

SPRING 2026



# 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.ORG • LAKE-TOWNSHIP.ORG • BRIDGMANLIBRARY.COM • BRIDGMANSCHOOLS.COM



# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence from the Chairman, George Lepeniotis

### Investing in Our Future: Why Bridgman Schools Need Your Support This May

Bridgman Public Schools represents the very best of Michigan education. To maintain this standard of excellence, we must continue to invest in the environment where our children learn and grow. **On Tuesday, May 5, 2026**, the Bridgman Education Foundation encourages you to **vote YES** on two critical ballot measures. Your support ensures our schools remain safe, supportive, and second to none.

Voting **“YES”** on the upcoming school proposals is a win for our students, our property values, and our entire community. Here is a quick look at what’s on the ballot and why it matters.

#### Question #1: Non-Homestead Operating Millage Renewal

The Non-Homestead Operating Millage is the lifeblood of daily school operations. It covers the essentials—everything from keeping the lights on to funding the incredible educational programs and staffing that make Bridgman Public Schools stand out.

- **It’s a Renewal:** This is **not a new tax**. It simply continues the support already in place.
- **Limited Application:** This millage applies only to commercial properties and second homes. **Your primary residence is not affected.**
- **The Impact:** This funding accounts for approximately **75% of the district’s operating budget** (\$11 million annually). A “Yes” vote ensures our classrooms stay fully funded without adding a penny to your personal property tax bill.

#### Question #2: Bond Proposal – Buildings & Infrastructure (With No Tax Increase!)

The Bond Proposal for Buildings & Infrastructure is about taking care of what we already own. By authorizing \$21,450,000 in bonds, the district can address critical repairs and safety upgrades that are long overdue. Best of all? This is a zero-mill net increase. This means there will be **NO increase** in your school property taxes compared to last year. It’s an investment in our facilities at a net-zero cost to taxpayers. Projects include:

- **Safety & Security:** Enhanced measures to keep our kids safe.



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

- **Essential Repairs:** New roofs and exterior building repairs to prevent costly damage.
- **Comfortable Learning Environments:** HVAC upgrades to ensure classrooms are conducive to learning, no matter the season.
- **Accessibility:** Improvements to parking lots and district infrastructure.

When our schools succeed, our whole community shines. High-quality schools attract young families, keep property values stable, and foster a sense of pride that defines the Bridgman spirit. By voting “Yes,” you

are helping Bridgman Public Schools maintain the high standards our children deserve—without raising your current tax rate.

As a former district student and a proud father of children who are currently attending Bridgman Public Schools, I am excited about what these funds will provide for my family and friends. My family will be voting “YES”, and I hope you will too! Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our school district. Let’s keep Bridgman moving forward, together!

*George Lepeniotis, Foundation Chairman*

Opening Doors to the Future  
Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence

**Join us!**

BRIDGMAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
**LINKS FOR EDUCATION**  
Hosted at Lost Dunes Golf Club  
on Monday, May 4, 2026

**A Golf Outing Benefiting Bridgman Public Schools**

Lost Dunes Golf Club

**SPACE IS LIMITED!**  
Register before the event is sold out!

Join us for an unforgettable day at Lost Dunes Golf Club, where pristine fairways, championship-level play, and first-class hospitality come together for a powerful purpose. **Don't wait! Register today!!!**

Sponsorship opportunities are also available! Learn more at [bridgmanfoundation.org](http://bridgmanfoundation.org)!



# 2026 Referendum

On Tuesday, **May 5, 2026**, voters will see **two separate questions** related to Bridgman Public Schools. Each serves a different purpose and is funded differently under Michigan law.

## What's on the Ballot? | There will be two (2) questions on the ballot:

### #1 MILLAGE RENEWAL SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Renewal of existing non-homestead millage supporting school operations  
10-year renewal (2027–2036)

Applies only to non-homestead property and **does not affect** homeowners' primary residences

### #2 BOND PROPOSAL BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE

Authorize up to \$21,450,000 for facility improvements with a zero-mill net increase

**No increase** in school taxes compared to the prior year related to this referendum

## What is Non-Homestead?

Non-homestead property includes commercial property, second homes, and other non-primary residences. A primary residence is the home where a person lives most of the year and claims as their homestead. This millage applies only to non-homestead properties.

## Did You Know?

Michigan **does not provide state funding** for major school building repairs. When schools use operating funds for large facility projects, it takes money away from classrooms and students, which is why communities vote on bond proposals for major improvements.

## How Much Will It Cost? | Here's how each proposal affects taxes:

### Question #1: Millage Renewal

- Renewal of existing millage; not a new tax
- Applies only to non-homestead property
- Primary residences are not affected

### Question #2: Bond Proposal

- Zero-mill net increase
- No increase in school taxes related to this referendum

## Open House Events | Learn more about both ballot questions



Thursday, March 19  
Thursday, April 30



6:30-7:30 p.m.  
High School Media Center

9964 Gast Rd  
Bridgman, MI 49106

# Millage Renewal

Renewal of existing non-homestead millage supporting school operations

Revenue from this renewal provides approximately:

**\$11 MILLION ANNUALLY**

**AND ABOUT**

**75%** of the district's operating budget

These funds support:

- ✓ Utilities and building operations
- ✓ Classroom materials and programs
- ✓ Day-to-day school operations
- ✓ District-wide staffing

**⚠ If not renewed, the State does not replace this funding**

Learn more online!  
Visit [bit.ly/bps-ref26](https://bit.ly/bps-ref26)



# Bond Proposal

Building and infrastructure improvements

## Bridgman Elementary School

- Upgrade interior door hardware for security
- Upgrade HVAC systems
- Replace HVAC controls
- Replace existing roof
- Repair building exterior
- Replace gym floor
- Repave parking lot

## FC Reed Middle School

- Upgrade interior door hardware for security
- Upgrade HVAC systems
- Replace HVAC controls
- Replace heat pumps
- Replace existing roof
- Replace domestic hot water heater
- Repave parking lot

## Bridgman High School

- Upgrade interior door hardware for security
- Replace HVAC systems
- Replace HVAC controls
- Replace existing roof
- Repair building exterior
- Replace gym floor
- Repave parking lot

**i** Bond funds are restricted to facility improvements and cannot be used for school operations



## Learn More!

[bit.ly/bps-ref26](https://bit.ly/bps-ref26)

[facebook.com/Bridgmanpublicschools](https://facebook.com/Bridgmanpublicschools)

[speters@bridgmanschools.com](mailto:speters@bridgmanschools.com)

269-466-0271

[bit.ly/bps-question](https://bit.ly/bps-question) Submit a Question!



## Voting Information

**Election Date:**  
Tuesday, May 5, 2026

**Absentee Voting:**  
Begins Thursday, March 26, 2026  
Find more info at [bit.ly/mi-voting-info](https://bit.ly/mi-voting-info)

**Find Your Polling Location:**  
Visit [bit.ly/mi-polling](https://bit.ly/mi-polling)



# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## Superintendent News from Superintendent Shane Peters

Dear Bridgman Families and Residents,

As the school year begins to wind down, spring always brings a moment to reflect on the many accomplishments that have taken place across Bridgman Public Schools. It is a time filled with celebrations, milestones, and a deep sense of pride in the work our students and staff have accomplished throughout the year.

One of the most meaningful traditions each spring is celebrating our graduating seniors. The Class of 2026 will soon walk across the stage at Bridgman High School and begin the next chapter of their lives. Over the past four years, these students have demonstrated dedication, resilience, and pride in their school community. Their accomplishments in academics, athletics, the arts, and extracurricular activities represent the very best of what Bridgman Public Schools strives to develop in every student. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and wish them the very best as they pursue college, careers, military service, and other exciting opportunities.

Spring is also a time when we recognize the dedicated staff members who are concluding their careers in education. Retirement is always bittersweet because it means saying goodbye to individuals who have devoted years—often decades—to supporting students and families. Their commitment, care, and passion have helped shape the culture of our schools and have positively influenced

countless young people. On behalf of the entire district, we extend our sincere gratitude to each retiring staff member for their service to Bridgman Public Schools and for the lasting impact they have made.

