

BRIDGMAN COMMUNITY BUZZ

DECEMBER 2017



COMMUNICATION IS KEY ...

In a joint effort with the City of Bridgman, Lake Township, Bridgman Public Library, the Greater Bridgman Area Chamber & Growth Alliance, and Bridgman Public Schools, we present this community newsletter.

You can trust that we are working together to make Bridgman the best place to live, work, and raise your family.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN COMMUNICATION

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

SCHOOL NEWS

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Superintendent
Shane M. Peters

The Bridgman Board of Education and the Office of the Superintendent would like to take this opportunity

to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and Best Wishes for a Great 2018!

CONTINUED PG 2

TOWNSHIP NEWS

FROM THE SUPERVISOR



Supervisor
John Gast

The Township has finalized the budget for 2018 and a few projects on the Capital improvement side

are slated for the next year.

Red Arrow Highway, south of the Bridgman city limits, will be overlaid with asphalt.

CONTINUED PG 10

LIBRARY NEWS

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Director
Gretchen Evans

Some new things are happening at the library this winter. In January, we will begin implementing our

strategic plan. Thank you to the 55 community members who joined us at the planning retreat, and the 132 people who took our survey. Your input helped us to focus on what we are doing

CONTINUED PG 19

CITY NEWS

FROM THE CITY MANAGER



City Manager
Juan Ganum

The City of Bridgman welcomes the New Year with a renewed focus on fiscal accountability and transparency.

Though the City has long been diligent about carefully managing its financial resources and making that information readily available to the public, our aim in 2018 is to become better at both.

CONTINUED PG 14



COMMUNITY BUZZ

BRIDGMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE - CONTINUED FROM COVER ...



Bridgman Board of Education

President

Eric Ramso

Vice-President

Lisa Kiewel

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JoAnn DeMeulenaere

Treasurer

Brad Reitz

Trustee

Pamela Oselka

Trustee

Brad Owen

Trustee

Tishia Roberts

The elves in the Superintendent's office have been busy as our former Business Manager, Scott Knoll, accepted a position at Berrien RESA. Mrs. Hether McIntyre was promoted to Supervisor of Business Services and will be handling many of the financial and business services of the office. Hether has worked for the Bridgman District since June 2009 and has been our Payroll/ Personnel liaison for over eight years. Hether has been an excellent resource and committed employee.

January is National School Board Recognition Month - a time to salute the work of our volunteer school board members and to celebrate public education. **Thank you to Eric Ramso, Lisa Kiewel, JoAnn DeMeulenaere, Brad Reitz, Brad Owen, Tishia Roberts, and Pam Oselka**, who dedicate countless personal hours to ensure the needs of our community are met by our public schools. Our board members are just ordinary Bridgman residents you would see when you are out and about, who take the time to volunteer their time and energy to our schools and community.

We need your help. There are several job opportunities for employment within our district

in the Transportation and Food Services Department. If you would like to be part of our team of employees who care about kids, please visit our website at www.bridgman-schools.com and click on the Department, Human Resources tab to apply.

It is that time of year and we want to give you information regarding 2-hour delays and closings. Recently, we sent out a school messenger email detailing radio and TV stations we call and the websites to access the information in the event of a change in our school day. Please see that information below, along with our 2-hour delay school hours.

As always, don't hesitate to contact me if you have a concern or would like additional information regarding Bridgman Public Schools.

The strength of our community continues to be our schools and the strength of our schools continues to be our community.

GO BEES!!!

Shane M. Peters, Superintendent

SCHOOL CLOSING INFO

WNDU 16 wndu.com/weather/closings
WSBT 22 wsbt.com/weather/closings
ABC 57 abc57.com/news/weather-related-closings-delays-and-power-outages

Mid-West Broadcasting:

Newstalk 94.9 WSJM
 Rock 107 WIRX
 97.5 Y COUNTRY
 103.7 COSY FM

Closings: www.eventdelay.com

Half Day Schedule	BES	RMS	BHS
Student Day Begins	7:45 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	7:55 a.m.
Student Day Ends	11:10 a.m.	11:25 a.m.	11:20 a.m.
2hr Delay Schedule	BES	RMS	BHS
Student Day Begins	9:45 a.m.	10:00 a.m.	9:55 a.m.
Student Day Ends	2:50 p.m.	3:05 p.m.	3:00 p.m.

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





FRIEND Bridgman Public Schools on FACEBOOK.

BRIDGMAN ELEMENTARY

BRIDGMAN ELEMENTARY *FIRST*® LEGO® League Team Qualifies for State Competition



***FIRST*® LEGO® League is a global program designed for kids ages 9-14 to introduce robotics.**

The students build robots out of LEGO® parts, and learn basic programming to accomplish tasks on a LEGO® game board. Building and programming robots is only part of the Lego League experience. The *FIRST*® LEGO® League Core Values are stressed throughout the season, which test the students' abilities to work as a team.



Each year, *FIRST*® LEGO® League has a theme - this year it is "Hydro Dynamics." The students look into a problem having to do with this theme. This year's theme is water, so the students work on a project to solve a problem having to do with water.

This is the second year Bridgman Elementary School has had a *FIRST*® LEGO® League team. Headed by coaches Scott Christy and Judd Emery and parent volunteer Kim Fenech, the BES LEGO® League team met every Tuesday and Wednesday. Their jobs were not only to build, modify, and program robots to complete tasks on the game board, but to develop a project to solve the drainage issue on the elementary playground.

The team, consisting of 10 students (Nora Bomar, Sam Fenech, Liam Huthwaite, Ethan Stine, Alivia Wheeler, Kandin Shuler, Brielle Rhew, Austin Salisbury, Derek Backus, and Haley Larsh), strongly exhibited the *FIRST*® LEGO® League Core Values as they worked together to tackle the various objectives they faced this season.

