water quality, don't hesitate to reach out to us at 269-465-6601.

Toby Riley, Water System Superintendent



Important Update: Water Service Fees – Effective January 1, 2026

To continue providing reliable service, our water service fees will be updated:

💧 **Nonpayment Water Shutoff Fee: \$60**

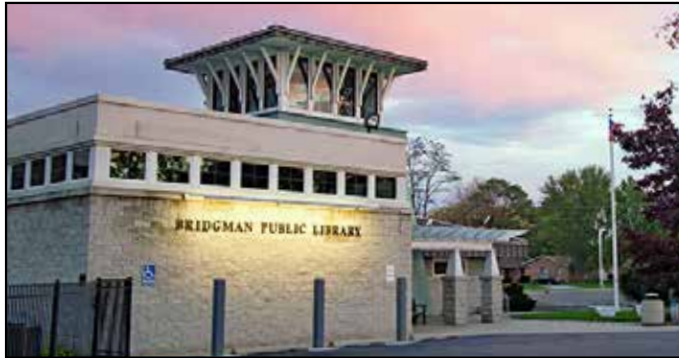
💧 **After-Hours & Weekend Emergency Turn-On: \$150**

☐ These changes take effect January 1, 2026.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY



Library News from former Board President, Ed Valauskas

Even libraries have birthdays! For example, the Boston, Mass. Public Library, one of the oldest in the country, was established on March 31, 1848. The city of Bridgman was still a wilderness of forests, swamps, and dunes on that date. Over a century passed until the Bridgman Public Library was born in 1966. On June 30, 2026 the library will celebrate its 60th birthday. Stay tuned for special events throughout the year marking this important milestone. We'll need all of your help with those candles on the cake!

On March 10, at 6 pm, Kimberly Nowack, P.E., will discuss the history and future of the Mackinac Bridge, the longest suspension bridge in the western hemisphere. Kim is a special expert on the Mighty Mac, being the first woman to be Chief Engineer and Director of the Bridge in its long history. The Mighty Mac opened on November 1, 1957 after construction lasted over three years.

For ornithologists of all varieties, naturalists from the Sarett Nature Center will provide an exciting program on the diverse flying fauna in this area on March 18, at 1 pm. This part of Michigan is part of a crucial flyway for migratory birds traveling thousands of miles between



Central and South America and the Arctic. Learn how to identify some these avian visitors in this informative program. After all, not everyone can remember each and every detail about all the confirmed bird species in Michigan; there are just 456 kinds to spot!

Finally, please stop by the Library to welcome the new Director, Dr. Terri Hebert. Terri brings a wealth of experience to Bridgman from public and school libraries as well as education. Most recently, she was a professor in elementary education at Indiana University South Bend.

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

NEW ORLEANS CUISINE *via Zoom*

FEB 10, 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Mary Spencer will join us on Zoom to demonstrate two New Orleans dishes, highlighting this unique regional cuisine. See the program calendar on the library website for the Zoom link.

CHATGPT DEMYSTIFIED

FEB 12, 5:00 – 6:00 PM

AI is everywhere - but what is it, really? Tech Services Librarian Kyle will give us an eye-opening look at ChatGPT - how it works, what it can do, and the good (and bad) ways it's shaping our world.

MACKINAC BRIDGE, THEN AND NOW

MARCH 10, 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Kimberly K. Nowack, Executive Director of the Mackinac Bridge Authority, will be here to talk about the history of straits area transportation and the building of the Mackinac Bridge. Also learn about maintenance of the bridge and bridge-related current events.

THE ART OF COLLECTING ART

APR 25, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Embark on the wonderful experience of building an art collection! Larissa Nuñez from the Krasl Art Center will lead this workshop and teach you about different collecting categories, inspire you to envision your personal collection, give ideas on how to build it, and suggest what to do with your gallery of art. *Please register on the library website.*

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
Rick Fuller

Vice-President
Jim Kole

Secretary
Sue Collins

Treasurer
Connie Etter

Treasurer
George Shaver

Trustee
Sue Janoskey

Trustee
Aaron Noll

Trustee
Ed Valauskas

Trustee
John Wilk

Trustee
Catherine Worcester



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

ONGOING ADULT PROGRAMS

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		

CRAFTING FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

FEB 7, 11:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Drop in for some Valentine crafting fun for the whole family. There will be several Valentine crafts to try.

Ages 9+

NIGHT SKY AT WEKO BEACH

FEB 7, 8:00 – 10:00 PM

Bundle up and join us for a night of planets and learning at Weko Beach. It is the perfect time of year to see Jupiter, Saturn, and Uranus through our telescopes.