Bridgman Public Schools continues to welcome individuals who are passionate about working with students and supporting our schools. As we prepare for the upcoming school year, the district has a number of openings across both professional and support staff positions. These roles are essential to the success of our schools and help ensure that our students learn and grow in a safe, supportive, and engaging environment each day. Individuals interested in becoming part of the Bridgman Public Schools team are encouraged to visit [BridgmanSchools.com](https://www.bridgmanpublicschools.com) to review current opportunities or contact the Office of the Superintendent for additional information.

Spring is one of the busiest and most exciting times of the year in our district. From concerts and athletic events to academic recognitions and graduation celebrations, there is always something happening across our schools. Families and community members can stay connected by visiting our website or following Bridgman Public Schools on social media for updates and highlights.

As this school year comes to a close, this spring is also personally meaningful for me. After sixteen incredible years serving as Superintendent of Bridgman Public Schools, I will be concluding my time in this role. Bridg-



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

man has been far more than a place of work for me—it has been home. This community has shaped my professional life and my family in ways I will always cherish.

My own three children grew up in this district, walked these hallways, and graduated from Bridgman High School. Watching them benefit from the same caring teachers, coaches, and staff who serve all of our students has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. Bridgman Public Schools will always hold a special place in my heart.

I can say with complete confidence that Bridgman Public Schools is one of the finest school districts in Southwest Michigan. What makes it truly special is not just the programs or accomplishments—it is the people. Our students, staff, families, and community members are what make this district extraordinary.

For the last time in this space, I want to share a thought that has guided me throughout my years here: the strength of the community is the school district, and the strength of the school district is the community. I have seen that truth in action every single day.

Thank you for the trust, support, and partnership you have shown me over the past sixteen years. It has truly been the honor of a lifetime to serve as your superintendent.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the Office of the Superintendent.

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

**Go Bees!**

**Shane M. Peters, Superintendent**



# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## Bridgman High School News from Principal Gerald Heath

Bridgman High School (BHS) is nearing the finish line of another successful school year. I am incredibly proud of the hard work our students have demonstrated and the dedication shown by our teachers and support staff throughout the year. Their commitment to excellence has made this a productive and rewarding school year. As we move through the final weeks, I am confident that our students will continue to strive for success and make meaningful progress in their educational journeys.

### Celebrating Student Success

Bridgman High School students continue to represent our school community with pride through their accomplishments in academics, the arts, and extracurricular activities.

Congratulations to the **BHS Band**, which performed at St. Joseph High School on March 3 and **earned a Division I rating** at the festival. This outstanding achievement reflects the dedication of our students and the leadership of our band program.

The **BHS Drama Department** also delivered an outstanding performance of *Dare to Dream*. The production showcased the incredible talents of our student performers and the many students working behind the scenes who helped make the show a success.

Among our seniors, **Griffin Spitzer** was honored as

a **Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship Program**, and **Nora Bomar** was selected as a **National Merit Finalist**. The National Merit program recognizes some of the highest-achieving high school students across the country based on their performance on the PSAT/NMSQT exam. Each year, more than a million students take the test, and only a small percentage receive recognition. Commended students place among the top scorers nationwide, while Finalists represent an even smaller group who continue through a competitive application process that includes academic records, recommendations, and accomplishments. We are extremely proud of both students for this outstanding academic achievement.

We would also like to celebrate the success of **The Beebotics** robotics team. This year marks the team's second competitive season. Last year, the team brought home several awards, including the opportunity to compete at the state level. By the time this publication is released, we hope the team will have qualified to compete at the international level, which would be an incredible accomplishment for our students and the program!

### Club and Organization Highlights

Our student organizations remain an important part of the BHS experience, providing students with opportunities to grow as leaders and serve the community.

Mrs. Douglass led 34 students to the **DECA State Competition** in Detroit from March 5–7. Of those



competitors, ten students qualified for the International Career Development Conference, with nine additional students named as alternates. This is an outstanding accomplishment and a testament to the strength of our DECA program.

The **SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) Club** has already been active this spring. Members recently facilitated the Great Kindness Challenge Week across all three school buildings. Later this spring, the club will continue its efforts to promote student well-being by sharing information about seat belt safety.

Members of **Key Club** demonstrated their appreciation for community service by organizing snack bags for first responders in the City of Bridgman and Baroda-Lake Township. In February, students delivered 30 snack bags to each station to thank them for their service throughout the winter months. Key Club members have also volunteered as library readers for Progressive 5 and Kindergarten students, creating a fun and meaningful story time experience for both the younger students and our high school volunteers.

The **Interact Club** has been actively serving the community by assisting with monthly food drives and distribution events at the United Methodist Church and Woodland Shores Baptist Church. They also hosted a Toys for Tots toy drive, ensuring that donated gifts went directly to children within our local community.

The **National Honor Society (NHS)** hosted a successful Taco Night fundraiser in February. In April they will participate in several service initiatives, including Blanket Brigade, where students make blankets for hospice patients, a Cystic Fibrosis Foundation fundraiser, and their annual spring road clean-up. Additionally,

*continued on page 10*

# IMPORTANT BHS DATES

## April 8 – SAT Test & Portfolio Day

7:30 – 11:20 am 1/2 Day for HS only

## April 27-29 – DECA Internationals

## May 2 – Prom & Post Prom

8:00 – 11:00 pm at Section House, Sawyer

## May 8 – Academic Honors Breakfast

Invite only for 3.5 GPA Seniors & Parents

7:00 am in the Cafeteria

## May 13 – Spring Band Concert

7:30 pm in the Performing Arts Center

## May 16 – Senior Trip to Six Flags

## May 18 – Senior Honors Night & Art Show

6:30 pm in the Performing Arts Center &

Commons

## May 21 – Spring Choir Concert

6:30 pm in the Performing Arts Center

## May 22 – Senior's Last Official Day

½ Day for ALL Students

## May 26-28 – Senior Exams

7:55 – 11:05 am in the Performing Arts Center

## May 29 – Graduation Practice

8:00 am in the Gymnasium

The elementary hall march afterwards

## May 31 – Graduation

Graduates report to the Media Center at

12:00 pm. Commencement starts at 1:00 pm

in the Gymnasium

## June 3-5 – Final Exams

7:55 – 11:20 am



# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NHS students continue their ongoing efforts to recycle materials and tutor fellow students each week. The NHS induction ceremony for new members will take place on April 30.

## The Class of 2026

As the school year draws to a close, our seniors are preparing to take the next step in their lives. It has been a privilege to watch the Class of 2026 grow over the past four years, and I am extremely proud of all they have accomplished.

The post-secondary plans of this graduating class reflect a wide range of interests and ambitions. Many students will be attending colleges and trade schools, some close to home and others farther away. Several students will enter the workforce directly, using the skills and knowledge gained through their high school coursework.

The entire staff at Bridgman High School wishes our seniors the very best as they move forward into the next chapter of their lives.

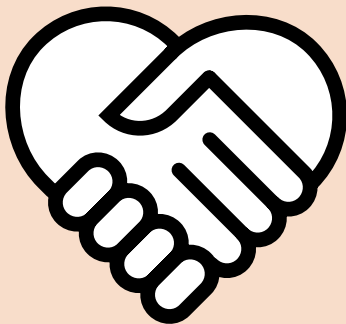
**Commencement exercises are scheduled for May 31 at 1:00 p.m.** Additional details will be shared with students and families as the date approaches.

## Thank You to Our Community

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the entire Bridgman community for your continued support of our students, staff, and programs. Your partnership plays an essential role in the success of our schools, and we appreciate all you do to support Bridgman High School as we approach the end of another outstanding school year.

*Gerald Heath, High School Principal*

## BRIDGMAN Cares



[facebook.com/BridgmanCares](https://facebook.com/BridgmanCares)

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

We award scholarships, sponsor winter clothing drives, collect food, holiday meals and gifts, donate gym shoes, and much more! All this assistance is through the generosity of our community. If you would like to support our students in need, **please consider donating!** Check our Facebook page for needed items and updates on our activity through the year. Monetary donations and gift cards are also appreciated. We welcome new people to join our cause and bring fresh ideas to the table. Meeting dates are also on our Facebook page. Email, Molly Owen at [mowen1@bridgmanschools.com](mailto:mowen1@bridgmanschools.com) for more info.