On November 11, the BES LEGO® League team competed at Lancer-Bot-Mania, a regional competition at Lakeshore High School. There were 22 teams that competed from all around Berrien County. The BES Team placed fourth overall, which qualified us to go to the state championship. In addition to qualifying for the state competition, the team won a trophy for excellence in "Gracious Professionalism," one of *FIRST*® LEGO® League's Core Values.

As of this writing, the state competition has not been finalized. It will take place at some point in January. The BES LEGO® League team will continue to meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school to refine their robots, programs, and the project. Parents and staff have been incredibly supportive of our team.

Wishing the BES LEGO® League team all the best at the state competition!



Kindergarten/Progressive 5's Round-up & Readiness Screening

Dates have been set for the 2018-2019 Kindergarten/Progressive 5's Round-up and readiness screening.

Please add these dates to your calendars.

KDG/Pro-5 ROUND-UP

(Packets can be picked up in the elementary office and at the screening date/time sign-up.)

Feb. 19-23, 2018

Packets available 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Wed. Feb. 21, 2018

Evening Round-up - 5:00- 6:30 p.m.

READINESS SCREENING

March 26-27- 28, 2018

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

BES Media Center & Conference Room



BRIDGMAN HIGH SCHOOL

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Sam Stine, Principal

This edition of the Bridgman Buzz finds BHS near the conclusion of what has turned out to be an extremely successful first semester of the 2017-2018 school year.

Bridgman High School is one of 11 Select Michigan Schools to receive MCAN's System Impact Grant.

The Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) announced that BHS is one of 11 high schools across the state to receive a grant of up to \$25,000 to enhance college and career readiness policy and practices. "The funds provided by **Reach Higher System Impact Grants** will provide the resources necessary for schools to implement bold changes to help their students prepare for a college education and future careers," said Brandy Johnson, executive director of the Michigan College Access Network.

Keri Haskins, Bridgman High School Counselor, along with the Post-Secondary Advisory Council at BHS, applied for the grant last June. The team was very excited to learn late this Septem-

ber that Bridgman High School was a grant recipient. Schools were selected based on a competitive grant review process. "Our goal is to continue to raise SAT scores to assist students in post-secondary education endeavors and prepare them to pursue a successful career," said Haskins. "We want every one of our Bridgman High School students to be college and career ready when they leave our building and enter the next chapter in their lives."

Inside and outside of BHS, our students have lived up to the building vision statement of "Together, challenging our students to succeed." As Principal, it is fabulous to observe our students, staff, parents, and stakeholders work collaboratively to offer high quality opportunities. Whether it be educational outings by our Accounting, Chemistry, and Engineering classes, outstanding results by our athletic teams, or the many service outings, our students have made us proud! The staff at BHS look forward to a second semester that again will distinguish our students both in the classroom, as well as in the athletic arena, as some of the top students in Southwest Michigan.

Whenever possible, the staff at BHS continues to explore opportunities for students to experience curriculum outside the classroom. During the fall semester, several staff members organized opportunities for our students outside of the hive.



Mrs. McGee's CTE Accounting Class

TOURING THE WINDY CITY

The Federal Reserve System serves as a banker's bank and as the government's bank. On Tuesday, November 7, Mrs. McGee's CTE Accounting class visited the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago along with the Money Museum to learn more about our banking system and how it helps maintain a healthy economy. Afterwards the students ate lunch at Navy Pier, then visited the Museum of Science and Industry.

KEY CLUB

Drew Dow, Kaitlin Essig, and Savanna Tate, along with Mrs. Conklin attended the Michigan District of Key Club's Fall Rally held at Mt. Pleasant High School on Saturday, November 11. This was a great way to find out what clubs around the state are doing for service projects and fundraising activities. Our members came back with some great ideas for how we can expand our efforts in Bridgman. Members also assisted with the Veterans Day dinner at the Bridgman American Legion the same day.

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





FRIEND Bridgman Public Schools on FACEBOOK.

BRIDGMAN HIGH SCHOOL

PLASTICS

ENGINEERING TRIP

Mr. Antel, BHS Chemistry teacher, organized a tour of the Plastics and Rubber Engineering programs at Ferris State University on Wednesday, October 25. Students were able to tour the educational facilities and learn about the many different types of careers and degrees supported in the Plastics Engineering Department at FSU.



Plastics Engineering Department at FSU

WMU ENGINEERING SENIOR DESIGN CONFERENCE

Dr. Dale Quattrin, Engineering instructor at BHS, organized a visit to Western Michigan University on Tuesday, December 5. Students were able to tour the \$100 million facility on WMU's Parkview Campus. The facility has 323,000 square feet of teaching and research space, with 75 undergraduate and graduate labs. The visit included the opportunity to view Senior students at WMU presenting

their capstone project as part of their final graduation requirement. To finish off the day, our students were able to eat in a university dining hall.

ECONOMIC CLUB OF SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Former British Prime Minister David Cameron was the guest of the Southwest Michigan Economics Club on November 15. Students from BHS were privileged to attend. Daisy Juarez, Tyler Beckman, Isaiah Pribyl, and Noah Whitford-Stevens were accompanied by BHS Social Studies teacher Mr. Jeff Degner. Students were in attendance for a Q & A Session where Cameron covered wide-ranging topics such as the Brexit vote, Catalonian Independence, the rise of Populism, and young people in politics. The evening was rounded out by discussion among BHS students and their counterparts from other area high schools. Students remarked at the vulnerability Prime Minister Cameron showed in admitting to mistakes, sharing anecdotes from his family life and his younger years.



