

# Village of Berrien Springs

## History

Berrien Springs was originally named "Berrien" after the honorable Attorney General John Macpherson Berrien, once a member of President Andrew Jackson's cabinet. "Springs" was added to the name in 1835 at the request of merchant Robert E. Ward, after mineral springs were discovered near the town. Serving as the county seat of government from 1837 to 1894, the village continued to grow. The Village of Berrien Springs was plotted in 1831, but was not officially incorporated until 1867.

From its beginning, Berrien Springs has been essentially a rural farming community, with only a few light industrial entrepreneurs. The Village enjoyed a mild success as a tourist resort in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In 1901 Berrien Springs became the home of Emmanuel Missionary College, a Seventh-day Adventist institution. This institution, renamed Andrews University, is now an important part of the community. Currently, the villagers are working hard revitalizing the Village through a combination of historic preservation and aesthetic improvements. Through the teamwork of the villagers, its businesses, and Andrews University, revitalization is well on its way to success.

## Observations

Berrien Springs Village covers approximately 0.9 square mile, straddles two townships, and is located within the central region of Berrien County. The St. Joseph River, which gently flows along the eastern and southern boundaries of the village, has put its mark on the friendly landscape and has proved to be a year-round haven to many amateur fishermen. The Village proudly reflects a very American, hometown atmosphere and enjoys a fairly low crime rate. Berrien Springs has its own school system, in addition to the many parochial schools within the Village. The Village also enjoys an 8.85 acre park, called the Grove, which overlooks Lake Chapin, by the St. Joseph River. The combination of these assets makes it a good place for families to raise their children.

Due to its lengthy history as a village, Berrien Springs today stands as a built-out community with little land available for new development. Much has been taken up by urban housing, in addition to some commercial and light-industrial development. The U.S. 31 by-pass has taken much of the commercial traffic out of the downtown area. In addition, the by-pass will eventually connect with Interstate 196, which will constitute a major improvement in the area's infrastructure.

The Village Board appointed a special commission to plan and supervise the revitalization of Berrien Springs Village, with the intention to make the Village more than just a "drive-thru" community. Thus far, plans have been made for riverfront development as well as a revitalization of the downtown area.

## Community Vision

- A. Implement the revitalization plans for the downtown area.
- B. Continue riverfront development for recreational purposes.
- C. Make Berrien Springs more than a 'drive-thru' community.
- D. Attract more tourism to the area.

## Agenda of the Community Strategic Plan

The Master Land Use Plan was updated in 2007. The Village also has a 5 year 2008-2012 Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Master Plan. Andrews University has also been working with the Village on revitalization plans.

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

### Population

1980 Census	2,042	
1990 Census	1,927	5.63 % decline
2000 Census	1,862	3.49 % decline
2009 Census Estimate	1,923	3.28 % increase

### Personal Income

Median Family	\$45,556.00
Average per Capita	\$18,586.00
Median Household	\$38,578.00

### Labor Force

Total Work Force	1,217
Unemployment Rate	11.3 %

### Principal Economic Base Employers

Andrew's University	3,202 employees
Berrien Springs Public Schools	250 employees
Gateway	63 employees

### Housing

Number of Dwellings	954
Owner Occupied	520
Renter Occupied	366
Median Rent	\$538
Median Home Value	\$114,400

### Building Permits – 2010

	<u>Number Issued</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
Residential	1	\$80,000.00
Commercial	2	\$110,000.00
Other	39	\$238,662.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>\$428,662.00</b>



Shamrock Park

# Government

## Municipal Hall

Berrien Springs Village Hall  
P.O. Box 182  
112 North Cass Street  
Berrien Springs, MI 49103  
Phone: (269) 473-6921  
Fax: (269) 473-1188

## Council Meetings

First and Third Monday of Each Month  
Start: 7:00 p.m.

## County Commissioner

Bryan Bixby  
(District 8)  
5743 Pokagon Road  
Berrien Springs MI 49103  
Phone: (269) 471-9290  
bixbyfarms@comcast.net

## State Governor

Rick Snyder (R)  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
Phone: (517) 373-3400  
Faz: (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, 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

## 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

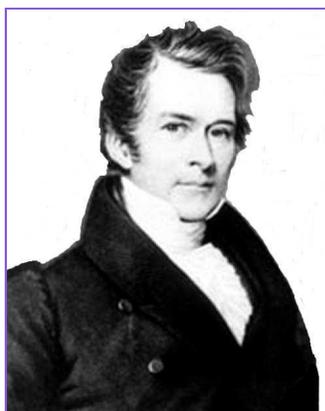
# Education

The Village of Berrien Springs is served by the following school district:

Berrien Springs Public Schools  
One Sylvester Avenue  
Berrien Springs MI 49103  
Phone: (269) 471-2891  
Enrollment: 2,015



County Courthouse 1838 - 1895



John Macpherson Berrien 1781 - 1856

# Public Services

## Police

Chief of Police: Milton Agay  
Phone: (269) 471-2813  
Sworn officers: 5 + 2 part time  
Civilian employees: 6 + 2 part time  
Number of cars: 4

## Fire

Fire Chief: Bruce Stover  
Phone: (269) 471-7759  
Number of stations: 1  
Professional firemen: 0  
Volunteers: 22  
Insurance rate class: 7

## Trash Collection

Contact: Reliable Disposal  
Phone: (269) 429-1215  
Type: Municipal  
Pickup day: Thursday  
Recycling: Curbside

## 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: David Kunde  
Phone: (269) 473-6921  
Source: Municipal Wells  
Capacity: 1,142,000 GPD

## Sewer

Contact: Wendell Arney  
Phone: (269) 473-6921  
System type: Activated Sludge  
Capacity: 390,000 GPD

## Telephone

A T & T  
Residential Customers (800) 244-4444  
Business Customers (800) 660-3000

## 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



# 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
Village	10.3930
Special Voted	3.4539
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>21.3046</b>

## School Taxes (Berrien RESA)

State Education Tax	6.0000
Non-Homestead (Business)	18.0000
Extra Voted Building & Site	1.0000
Debt Retirement	1.9254
Berrien RESA	0.1745
Special Education	2.1954

### Subtotals

<b>Homestead</b>	<b>11.2953</b>
<b>Non-Homestead (Business)</b>	<b>29.2953</b>

## Berrien Springs



Shamrock Park



Fishing in the St. Joseph River



Aerial View of Berrien Springs

## Economic Development

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



## Chamber of Commerce

Berrien Springs / Eau Claire Area  
 P.O. Box 177  
 Berrien Springs MI 49103  
 Phone: (269) 471-2484  
[www.bsechamber.org](http://www.bsechamber.org)

## 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	