# BRIDGMAN

5k Run/Walk, 10k Run, & 1.1 Mile Fun Run



**Register Now:**

[runsignup.com/bridgman5k10k](https://runsignup.com/bridgman5k10k)

TO REGISTER, SCAN HERE



**QUESTIONS? CONTACT US AT:**  
BRIDGMAN5K@BRIDGMANSCHOOLS.COM

## REGISTRATION

### 5K RUN/WALK AND 10K RUN

\$30 : THROUGH APRIL 26

\$35 : APRIL 27 THROUGH JUNE 14

\$40: JUNE 15 THROUGH RACE DAY

### 1.1 MILE FUN RUN

\$5, INCLUDES FINISHER MEDAL  
FOR ALL YOUTH RUNNERS

## SATURDAY, JULY 11TH

RACES START AND FINISH AT BRIDGMAN HIGH SCHOOL

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

**8:00 AM - 1.1 MILE FUN RUN**

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

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



# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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

Dear Community Members,

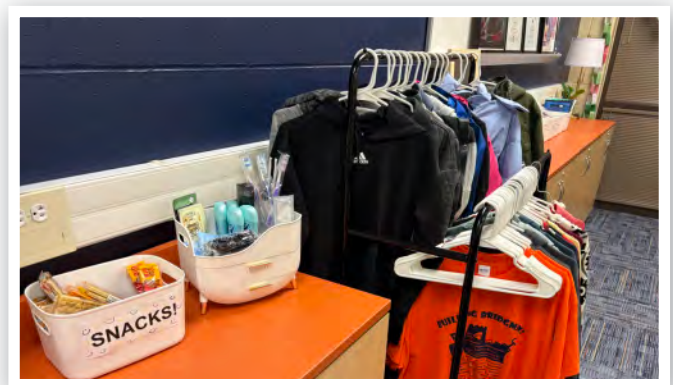
Winter at F.C. Reed Middle School is always a busy season, and this year our staff used those colder months to lay the groundwork for a safe, positive, and successful spring. While winter in Michigan can sometimes feel long, it also provides an opportunity for us to focus on building key high school readiness skills, strengthening connections, and reinforcing the safe, supportive culture that helps our middle school community thrive.

Several winter initiatives helped advance this work, beginning with one of our most popular learning experiences each year.

One of the highlights of the winter season is our annual swim instruction unit at the Bridgman Aquatic Center. Each winter, all RMS students participate in a multi-week program focused on water safety and swimming skills, an especially important life skill in a Lake Michigan beach community. Under the guidance of the Aquatic Center's certified instructors, students practiced floating, breathing techniques, and basic strokes while developing strong water safety habits to build confidence in the water. Students made remarkable progress during the unit, some learning to swim for the first time, while others improved their endurance and technique. I'm

proud to report our middle schoolers are ready for Weko Beach! Thank you to the Aquatic Center staff, BPS bus drivers, and the RMS faculty who helped make this learning experience possible.

Supporting students also means ensuring their basic needs are met so they can fully participate in school. This winter, Ms. Hughes (RMS School Counselor) and Mrs. Cooper (RMS School Social Worker) secured a Berrien Community Foundation Golden Acorn Classroom Mini Grant to expand the Hive Closet resource center within the RMS Counseling Office. The Hive Closet provides clothing, food items, hygiene products, and other essential resources for students and families in need. The program operates quietly and respectfully, ensuring students receive support while maintaining dignity and



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

privacy. By helping remove barriers students may face outside the classroom, we ensure they arrive each day ready to learn and fully participate in school.

Our mental health team also led an important building-wide social-emotional learning series this winter titled *Words Matter*. Through a series of lessons delivered to all students, the program explored the difference between teasing and bullying while emphasizing how negative language can impact individuals and the overall school environment. In response to an observed increase in the use of slurs and stereotypes in media and popular culture, the lessons also addressed the serious harm caused by racist language and reinforced expectations outlined in the RMS Code of Conduct. Students concluded the unit by creating anti-bullying awareness posters that will be displayed throughout the building as visible reminders of our shared commitment to being respectful, responsible, safe, and honest.

Just as important, our students continue to play an active role in shaping the academic culture of our school.

Through our ongoing Student Voice initiative, feedback from the Student Voice Survey and informal cafeteria conversations revealed that many students wished academic achievement was celebrated more visibly in the building. In response, we have ordered a custom Honor Roll display that will be installed in the main entrance above the iconic *RMS Bench*. Each semester,



the display will recognize students who earn Honor Roll and Principal's Honor Roll status. This student-driven addition will help celebrate hard work, encourage motivation, and build pride in academic achievement across the school. If you know a student on the Honor Roll, be sure to stop by and check out the display.

By focusing on safety, belonging, and student voice during the winter months, we are setting the stage for a productive spring filled with continued learning, growth, and opportunities for students to shine.

As the weather warms and the fourth marking period moves forward, our students are ready to carry this momentum into the final stretch of the school year. Thank you for continuing to support the students and staff of F.C. Reed Middle School. Your partnership helps our Bees keep buzzing toward the finish line of the 2025–2026 school year.

Your partner in education,

**John Truesdell, Middle School Principal**



# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## Elementary School News

by Lori Graves, Elementary School Principal

### Fun and Learning Thrive at Bridgman Elementary School

#### Field Day Brings Fun & School Spirit

Excitement is building at Bridgman Elementary School as students and staff prepare for the school's Annual Field Day. Now in its second year, the event has quickly become a favorite tradition and a fun way to celebrate the end of the school year together.

This year's Field Day will feature 20 indoor and outdoor activity stations, giving students plenty of opportunities to move, create, and have fun. Activities include face painting, driveway chalk painting, bubbles, obstacle courses, hula hoop games and cardio drumming, along with many other engaging stations.

Field Day is truly a school-wide effort. Every staff member helps make the day successful—some lead student groups, others oversee activities, and many work behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly. Over 70 parent and community volunteers also play an important role by helping run the activity stations.

An exciting addition this year will be a frozen yogurt station from Hoopla! This is sponsored by the Parent

Teacher Organization (PTO) and was earned as a reward for meeting its Fun Run fundraising goal.

Beyond the activities, Field Day helps build school spirit and connections across grade levels. Older students help younger students and many new friendships form throughout the day.

Simply put, Field Day is a full-day celebration of fun, teamwork, and community for the entire BES school family.

#### Summer Fun & Learning with the Boys & Girls Club

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Southwest Michigan summer program offers local students a fun, engaging place to grow, learn and connect with friends during the summer months. The seven-week program is filled with activities focused on art, movement, community and creativity.

Students participate in a wide variety of hands-on experiences. They can explore their creativity through art



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



The program also supports families by providing a safe, affordable place for children to spend their summer days with friends, caring staff, and meaningful experiences. Above all, the goal is simple: that every child leaves saying, “It was a good summer.”

***Lori Graves, Elementary School Principal*** —

projects led by local artists, stay active with sports such as football, kickball, and soccer and even get involved in a culinary program where they help prepare lunches and treats. Students also work in the garden, learning where food comes from while developing responsibility and teamwork.

A unique part of the program is the emphasis on student voice. Staff members work with students to design activities based on their interests, helping them feel a sense of ownership of “their Club.” This approach keeps students engaged and encourages leadership as they help plan programs and support one another.

Learning continues throughout the summer in creative ways. Through cooking, gardening, teamwork and the Summer Brain Gain program, students strengthen academic, social and life skills while having fun.





**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](http://BridgmanPool.com).*

### **AQUATIC CENTER RENOVATION PROJECT WILL ENHANCE SAFETY, COMFORT, AND LONGEVITY**

The Bridgman Aquatic Center is undergoing a comprehensive renovation designed to improve air quality, safety, energy efficiency, and the overall experience for visitors. The project focuses on modernizing critical systems while preserving the facility as a welcoming community space for swimmers of all ages.

One of the most significant upgrades will be the installation of a **new pool HVAC system**. This modern system will provide improved air quality, better humidity control, and enhanced temperature regulation throughout the facility.

These improvements are expected to create a more comfortable environment for swimmers, spectators, and staff while helping to protect the building from moisture-related wear.

The renovation will also include the **replacement of the existing pool roof**, addressing aging infrastructure and improving the building's energy efficiency. A new roof will help protect the facility from weather-related damage while supporting long-term operational sustainability.

Visitors will also notice **improvements to the pool deck and surrounding finishes**, which will be refreshed to create a more welcoming and durable environment. The updated surfaces are designed to withstand heavy use while enhancing the overall appearance of the aquatic center.

