

# Baroda Township

## History

In 1889 the Indiana and Lake Michigan Railway Company built a railroad from South Bend to St. Joseph. Baroda was one of several communities established along the railroad track. It was the second village within Lake Township, and competition between Baroda and Bridgman led to increasing tension and ill feelings between them. On October 1923, Lake Township was split, the eastern half became Baroda Township. This decision finally brought peace between Baroda and Bridgman. Today Baroda and Lake Township share a police department.

Kathleen Shafer, an expert on Baroda history, stated: "We are an unpretentious community with no delusions of grandeur. We have a heritage of hard work begun by the early pioneers and continued by later immigrants. We have a tradition of generosity and a welcoming attitude toward newcomers. We also have created a climate of welcome for new industries through tax breaks, and a number of small businesses have begun here in the last ten or fifteen years. Baroda has a tradition of good government. Unmarred by infighting and personal ambition." Baroda also has a tradition of good times. From the first dance which was held in November 1889, through Centennial Week celebrations of 1990, the present day Baroda has shown that it knows how to maintain that tradition.

## Observations

Baroda Township is smaller than one would expect. Split from Lake Township in 1923, Baroda covers an area 3 by 6 miles, leaving Lake Township with a 3 by 6-mile area. Size, however, is no indication of community spirit. Both the Township dwellers and the Villagers constitute the "soul" of Baroda, with their spirit undaunted over time. Other beautiful characteristics include being geographically well situated near Lake Michigan. The Township houses some of the best tool and die industries in the area and an efficient police and fire department. In fact, the community operates six fire trucks for an area only half the size of an ordinary township. The Township and Village work so well together, that they are headquartered in a single building. These characteristics provide the residents and businesses of Baroda Township and Baroda Village with atmosphere of welcome and cooperation.

## Community Vision

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

- A. Control residential development.
- B. Extend water and sewer lines to high-density areas of the Township.
- C. Develop a small industrial park.
- D. Maintain the status quo of a friendly, rural community with a good spirit.

## Agenda of the Community Strategic Plan

Baroda Township has a General Development Plan developed in 1993.

## All Demographic Information is based upon the 2009 Census Estimate

### Population

1980 Census	2,666	
1990 Census	2,731	2.44 % increase
2000 Census	2,880	2.44 % increase
2009 Census Estimate	2,898	0.63 % increase

### Personal Income

Median Family	\$49,783
Average per Capita	\$23,873
Median Household	\$43,884

### Labor Force

Total Work Force	2,265
Unemployment Rate	4.8 %

### Principal Economic Base Employers - Manufacturing

### Housing

Number of Dwellings	1,262
Owner Occupied	947
Renter Occupied	220
Median Rent	\$584
Median Home Value	\$150,400

### Building Permits – 2010

	Number Issued	Dollar Amount
Commercial	3	\$153,500.00
Other	19	\$314,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>\$467,500.00</b>



Hess Lake  
Baroda Township Park

# Government

## Municipal Hall

Baroda Township Hall  
9091 First Street  
P.O. Box 215  
Baroda, MI 49101  
Phone: (269) 422-2300  
Fax: (269) 422-2407  
[www.barodatownship.org](http://www.barodatownship.org)

## Council Meetings

Board Meetings: Third Monday of Each Month at 7:30 p.m.  
Planning Commission: Second Monday of Each Month at 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:sharontyler@house.mi.gov)

## U.S. Representative

Fred Upton, 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
2183 Rayburn H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-3761  
Fax: (202) 225-4986  
[tellupton@mail.house.gov](mailto: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](http://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](http://levin.senate.gov/contact/index.cfm) Access via website Contact Center

# Public Services

## Police

Chief of Police: Gary Ruhl  
Phone: (269) 422-1344  
Fax: (269) 422-2407  
Sworn Officers - Full Time: 3  
Sworn Officers - Part Time: 13  
Civilian Employees: 1  
Number of Cars: 4

## Fire

Fire Chief: Larry Klug  
Phone: (269) 422-1753  
Number of Stations: 1  
Professional Firemen: 0  
Part-Time Paid: 21  
Volunteers: 0  
Insurance Rate Class: 7

## Trash Collection

Contact: Michiana Recycling & Disposal  
Phone: (800) 722-9710  
Type: Independent  
Pick Up Day: Thursday  
Cost Per Month: 1.8913 mills taxed  
Curbside Recycling Available

## Recycling

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

## Water

Contact: Lake Charter Township Hall  
Phone: (269) 465-6601  
Source: Lake Michigan  
Usage: 6,000 GPD

## Sewer

Contact: Baroda Township Hall  
Phone: (269) 422-2300  
System Type: Private Septic Tanks

## 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

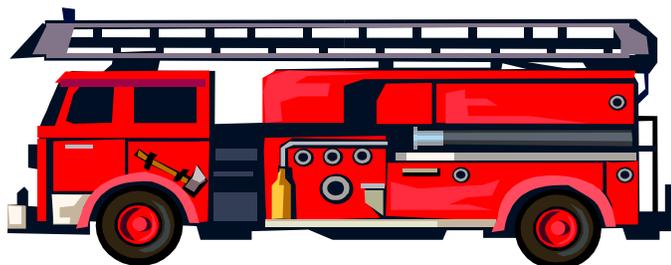
# Education

## Baroda Township is served by the following school districts:

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

Lakeshore Public Schools  
5771 Cleveland Avenue  
Stevensville MI 49127  
Phone: (269) 428-1400  
Enrollment: 2,890

