

City of Bridgman

History

The Bridgman region was originally comprised of sand dunes, swamps, and woodlands. The earliest explorers entering the area were the French, who had made their way from Quebec by means of the Great Lakes and their adjoining rivers. Permanent settlers did not arrive until 150 years after the French explorers. John Harner, who appeared in the area in the 1830's, became Bridgman's first settler.

A small village, known as Laketon, grew up around the local sawmill. Because of the prominence of a local resident, Charles Howe, when the village was founded in 1856, it was officially named "Charlottesville" after Howe's wife.

In 1870, a half-mile east of Charlottesville, an astute George W. Bridgman plotted an area that he named after himself. Bridgman's land bisected the newly completed Chicago and West Michigan Railroad. This allowed Bridgman to grow and caused Charlottesville to fade out of existence.

The period of 1880 to 1890 brought hard times. The sawmill was unable to continue its operation and railroad usage declined to a mere reminder of more prosperous days. This downturn reversed, however, after 1890 when immigrants from Russia and Germany began to pour into the area and encouraged the return of prosperity. In ten years the population doubled, as did the price of land. Fortunately, the local fruit and nursery industry absorbed many immigrants, providing them with the ability to establish themselves firmly within the community.

On December 19, 1949, Bridgman's citizens voted to become a city. The incorporation marked a new period of growth for a small, yet progressive and confident community -- a spirit still present in the residents of the City of Bridgman.

Observations

The City of Bridgman, located on the Eastern Shore of Lake Michigan, covers three (3) square miles and is easily accessible from Interstate 94. Bridgman is a prosperous community that, even in challenging economic climates, has attracted new industries and kept existing ones. Tourists seeking the good life along the shores of Lake Michigan are drawn to the city of Bridgman, especially during the summer months. In the dune area there are a variety of upscale homes and condominiums. Other areas of the city have several new subdivisions developed with medium priced housing.

In 1980 the city upgraded its water system, replacing old water mains throughout the city, constructing a new water tower and making necessary improvements to the water filtration plant. Bridgman has also undertaken major street-building projects that included Red Arrow Highway that bisects the city. They have also developed sidewalks from the downtown area, west on Lake Street to Weko Beach. The sidewalks have proven to be very popular with the residents as it makes a 'walk to the beach' more enjoyable. The community has an excellent educational system, offering small classes, abundant physical facilities and its own indoor Olympic-size pool. With its appealing homes, excellent schools, dunes, beaches, parks and proximity to larger cities, this family-oriented community is a wonderful place to live.

Community Vision

In the next two decades, the community would like to:

- Stimulate commercial development within the City
- Attract more retailers, and perhaps a shopping mall
- Witness more residential development, specifically 'medium' priced family units.
- Encourage reasonable industrial development by small businesses.

All Demographic Information is based upon the 2009 Census Estimate

Population

1980 Census	2,235	
1990 Census	2,140	4.25 % decrease
2000 Census	2,428	4.86 % increase
2009 Census Estimate	2,407	0.86 % decrease

Personal Income

Median Family	\$65,185
Average per Capita	\$22,866
Median Household	\$51,250

Labor Force

Total Work Force	1,407
Unemployment Rate	15.3 %

Principal Economic Base Employers

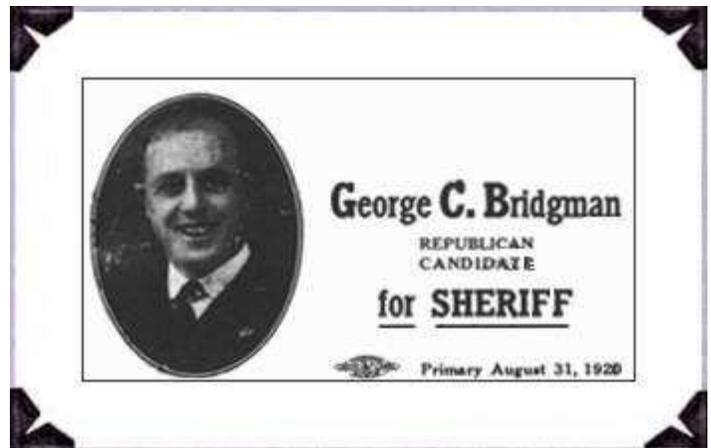
Bridgman Public Schools	125 Employees
Great Lakes Metal Stamping	37 Employees
Industrial Fabrication	35 Employees
Lakeland Regional Health System	30 Employees
PIA Group	30 Employees
Sunset Tool	20 Employees

Housing

Number of Dwellings	1,124
Owner Occupied	702
Renter Occupied	285
Median Rent	\$586
Median Home Value	\$167,900

Building Permits – 2010

	Number Issued	Dollar Amount
Residential	1	\$394,000.00
Other	57	\$771,493.00
Total	58	\$1,165,493.00



Government

Municipal Hall

Bridgman City Hall
P.O. Box 366
9765 Maple Street
Bridgman, MI 49106
Phone: (269) 465-5144
Fax: (269) 465-3701
www.bridgman.org

Council Meetings

First and Third Monday of Each Month
Start: 6:30 p.m.