Together, these renovations represent a significant investment in the Bridgman Aquatic Center's future. By upgrading essential infrastructure and improving the facility's safety and comfort, the project aims to ensure the aquatic center continues serving the community for many years to come.

Stay informed at: [bit.ly/bps-aquatic](https://bit.ly/bps-aquatic)

## SEA BEES SWIM CLUB

During the renovation period, the Sea Bees Swim Club **will continue its training schedule by practicing at the St. Joseph High School pool.** The club is a competitive youth swim program that provides swimmers with opportunities to develop their skills, build

teamwork, and compete in regional swim meets. They welcome swimmers of various ages and ability levels, helping young athletes grow both in and out of the water through structured practices, coaching, and competition.

Relocating practices to St. Joseph High School will allow the Sea Bee Swim Club to maintain its regular training and competitive preparation while the Bridgman Aquatic Center upgrades are completed. The temporary arrangement ensures that swimmers can continue developing their skills without interruption.

For more information about the Sea Bees Swim Club check our website [BridgmanPool.com](http://BridgmanPool.com) and click on Sea Bee Swim Club on the navigation menu or contact Head Coach Andrew Pifer at [drewpifer82@gmail.com](mailto:drewpifer82@gmail.com)



[BRIDGMANPOOL.COM](http://BRIDGMANPOOL.COM)



# CITY OF BRIDGMAN



## City of Bridgman News from the City Manager, Debbie Lambrix

As we start to see warmer days ahead, it's hard not to begin thinking about summer in Bridgman. While spring has just arrived, there's already a lot happening behind the scenes as plans come together for another great season in our community.

One of Bridgman's long-standing traditions is the **Weko Beach Concert Series**, and plans for this year's lineup are being finalized. The concerts are a favorite summer evening activity for many residents and visitors, offering great music in the beautiful setting of Weko Beach.

Another event many people look forward to each year is **Celebrate Bridgman**, which brings our community together for a weekend of activities, local businesses, and plenty of opportunities to connect with friends and neighbors. Events like these are part of what makes summer in Bridgman such a special time of year.

You may also notice the return of the **student banner program along Lake Street**. Local students create artwork highlighting what they love about Bridgman, and their banners add color and creativity to our downtown throughout the summer. This year's artwork is especially impressive, and the students also wrote short essays explaining why they chose their subjects. Those essays will be available to read on the City's website.

While summer is a time to enjoy community events and the lakeshore, planning continues for future improvements as well. One project residents will hear more about in the coming months is the **reconstruction of Willard and Mathieu Streets**, which is currently anticipated to begin this fall.

For updates on city projects, events, and other community news, residents are encouraged to visit the City's website at [Bridgman.org](http://Bridgman.org), where information is regularly posted throughout the year.

Summer is one of the best times to enjoy everything Bridgman has to offer, and we're looking forward to another great season in our community.

*Debbie Lambrix, City Manager*



# WEKO BEACH

## SUMMER CONCERTS 2026

**SUNDAY, MAY 24 | 7PM NEWPORT PRAIRIE PROJECT**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 7 | 7PM STILL RUNNIN'**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 21 | 7PM VANDYKE REVUE**

**SUNDAY, JULY 19 | 7PM BLUE-EYED SOUL**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 2 | 7PM THE VICKIE PAGE BAND**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 16 | 7PM GENNA & JESSE**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 30 | 6PM BLUE SHOES**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 | 6PM TBD**

**WEKO BEACH • BRIDGMAN, MICHIGAN**

**FREE ADMISSION & FREE PARKING!**

**PARKING IS FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED & LIMITED**



# CITY OF BRIDGMAN

## May 5, 2026 SPECIAL ELECTION

*Make your voice heard. Every vote counts!*

### **BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND PROPOSAL**

Up to \$21,450,000 for buildings and infrastructure improvements with a zero-mill net increase.  
No increase in school taxes related to this referendum.

### **BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL**

Renewal of existing non-homestead millage supporting school operations for 10 years. Primary residences not affected.

### **Absentee Ballots**

Must be **received** by 8:00 PM on May 5, 2026 to be counted.  
Return via mail, the drop box at City Hall, or in person at the Clerk's office.

### **Election Day In-person Voting**

**Tuesday, May 5, 2026** – Polls are open 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM  
Location: City Hall, 9765 Maple Street, Bridgman

Questions? Call the Clerk's Office: 269-465-5144

**See pages 4 & 5 for more details!**



# Tanner Creek Drain District Assessment Update

The City recognizes that assessments like this can raise questions for residents, and we want to share some background on the Tanner Creek Drain District assessment and how it is applied under Michigan law.

Earlier this year, property owners located within the Tanner Creek Drain District received notices from the Berrien County Drain Commissioner's Office outlining their individual assessment amounts. Property owners had the option to pay the assessment in full at that time, and some residents have already done so. For those who did not pay the full amount, the first installment of the assessment will appear on the December 2026 winter tax bills, with remaining installments billed in future years as outlined by the Drain Commissioner.

The assessment is associated with a county drain project whose costs increased during a legal dispute between the previous County Drain Commissioner and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). This legal process increased the project's overall cost, which, under Michigan law, must be shared by the communities and properties within the drain district.

Since the **Berrien County Drain Commissioner's Office manages the Tanner Creek Drain District** under Michigan's Drain Code, the City of Bridgman does not have control over planning, financing, or assessment decisions for this project.

After the assessment was issued, the City spoke with its legal counsel to determine whether there were options to challenge or lower the charges. Under Michigan Drain Law, both municipalities and property owners in the district are responsible for paying their share of the project costs. Unfortunately, there was no legal way for the City to dispute or reduce the assessment.

Drain projects are typically paid for with borrowed funds to cover engineering, design, and construction. Once these costs are incurred, they remain the responsibility of the drain district under state law—even if the project is modified or stopped. Assessments are then used to pay back these costs over time.

We appreciate that the current Drain Commissioner has been working collaboratively with the City on future projects and is focused on identifying more cost-effective approaches whenever possible.

Residents who have questions about individual property assessments can contact the Berrien County Drain Commissioner's Office, which administers the drain district and maintains assessment records, at 269-983-7111, extension 8267.



# CITY OF BRIDGMAN

## From Snow Plows to Street Sweepers: The Spring Shift from the Department of Public Works

As winter gives way to spring, the Bridgman Department of Public Works would like to thank residents for their patience during a very challenging winter season. The winter of 2025–2026 brought heavy snowfall and difficult conditions, and our small but hardworking crew spent long hours keeping streets open and safe while also managing other essential duties.

With warmer weather arriving, our team is shifting into spring operations. In the coming weeks residents will see our crew street sweeping, inspecting storm drains, and addressing road maintenance issues left behind by winter weather. These seasonal tasks help keep our community clean, safe, and ready for the months ahead.

Residents can help by keeping storm drains near their property clear of leaves, sticks, and other debris. Clear drains allow rainwater to move properly through the drainage system and help prevent localized flooding.

Spring is also the time when many residents begin yard clean-up projects. Please remember to follow the City’s brush and yard waste guidelines so crews can collect materials efficiently. Brush pickup schedules can be found on the City’s website, at City Hall, and on the next page. Remember to place your brush the right way!

The Department of Public Works is proud to serve the residents of Bridgman and appreciates the community’s cooperation as we transition into the spring season.

If you have questions about City services, please contact City Hall or visit [Bridgman.org](http://Bridgman.org).

*JT Adkerson, Department of Public Works Lead* —

**Brush Pickup: Place It the Right Way**

 <b>Stack Parallel to the Street</b>	 <b>Heavy Ends Toward Traffic</b>
 <b>Place in the Tree Lawn</b>	 <b>6 Inch Diameter Max</b>
 <b>Not in the Street</b>	 <b>No Tied Bundles</b>

**First & Third Mondays of the Month • April – October**

**Bagged Leaves Also Picked Up at the Same Time**






# 2026 Schedule

*Spring Clean-up*

**Please Note:**  
**Bagged Leaf & Brush will be  
picked up on the same day**

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

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

	<b>BAGGED LEAF PICKUP</b>
	<b>LARGE TRASH PICKUP</b>

**Large trash pickup**

May 18<sup>th</sup> – West side of Red Arrow Hwy

May 20<sup>th</sup> – East side of Red Arrow Hwy

**Bagged Leaf & Brush Pick Up** is 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 this to your yard cleanup. Commercial tree removal and/or trimmings will not be picked up. 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.

