

Discover **BRIDGMAN**



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and everything in between!*

BRIDGMAN VISITORS' GUIDE

FREE



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Southwest Michigan is home to some of the finest craft brewers, winemakers and distillers. Sample our drinks in the same region their ingredients were grown in. With over 40 stops along the trail, you'll find something unique.

Taste the liquid artistry and bring home your favorites to enjoy again and again.

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Welcome TO BRIDGMAN

We are so glad that you have chosen to visit Bridgman, Michigan. Inside the pages of this magazine, you will find local businesses, as well as fun activities to enjoy the Bridgman region.

No matter your age, you will find something new and exciting to do for the whole family! For example, adults might want to tour the many local wineries and breweries or take a swing at one of the many beautiful golf courses in the area. If the kids are tagging along for the day, take them to one of the many beaches and playgrounds that Bridgman has to offer, or mooove on over to Shuler Dairy Farm where you can take a tour of their facilities, pet the cows, and have freshly made soft serve ice cream.

Stroll through the downtown streets and explore the different businesses and shops and find a little treasure to take home with you as a reminder of your time with us.

Rainy day? No problem! Sign up for a class or special event with the Bridgman Public Library, JLN Studio, Fusion Gallery, or many of the other hotspots. Be sure to take time to stop and smell the roses with a drive through the beautiful countryside. Maybe even stop at one of the many farm markets for some fresh hand-picked produce. Then at the end of the day, stop at one of the many fabulous restaurants to have someone else cook dinner for you.

So, kick back, stay a while, and take in everything that Bridgman and the surrounding area of Southwest Michigan have to offer you. Wineries, breweries, distilleries, shops, and restaurants have come from all over to make this area their home because they saw the beauty and the growing potential that is offered here, and we know that you will too. Whether you are staying for just a night, a weekend, a week or a lifetime, we know that you will love Bridgman!

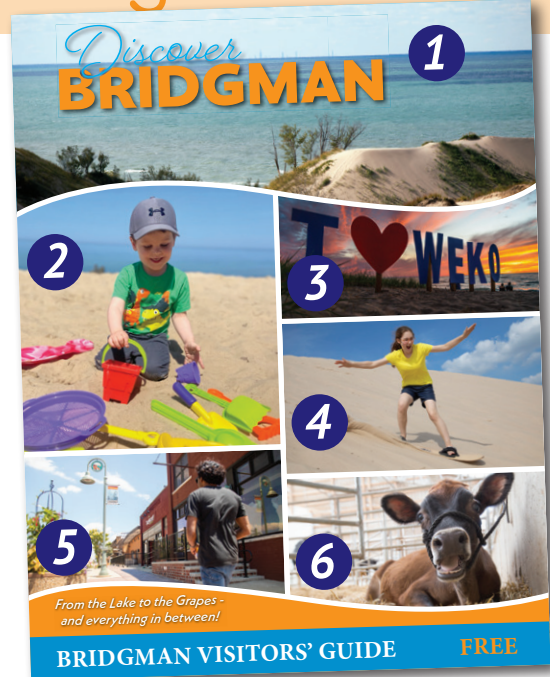
Have fun!



Kate Marie

Publisher - Discover Bridgman

Say CHEESE!



About the cover photos

- 1 - Warren Dunes** taken by Joshua Nowicki
Look closely above the word BRIDGMAN and you'll faintly make out the Chicago skyline. But is it? The skyline is actually a mirage. Due to the curvature of the earth it is impossible to see Chicago, but you can from time to time see a mirage of the Windy City. This phenomenon is due to atmospheric refraction on Lake Michigan.
- 2 - Beach Boy** taken by Megan Critzer. Bridgman has two of the best beaches in the Midwest with soft white sand.
- 3 - I Love Weko** taken by Molly Pate. Weko Beach has a modern beach house, campground, boardwalk and taps played nightly.
- 4 - Surfing Warren Dunes** taken by Joshua Nowicki. Tower Hill at Warren Dunes is steep enough to surf down and high enough at 240 feet above Lake Michigan for hang gliding.
- 5 - Downtown Stroll** taken by Joshua Nowicki. The quaint downtown area of Bridgman has cute shops, great dining and the new Social District to enjoy breweries, wine tasting and cocktails.
- 6 - Moooo** taken by Joshua Nowicki. Just a five minute drive from downtown Bridgman you'll find Shuler Dairy Farm, a 5th generation Centennial farm with latest robotic milking system, tunnel ventilation and happy, comfortable cows. Tour today and enjoy fresh ice cream, see calves and bull and the latest innovative farming technology.

Most of the photos for *Discover Bridgman* were taken by Joshua Nowicki and Molly Pate.

Southwest Michigan is proud of these two accomplished photographers. They have kindly given us permission to utilize their art to show the beauty of Bridgman. You can view their work and purchase their work online.

Joshua Nowicki Photography
joshuanowicki.smugmug.com

Molly Pate Art
pixels.com/profiles/molly-pate



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COLLABORATION CREATES OPPORTUNITY

Nestled on the shores of Lake Michigan, Bridgman has long been cherished for its picturesque beauty and small-town charm. In recent years, however, this community has undergone a remarkable evolution, positioning itself as a sought-after destination for both residents and businesses alike.

One of the primary reasons individuals are drawn to Bridgman is its exceptional quality of life.

The town prides itself on having a safe and welcoming community where neighbors become friends and support one another. It is an attractive location for families looking to settle down due to its proximity to major highways, world-class beaches, and top-tier school systems. It offers an active lifestyle thanks to a local array of recreational amenities, including parks, trails, cultural events, and more. It also boasts a friendly business environment, a diverse range of industries and career possibilities, and incredible potential to become a regional hub of economic growth and prosperity.

Bridgman's unique blend of natural beauty, recreational activity, and economic opportunity is an undeniable recipe for success, and yet, its recent momentum can also be attributed to the collaborative efforts of those who serve and reside in the community.