Bingo with Woodland Terrace Residents

NHS COMMUNITY SERVICE

During the first semester, the Frederick Reed Chapter of the National Honor Society has been busy raising \$950 for Hurricane Relief in conjunction with Student Senate, volunteering by playing Bingo with Woodland Terrace Residents, and collecting items for Stuff-a-Truck Food Drive. A total of 376 items were donated by BHS Students!

WMU CAMPUS VISIT

On November 17, the junior class visited Western Michigan University. Students were able to tour the campus, heard an admissions presentation, and ate lunch in a campus cafeteria. It was a great opportunity for our students to see a four-year state university.



Western Michigan University Visit





F.C. REED MIDDLE SCHOOL



At F.C. Reed Middle School, our educational vision states, "Together, challenging our children to succeed."

John Truesdell
Middle School Principal

While the collaboration between teachers and parents/guardians is an integral part of the educational process, we cannot forget that it is also critical to foster a safe environment where students help each other to develop socially, grow emotionally, and thrive academically. That is why Bridgman Public Schools has invested in *Kagan Cooperative Learning* professional development for all teachers during the 2017-18 school year.

Students benefit from cooperative learning because this approach utilizes structures and activities that foster positive interdependence and individual accountability, while encouraging equal participation between all students in class. A cooperative experience also calls for teachers to develop a safe and supportive classroom culture by performing routine team building exercises with their students. This is critical, because when children feel comfortable in school, supported by their peers, and are active classroom participants, learning occurs. In fact, a wide variety of research shows that there is a direct connection between a learner's level of engagement and student achievement.

I am proud to report that because the RMS staff has embraced cooperative instructional strategies, visitors to our building will observe students challenging each other to learn and grow on a daily basis.

In math, students coach each other on complex math concepts. In ELA, students work cooperatively to review their peers' work and share productive feedback. In science, students team together to navigate exploratory labs and study scientific phenomena. In social studies, students put their heads together and solve problems that call for the collective insight of a group of individuals. This cooperative process also compliments the philosophy behind the new RMS STEM Lab, where groups work collaboratively to research, design, and create projects related to science, technology, engineering, and math.

The impact of cooperative learning is evident outside the classroom.

For example, the RMS Robotics Club was awarded the Core Values Trophy for TEAMWORK at the Lancer-Bot-Mania FIRST® LEGO® League Tournament.

At RMS, it is our job to work with parents/guardians, the community, and

students to prepare learners for high school and beyond. Consequently, as the year progresses, the RMS staff will continue to integrate cooperative principles into your child's middle school curriculum. By challenging children to communicate and work productively with a diverse variety of individuals, students will develop essential skills that will benefit them personally, academically, and professionally for years to come.

If you are interested in learning more about a cooperative approach to education, I encourage you to contact me via email at: jtruesdell@bridgmanschools.com

Your partner in education,
John Truesdell, Middle School Principal



Visit our YouTube channel for F.C. Reed Middle School Announcements at: <https://goo.gl/aZeirj>

Did you know that F.C. Reed Middle School broadcasts their announcements on YouTube?



BRIDGMAN AQUATIC CENTER

For more information on programs, pool schedules, and the Aquatic Center visit www.bridgmanschools.com/aquatic-center

Congratulations to the Bridgman Girls Co-Op Swimming and Diving team on a very successful season. Good luck to the Boys Co-op Swimming and Diving team, and congratulations on their first dual meet victory over Battle Creek Central High School on Thursday December 7 with a score of 122-52!

The Aquatic Center is closed for home meets on Thursdays (January 11, 18, February 1, 8) and all day Saturday, January 20 for the Bridgman Invitational. Please come and cheer on the Bees!

Deep Water Aerobics 5 days per week 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Shallow Water Aerobics 5 days per week 8:30-9:30 a.m. and Monday and Wednesday 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Arthritis Class Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Adult Lap Swim times vary throughout the day, and MAY be cancelled if there is a class or programmed event.

Family Recreation Swim Tuesday and Thursday 7:00-8:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Sea Bees Swim Club is a competitive age group swim team for ages six through high school. Sea Bees season

runs until mid-February and will start again in June. They participate in SWMSL league and also compete in USA Swimming sanctioned swim meets.

Community Diving Lessons

Open to divers of all ages and all levels. See the website for a downloadable schedule.

COMMUNITY SWIM LESSONS

For children ages six months and up.

Community swim lessons are FREE for children living in the City of Bridgman, Lake Township, or if your children attend Bridgman Public Schools as a School of Choice student. If your child is a non-resident, the fee is \$36/session. Each of our sessions consists of 12-14 lessons. To register your child for Community Swim lessons, we will be having a registration at the Aquatic Center on a date to be announced within the month. Please check the website for the date, and feel free to email our new Assistant Aquatic Director Emily Nannfeldt – enannfeldt@bridgmanschools.com with any questions regarding the lessons program.

COMMUNITY WEIGHT ROOM

The Aquatic Center also offers access to our state of the art Community Weight Room, which is located in the balcony of the gym at Bridgman High School. We offer a "Punch Card" for the weight

room. The punch card is available for \$20/30 visits or the fee is \$1 per visit. If you purchase an Aquatic Center Membership, use of the weight room is included. Community Weight Room hours are listed below and also on the Aquatic Center website.

The Community Weight Room is CLOSED during all home basketball games.

Community Weight Room Hours

Monday – Friday
5:45 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

Monday – Thursday
5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Sunday
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.



**FRIEND Bridgman
Aquatic Center
on FACEBOOK.**

**FRIEND BRIDGMAN AQUATIC
CENTER ON FACEBOOK.**

The Aquatic Center is closed when school closes for inclement weather. Visit the website, listen to the Radio Stations of Southwest Michigan, or see signs posted on the aquatic center doors for closing information.