**May 18<sup>th</sup> is Bagged Leaf & Brush Pick Up AND Large Trash Pickup for West side of Red Arrow Hwy**

If you wish to drop off yard waste, there are marked bins for bagged waste and brush behind the DPS Garage at 9821 Maple St, across the parking lot (south) from City Hall.

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

**Large Trash Pick Up** is indicated in **PINK** on the calendar. Items not accepted include large plastic drums, tires, yard waste, hazardous waste, medical waste and construction material. A complete list of accepted items is available on the city’s website and at City Hall. Lakeshore Recycling also will pick up your extra-large items for a fee. To schedule such a pickup, call Lakeshore Recycling at (269) 231-5623.

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection** Details, including a schedule, are available on the county’s web site. <http://www.berriencounty.org/564/Household-Hazardous-Waste-Collections>, or by calling the County Environmental Property Manager at (269) 983-7111 ext. 8232.



# CITY OF BRIDGMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT



The City of Bridgman is a special place, and the partnership between our residents and the police department plays a major role in keeping it that way. The men and women of the Bridgman Police Department are committed to serving our community with professionalism, fairness, and respect.

We encourage residents to stay engaged, communicate with us, and continue working alongside us to keep our neighborhoods safe.

***Chief Dan Unruh***

## Community Policing: Building Trust in Bridgman

In a close-knit community like Bridgman, public safety is strongest when law enforcement and residents work together. Community policing is built on that simple idea—creating partnerships between officers and the people they serve to solve problems, improve safety, and strengthen trust.

Members of the Bridgman Police Department believe that effective policing goes beyond responding to calls for service. It includes being visible in the community, attending local events, interacting with residents, and building relationships that make communication easier when concerns arise.

When officers know the people and neighborhoods they serve, they are better able to address issues be-

fore they become larger problems. Likewise, when residents feel comfortable speaking with officers, reporting concerns, or simply asking questions, it helps create a safer and more connected community.

Community policing can be as simple as an officer speaking with a resident during a neighborhood patrol, assisting at a school event, or answering questions during a community gathering. These everyday interactions help build familiarity and trust, which are essential to maintaining public safety.



[facebook.com/bridgmanpd](https://facebook.com/bridgmanpd)



## THE CITY IS HIRING SEASONAL PARKS & REC STAFF!

Summer is just around the corner, and the City of Bridgman Parks & Recreation Department is looking for enthusiastic, friendly, and hardworking individuals to join our seasonal team! This is your chance to help keep our parks clean, safe, and welcoming for residents and visitors alike.

- Gain valuable experience in customer service, operations, and recreation management.
- Enjoy flexible hours in a beautiful outdoor setting.
- Be part of a team that makes a real difference in the community.

### HOW TO APPLY

Simply visit [Bridgman.org](https://www.bridgman.org) to view the full job description and fill out the application.

### QUESTIONS?

Contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 269-465-5144 or by email at [spendergast@bridgman.org](mailto:spendergast@bridgman.org).





# CITY OF BRIDGMAN

## Treasurer Updates

from **Debbie Wishart**

Spring is here and a great time to review your city account and make sure everything is in order. If you've recently moved, refinanced, or had any changes to your property, please make sure your mailing information is up to date so you don't miss important notices.

We're beginning preparations for the upcoming budget, working to ensure City resources are used responsibly and aligned with community priorities.

Have questions about your tax bill, payment options, or timing? Don't hesitate to reach out—we're always happy to help.

You can also view tax information, check payment history, and make payments online at: <https://bsaonline.com/?uid=797>

As a reminder, please be cautious of scams. The City will never request sensitive personal or payment information through unexpected calls, texts, or emails. If something doesn't feel right, give us a call.

*Debbie Wishart, Treasurer*

### DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE PHOTO OF BRIDGMAN?

We're looking for creative images of our community to feature on the City's website, Facebook page, and the Buzz newsletter.

Whether it's a Lake Michigan sunset, a beach walk, downtown scenes, parks, wildlife, or a favorite local moment, we'd love to see Bridgman through *your* lens.

Visit [Bridgman.org](https://Bridgman.org) to upload your photo(s). Be sure to include:

- Your Name
- Description
- Location
- Photos must be 1 MB or larger and a JPG or HEIC file format.

Help us showcase the beauty of Bridgman through the eyes of our community!



## STAY CONNECTED!

Want to know what's happening around town without having to wonder or wait? The City's Facebook page and texting app are perfect for quick updates, reminders, and a peek at what's going on in the community!

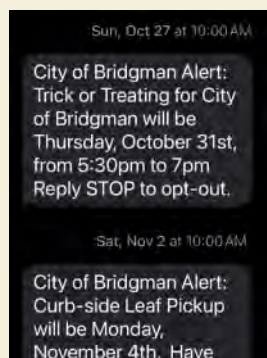
From road work and seasonal updates to local events and the occasional good news story, it's all right there in your feed.



Follow us at  
[facebook.com/  
cityofbridgmanmi](https://facebook.com/cityofbridgmanmi)

TextMyGov

Text **BRIDGMAN** to **91896** to receive text notifications. Opt out anytime.



WEKO BEACH  
**2026 SEASON**  
**PARKING PASSES**  
Now Available

**I ♥ WEKO**

**\$10** – Bridgman & Lake Twp **Residents**

**\$45** – Non-Residents

To purchase a **season pass**, you must bring a **current** vehicle registration.





## Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Greater Bridgman Area Chamber and Growth Alliance

Director, Nancy Kiernan

Our community is both dynamic and diverse, and our organization supports many different sectors that shape our local economy—including our industrial and agricultural bases, tourism economy, small-town character, and our role as a recreational destination for our region.

We work closely with local, state, and federal partners to support economic growth and strengthen our community. This year, we were honored with **Special Tributes from Governor Gretchen Whitmer**, Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist, State Representative Joey Andrews, and State Senator Jonathan Lindsey in recognition of our efforts to support business growth and enhance the quality of life for our residents. In addition, both the City of Bridgman and Lake Charter Township passed resolutions recognizing our organization as the community's economic and community development partner, acknowledging our many years of continued service.

On April 15 at 5 pm, another valued government partner, Seth Carlson, Strategic Engagement Analyst with the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, will speak at Transient Artisan Ales, as part of our **Commerce & Conversation** series. Carlson works with the **Rural Readiness Program**, a multi-pronged



initiative designed to build capacity in Michigan's rural communities through networked support, funding opportunities, and leadership development. Last year, with a grant from this program, we developed a commercial property inventory to support future economic development efforts.

Planning for the future remains one of our key priorities. This year, we will use our property inventory and collaborate with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission in pursuit of a grant from the Economic Development Administration to conduct an **Economic Opportunity Assessment** of vacant properties along



Red Arrow Highway. Additionally, with support from a Michigan Economic Development Corporation grant, we are working with the City's Planning Commission to update the Master Plan and further advance the city's pursuit of Redevelopment Ready Communities status.

Recent investments demonstrate our continued commitment to strategic economic development. These include the 80,000-square-foot expansion of Industrial Fabrication and a \$1.5 million grant supporting the reconstruction of Willard and Mathieu Streets. Looking ahead, we are also working with a consortium of manufacturing businesses to revitalize a centralized facility that will operate as a cooperative light industrial center. The **Bridgman Manufacturing Center**, located at 9864 Church Street, will support the growth of existing small businesses while helping launch new ones by facilitating apprenticeships and providing shared resources, workspace, machinery, and equipment. The center will be anchored by Lake Shore Die Cast and Tigmaster Precision Fabrication.

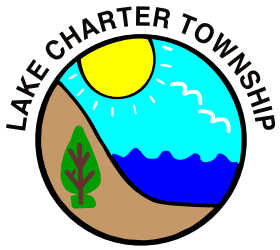
On the hospitality front, Keystone Development has

announced the exciting renovation of the **Warren Hotel** (formerly the Bridgman Inn), which will be transformed into a boutique hotel along the beautiful Southwest Michigan lakeshore. The project aims to attract visitors with the tagline: "Close enough to be spontaneous. Far enough to reset." Another unique lodging concept is also moving closer to a spring groundbreaking along Red Arrow Highway. **Tiny Town**, an upscale "glamping" destination, will be developed in phases and will offer a modern take on the campground experience for visitors exploring our community.