The City of Bridgman and Lake Charter Township work in alignment with organizations like the Regional Chamber and the Bridgman CGA to advance area initiatives. We also receive incredible support and engagement from passionate residents and local business owners on shared priorities, making our progress possible. It is this unity of purpose that has attracted investment and ushered in an era of growth and momentum for the community.

The recently proposed 25-acre housing and trail development in the heart of Downtown Bridgman (pictured) is a prime example of this. This exciting potential development would include over sixty new homes and a pedestrian-friendly system of trails,

sidewalks, and exercise loops meant to foster a walkable, healthy community. It is a testament to the increased appeal of Bridgman as a residential destination, as well as to the efforts of community stakeholders who worked for years to align resources, policies, and people towards making it one. Like many of our initiatives, this project was made possible by a devoted Bridgman resident who shared our vision, as well as our passion for bringing it to life.

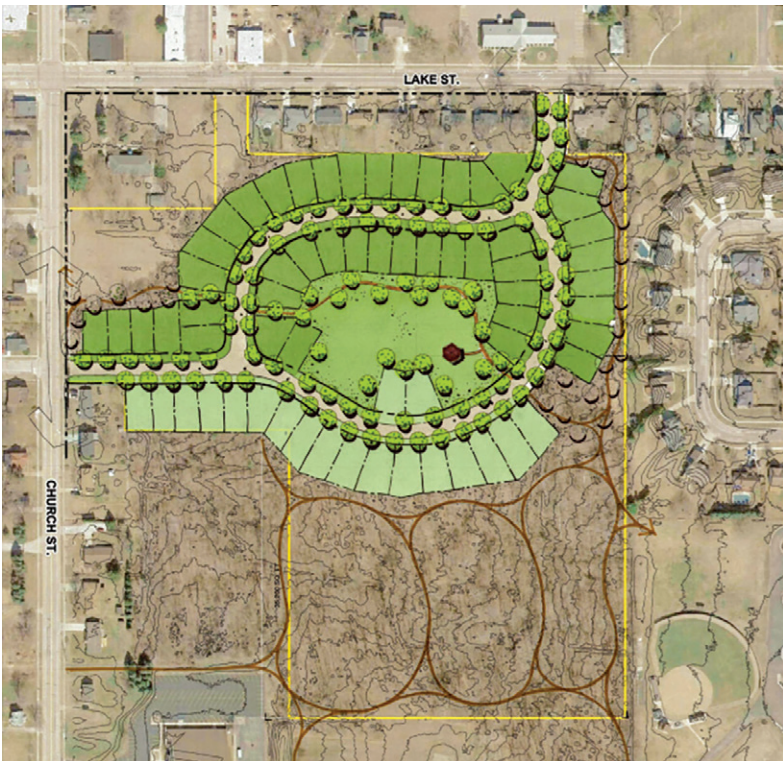
Best of all, it is but one example of the positive transformation unfolding in this charming town.

Indeed, a high quality of life, a thriving economy, a strong sense of community, and a spirit of collaboration have helped Bridgman become a beacon of opportunity in Southwest Michigan. I am proud to witness and support the remarkable progress that Bridgman is making, and I am confident that the best is yet to come.



Arthur Havlicek

President & CEO
Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber of Commerce



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COUNCIL FOR GROWTH & ADVANCEMENT

GREATER BRIDGMAN AREA COUNCIL FOR GROWTH & ADVANCEMENT

Letter from President John C. Bonkoske

The Greater Bridgman Area Council for Growth and Advancement (CGA) represents a mission to promote and grow our community through various economic growth and development strategies.

In the past year, the CGA has made significant strides in advancing the organization's mission. Key achievements in 2022 include researching alternative funding options, attending vital economic development training, gaining a better understanding of available properties in the community, updating the CGA's name and marketing materials to reflect a new focus on economic development, and initiating many community engagement and placemaking initiatives.

Looking ahead to 2023, the CGA is committed to further bolstering the economic strength of the Greater Bridgman Area. The organizational goals for the year include establishing the CGA as the go-to economic development resource for the Greater Bridgman Area, strengthening and diversifying the local economy for year-round stability, reinforcing Bridgman as an outstanding place to live, work, and play, and becoming financially resilient through a variety of funding options.

This is a really exciting time for us - and for Greater Bridgman. Below you'll find specifics on a few things that the CGA has been up to lately, as well as some of our plans for the future.

Bridgman Courtyard Transformation

We're particularly excited about the recent transformation of the Bridgman Courtyard. This creative placemaking project is located between Accents and Rochefort's on Lake Street. You can now enjoy a beautiful outdoor space that includes a wooden pergola structure, all new furnishings, fresh concrete, and a vibrant rug mural designed and installed by the Bridgman High School Art Club. We are proud of the collaborative efforts that made this possible and would like to thank everyone who contributed to this exciting project. We look forward to enjoying this new community-built public space with you all!

Courtyard Concert Series

We're excited to bring Courtyard Concerts series back to downtown Bridgman for the 2023 season in the newly built Courtyard! The concert series will feature an impressive line-up of local acoustic musicians, each bringing their unique flavors and styles to the stage. You can view the weekly lineup of musicians at facebook.com/bridgmanarea.

Holiday Village

Did you know that Bridgman bustles with festive fun in December? Bridgman Holiday Village is a full day of merriment with a pet parade, photos with Santa, cookies & storytime with Mrs. Claus, paint your own decorations, holiday movies with popcorn, food and beverage specials, caroling, the tree lighting ceremony, a live band with dancing, and so much more. Mark your calendar and please plan to join the festivities on the 2nd Saturday in December.