BRIDGMAN COMMUNITY BUZZ

BRIDGMAN FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE Enhancing and Enriching Learning Opportunities



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

We are blessed to have many giving businesses and individuals in our community. We are not done! We have a goal to raise much more to help install several options for the lab and fund the commitments of the Foundation for this project. This will be a great addition to the school and for the students in our district. Thank you to everyone who helped with this tremendous project.

The lab is comprised of many work stations, computers, displays, and a filming production lab. All students will have the opportunity to use the lab in a rotation similar to other selected partial year courses. The exposure to technology and all the labs offer is essential to students who have interests in these types of fields. It will allow them to choose similar courses and set a direction for high school.

Several school administrators and Bob Clark visited three similar labs to the one being proposed for RMS. *It was amazing how much the students we talked to loved the lab, and enjoyed learning by problem solving in groups of their peers.* The basis for the lab is that students will be using these technologies and work processes when they are employed. Why not expose it to them early and see if it is an area they wish to pursue? Studies show the need for these types of educational tools. We continue to strive to provide the best and latest opportunities to the students of BPS.

As you can guess, STEM labs are not inexpensive. The funds needed will have to come from a variety of sources: grants, business sponsors, Foundation funds, and individual donations.



OUR MISSION: The Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence exists to ENHANCE learning opportunities for students in the Bridgman Public Schools. The funds we seek will be utilized to create opportunities for learning above and beyond what the district funds.

Excellence in public education is essential to the economic and social well-being of any community. The foundation is dedicated to provide enhanced learning opportunities for our students, staff, and community; to recognize innovation, to foster excellence, and to make a positive impact on the future of our community through education.

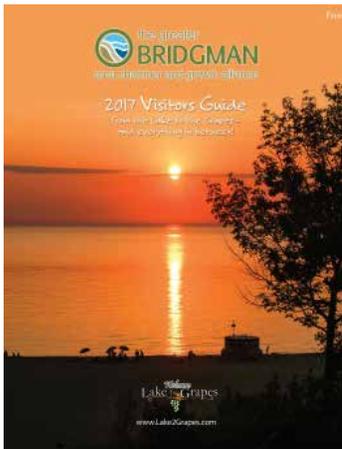
DONATE ONLINE

Your donations provide opportunity for all Bridgman Students to experience and learn things they may never be able to otherwise. Since the Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence is driven by a group of volunteers, ALL of your contributions provide enhancements for education and are tax deductible. Consider donating online today at: bridgmanfoundation.org

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



The Greater Bridgman Area Chamber of Commerce & Growth Alliance



JOIN THE PARTY!

We hold a kick-off party before Memorial Day (tourist time!) each year to reveal the new book and distribute copies to attending advertisers and guests.

We invite CGA members to join us and bring their marketing materials to share with other attendees and for the CGA to distribute through the tourist season and the rest of the year. Stay tuned for the date and location for this year's party – hope you will all join us!



GREATER BRIDGMAN AREA BUSINESS & VISITOR'S GUIDE



Director Calli Berg

The CGA promotes local businesses, the greater Bridgman area, and our region through the annual Greater Bridgman Area Business and Visitors Guide.

Published since at least 2005, this is a long-standing marketing tool that we use to tell our collective story – who we are as a business community and why guests should visit here for fun and stay here for everything else. Anyone can advertise in our book; however, as you can see by looking at the chart, members who reserve by January 31 get the best discount.

Curious to learn more about our guide?

Here are the most frequently asked questions:

- 1. How many do you print?** We print about 10,000 guides and host a Visitor's Guide kick-off party to reveal and distribute the book.
- 2. Where are they distributed?** We stock our visitor centers at City Hall, BP Amoco by I-94 and the Weko Beach House, place them with advertisers, area businesses, other chambers and business associations, Warren Dunes, the New Buffalo Welcome Center, and the Southwest Michigan Tourist Council and their member businesses. We also use the guide as an attraction tool and send them to prospective employees/residents/visitors.

- 3. How do I submit an ad?** Guidelines are at lake2grapes.com and if you need help designing an ad, our guide producer Tim Rogers of Fusion Design is happy to assist if you call him at (269) 469- 8226.
- 4. Can readers find my business?** Yes! For \$50 we include your business on our two-page location map.
- 5. How big is the guide and what's in it?** Our book is growing! We have increased from 32 to 36 pages, and may need to go to 40 pages this year, as we continue to build advertisers. You can review the books produced since 2014 online at lake2grapes.com to read the editorial content and see who advertises.
- 6. Why advertise?** Visitors use our guide to explore our community before they visit and while they are still new to the area to find things to do and buy, and to learn about area to meet their various needs. The more advertisers we have, the better we present to visitors and prospects and you can promote your own business in one of the most cost-effective publication around.
- 7. When is the deadline?** All print-ready ads must be submitted and paid for by March 1, 2018.

PRICING & TIMELINE

	Before Jan 31 Member/Non	After Jan 31 Member/Non
1/8 Page	\$120/\$180	\$150/\$415
1/4 Page	\$230/\$345	\$275/\$415
1/2 Page	\$410/\$615	\$500/\$615
Full Page	\$770/\$1,150	\$900/\$1,350
Inside front/back cover	\$850	
Back Cover	\$1,750	

Access a n order form at lake2grapes.com



LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

SUPERVISOR - JOHN GAST CONTINUED FROM COVER ...

During these past months, some surveying and video inspections of drain culverts have been done. It is looking like the improvement area is at least up to Hildebrandt Road. We are looking at keeping the current four lanes as is, with discussion to follow on paving the shoulders.

Water mains in the area of Date and Snow roads are under our review. The engineers are looking at the history of main breaks and disruptions in that service area. This project will be discussed, and action will be taken, in the spring of 2018 to start replacement of the affected area.