County Commissioner

Dave Pagel
(District 9)
3221 E. Shawnee Road
Berrien Springs, MI 49103
Phone: (269) 471-7398
davepagel@msn.com

State Governor

Rick Snyder (R)
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: (517) 373-3400
Fax: (517) 335-6863
Rick.Snyder@michigan.gov

State Senator

John Proos (R), District 21
P. O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
Phone: (517) 373-6960
Fax: (517) 373-0897
SenJProos@senate.michigan.gov

State Representative

Sharon Tyler (R), District 78
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
Phone: (517) 373-1796
Fax: (517) 373-5918
sharontyler@house.mi.gov

U.S. Representative

Fred Upton, 6th Congressional District
2183 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3761
Fax: (202) 225-4986
tellupton@mail.house.gov

U.S. Senators

Debbie Stabenow (D)
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-4822
stabenow.senate.gov/email.htm

Carl Levin (D)
269 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-6221
levin.senate.gov/contact/index.cfm Access via
website Contact Center

Public Services

Police

Chief of Police: Theodore Post
Phone: (269) 465-5144
Sworn Officers: 4
Civilian Employees: 0
Number of Cars: 2

Fire

Fire Chief: Richard Knuth
Phone: (269) 465-5144
Number of Stations: 1
Professional Firemen: 0
Paid Volunteers: 18
Number of Vehicles: 3
Insurance Rate Class: 6

Trash Collection

Contact: Reliable Disposal
Phone: (800) 677-1083
Type: Independent
Pick Up Day: Wednesday
Cost Per Month: Included in Taxes

Recycling

Berrien County Community Development
Jill Adams, Environmental Specialist
(269) 983-7111 Ext. 8234
Program information available online at
www.berriencounty.org/recycle.

Water

Contact: Bridgman WFP
Phone: (269) 465-5407, Tim Kading
Source: Lake Michigan
Capacity: 1,400,000 GPD

Sewer

Contact: Bridgman WWSL
Phone: (269) 465-5407, Tim Kading
System type: Galien River Sanitary District
Capacity: 600,000 GPD

Telephone

Frontier Communications
Residential and single line
Business: 1-877-875-8899

Gas

Michigan Gas Utilities
1-800-778-3802
711 Starlite Dr. Benton Harbor, Michigan 49022

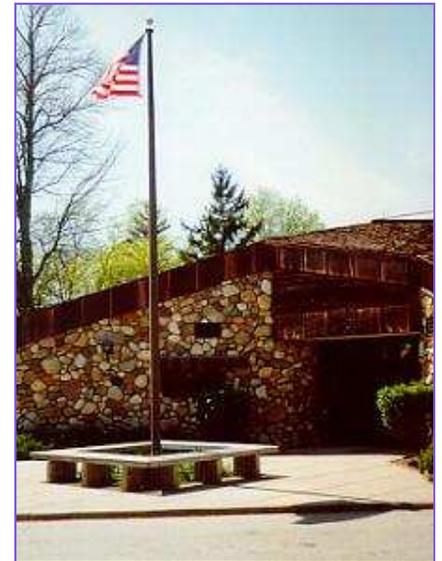
Electric

American Electric Power Company
(800) 311-6424
2425 Meadowbrook Road; Benton Harbor, MI

Education

The City of Bridgman is served
by the following school
district:

Bridgman Public Schools
9964 Gast Road
Bridgman MI 49106
Phone: (269) 466-0271
Enrollment: 986



Bridgman Public Library



Taxes

In March 1994, Michigan voters approved a new tax structure (Proposal A). The following table provides a simplistic look at the taxes currently levied within this community. Property tax is based now upon taxable value, not state equalized value.

General Taxes

General County	4.7723
Law Enforcement/ Public Safety	0.3500
Special Voted 911	0.2500
Senior Citizens	0.3000
LMC College	1.7854
Township	0.7829
Special Voted	3.4720
Subtotal	11.7126

School Taxes (Berrien RESA)

State Education Tax	6.0000
Non-Homestead (Business)	8.3760
Extra Voted Building & Site	0.5000
Debt Retirement	1.3000
Berrien RESA	0.1745
Special Education	2.1954

Subtotals

Homestead	10.1699
Non-Homestead (Business)	18.5459

Bridgman



Sunset at Weko Beach



Blueberries - one of Bridgman's Tastiest Crops

Economic Development

Berrien County Community Development Department
701 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085
Contact: Daniel Fette, Director
Phone: (269) 983-7111, Ext. 8617

Bridgman Lake Township Economic Growth Authority
P.O. Box 366
Bridgman, MI 49106
Contact: Dan Buckenmeyer
Phone: (773) 255-7286