NERF NITE

MARCH 12, 5:00 – 7:30 PM

Fun for the whole family. Bring a blaster, we'll provide the darts. The Library will close to the public at 4:30 pm and normal library services will not be available during this event. Ages 5+

FAMILY PROGRAMS

PUNCH AND JUDY

JAN 17, 1:00 – 2:00 PM

This lively puppet show brings timeless slapstick fun to today's audiences. Expect plenty of silly antics, playful mischief, and good old-fashioned fun in this fast-paced performance. *Please register on the library website.*

FAMILY TRIVIA

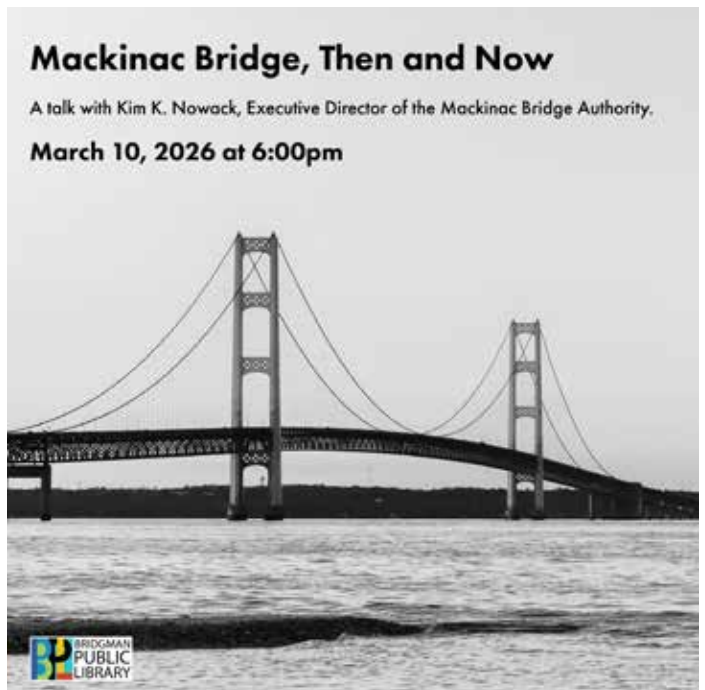
JAN 22, 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Families will compete in this all-ages trivia game. Questions will vary in difficulty and subject matter. Come with a group, or not. Individuals can be placed on a team.

Mackinac Bridge, Then and Now

A talk with Kim K. Nowack, Executive Director of the Mackinac Bridge Authority.

March 10, 2026 at 6:00pm



FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@BridgmanPublicLibrary



@Bridgman_Library



@BridgmanLibrary

BRIDGMANLIBRARY.COM

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

SARETT NATURE CENTER – LOCAL BIRDS

MARCH 18, 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Sarett Nature Center will give a talk on local birds. With spring around the corner, this program will help you identify birds coming back from migration. *Please register on the library website.*

WARHAMMER 40K PETTING ZOO

MARCH 21, 12:00 – 2:00 PM

Have you ever wondered what Warhammer was all about? Join us for hands on demonstrations of painting models, playing the game and designing an army. A brief explanation of the story and setting for the game will also be given. Ages 9+

CRAFTING FOR EASTER

MARCH 28, 11:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Drop in for some Easter crafting fun for the whole family. There will be several Easter crafts to try. Ages 9+

YOUTH PROGRAMS

HANDS ON SCIENCE: THE GREAT PAPER AIRPLANE CHALLENGE

FEB 28, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Hands on science is back! Kids will compete to make a paper airplane that flies the farthest.



Sarett Nature Center will give a talk on local birds. With spring around the corner, this program will help you identify birds coming back from migration.

All ages welcome.

*Registration is required:
bridgmanlibrary.com/calendar



ONGOING YOUTH & EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS

MONDAYS	Little Explorers 2nd & 4th Mondays 11:00am	Library Therapy Dog 11:30am	
TUESDAYS	Toddler Storytime 9:30am, 10:30am & 11:30am	Pokémon Card League 4:00pm - 5:00pm	
WEDNESDAYS	Baby & Me 10:30am	Baby & Me Art Last Wednesdays 10:30am	Dungeons & Dragons 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 4:00pm - 5:00pm
THURSDAYS	HandiKraft 1st & 3rd Thursdays 4:30pm - 6:30pm	Magic the Gathering Last Thursdays 4:00pm - 5:30pm	

9964 GAST ROAD, BRIDGMAN, MI 49106

BridgmanSchools.com

Office: 269-465-5432

Fax: 269-466-0221

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




CITY OF BRIDGMAN 2026 TRASH & RECYCLING SCHEDULE

2026 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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31					26	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	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
31																					30	31					

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	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 18 & 20 and September 21 & 23



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