Business & Brews Roundtable Discussion

Our Business & Brews Roundtable Discussions have been a hit with community and business leaders. Every two months, leaders are invited to learn more about what the CGA has been up to and brainstorm ideas to spark economic growth in our community. This is where the idea for the Bridgman Beach Bus came to life! Interested in joining the conversation? Please watch our Facebook page for upcoming meetings at facebook.com/bridgmanarea.

Hats Off to our Board of Directors

The CGA is proud to be the invisible glue that connects people and builds relationships that form the framework for strong communities. As an all-volunteer run organization and board, we rely on community



support to continue our work. In a thousand ways, our board members work tirelessly to be the grassroots leaders and "keepers of the spirit" upon which so much of community cohesiveness and thoughtful progress depend. Our current board members are:

- John Bonkoske, President
- Julie Strating, Vice President
- Bob Clark, Treasurer
- Tara Heiser, Secretary
- Marty Mason, Director
- Rich Kubsch, Director
- Brett Boyd, Director
- Georgia Gipson, Director
- Beth McNeil, Director
- Kathy Ramso, Director
- Cheri Heward, Director
- Amanda Drew, Director

The CGA believes that economic development is just as important as improving the quality of life for everyone in the area. Bridgman is a great place to live, work, and play, and we want to keep it that way. By working together, we can make the area an even better place to be. Thank you for being a part of the Greater Bridgman community, and we look forward to what the future holds!



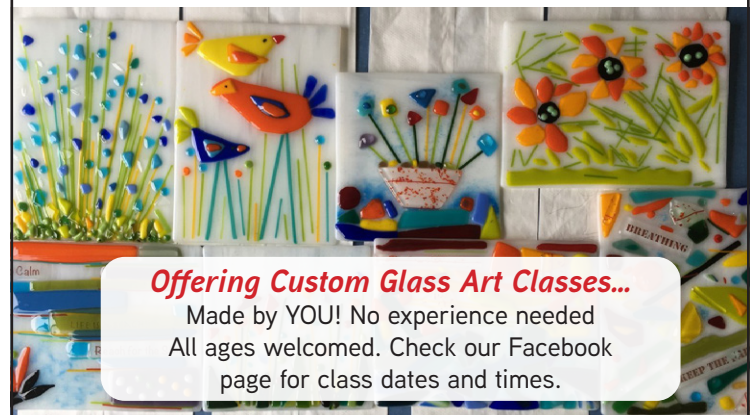
John C. Bonkoske

President - Greater Bridgman Area
Council for Growth & Advancement



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LOCAL PRODUCE & U-PICKS

EAT LOCAL!

The local food movement continues to grow in popularity and importance. In this age of processed foodstuffs and shipped-in produce, more and more consumers are keen to understand and identify exactly where their food is coming from. The fertile fields surrounding our region have for years been producing an incredible diversity of fruits and vegetables. The secret ingredient (or at least one key factor) is the unique micro-climate created by Lake Michigan. Join the conscious consumers who've already discovered our area's healthy harvests and drive directly to the source. Get to know the friendly folks who tend the farms and fields of our region, and sink your teeth into some healthy, delicious locally-grown foods.

SOMETHING FOR EVERY SEASON

Springtime asparagus, summer blueberries, and fall grapes, apples, and pumpkins all benefit from our "lake effect" - the weather patterns affected by our close proximity to Lake Michigan. Milder seasons combine with the lake breezes that waft over our rolling countryside make our region as fertile and abundant as it is lovely and relaxing.

LOCAL AGRICULTURAL FACTS

Agriculture is the second-largest industry in Michigan's state economy. Michigan has about 10 million acres of farmland and over 56,000 farms. More than 90% of Michigan farmland is owned by families or individuals.

The State of Michigan produces over 200 agricultural commodities. Michigan is the second-most agriculturally diverse state in the nation. Michigan leads the U.S. in the production of 19 agricultural commodities, and ranks in the top 10 for production of 30 others.

AGRICULTURE IN BERRIEN COUNTY

Over 1,000 Farms
Over 350 Orchards
Over 150 Vegetable Farms
About 100 Million in annual agricultural production

Rankings in State Ag Production:
#1 in Grapes
#2 in Apples
#4 in Blueberries
#5 in Asparagus

State Data from Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) materials. Berrien County Data from Southwest Michigan Regional Planning Commission (SWMPC) materials. Data represented is from a range of recent years, with some rounded and/or estimated.



FIND YOUR SUPER FOODS HERE

One of the region's most popular and abundant treats is the blueberries that typically ripen throughout the height of summer. There are several nearby farms where you can pick your own or buy them freshly picked. Consider Krieger's Blueberries, locally owned and locally grown.



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MAKERS TRAIL



MAKERS TRAIL

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN BEER, WINE, CIDER & SPIRITS

and spirits. An increasing number of these artisans are putting down stakes just off our Lake Michigan shore. It's easy for you to find them. Just follow the Makers Trail. You're just minutes from each one in Southwest Michigan.

There are 5 makers in Bridgman and a total of 18 within 7 miles!

The makers will pour flights for you and offer plates of savory cheeses, smoky grilled meats, crisp vegetables and creamy

BREWERIES:

Haymarket Brewing

9301 Red Arrow Hwy, Bridgman
haymarketbrewing.com

Round Barn Brewery & Public House

9151 First St, Baroda
roundbarnpublichouse.com

Round Barn Winery, Distillery & Brewery - Baroda Tasting Room & Estate

10983 Hills Rd, Baroda
roundbarnwinery.com

Tapistry Brewing

4236 Lake St, Bridgman
tapistrybrewing.com

Transient Artisan Ales

4229 Lake St, Bridgman
transientartisanales.com

Watermark Brewing Company

5781 St. Joseph Ave, Stevensville
watermarkbrewing.com

CIDERIES:

Peat's Cider Social

6201 Red Arrow Hwy,
Stevensville
peatscider.com

DISTILLERIES:

Free Run Cellars

Berrien Springs Tasting Room

10062 Burgoyne Rd,
Berrien Springs
freeruncellars.com

Every land has its makers, those artisans who are crafters of wood, forgers of steel, and tillers of earth. Ours are masters of wine, beer, cider

chocolate truffles – most from locally sourced ingredients. So take a moment to pause in the whirl of life. It'll make you happy.