In other news, keep an eye out for the new **Jimmy John's** coming to Red Arrow Highway, the expansion of **Emma Hearth and Market**, the grand opening of **Beachside Salt and Soul** on Lake Street and some brightly colored, lime green, three-wheeled Slingshot open-air roadsters cruising around town this summer. And don't forget – Street Dance will be back this July 11th beginning right after the parade at 4 pm – bigger and better than ever!

*Nancy Kiernan, Director*





# LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



## Township News from Supervisor, Zach Carson

Dear Township Residents,

As spring arrives, we want to keep our residents informed about the improvements and projects happening throughout our community. From road construction to water infrastructure upgrades and fire department training, your local teams are hard at work making our township a safer and better place to live.

### Road Construction Projects

There is plenty of good news to share on the infrastructure front this spring. The water plant construction is moving along well, with much of the demolition already completed and many scopes of work now being put back together. It has been great to see the progress, and we look forward to sharing further milestones as the project continues.

As the warmer months arrive, crews will also be out painting fire hydrants again throughout the community. You may notice them working in your neighborhood over the coming weeks. Additionally, the warm weather will allow us to begin addressing the sewer system, starting with the last sections of the township scheduled for manhole inspection. Smoke testing is also expected to wrap up later in the summer. If you notice smoke coming from a drain during testing, there is no cause for alarm — it is a routine and harmless diagnostic process.

Letters will be sent out to residents where testing will be performed.

### 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 system 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

Our fire department has been busy this spring investing in advanced training to ensure the best possible emergency response for our residents. Three members, including myself, recently spent three days at a Training



3220 Shawnee  
P.O. Box 818  
Bridgman, MI 49106  
Ph: 269-465-6601

**LAKE  
CHARTER  
TOWNSHIP**

**Supervisor**

Zach Carson

**Treasurer**

Jennifer Adams

**Clerk**

Miranda  
Companion

**Building Admin**

Rich Kubsch

**Water**

**Superintendent**

Toby Riley

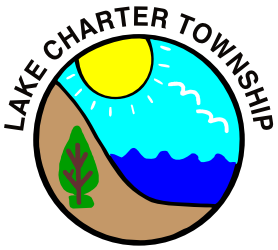
**Find helpful info  
on our website  
including  
building forms,  
permits, zoning,  
tax assessments,  
forms, maps,  
online payments  
and more!**

to Perform Under Pressure event hosted by the Gary Sinise Foundation in Kalamazoo. The training was intensive and rewarding, covering firefighter rescue under collapse conditions, truck function and operations, and hose line systems. It was an amazing experience that will surely benefit our community.

We are also continuing to train closely with Lincoln Township Fire on vehicle extrication, fire attack, and search and rescue techniques. This ongoing partnership strengthens our regional capabilities and ensures our teams are prepared for whatever challenges may arise. We are proud of the dedication our members bring to keeping this community safe.

*Zach Carson, Supervisor*





# LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



## Clerk News

from Miranda Companion, Township Clerk

### Year-End Updates

The Township has been busy over the past few months wrapping up the end of 2025 and preparing for the start of the 2026 year. This includes completing important year-end reporting such as issuing W-2s and 1099 forms and ensuring that all financial records were finalized and ready for the new fiscal year. We have also completed the Township's annual audit, which is an important part of maintaining transparency and accountability in our financial operations.

### Early Voting Partnership

In election news, I was able to sign the agreement to partner with the County for county-wide Early Voting. This cooperative effort allows several municipalities to share early voting locations and resources, helping to provide a convenient and efficient opportunity for residents to vote prior to Election Day. **Early voting for Lake Charter Township residents will be held at Immanuel in Bridgman.**

### May Special Election

We will be administering a **Special Election on May 5, 2026 for both Bridgman and River Valley School Districts.** Voters within the respective school districts will see proposals related to school funding on

their ballots. The official ballot language for these proposals is listed on the next page and more details about Bridgman Public Schools can be found on pages 4 & 5.

**The Clerk's Office will be offering extended hours the weekend before the election** to assist voters. The office will be open May 2 and May 3 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for residents who need assistance with absentee ballots or other election-related matters.

### Election Worker Opportunities

If you are interested in serving the community as an election worker, we are always looking for dependable residents to assist on Election Day. Election workers play an important role in ensuring that elections run smoothly and fairly. If you would like more information or would like to be added to our election worker list, please contact the Clerk's Office at [clerk@lake-township.org](mailto:clerk@lake-township.org). We will be holding training in April for those who will be working the May election.

Miranda Companion, Clerk



## TUESDAY, MAY 5 SPECIAL ELECTION

POLLS WILL BE OPEN  
7:00 AM — 8:00 PM

### On the Ballot

For the purpose of voting on the following proposals:

**BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL  
FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF  
NOT TO EXCEED \$21,450,000**

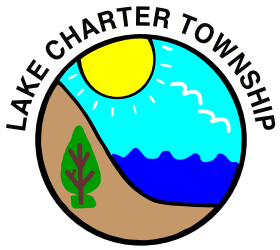
Please take further notice that the bonds of the school district, if approved by a majority vote of the electors at this election, will be general obligation unlimited tax bonds payable from general ad valorem taxes.

**BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL  
EXEMPTING PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE  
AND OTHER PROPERTY EXEMPTED BY LAW  
8.88 MILLS FOR 10 YEARS**

*Full text of the ballot propositions may be obtained at the administrative offices of Bridgman Public School District  
9964 Gast Road, Bridgman, Michigan 49106, telephone: (269) 466-0271*

**RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL  
EXEMPTING PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE AND OTHER PROPERTY EXEMPTED BY LAW  
8 MILLS FOR 7 YEARS  
FOR MILLAGE RESTORATION PURPOSES, IF NECESSARY**

*Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of River Valley School District  
15480 Three Oaks Road, Three Oaks, Michigan 49128, telephone: (269) 756-9541*



# LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



## Treasurer, Park & Trail News from Jennifer Adams

As we move into summer, I am pleased to provide residents with an update on our township's financial position and several important upcoming matters.

### Current Financial

I am pleased to announce that Lake Charter Township has successfully completed its annual independent audit for fiscal year 2025, conducted by Kruggel Lawton CPAs & Business Advisors.

As Township Treasurer, my role in the audit process carries a number of important responsibilities to ensure accuracy and compliance. These include: maintaining and reconciling all financial records throughout the fiscal year; preparing financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP); coordinating with Kruggel Lawton by providing requested documentation, bank statements, and supporting schedules; ensuring all receipts, disbursements, and fund balances are properly recorded and accounted for; reviewing internal controls to safeguard Township assets; and responding to auditor inquiries in a timely manner.

Through diligent attention to these responsibilities, I am proud to report that the audit has been completed

successfully. The final audit report is expected to be submitted to the Township by May. The Township remains committed to transparency and the responsible stewardship of the public funds entrusted to us, and I am happy to report that Lake Charter Township continues to be in strong financial health.

### Property Tax & Assessment Information

As we wrapped up the tax season in March with great success, I want to thank each of you for your contributions and for paying your taxes. We will soon begin our summer tax season, and you can expect to receive your 2025 summer property tax bills in early July. As always, we recommend reviewing your bill carefully upon receipt.

You can find a wealth of tax information on our website, Lake Charter Township. Go to the Departments tab and select the Treasurer's tab. Here, you will find information about options such as deferring your summer taxes (if you qualify), making partial payments, using Dropbox for payments, and setting up online payments and electronic checks as well as any tax forms that you may need, such as Principal Residence Exemption and Qualified Agricultural forms. We encourage you to explore our resources on our website at [lake-township.org](http://lake-township.org).



## Lake Township Park

Lake Township Park opened on April 1 and will remain open until November 1. The park is home to the Bridgman Softball and Baseball Association and the Bridgman Lake Township Youth Soccer. This year, more than 120 youths will participate in baseball, over 85 will play softball, and more than 200 are playing soccer! In addition to its excellent softball and baseball facilities, the park also accommodates an estimated 4,000 rounds of disc golf each year.

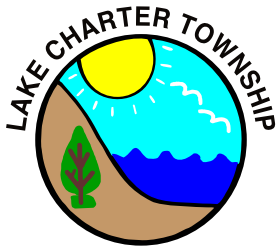
2025 brought many improvements to the park, including new baseball fencing, all-new trash cans with lids, mesh protectors on the baseball backstops, new swings and additional playground equipment, updated signs around the pond, pavilion signs, and new restroom signs.