Recycling has reached and surpassed our target of 600 customers. Remember if you want to participate, call the Township Hall at (269) 465-6601 and ask for Sandy. She will add you to the list of customers.

Remember to check the schedule for pick-up and have your trash and recycling cans at curb side to be emptied. Also, some concerns are expressed about residents or commercial properties leaving cans at curb side all week. Please bring your cans back to your house or business in a reasonable time period. Don't leave them out at curb side all week till the next pick-up date. If you have any questions, you can always reach me at Lake Charter Township Hall, (269) 465- 6601.

Lake Charter Township Water Department

INTRODUCING JEFF BURKHARD

In the last edition of the Buzz, Mark Panzegrau announced his retirement as Superintendent of the Water Department. I would like to introduce myself as the new Superintendent, Jeff Burkhard. I am starting my 39th year with the Lake Charter Township Water Department. I have worked all position in the Water Department over the years and look forward to filling this position. The water plant is staffed 24 hours per day seven days per week. You can contact us at (269) 465-3850.

With the arrival of winter, we would like to remind everyone that it is the responsibility of the homeowner to protect their water meter from freezing, to avoid any unnecessary interruption in service. This is especially important if your meter is located in a crawl space or other unheated area.

Newer accounts have the meter located in a meter pit at the property line and this is normally not a problem with freezing. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

We also recommend vacuum breakers on any outside faucets to protect against back siphonage. Newer outside faucets have one built into them. Periodically we will receive a call about bad tasting water. On one occasion this resulted from a non-protected outside faucet that had a garden hose attached to it with a nozzle on the end laying in the sun, with the faucet open. This situation allows pressure to build in the hose from the sun causing the hose to impart taste into the water and contaminating your house water supply. Another application would be on a laundry sink where a hose may be attached and lying in the sink, creating a potential for back siphonage. Vacuum breakers not only protect your household plumbing but the water system as well.

REVIEW YOUR HOMEOWNER'S INSURANCE

The Township recommends you review your homeowner's insurance coverage with your insurance agent regarding water pipe breaks and sewer line back-up, breaks or failure. We have received information that not all policies cover losses resulting from these types of problems. Some policies do not cover events that are not "acts of God." Others require a special rider and additional premiums to have certain situations included in your coverage. These types of misfortunes are not common but you should know where you stand with your coverage if they do happen to you.

Remember to check the schedule for pick-up and have your trash and recycling cans at curb side to be emptied.





LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Lake Township Treasurer Report

Winter tax bills were sent out December 1 and are due February 14 by 5:00 p.m. to avoid late penalties and interest.

We are happy to offer online payments now. Tax bills can be paid online using a credit card or electronic check, mailed, left in our drop box or paid at the office. All payments are posted when they are received, however, we do not accept post marks so be sure to allow ample time for payments to be received by the due date. E checks are becoming more popular for either tax or utility payments. The funds come directly out of your checking account immediately. The processing fee is \$3.00 per payment up to \$ 10,000 amounts and more economical in most cases than card payments. More information is available at the Township office or on our website at www.lake-township.org.

The 2018 budget has been approved. It includes funds for several capital improvements for the cemetery, park, and water departments. The water department includes plans for a large water main replacement as the Township continues to work diligently at making improvements to keep our facilities in top shape and efficiency. These improvements will be enjoyed by residents for many years and important to continue investing in our future.

LAKE TOWNSHIP PARK NEWS

The park is closed for the season but what a great season it was!

Soccer, baseball and softball all had successful seasons and hundreds of players and parents all enjoyed the park. The pavilions were well used for parties, reunions, and various gatherings.

We completed the paving and sealing projects and the park roads and parking lots are in top shape.

The big news was the renovation of the disc golf course utilizing the new ten acres that was purchased adjacent to the park. Eight holes have been relocated into the woods moving holes from areas that interfered with other activities in the park. The new property is absolutely beautiful with mature forest, a sand ridge, and wetlands. Disc golfers are raving about the new layout and the disc golf league had the first ever tournament held at the park!

Over the winter we will be installing new signage and artificial turf tee pads further enhancing the course. Plans to establish nature trails in the woods are in the planning stages.

Come by in the spring and check it out!

WEBSITE

Please take some time to visit our website at www.lake-township.org. The site has links to many important websites. One is our software provider's site, which includes information about water and sewer bills, historical payment records, use information, and options to pay bills online. The tax area provides information about current and past bill amounts, generic payment receipts, State Equalized and Taxable values, and payment options. The site also has information on current news, cemetery information, forms, ordinances, building codes, meeting minutes, and other important information.

{ The park is closed for the season but what a great season it was! }





LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

From the desk of the Lake Charter Township Clerk . . .



Gloria Payne
Township Clerk

What is the Electoral College?

Often misunderstood today, the Electoral College was established early in our country's history and continues to play an important role in the

American political process. Although the name suggests ivy-covered walls and classrooms filled with books, the Electoral College is responsible for formally selecting the next president and vice president of the United States.

On the night of the Presidential Election, most Americans stay tuned to news reports to find out who won. But even after the final votes are tallied and the winner is announced, our choice for president and vice president is not official until the Electoral College casts its votes.

The Electoral College is comprised of 538 people, known as electors, chosen nationwide to meet in their home states and cast one vote per person for president and vice president. Michigan has 16 electors to reflect the number of senators and representatives it has in the U.S. Congress. Presidential candidates on the Michigan ballot submit a list of 16 qualified electors to the Secretary of State's Office. The 16 elec-

tors whose candidate wins Michigan's popular vote will participate in the Electoral College at the State Capitol in December.

Electors pledge to support the candidate they represent and may not vote otherwise. Michigan voters can be assured that all 16 Michigan electoral votes automatically go to the presidential candidate winning the popular vote.