The Makers Trail mobile app will guide your journey. Makers Trail maps are also available at the front desk of most local hotels.

The landscape of Southwest Michigan is dotted with picturesque vineyards and wineries, and craft breweries have sprung up in abundance throughout our area. Many of our wines and beers are award-winning and can be sampled at local restaurants, as well as at the wineries and breweries. We're delighted to share with you some of the best wines and beers you'll find anywhere. Following is a list of those within a 7 mile radius of Bridgman. For the most current and complete list of makers in Southwest Michigan visit www.makerstrail.org or scan the code.



Round Barn Public House

9151 First St, Baroda
roundbarnpublichouse.com

Round Barn Winery, Distillery & Brewery - Baroda Tasting Room & Estate

10983 Hills Rd, Baroda
roundbarnwinery.com

WINERIES:

Baroda Founders Wine Cellar

8963 Hills Rd, Baroda
founderswinecellar.com

Chill Hill Winery

8986 1st St., Baroda
chillhill.net

Dablon Vineyards

111 W. Shawnee Rd, Baroda
Dablon.com

Domaine Berrien Cellars

398 E. Lemon Creek Rd,
Berrien Springs
domaineberrien.com

Free Run Cellars

10062 Burgoyne Rd,
Berrien Springs
freeruncellars.com

Golden Muse Winery

8903 Stevensville-Baroda Rd,
Baroda
goldenmusewinery.com

Gravity

10220 Lauer Rd, Baroda
gravitywine.com

Lazy Ballerina Winery

4209 Lake Street, Bridgman
lazyballerinawinery.com

Lemon Creek Winery

533 E. Lemon Creek Rd,
Berrien Springs
lemoncreekwinery.com

Red Top Winery

482 E. Snow Rd, Baroda
redtopwinery.com

Round Barn Public House

9151 First St, Baroda
roundbarnpublichouse.com

Round Barn Winery

10983 Hills Rd, Baroda
roundbarnwinery.com

Tabor Hill Winery Champagne Cellar

10243 Red Arrow Hwy, Bridgman
taborhill.com

Tabor Hill Winery & Restaurant

185 Mount Tabor Rd, Buchanan
taborhill.com



MAKERS TRAIL FESTIVAL

Each year in June Weko Beach in Bridgman is the place to be for the annual Makers Trail Festival.

Makers Trail Festival attendees can try new and go-to-favorites from local Southwest Michigan craft beer, wine, cider and spirit makers. Music is heard throughout the day starting with a DJ and several live bands.

But it doesn't stop there. Guests can try local favorite food trucks, which dish out fresh, summer flavors that taste great with the craft beverages. Non-alcoholic beverages are also available for purchase.

This is a cash-only event, so bring cash money to buy drink tickets and to purchase food directly from vendors.

There is free parking with free shuttles. Shuttles will run continuously throughout the event so guests can come and go when they want. Parking locations are close to Weko Beach and exact locations are posted. There is no parking available at Weko Beach.

Come rain or shine – there will be plenty of room for everyone under the big tents. Guests are welcome to bring their own camping chairs, too. However, pets, coolers, drinks and food should be left outside the gates – they're not allowed on the festival grounds. No smoking is permitted, either. Tickets can purchase online at makerstrailfestival.org.



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WARREN DUNES STATE PARK

Beautiful Bridgman Beaches

Bridgman boasts two of the best beaches in all of Michigan...Warren Dunes State Park and Weko Beach. Broad spacious golden beaches welcome the salt-free waters of Lake Michigan's expanse and some of the most beautiful sunsets you'll see anywhere on the planet.

Warren Dunes State Park is one of the most breathtakingly beautiful places you can visit not only in Michigan, but the United States, too. At the gateway to Southwest Michigan, it is only 20 miles from the Indiana border, but a world away from the congested and noisy urban centers that hug Lake Michigan's southern shoreline. As a crown jewel among Michigan State Parks, you're about to encounter 1,952 acres of adventure and three miles of sandy shoreline. Come here once and you will return to these magnificent Michigan dunes repeatedly – and we invite you to do so all year because each season is enthralling.

Warren Dunes State Park is one of the most breathtakingly beautiful places you can visit not only in Michigan, but the United States, too. At the gateway to Southwest Michigan, it is only 20 miles from the Indiana border, but a world away from the congested and noisy urban centers that hug Lake Michigan's southern shoreline. Come here once and you will return to these

magnificent Michigan dunes repeatedly – and we invite you to do so all year because each season is enthralling. These dunes along Lake Michigan formed after the glacier ice disappeared nearly 10,000 years ago. Today, the giant mountains of soft sand continue to shift and reshape each day with the wind, waves and visitors climbing, running, walking and sliding down their tawny-gold sides.

Michigan has preserved 1,952 acres of this natural beauty at Warren Dunes State Park, including three miles of Lake Michigan shoreline. The rugged forested and open dunes rise to 260 feet, creating stunning vistas of this Great Lake and hours of recreational adventures and relaxing fun.

FROM BUILDING SANDCASTLES TO EXHILARATING HANG GLIDING AND THRILLING SNOWBOARDING

There are some things you can do every season at Warren Dunes, such as hiking, climbing the dunes, watching the spectacular sunsets and the stars and planets filling the sky.

The park also makes it easy to reach the beach in your wheelchair. There are three accessible walkways between the day-use sidewalk and the water, plus the ranger station has two beach/aqua wheelchairs you can borrow. Wheelchair users can also enjoy the campground, paved roads and boardwalks.