The park is a true gem for our community, enjoyed by hundreds of visitors. It features three pavilions, a pond, and a gazebo, all available for reservation. To learn more about renting a pavilion, please call the township hall at 269-465-6601.

**Jennifer Adams, Treasurer**



*New swings being replaced by Township Supervisor Zach Carson and Park Maintenance, Randy Mottl*



# LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

## Water & Sewer Department News from Toby Riley

### 2025 Water Quality Report is Now Available

The Lake Charter Township Water System Water Quality Report is available on our website at [LakeCharterTownshipWater.org/ccr1](https://LakeCharterTownshipWater.org/ccr1). To request a printed copy of the report, please email Toby Riley at [wpsuperintendent@lake-township.org](mailto:wpsuperintendent@lake-township.org).

### Don't Forget Your Backflow Preventer This Spring

**If you have an in-ground irrigation system, a garden hose with a spray attachment, or a pool fill line**, you likely have — or should have — a backflow prevention device. These small but important devices **keep outside water from flowing back into your home's drinking water** supply. Spring is the perfect time to have your backflow preventer inspected before irrigation season kicks off. If you're not sure whether you

have one or whether it needs testing, head to our website ([LakeCharterTownshipWater.org](https://LakeCharterTownshipWater.org)) and click on the link at the very top, "Backflow Device Testing Frequency Requirements". This article shows the different types of testable devices and how often they should be tested. Now that we are fully into our cross-connection control program, you should have been notified if you have a device that needs to be tested.

### Smoke Testing & Manhole Inspections Starting in April

Each spring, our crew hits the road to inspect sewer manholes throughout the township. Starting in April, you may notice our trucks and team members working in and around the township, lifting manhole covers and checking the condition of our underground sewer system. This routine maintenance helps us spot problems early — before a small issue becomes a big one. We appreciate your patience as our team works in and around roadways and neighborhoods.

In late summer/early fall we will complete smoke testing our sewer system. This has been a three-year project that has fully tested our entire sewer collection system. Notifications will go out in fall for any homeowner corrections that need to be made by the end of the year. If you ever have a question about what we're doing in your area, feel free to wave us down or give the office a call!





### **Please! Slow Down Near Water Main Breaks**

When a water main breaks, our crew responds quickly — no matter the weather or time of day. While we're working to restore service and protect the road, we need your help staying safe. Please slow down and use caution when you see our trucks, cones, or crew members near a break site. Wet conditions and excavation work can make these areas especially hazardous. A moment of patience on your part goes a long way in keeping our workers safe so they can get your water back on as quickly as possible. Thank you for looking out for us!

***Toby Riley, Water System Superintendent*** —————

A new fee structure went into effect in January 2026. If your water is shut off due to nonpayment and you request that it be turned back on after hours or on a weekend, there will be a \$150.00 fee in addition to the \$60.00 water shut off fee. Once payment is confirmed, we will schedule your service to be turned on and returned to service.

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

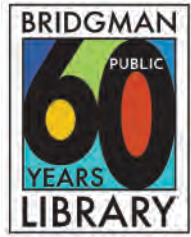
To continue providing reliable service, our water service fees will be updated:

💧 **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 Director, Dr. Terri Hebert

### Looking Ahead While Looking Back

On June 30, 2026, the Bridgman Public Library will celebrate its 60th anniversary. Because of this milestone, we feel it is a great time to pause and reflect on our history while, at the same time, envisioning our future.

Each chapter of our history reflects something enduring about Bridgman: a belief that access to information, stories, and shared space matters.

The library has evolved over six decades, but its purpose has remained steady – to serve as a welcoming center for learning, connection, and civic life.

As we prepare to celebrate this anniversary throughout the summer, we are reminded that milestones are not only about honoring the past; they are also about renewing our commitment to the future. This season’s programs and events – from educational presentations to creative workshops and family gatherings – reflect the vitality of a library that continues to adapt while staying rooted in community.

**60th Anniversary Event Lineup**

**The History of Bridgman - Hannah Anderson**  
A fun presentation for ages 10-14!  
June 17 • 1:00pm

**60 years of the Bridgman Public Library - Rick Fuller**  
Open house, refreshments & raffle! ages 16+  
June 30 • 5:30-7:30pm

**Family Fun Carnival**  
Games, face painting, bouncy house, food trucks and much more! all ages welcome!  
August 1 • 1:00-4:00pm  
Toth Street Park



Behind every program, every collection, and every open door stands a dedicated staff committed to service with professionalism and care. Our volunteers offer generous hours of support, strengthening daily operations and special events alike. The Library Board of Trustees provides vital leadership and oversight, focusing on long-term growth and community impact. And the Friends of the Library continue to invest in Bridgman’s future, ensuring that resources, enrichment, and opportunity remain accessible to all.

Sixty years ago, this community made a decision to build something lasting. Today, that decision continues to bear fruit. As we celebrate this anniversary together, we do so with gratitude for those who came before us and with confidence in the generations still to come.

The Bridgman Public Library belongs to this community. Looking ahead while looking back, we remain committed to serving Bridgman with integrity, curiosity, and care for many years to come.

*Dr. Terri Hebert*





**Find a full calendar of events and additional program information on the library website at [bridgmanlibrary.com](http://bridgmanlibrary.com). Registration is not required unless noted.**

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### **NEW! OPEN NOTEBOOK: A WRITING CIRCLE FOR ADULTS**

**EVERY 2ND THURSDAY BEGINNING APRIL 9, 5:30 – 7:30 PM**

Every 2nd Thursday, join Library Director, Terri Hebert for a welcoming, low-pressure writing circle designed for adults of all experience levels. Each session includes writing prompts, quiet writing time, and optional sharing. No critique. *Registration encouraged, but not required.*

### **FILM SCREENING & DISCUSSION: THE LIBRARIANS**

**APRIL 23, 6:00 – 8:00 PM**

We will be screening the PBS Independent Lens documentary, *The Librarians*, directed by Kim A. Snyder. The film explores how library professionals across the U.S. are navigating unprecedented efforts to restrict collections, specifically those featuring race-related and LGBTQIA+ content. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion to examine the broader implications of these challenges.

### **CAPONE'S VAULT WITH AUTHOR WILLIAM HAZELGROVE**

**MAY 19, 6:00 – 7:00 PM**

In *Capone's Vault: The Real Story of the Biggest Disaster in Television History*, National Bestselling author William Hazelgrove weaves together the stories of Geraldo Rivera's career and the history of Al Capone - leading to the development of the infamous "The Mystery of Al Capone's Vaults" broadcast.

### **SAND PIRATE: BEACH TREASURES ALONG LAKE MICHIGAN**

**JUNE 23, 6:00 – 7:00 PM**

Professional sand sculptor and "sand pirate" Janet Schrader will tell us about her unique Lake Michigan beach finds.

## 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**  
George Shaver

**Trustee**  
Connie Etter

**Trustee**  
Sue Janoskey

**Trustee**  
Aaron Noll

**Trustee**  
Ed Valauskas

**Trustee**  
John Wilk

**Trustee**  
Catherine Worcester



# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

## 60 YEARS OF BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

**JUNE 30, 5:30 – 7:30 PM**

An evening of stories and community connection! We are excited to host Bridgman Library Board President, Rick Fuller—a lifelong resident who knows our town’s history. Rick will share our library’s humble origins and the journey that turned it into the beautiful gathering space we enjoy today. Social Reception with refreshments: 5:30 p.m. Presentation: 6:00 p.m.

## KAT KRAFTS

**JULY 9, 16, 23, 30, 2:00 – 4:00 PM**

Come for the crafts, stay for the company! Hosted by library staff member, Kat (harine). New DIY projects every week. All materials provided. While supplies last. See website for project details.

## BBQ POTLUCK WITH MARY SPENCER *via Zoom*

**AUG 11, 6:00 – 7:00 PM**

Get ready for another fabulous episode! Mary Spencer from *Taste: A Cook’s Place* will join us on Zoom to share two delicious recipes to make for your next BBQ.

## FLIGHT NW2501: EXPLORING THE MYSTERY OFF OUR COAST

**SEPT 16, 6:00 – 7:00 PM**

In 1950, Northwest Orient Flight 2501 vanished over Lake Michigan with 58 people aboard, leaving no survivors and no wreckage. Staff member Kyle will unpack the tech, weather, and training failures behind the only major US air crash where the plane was never found.