Chamber of Commerce

Bridgman Area Chamber of Commerce
4165 Lake Street
Bridgman, MI 49106
Phone: (269) 465-4413
Fax: (269) 465-0024
Website: www.bridgmanarea.org

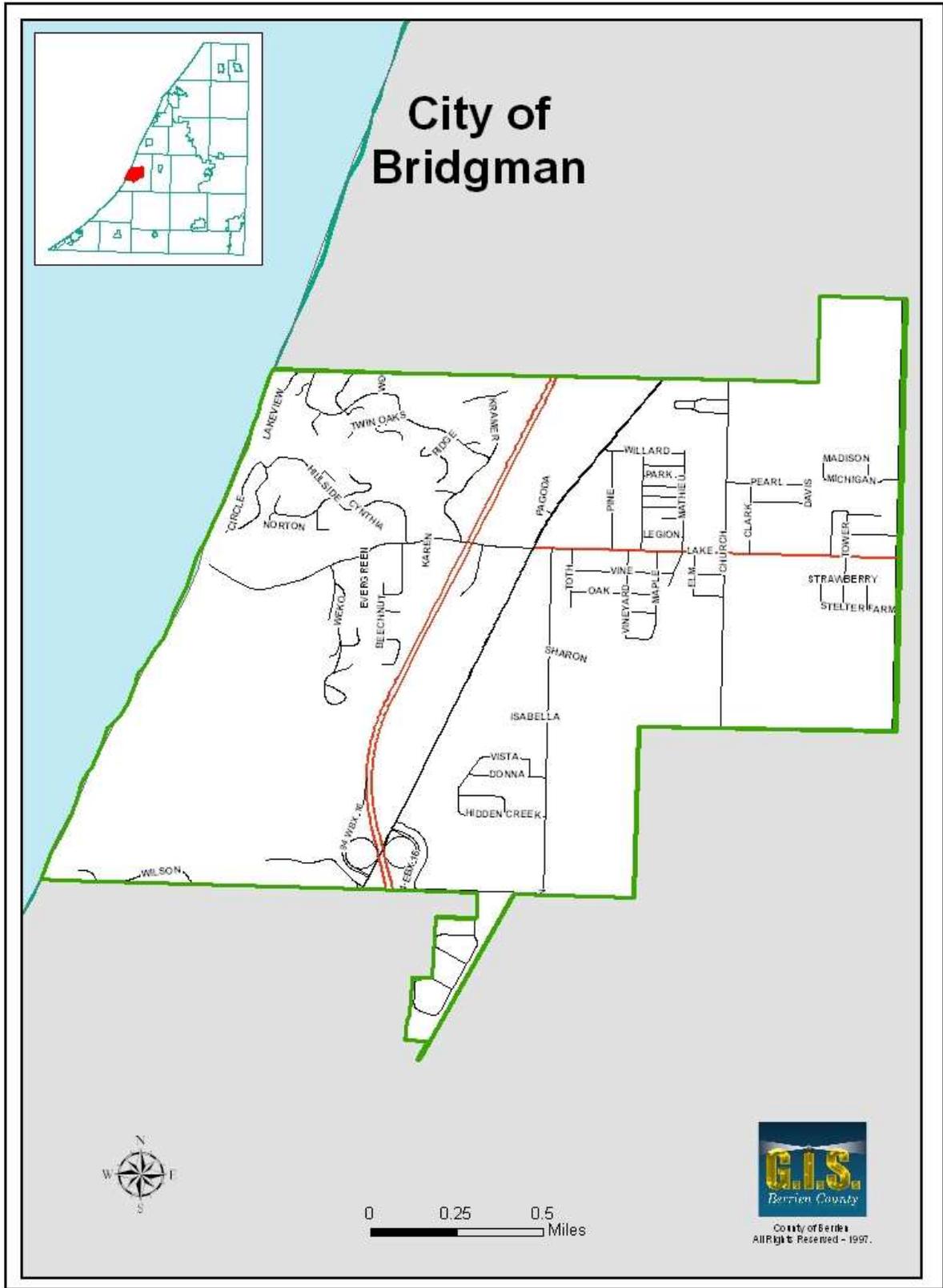


Lion's Café, Weko Beach

Climate

	January	July
Average Maximum Temperature	32F / 0C	82F / 28C
Average Minimum Temperature	18F / -8C	61F / 16C
Days over 90F or 32C	11	
Days below 0F or 18C	4	
Days of Growing Season	162	
Average Annual Rainfall	37" / 94cm	
Average Annual Snowfall	70" / 178cm	





This Community Snapshot has been prepared by the Berrien County Community Development Department. For more detailed information on services available in Berrien County, please visit our website at www.berriencounty.org/CommunityDevelopment.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information. However, as data is constantly changing, Berrien County will be held harmless for any omissions or errors contained herein.