Warren Dunes has six miles of hiking trails, most are moderately difficult and all offer photo-worthy scenery. You can hike the trails all year, but the best months are March to November. Dogs are also welcome on most trails, but keep them on a six-foot or shorter leash at all times. Foot trails range from mile to one mile long.

ROMP WITH YOUR DOG ON THE BEACH!

There's no need to leave your tail-wagging friend at home. Dogs are welcome on a leash in the park's campgrounds and on forested trails, boardwalks and the beach! At the northernmost buoy on the swimming beach, there is a two-and-a-half-mile stretch of beach where you and your dog can romp, play fetch, splash in the water and just relish being outdoors together. For everyone's safety, keep your dog on a six-foot or shorter leash in your control at all times, and properly dispose of all pet waste in the trash receptacles.



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WARREN DUNES STATE PARK ENTRANCE FEE & HOURS

To enter, you will need an annual Michigan Recreational Passport or a daily pass. There are individual passport fees for vehicles, motorcycles and mopeds. Once purchased, you can use the passport to enjoy all the state parks in Michigan!

Year-round, Sunday-Saturday: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
12032 Red Arrow Hwy, Sawyer, MI 49125
Local Phone (269) 930-2476

Michigan.gov/StateParks

Scan this code for the Warren Dunes State Park official website.

(Source: www.swmichigan.org)



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WEKO BEACH & CAMPGROUND

Weko Beach & Campground is a wonderful place to experience the great outdoors, meet new people, relax, and enjoy the sandy beaches of Lake Michigan.

Nestled among 42 acres of picturesque, wooded dunes, Weko Beach offers 68 camp sites and 7 rustic cabins available May through mid-October. Reservations can be made online at www.bridgman.org or email at wekobeach@bridgman.org.



Weko Beach offers guests a modern beach house, small craft boat launch, concessions, and clean restrooms. Visitors can rent kayaks and stand-up paddle boards to experience the beauty of the shoreline from the waters of Lake Michigan. A rambling boardwalk and two observation decks afford panoramic views of the lake and wooded dunes.

NIGHTLY TAPS AND MUSIC AT WEKO BEACH

The playing of Taps at Weko Beach has been a tradition for nearly 50 years and is played at sunset every night from Memorial Day to Labor Day. For the music lovers, free concerts are held throughout the summer.

WEKO BEACH ENTRANCE FEE

Entrance fees for parking and boat ramp fees apply from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

5239 Lake St, Bridgman, MI 49106
Local Phone (269) 465.3406
Bridgman.org



Scan this code for the Weko Beach & Campground official website.
(Source: www.swmichigan.org)

Join us for Music in the Park



Baroda Village Park
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Bring your family, chairs and blankets down for a great evening of music!

June - August
4th Sunday of the Month

The park is located at 1500 Lemon Creek Road in downtown Baroda with an additional entrance located at 8938 Fourth Street.

269-422-1779
www.barodavillage.org



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WEKO BEACH HOUSE

The Weko Beach House is a stunning modern event venue and make for a memorable wedding space. Look out the wall of glass on the beautiful sandy shores of Lake Michigan or step out onto the overlooking deck to take in the fresh-water breezes.

With enough space to accommodate up to 100 guests, it's an ideal venue to rent for a variety of events.

Contact Parks & Recreation Director, Sara Ball at sball@bridgman.org for reservations or to answer your questions.

5301 Lake Street Bridgman, MI 49106

Scan this code for the Weko Beach House official website.

(Source: www.bridgman.org)



THE CAISSON. The colorful water intake at Weko Beach is called a caisson [KAY-sahn]. It is a French word meaning "box," and is often used in engineering vernacular as watertight retaining structure. Inside the Weko's caisson, pumps and pipes pull in water from Lake Michigan for processing in the nearby treatment plant. Occasionally, the water level recedes enough that the caisson is completely surrounded in sand. Such was the case nearly a decade ago when it was painted with a fun mural.



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DINING GUIDE

Feeling hungry? Bridgman has many restaurants and breweries right at the tip of your finger. Whatever you are in the mood for, you will be able to find it in Bridgman! The featured restaurants have supported Discovery Bridgman magazine. View their ads for more information, location, times, and specials.

D'Agostino's Navajo Bar & Grill

Longtime, family-owned Italian restaurant offering seafood, steak, and pub dishes, plus pizza & nightly specials. (Page 13)

Getaway Grille & Cubbie Bar

A favorite gathering spot for both locals and Cubs fans from Chicago and elsewhere, young and old alike will find delicious bar food, great team spirit, and lots of fun.



< D'Agostino's Navajo Bar & Grill

Haymarket Brewery & Taproom Page 7 >



Getaway Grille & Cubbie Bar >



Haymarket Brewery & Taproom >



Lydia's Down Home Cooking



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Haymarket Brewery & Taproom

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Lydia's Down Home Cooking

Dine in or carry out for homemade food like your grandma used to make! Open daily for breakfast and lunch with specials for every day of the week.

Mikey's Drive-In

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Mikey's DRIVE-IN

Facebook Instagram @MikeysDriveIn

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dagostinosNavajo.com

Dine-In and
Carry out.

PARK IT!

The City of Bridgman has 49.52 acres of land area dedicated for parks, beach, and campground. Besides Weko Beach and Campground, Bridgman has two additional park...Toth Street Park and Legion Park.

TOTH STREET PARK

Toth Street Park is located at 9841 Toth Street, just a few blocks south of Lake Street behind the Bridgman Public Library. The spacious seven-acre park features a basketball court, dog park, playscape, swings sets, walking rack and corn hole boards. There is also a pavilion which may be rented between May 1st through September 30th. Pavilion rental is free for residents of the city and \$25 for non-residents.

LEGION PARK

Legion Park is located on Post Court a few blocks north of Lake Street. The park is just over a half of an acre and features a tire swing.