Most states distribute their Electoral College votes in the same "winner takes all" fashion as Michigan. However, two states, Maine and Nebraska, apportion their electoral votes by congressional district.

To be elected president, a candidate must receive at least 270 of the 538 electoral votes cast nationwide. If no candidate receives 270 votes, the final decision is made by the U.S. House of Representatives. Only two American presidents have been chosen by the U.S. House of Representatives because they lacked enough Electoral College votes. In 1800, Thomas Jefferson and, in 1824, John Quincy Adams both took office after the election was sent to the House of Representatives.

To understand why the Electoral College, and not the people, ultimately determines who is president requires a

brief look into our country's turbulent beginnings. The Electoral College was written into the U.S. Constitution in 1787, a time when our nation was new and still struggling in many ways, including politically. Of primary concern was the possibility of a nationwide election breaking down into chaos and confusion.

To counter the politically volatile environment of the late 18th century, the Electoral College was established to balance the state's and people's interests. The idea of mass communication and the dominant two-party political system we take for granted today could never have been anticipated by our country's first leaders as they wrestled with the problems of the early republic. Our country was founded on the principle of government of the people, by the people and for the people. Voting is one of this country's most cherished rights. Our political system, including the Electoral College, is designed to ensure the full realization of this fundamental principle.

For more information, visit the U.S. Electoral College Website at:
<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/index.html>.

Source: www.michigan.gov/sos

Michigan has 16 electors to reflect the number of senators and representatives it has in the U.S. Congress.



CITY OF BRIDGMAN

2018 SPRING CLEANUP SCHEDULE

APRIL

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

MAY

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

JUNE

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

JULY

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

AUGUST

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

	BAGGED LEAF PICKUP
	BRUSH PICKUP
	LARGE TRASH PICKUP

Bagged Leaf 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.

Leaf and brush burning within the city limits is prohibited.

Brush is indicated in **YELLOW** on the calendar. 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.

Large Trash Pick-up is indicated in **PINK** on the calendar. Items not accepted include those larger than a refrigerator, tires and construction material. Refrigerators and air conditioners must have the freon removed with a tag attached indicating as such. A complete list of accepted items is available on the city's website and at City Hall. Republic Services also will pick-up your extra-large items for a fee. To schedule such a pick-up, call Republic Services at (269) 465-3773.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Berrien County has set the household hazardous waste collection dates for 2018.

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 Specialist at (269) 983-7111 ext. 8234.





CITY OF BRIDGMAN

CITY NEWS, JUAN GANUM - CONTINUED FROM COVER ...

To achieve our goal we have implemented a new data management program called Munetrix.

If you have visited the City's website in recent months you may have noticed a new **Transparency & Accountability Initiative** link on the right side of the home page. Opening this link will provide you with user friendly access to the City's financial data, including revenues, expenditures, fund balance, long term debt and taxable value. There are a host of reports which will show you how we are currently spending your property tax and utility service dollars as well as how we've spent them in the past. The Munetrix platform also shows how Bridgman compares to other communities in Southwestern Michigan. It is an assemblage of useful information for us as public administrators and you as shareholders of the Bridgman community.

Along the lines of accountability and transparency the City is currently confronted with a significant challenge – how to address a financial obligation in the Sewer Fund created by years of subsidies from the General Fund. Although we recently raised our water and sewer rates to correct the revenue and expenditure imbalance in both funds, many years of inter-fund transfers from the General Fund into the Sewer Fund to cover all expenses has resulted in a debt of over \$700,000. Essentially, the Sewer Fund owes the General Fund this debt

and the City Council must decide how to best fulfill the obligation.

Over the past several months our administration has discussed a variety of options for addressing the inter-fund debt. One alternative to an increase in sewer rates is to charge property owners for trash and recycling collection service. Unlike the vast majority of local governments, which either charge their residents directly or require residents to contract with a trash hauler of their choosing, Bridgman absorbs trash collection costs. At present it costs the City \$7.79 per month per address through Republic Services, subject to an annual Cost of Living increase. The total annual cost to the City for all addresses is just under \$100,000.

If the City were to pass along the actual costs of trash and recycling collection service to its residents it would effectively free \$100,000 within the General Fund for other activities, such as road funding, park improvements and paying down inter-fund debt. The cost for each property owner would be approximately \$96 per year and would be added to property tax bills.

To learn more about the financial position of the Sewer Fund and the City's options for eliminating the inter-fund debt please visit our website at www.bridgman.org.

BOAT RAMP

The Weko Beach boat ramp, which is traditionally in place between April and October of each year, has been the subject of recent City Council discussions.

Elimination of the boat ramp is being considered for a variety of reasons, including safety concerns for boaters who are caught waiting for the ramp during sudden hazardous wave conditions, a declining demand for boat ramp passes, expenses that greatly exceed revenues, and increasing maintenance demands caused by beach erosion.

Before a decision to remove or keep the ramp is made we would like to hear from residents of the Bridgman community, including those in Lake Township.

Please contact the city manager at: (269) 465-5144 or jganum@bridgman.org with your opinions.

Share your views on new projects and initiatives by using the Community Voice feature on the City's website.





FRIEND Weko Beach
Campground on FACEBOOK.

CITY OF BRIDGMAN

**From the Mayor,
Hannah Anderson**

LET THERE BE LIGHT!

The City Council hopes our residents, business owners and visitors have enjoyed the new holiday decorations that were installed shortly before Thanksgiving. Thanks to the efforts of our staff Lake Street has been turned into a winter wonderland. The entrance booth at Weko Beach received a dose of holiday cheer as well. Our goal is to beautify Bridgman by adding new items every year and we welcome your suggestions to continuously enhance Bridgman.