## ONGOING ADULT PROGRAMS

<b>MONDAYS</b>	<b>Chair Yoga</b> 9:00am	<b>Library Therapy Dog</b> 11:30am	<b>Knit &amp; Yarn</b> 1:30pm
<b>TUESDAYS</b>	<b>Roots to Remember</b> 1st Tuesdays 5:00pm	<b>Knit &amp; Yarn</b> 3rd Tuesdays 6:00pm	<b>Alzheimer’s Support Group</b> Last Tuesdays 2:00pm
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	<b>Artplay</b> 1st Wednesdays 6:00pm	<b>BPL Book Group</b> 2nd Wednesdays 5:30pm	
<b>THURSDAYS</b>	<b>Open Notebook: A Writing Circle for Adults</b> 2nd Thursdays 5:30pm - 7:30pm		<b>Magic the Gathering</b> Last Thursdays 4:00pm - 5:30pm

## FAMILY PROGRAMS

### FILM SCREENING & DISCUSSION: UNDERSTAND ME BETTER – TRAUMA AS EXPERIENCED BY AUTISTICS

**APRIL 15, 6:00 – 8:00 PM**

We’ll be viewing the film *Trauma as Experienced by Autistics*, featuring two autistic psychologists who dive into sensory hurdles, emotional safety, and relational tools. Afterward, Jacque Blackwell—a mental health coach with a master’s degree from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology—will lead a conversation with a panel of three young adults on the spectrum.





## STORY SKETCHING: DESIGN YOUR OWN FAIRY TALE

**MAY 30, JUNE 13 & 27, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Sharron Ott, Director of Blue Dart Art, will teach us how to illustrate the fairy tale, *The Wizard of Oz*. Using your imagination and provided art supplies, characters and scenes will come alive. Paper dolls made to stand on their own will add to the telling of the story. The final session on June 27 will offer each person a chance to tell their version of the story. You are welcome to dress up as one of the characters and enjoy refreshments that day. *All Ages*

## THE HISTORY OF BRIDGMAN

**JUNE 17, 1:00 PM**

Join Hannah Anderson, a founding member of the Bridgman Lake Township Historical Society, for a captivating journey through our city's past! Tailored for middle school children and their families, this event features a treasure trove of vintage photos and local lore—including the legendary story of the lion that got loose in Bridgman. *Ages 10-14*

## NERF NIGHT

**JUNE 18, 5:00 – 7:00 PM**

The Nerf Night tradition is back! Fun for the whole family. Bring a blaster, we'll provide the darts. The Library will be closed to the public beginning at 4:30 p.m. for this event. *Ages 5+*

## ROCK BAND DAY

**JUNE 20, 12:30 – 2:30 PM**

Join us for an interactive video game event and rock out like it's 2007! *Ages 9+*

## CHALKIN' IT UP WITH KIMBERLY WOOD

**JULY 10 & 17, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Kimberly Wood is a professional muralist, chalk artist, and art educator based in Southwest Michigan. During this chalk demo, students will learn the basics of drawing big and how to turn their ideas into eye-catching sidewalk art. Two sessions to choose from.

## SUNDAE DAY

**JULY 13, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

Its sundae, sundae, sundae...day! Grab your FREE single scoop sundae on the library patio. While supplies last.

## MICHIGAN NOTABLE BOOKS AUTHOR VISIT WITH ZOE PERSICO

**JULY 13, 6:00 – 7:30 PM**

Michigan children's author-illustrator Zoe Persico will give us a behind-the-scenes look at her graphic novel, *How to Talk to Your Succulent*. Zoe will display personal sketchbooks, and explain how she develops stories from initial ideas to finished art. Perfect for young artists and aspiring writers curious about the creative process. Signed books will be available for purchase.

## LIFE-SIZED DINO CLUE

**JULY 23, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

Life-sized Clue, but with a dinosaur twist! Three sessions to choose from: 10:00, 11:00 and 12:00. Meet in the back parking lot of the library. Rain date will be Thursday, July 30. *All Ages*



# BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

## JOHN DUDLEY MAGIC

**JULY 25, 1:00 – 2:00 PM**

John Dudley is a magical entertainer for the young and the young at heart. From the opening tricks to the grand finale, John’s show holds the audience in wonder. *All ages. Register online.*

## 60TH ANNIVERSARY CARNIVAL

**AUG 1, 1:00 – 4:00 PM**

Everyone is invited to Toth Street Park to celebrate a milestone: Bridgman Public Library’s 60th Anniversary! Enjoy an afternoon of carnival games, face painting, and a bounce house. Local food trucks will be on-site, so bring your appetite and your neighbors for a day of community fun.

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

### ROZ PUPPETS PRESENTS:

**JUNE 26, 1:00 – 2:00 PM**

Hit the high seas with this story of prehistoric proportions. *Dinosaur Pirates* by the Roz Puppets is a treasure chest of music, antics, and audience participation. *All Ages*

## 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.

## WATER FUN DAY

**JUNE 29, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM**

Join us in the back parking lot of the library for some water fun. Buckets, sponges and water blasters will be available. Wear clothes you don’t mind getting wet and bring a towel. *Ages 2-8*

## STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER

**DROP-OFF JULY 16, 6:00 – 7:30 PM**

**PICK-UP JULY 17, 10:30 – 11:30 AM**

Drop off your stuffie between 6:00 - 7:30 pm on Thursday for a fun-filled overnight stay at the library. Pick them back up the following morning between 10:30 - 11:30 am and enjoy a continental breakfast with your furry friend and pick up a photo album documenting their overnight adventures! *Ages 2-8*

ONGOING YOUTH & EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS			
<b>MONDAYS</b>	<b>Little Explorers</b> 2nd & 4th Mondays 11:00am	<b>Library Therapy Dog</b> 11:30am	
<b>TUESDAYS</b>	<b>Toddler Storytime</b> 9:30am, 10:30am & 11:30am	<b>Pokémon Card League</b> 4:00pm - 5:00pm	
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	<b>Baby &amp; Me</b> 10:30am	<b>Baby &amp; Me Art</b> Last Wednesdays 10:30am	<b>Dungeons &amp; Dragons</b> 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 4:00pm - 5:00pm
<b>THURSDAYS</b>	<b>HandiKraft</b> 1st & 3rd Thursdays 4:30pm - 6:30pm Taking a break May 21 - August 20	<b>Magic the Gathering</b> Last Thursdays 4:00pm - 5:30pm	



## FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 @BridgmanPublicLibrary

 @Bridgman\_Library

 @BridgmanLibrary

[BRIDGMANLIBRARY.COM](http://BRIDGMANLIBRARY.COM)

4460 Lake Street  
Bridgman, MI 49106  
Ph: 269-465-3663  
Email: [bpl@bridgmanlibrary.com](mailto:bpl@bridgmanlibrary.com)



**UNEARTH  
A STORY™**  
**SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

**JUNE 22- AUGUST 1**  
Sign Up: June 15 - June 20

*Dig in and  
discover the  
joy of reading!*

© CSLP

## Film Screening & Panel Discussion

April 23, 6:00 - 8:00

Bridgman Public Library

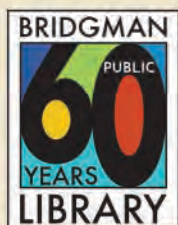


### Panelists:

- U.S. Magistrate Judge, **Scott J. Frankel**
- OutCenter Program Director, **Gerik Maverick**
- High School English Teacher, **Sarah Conklin**
- League of Women Voters of Berrien & Cass Counties Publicity Chair, **Faith Schoon**

## The 60/60 Campaign: Honoring 60 Years with a \$60,000 Legacy

We are seeking donors and donations to fulfill a goal of \$60,000 for building improvements. Every dollar counts!



Donation instructions are on our website or use this QR code

9964 GAST ROAD, BRIDGMAN, MI 49106

BridgmanSchools.com

Office: 269-465-5432

Fax: 269-466-0221

NONPROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SOUTH BEND, IN  
PERMIT NO. 16

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSEDDM\*\*\*\*\*  
  
Postal Customer  
Bridgeman, MI 49106

# 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		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
24	25	26	27	28	29	30															30	31					
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	4	5				1	2	3	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](http://www.lakeshorerecycle.com/recycling-info)