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Downtown Bridgman

BRIDGMAN'S BEGINNINGS

In the fall of 1856, George Bridgman (1813-1895) along with his partners Warren Howe and Charles F. Howe formed the Charlotte Lumber Company. A large steam powered sawmill was set up near the present intersection of Lake Street and Red Arrow Highway. A narrow-gauge railway was constructed, running from the mill to the lake with several branches into the timber. There was about seven miles of track and the rolling stock included the engine and approximately thirty-three cars. The area around the mill became known as Charlotteville in honor of Mr. Howe's wife Charlotte. After several fires at the mill, the Howes moved on to other pursuits.

George Bridgman decided to stay in the area. Having acquired several hundred acres of land, including most of present-day Bridgman, he and other residents began growing fruit trees, grapes and berry plants. The market for produce was limited to what could be sold locally. In 1869, Mr. Bridgman entered into an agreement with the Chicago Michigan and Lakeshore Railroad, granting the company right-of-way through his land. In return for that, along with a reliable supply of water, the railroad agreed to erect and maintain a depot. In 1871 the depot was erected, and the railroad company assigned it the name "Bridgman". The post office designation was also changed to Bridgman that same year.



George Bridgman

(Source: www.bridgman.org - Narrative compliments of The Bridgman/Lake Township Historical Society.)



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Bridgman, Michigan



Today - Lake Street
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BRIDGMAN BEACH BUS



MAKING WAVES IN TRANSIT

An exciting initiative is rolling into town on Memorial Day weekend. With the Bridgman Beach Bus, beach-goers can take advantage of the abundant, free parking downtown Bridgman and then hop on the Bridgman Beach Bus for a free and convenient ride to Weko Beach.

The Bridgman Beach Bus is more than transportation, it's an invitation to explore Bridgman's vibrant community. The bus will be available from 11AM to 10PM EST on Saturdays and Sundays through Labor Day weekend, providing a loop service about every 20 minutes to key locations including:

- Weko Beach & Campground
- Sunset Dunes Vacation Rentals
- Bigby Coffee
- Sunset Dunes Inn & Suites
- Bridgman Public Library
- Sandpiper Gifts
- Getaway Grille & Cubbie Bar

Riders can hop on and hop off the bus, making it easy to enjoy shopping, dining, drinks, and entertainment in town before, during or after their beach outing. This initiative aims to make the beautiful Weko Beach more accessible to everyone, ensuring that the beach's cool waters and warm sands are within everyone's reach.

The Bridgman CGA partnered with the City of Bridgman and many local businesses to bring this fun and free transit program to life. We'd like to especially thank Matt Schmidt, owner of Sunset Dunes Inn & Suites, for generously donating the use of a new 14-passenger bus.



Tara Heiser

Secretary - Greater Bridgman Area Council for Growth & Advancement

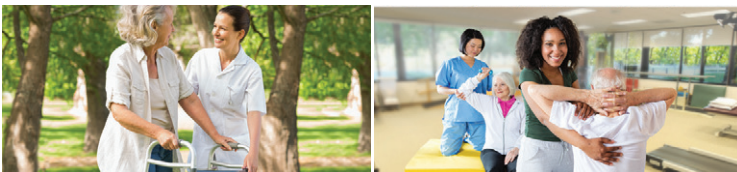
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COMING COURTYARD

Bridgman Courtyard: From Concrete to Community, a Tale of Transformation

The Bridgman Courtyard project is a testament to community spirit and transformation. Once an underutilized parking lot, it has blossomed into a vibrant gathering space, capturing the heart of downtown Bridgman. From a simple outdoor seating area during Covid, it has evolved into a community-centric space, showcasing resilience and determination.

With a need to connect during physical distancing, the Courtyard emerged as a solution, providing a safe outdoor space to also support local businesses. In the summer of 2022, it came alive with weekly live music, further enhancing its role as a place to embrace and celebrate Bridgman's distinctive character and identity.

The vision became reality through financial support from a Bridge Builders Microgrant via the Michigan Municipal League Foundation and a massive crowdfunding campaign plus matching grant through the Public Spaces Community Places program from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. The crowdfunding and grants raised over \$100,000 for the transformation.

Every step has been a labor of love, driven by a shared belief in community and collective action. The Courtyard's metamorphosis is a collaborative endeavor, uniting talents and

Bridgman Courtyard Before



Bridgman Courtyard Plan

resources. It is a testament to Bridgman's strength and unity.

As the project nears completion, excitement fills the air. The Courtyard features a wooden pergola, new furnishings, and a captivating rug mural by the Bridgman High School Art Club. It invites residents and visitors to gather, relax, and celebrate. The project exemplifies what a community can achieve with a shared vision. It shows the power of collaboration and small steps leading to monumental change. Bridgman is a place where dreams become reality and community bonds are strengthened.

To all who contributed to the Bridgman Courtyard project - thank you. Together, we have created a space that enriches lives and fosters connections. Be sure to join us on Sundays through the summer months for live acoustic music in the Courtyard, located within the social district, where you can enjoy beverages from nearby participating establishments. Let's celebrate this achievement and embrace the spirit of Bridgman, a community united in creating something extraordinary.

Julie Strating

Vice President- Greater Bridgman Area Council for Growth & Advancement



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DOWNTOWN BRIDGMAN SOCIAL DISTRICT

The Social District in downtown Bridgman allows customers the flexibility to purchase alcoholic beverages downtown and consume them while walking or sitting within the boundaries of the district.

This is a perfect opportunity to grab a drink while you wait for availability to dine at a restaurant. It also creates the opportunity for different people in your party to select drinks and food from different restaurants and dine together at the City of Bridgman Courtyard within the Social District. Think of it like a food court.

Current participating businesses include Lazy Ballerina, Lake Street Eats and Transient Artisan Ales.

Where can I sit?

You may eat or consume alcoholic beverages served in designated Social District cups at any City of Bridgman benches and cafe tables found within the boundaries of the Social District. Businesses that provide their own cafe seating in front of their business along Lake Street, may permit customers to consume Social District beverages while dining at their tables. (Please ask at individual businesses.)