River Valley School District  
15480 Three Oaks Road  
Three Oaks MI 49128  
Phone: (269) 756-9541  
Enrollment: 721



# 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
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>11.7126</b>



## 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
<b>Subtotals</b>	

## Homestead

## Non-Homestead (Business)

## Bridgman

6.0000
8.3760
0.5000
1.3000
0.1745
2.1954

## 10.1699

## 18.5459

## Lakeshore

6.0000
18.0000
1.4971
3.2000
0.1745
2.1954

## 13.0670

## 31.0670

## River Valley

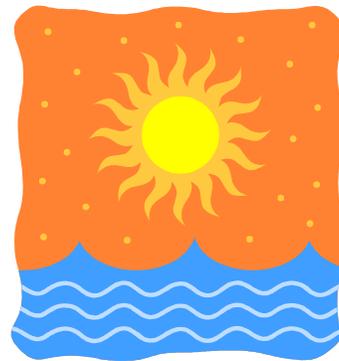
6.0000
18.0000
0.0000
0.0000
0.1745
2.1954

## 8.3699

## 26.3699

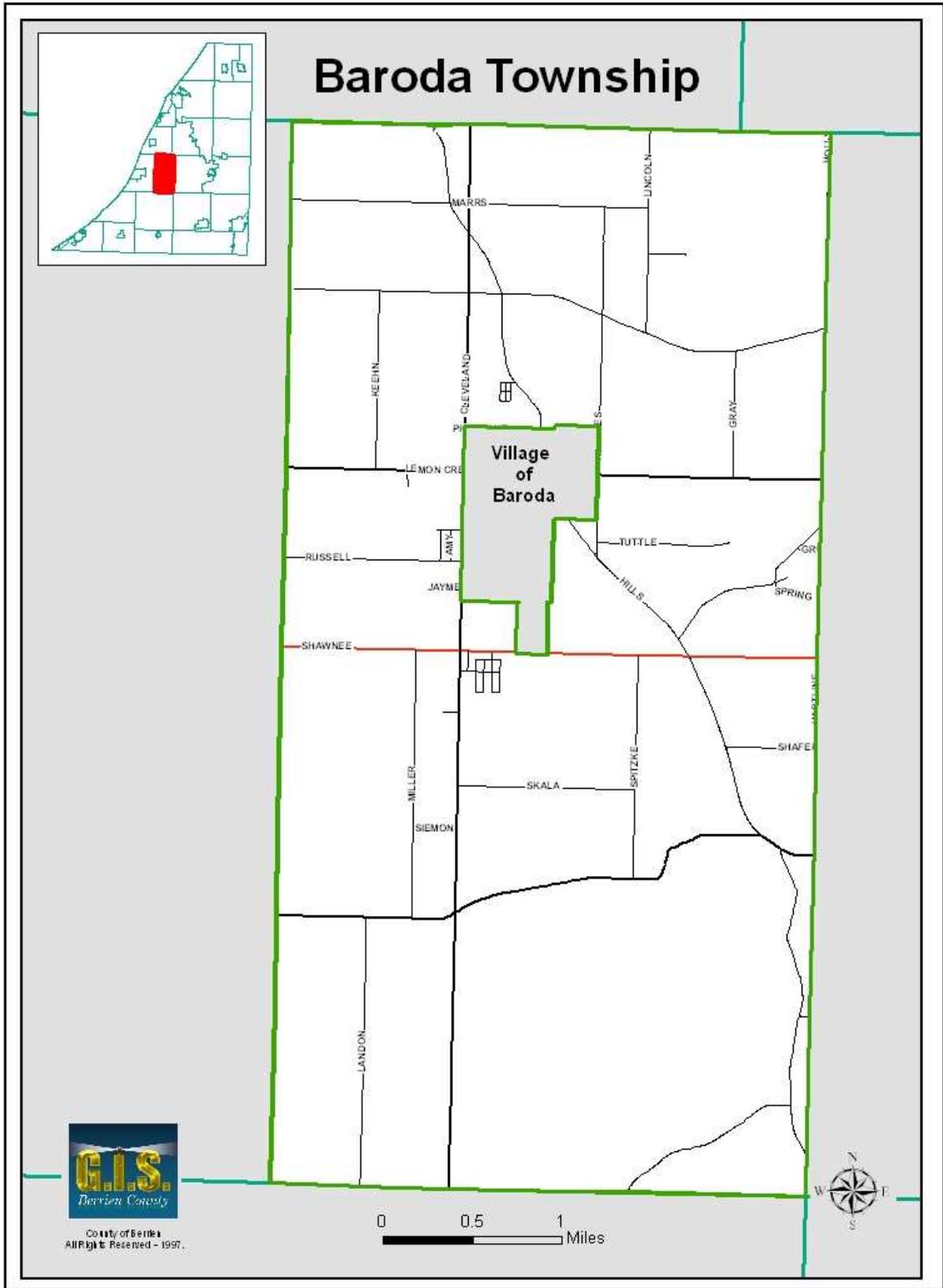
# Economic Development

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



# Climate

	<u>January</u>	<u>July</u>
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](http://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.