Though the holiday season is behind us and several months of cold and dreary weather remain ahead, downtown Bridgman will remain a bright spot. The small street trees will keep their lights all year and will continue to brighten our downtown streetscape.

The City wishes to thank all of its residents and business owners who shared the holiday spirit by illuminating their homes, buildings and storefronts. A few strands of light cast a warm and inviting glow to help welcome home our friends and family.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Did you know...

- **Roughly 70% of all firefighters in the United States are volunteer (on-call) firefighters.**
- **On-call firefighters live and work in the Bridgman community and hold regular jobs.**
- **On-call firefighters are paid \$16/hr. for training and fire calls.**
- **The Bridgman Fire Department is looking for new members to join its well-trained team.**

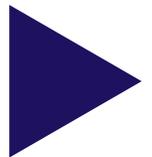
You could be a part of this family!

We are seeking motivated men and women who are willing to help their community. Contrary to popular belief, being a firefighter involves much more than rushing into burning buildings. We are trained as medical First Responders, water and ice rescue technicians, vehicle extraction specialists, fire prevention educators and life safety advocates.

If you've ever wondered whether you have it in you, now is the time to visit your local fire department. You can even train during your high school years.

Please send me an email or stop by the Fire Department and check us out.

Joel Buist
Fire Chief
Bridgman Fire Department
jbuist@bridgman.org



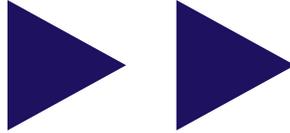
{ The City wishes to thank all of its residents and business owners for sharing the holiday spirit. }



CITY OF BRIDGMAN

WATER DEPARTMENT

Don't Let Cold Weather Catch You Unprepared!



Every winter, many homeowners face the expense and inconvenience of frozen water pipes.

But you can cross that off your list of winter worries by taking a few simple precautions:

- **Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses.** Detaching a hose allows water to drain from the faucet. Otherwise, a single, hard overnight freeze can burst either the faucet or the pipe it's connected to.
- **Insulate pipes or faucets in unheated areas.** If you have pipelines in the attic, an unheated garage or cold crawl space under the house, wrap the water pipes before temperatures plummet. Hardware or building supply stores will have good pipe wrapping materials available.
- **Seal off access doors, air vents and cracks.** Winter winds whistling through overlooked openings can quickly freeze exposed water pipes.
- **Find the master shutoff.** It is where the water line comes out of the meter box at the street. If a pipe bursts anywhere in the house – kitchen, bath, basement or crawl space – this valve turns it off. So find it now. Be sure everyone in the family knows where it is and what it does.
- **In severe cold weather, you may want to allow a faucet to drip a small continuous stream.**

FROZEN PIPES

What if it's too late?

What if you wake up one day to find the pipes are frozen anyway?

During an extended cold spell it can happen despite precautions. Do you have the plumber's telephone number handy? Write it down now before you need it in an emergency.

If you think you know where the freeze-up occurred and want to try thawing it yourself, do not under any circumstances use a torch with an open flame. The whole house could catch fire. Also, overheating a single spot can burst the pipe. Heating a soldered joint could allow it to leak or come completely apart.

The easiest tool is probably a hair dryer with a high heat setting. Wave the warm air back and forth along the pipe, not on one spot. If you don't have a hair dryer, you can wrap the frozen section with rags or towels and pour hot water over them. It's messy, but it works. Be careful because the pipe may already be broken. It's not leaking because the water is frozen. But when you thaw it out, water could come gushing out. Be ready to run for the master shutoff valve if necessary. Better yet, turn the valve off while undertaking your thaw-out effort.

The main thing is to take precautions before cold weather arrives.

Source: American Water Works Association

{ Every winter, many homeowners face the expense and inconvenience of frozen water pipes. }





FRIEND Weko Beach
Campground on FACEBOOK.

CITY OF BRIDGMAN

STREET DEPARTMENT

We would like to remind everyone that it is illegal to deposit snow, ice or slush on the roadway or shoulder of the road, per section 257.677a of the Michigan Vehicle Code.

To reduce the amount of snow being pushed onto your driveway by our sidewalk plows please do not deposit snow on the sidewalk.

Parking on city streets is not permitted from 2 A.M. to 6 A.M. from November to April in order to allow city plows to clear the streets.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The City has partnered with KidCents and the Rite Aid Foundation in supporting the safety and well-being of children in our community.

Residents may drop off unwanted or expired medications in a secure disposal box in the police station lobby at City Hall so they don't fall into the wrong hands.

Accepted:

- Prescription medications (Schedule II-V controlled and non controlled substances*)
- Over-the-counter medications*

* Common dosage forms, such as tablets, capsules, ointments and patches.

Not Accepted:

- Illegal drugs
- Needles
- Lotions or liquids
- Inhalers
- Aerosol cans
- Thermometers
- Hydrogen peroxide



WINTER TAXES DUE

As a friendly reminder 2017 winter taxes are due February 14, 2018.

You may pay at City Hall, by mail or online at www.bridgman.org.

Tax payments received after the deadline will be subject to late payment penalties regardless of the postmark date.

If you would like a copy of your tax statement please call City Hall at 465-5144 or email dlambrix@bridgman.org.

Taxes are collected at City Hall until February 28, 2018. Beginning March 1, 2018 delinquent taxes will need to be paid at the Berrien County Treasurer's office at 701 Main Street in St. Joseph.



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Adult Programs

KNIT N YARN

Every **third Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.**
Every **Monday and Thursday from 1:00-3:00 p.m.**

Learn to knit or crochet, share your latest project, or get help with a yarning problem.

“WARM UP TO A GOOD BOOK”

Adult Winter Reading Program
January 1-February 17

Register and read five books to receive gourmet hot chocolate and have a chance to win a gift certificate from D’Agostino’s.