What types of alcoholic beverages can I purchase to carry around the Social District?

Beer, wine and liquor are allowable drinks when served in a designated Social District cup. Drinks must be purchased from a licensed business within the Social District.

Can I walk anywhere with my drink?

No. You may only walk on public property within the designated Social District boundaries. Leaving the Social District with an alcoholic beverage or trespassing on private property violates State and local law.

Scan this code for more social district information.

(Source: www.bridgman.org)



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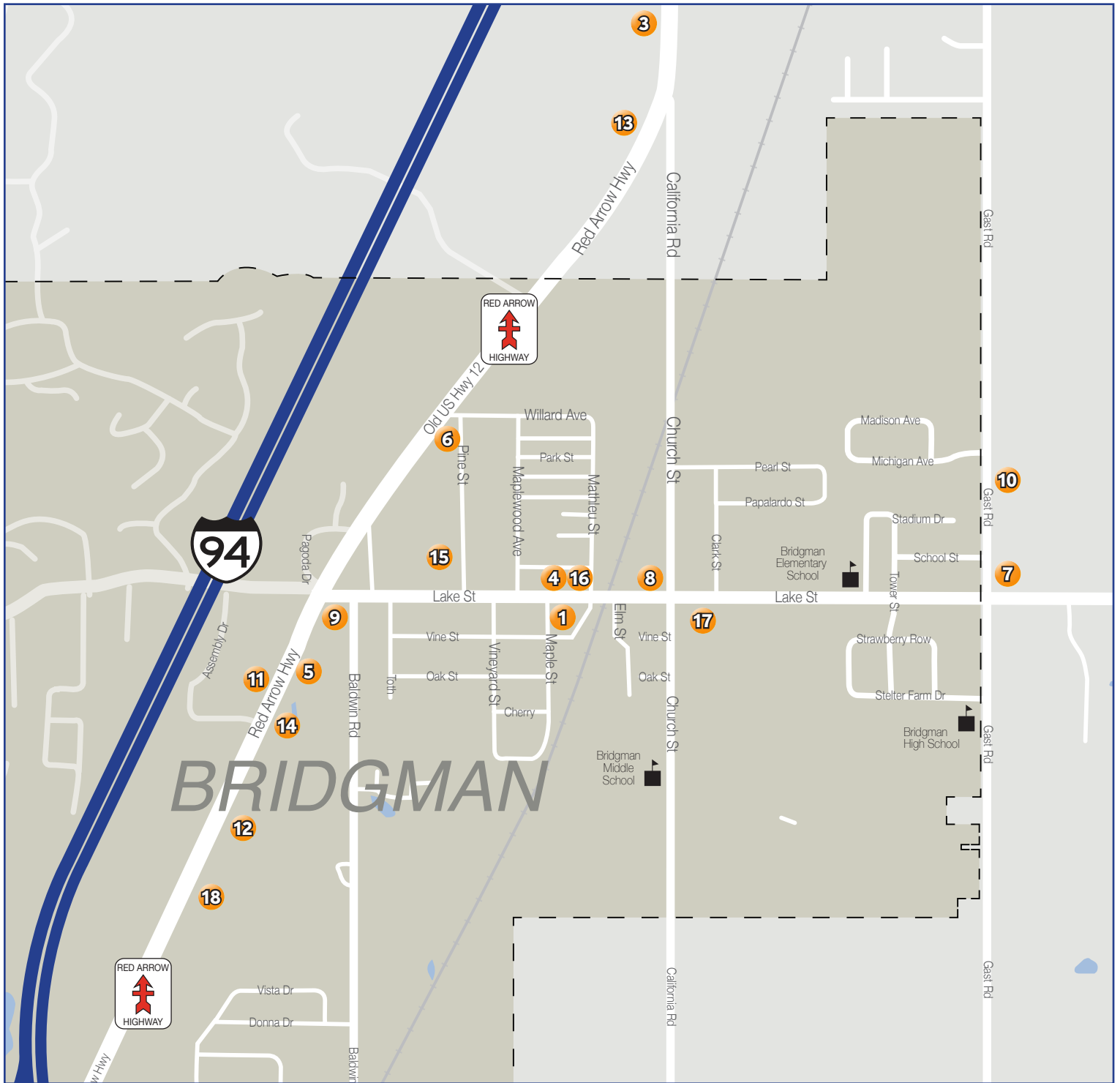
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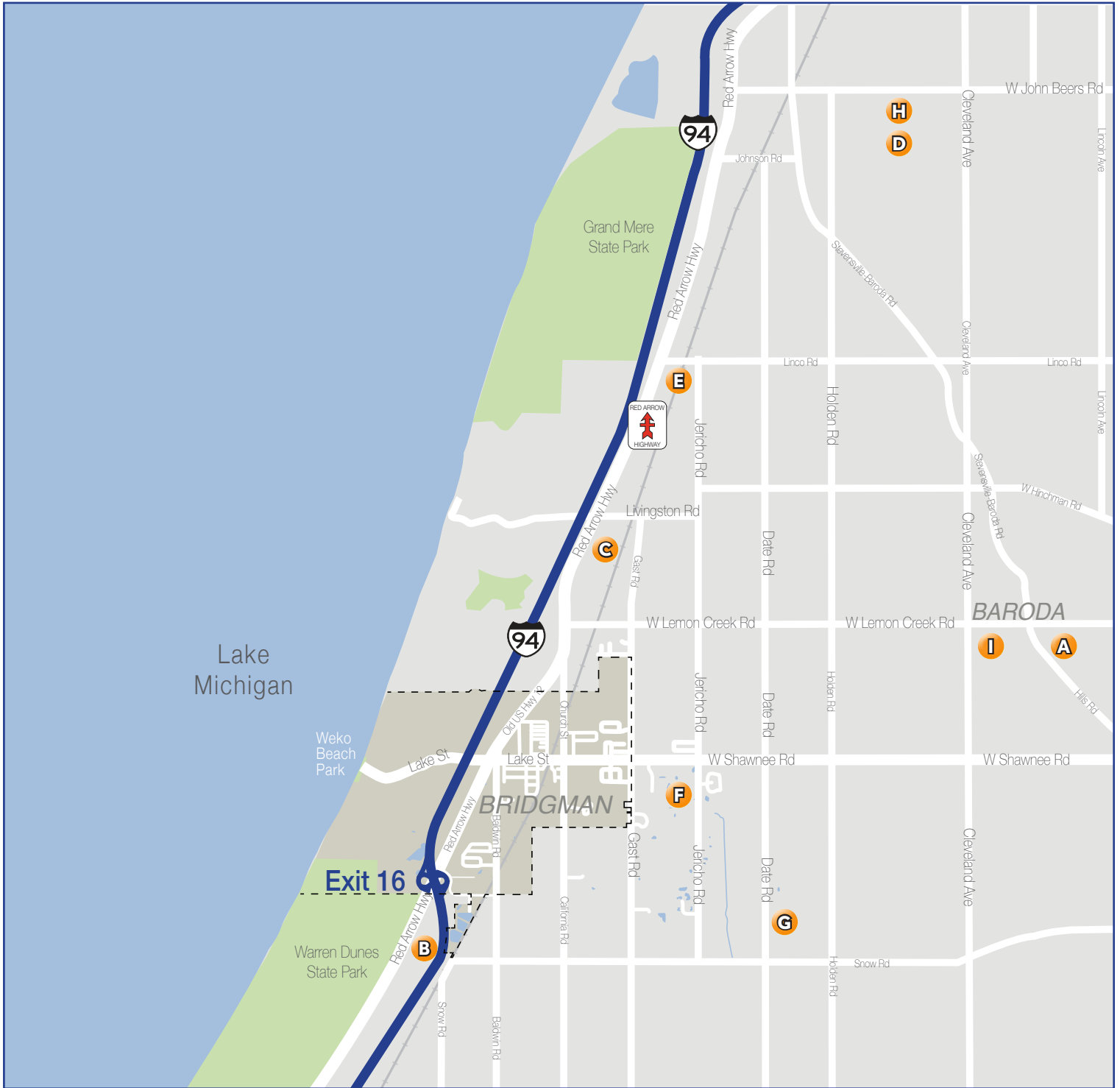
DOWNTOWN ADVERTISERS MAP



CITY BUSINESSES

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|----|--------------------------------|----|
| Accents..... | 1 | Hardings Friendly Market of Bridgman... | 7 | Mikey's Drive-In..... | 13 |
| Bridgman Public Library..... | 2 | Ink About It Tattooing..... | 8 | Monogram Inn & Suites..... | 14 |
| D'Agostino's..... | 3 | Klippers Family Salon..... | 9 | Paws to Wash..... | 15 |
| Edward Jones..... | 4 | Krieger's Wholesale Nursery..... | 10 | The Sandpiper..... | 16 |
| Fusion Gallery & Studio..... | 5 | Lydia's Down Home Cooking..... | 11 | Small Town Wedding..... | 17 |
| Getaway Grille & Cubbie Bar..... | 6 | Mead & White Electric..... | 12 | West Woods Nursing Center..... | 18 |

REGIONAL ADVERTISERS MAP



REGIONAL BUSINESSES

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Baroda Founders..... | A | Pebblewood Country Club..... | F |
| Dunes Self Storage..... | B | Shuler Dairy Farms..... | G |
| G.L. Wasko & Sons..... | C | Stevensville Chiropractic..... | H |
| JLN Studios..... | D | Village of Baroda..... | I |
| McGhee's Heating & Air..... | E | | |

PUBLIC SCHOOLS & LIBRARY

The Bridgman Public School District is a vital part of the Bridgman and Lake Township communities where they collectively challenge the children to succeed and provide opportunities for lifelong learning. Bridgman Schools offers a high quality education to over 900 students in grades PK-12. It is proudly the home to approximately 300 non-resident students who have chosen Bridgman Public Schools as their school of choice. Students consistently exceed state and national expectations and score among the top in Berrien County on statewide assessments. The Bridgman Public School District supports a challenging curriculum that is fully aligned with state and national standards. Bridgman High School boasts a >95% graduation rate with a <5% drop-out rate.

Improvements to facilities have ensured that all BPS students receive the best all-around educational experience. Bridgman Public Schools continues to believe in educating the whole child.

Coupled with robust academic programs is a successful and highly competitive athletic program which offers 22 various sports at the Middle School and High School levels.

BPS also has a strong fine arts program which includes visual arts and performing arts. It is fortunate to have its own aquatic center funded by a community-supported recreational millage. The Bridgman Aquatic Center contains an Olympic-size pool that is open to the public for swim classes and other recreational aquatic opportunities throughout the year. A schedule of aquatic activities may be obtained from the district website or by calling (269) 466-0236.

For additional information about Bridgman Public Schools or to schedule a tour of the district, please call (269) 465-5432 or visit online at www.bridgmanschools.com.

Bridgman Public Schools
9964 Gast Rd
Bridgman, MI 49106
(269) 465-5432



The Bridgman Public Library proudly serves the informational and recreational needs of the communities of Bridgman, Lake Township, and Chikaming Township. With a collection of over 50,000 items, including books, magazines, DVDs, audio books, and digital downloads, the Library has something for everyone. Stop and read one of the eight newspapers the Library subscribes to or use one of our computers. Free Wi-Fi is available inside the building during library hours and on the library patio 24 hours a day. Take advantage of the many business services the Library offers: meeting space, printing, copying, faxing, and free notary service (by appointment).

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