E-BOOKS ON TAP AT TAPISTRY

Thursday, January 11, 9-10 p.m.
Wednesday, January 17, 9-10 p.m.

Ted, the library’s tech guy, will be at Tapesty two nights in January. So if you got a Kindle, Nook, or even a tablet for Christmas, come to Tapesty, have a beer, and learn how you can use your new device to get free e-books from the library.

UNWRITTEN STORY OF OUR LANDSCAPE

Tuesday, February 13, 6:30 p.m.

Join Pat Fisher, of Harbor County Hikers, for a presentation on the history and geology of the land around us. From glaciers to mega-mammals, giant dunes, Indian settlements, and a unique but fragile ecosystem, learn what makes Southwest Michigan unlike any other place in the world.

ANDREWS MUSIC RECITAL

Wed., February 21 at 6:00 p.m.

Enjoy music performed by talented musicians from Andrews University.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Think spring and reserve your plot in the community garden. If you are a returning gardener and you would like to reserve your same plot, please do so by March 1. After the 1st, plots will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. We are fortunate to have long-time community gardener, Bernadette Lynch, serving as our volunteer coordinator this year. Thank you, Bernadette! Mark your calendars for these important dates:

Garden Work Day

Saturday, April 14, 10-1 p.m.

Organizing Meeting

Saturday, April 28, 10:30 a.m.

SPRINGING INTO SPRING COOKING

Tuesday, March 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Join Lisa, from Martin’s, as she demonstrates how to prepare healthy and portable meals and snacks. Space is limited, so please register at the front desk.

BASIC COMPUTER CLASS

Tuesdays, April 3, 10, 17, 24 at 9:30 a.m.

Janna and Ted will guide you through very basic computer skills. Logging in and out, printing, searching, and saving material will be covered. Space is limited, so please register at the front desk.

SECOND WEDNESDAY BOOK CLUB

2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Join our friendly and interactive reading group lead by Rick Fuller. Books are available for checkout one month before the meeting. New members are always welcome.

Upcoming selections include:

January: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot

February: *Heroes of the Frontier* by Dave Eggers

March: *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* by Richard Flanagan

April: *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque

YOGA

Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

Cheryl Meadors, certified yoga instructor, leads a class at the library every Thursday. The class is suitable for beginning or intermediate yoga students. Just bring a yoga mat, some water, and a \$10 participation fee. 50% of the proceeds benefit the Bridgman Public Library.



**Community Garden: Returning gardeners
reserve your plots by March 1.**



BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Youth Programs

PUPPIES AND PAGES

Every Wednesday

January 3-February 28

Puppies and Pages is a reading program for children to practice their reading skills in a comfortable environment to a certified service dog. Please call the library, (269) 465-3663, to make an appointment.

“CHILL OUT & READ”

Children’s Winter Reading Program
January 1-February 17

For ages 2-18

Add a snowball to our igloo every time you read a book and get a chance to win a prize. Registration begins December 26.

STOP MOTION FOR BEGINNERS

Saturday, January 13 at 1:00 p.m.

Learn how to create a short stop-motion movie. All movies will be shown on the library’s YouTube channel. Must have a Gmail account. For grades 2-8. Space is limited, so please register at the front desk.

DINOSAUR DAY WITH PALEO JOE

Saturday, February 10 at 1:00 p.m.

Join Paleontologist Paleo Joe as he brings dinosaurs to life with amazing fossils and stories. Don’t miss this exciting adventure. For ages 5 and up.

EARLY LITERACY CLASSES WITH MISS TAMI

Baby and Me (ages 0-2)

Monday at 10:45 a.m.

Toddler and Me (ages 3-5)

Tuesdays at 9:30 or 11:30 a.m.

Story Hour (ages 3-5)

Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

BRIDGMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 10-8

Friday: 10-5

Saturday: 10-4

Sunday: Closed

LIBRARY NEWS

CONTINUED FROM COVER ...

well and to find some new goals to strive for. You can find a copy of our strategic plan in the library or on our website.

Also new this winter, we are checking out Playaway Launchpads. Launchpads are tablets loaded with learning apps and games for preschoolers and elementary students. Launchpads are sturdy and safe. No Wi-Fi is necessary to use these fun, educational tools. Check one out at the desk.

Finally, we have started a new Winter Reading Program for kids, teens, and adults. If there is a better way to escape the cold and snow than to cozy up with a book, we certainly don’t know it at the library. I hope you will join us for the Winter Reading Program January 1 through February 17.

See you at the library!

Gretchen Evans, Director

2nd Annual Teen Story Contest

Sponsored by the Friends of the Bridgman Public Library

Congratulations to this year’s winners. Read the stories on our website.

1st place, *Midnight Conversations* – Breanne Blackwell

2nd place, *New Friends* – Jonah Stanage

3rd place, *Fused by the Arm* – Jericho Ashby

Library Board

Randy Hill – President

Lane Kuypers – Vice President

John Wilk – Secretary

Ken Huff – Treasurer

Liz Bogue -- Trustee

Dorothea Crocker -- Trustee

Susan Collins – Trustee

Sue Janoskey – Trustee

Aaron Noll – Trustee



9964 Gast Road, Bridgman, MI 49106

bridgmanschools.com

Office: 269-465-5432

Fax: 269-466-0221

BRIDGMAN COMMUNITY BUZZ



One community working together to serve you better.

Bridgman Public Schools Central Administration

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

Bridgman High School

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

F.C. Reed Middle School

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

Bridgman Elementary

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

Bridgman Public Library

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

Lake Charter Township

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

City of Bridgman

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

Greater Bridgman Area Chamber & Growth Alliance

P.O. Box 871
Bridgman, MI 49106
269-465-4413