

City of Coloma

History

The early 1800's brought settlers whose first attempts to start a village along the Paw Paw River resulted in frustration. The first land owner, Job Davis, bought 150 acres at the southeastern end of Paw Paw Lake which in 1832 became the unofficial village of "Shingle Diggings." The focal point of the village was a mill that produced shingles. These were floated down the Paw Paw River to St. Joseph and then shipped out on steam freighters. By 1838, however, the shingle-making timber had been exhausted, and the Village of Shingle Diggings died out.

During the same era, three businessmen from St. Joseph discovered the potential of the Paw Paw River. Partners Griffith, Hoyt, and Hatch purchased property along the river just south of Shingle Diggings with plans to build a sawmill. The town called Griffith was platted with plans progressing nicely until the men realized they needed property rights on the other side of the river for the mill. Unfortunately, Mr. Hoyt, the owner of a St. Joseph Mercantile, earlier had made an enemy of a Mr. Sumner by suing Sumner in an attempt to collect a bill. Mr. Sumner learned of the plans to build a town and lumber mill, bought the property that the partners needed and obtained revenge from Mr. Hoyt for the suit -- the demise of Griffith and the lumber mill before they ever became a reality. Mr. Sumner eventually moved east along the Paw Paw River to start the village of Waterford, which later became the City of Watervliet.

The first permanent commercial development began in 1849 along Tannery Creek, with a water powered sawmill owned by Stephen R. Gilson (the "Father of Coloma") and Gilson Osgood. The mill and stagecoach stop brought enough people into the area to build a small mercantile. The resulting village was named "Dickerville," due to the bartering that settlers did for goods at the store. When the village got its own post office, the people of the town believed the name Dickerville lacked respectability. Squire Gilson remembered a lovely town in California by the name of Coloma that he had visited during his travels West. Thus, the village of Coloma was born. On December 22, 1941, the citizens of Coloma voted to change to a city form of government and the charter was adopted on April 6, 1942.

Observations

This small, yet friendly town covers exactly one square mile. The City contracts with Coloma Charter Township for police coverage and joins efforts with Coloma Township for a fire department. Coloma is a quiet town with a low crime rate. A popular place for fishing, boating, and swimming, the lake is one mile from downtown Coloma. There is also a local historical museum. Within the city limits there are a few lots available for commercial and industrial development. Water, sewer, and natural gas lines cover almost the entire city and can be easily accessed. Part of Coloma's main street, which is largely residential, has been zoned for future commercial development. Entrepreneurs are welcomed. The Coloma City Council works closely with Coloma Township and the neighboring communities of the City of Watervliet and Watervliet Township.

Community Vision

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

- A. Stimulate the growth of businesses and the economic welfare of its citizens.
- B. Attract commercial entrepreneurs to the commercially zoned main street.
- C. Attract more fast food restaurants off the I-94 exit.
- D. Have their own motel, hotel or Bed & Breakfast.
- E. Turn Coloma into an economically thriving city.

All Demographic Information is based upon the 2009 Census Estimate

Population

1980 Census	1,833	
1990 Census	1,679	8.40 % decline
2000 Census	1,595	5.27 % decline
2010 Census	1,483	7.56 % decline

Personal Income

Median Family	\$45,694.00
Average per Capita	\$20,346.00
Median Household	\$38,654.00

Labor Force

Total Work Force	846
Employed	771
Unemployment Rate	8.9 %

Principal Economic Base Employers

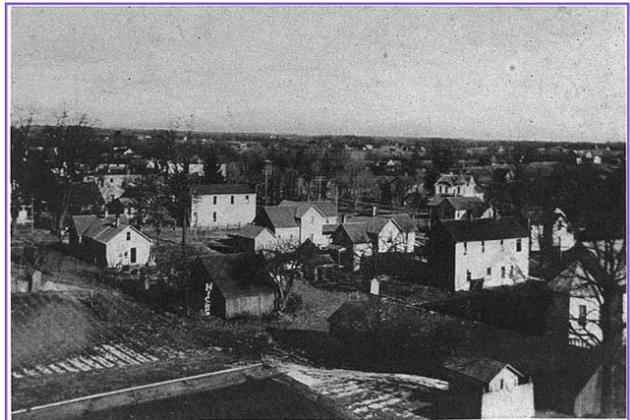
Coloma Community Schools	255 Employees
M & M Polishing	30 Employees
Menasha Packaging Company	43 Employees
Michigan Mold	14 Employees

Housing

Number of Dwellings	702
Owner Occupied	664
Renter Occupied	172
Median Rent	\$642
Median Home Value	\$109,800

Building Permits – 2010

	Number Issued	Dollar Amount
Commercial	5	\$50,290.00
Industrial	1	\$7,000.00
Other	22	\$182,812.00
Totals	28	\$240,102.00



Historical Photo of Shingle Diggings

Government

Municipal Hall

Coloma City Hall
P.O. Box 329
119 North Paw Paw Street
Coloma, MI 49038
Phone: (269) 468-6606
Fax: (269) 468-5411
Email: colomacityhall@i2k.com
Website: www.cityofcoloma.org

Council Meetings

Second and Fourth Monday of Each Month
Start: 7:30 p.m.

County Commissioner

Robert Wooley (District 1)
P.O. Box 324
Coloma MI 49038
Phone: (269) 468-7329
nbcs@I2K.net

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

Al Pscholka (R), District 79
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
Phone: (517) 373-1403
Fax: (517) 373-3652
AlPscholka@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

Education

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

Coloma Community Schools
Terry Ann Boguth, Superintendent
2518 Boyer Road
P. O. Box 550
Coloma, MI 49038
Phone: (269) 468-2424
Student membership: 1,778



Coloma Public Library



Public Services

Police

The City of Coloma is serviced by the Coloma Township Police Department.

Chief of Police: Randy Pompey
Phone: (269) 468-8291
Sworn Officers – Full Time: 8
Sworn Officers – Part Time: 3
Number of Cars: 6

Fire

North Berrien Fire Rescue
Fire Chief: Jim Spiegel
Phone: (269) 468-4412
Number of Stations: 2
Part-Time Paid: 30
Insurance Rate Class: 5

Trash Collection

Reliable Disposal
Phone: (800) 677-1083
Type: Independent
Pick Up Day: Tuesday

Best Way Disposal, Inc.
Phone: (269) 463-3232
Type: Independent
Pick Up Day: Monday

Recycling

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

Water

Public Works Department
Phone: (269) 468-6232
Source: City Well
Capacity: 5,400,000 GPD
(Excess Capacity: 4,600,000)

Sewer

Paw Paw Lake Waste Water Plant
Phone: (269) 468-7888
System Type: Biological Trickling Filter
Capacity: 3,000,000 GPD (Excess Capacity:
1,700,000)

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
City	16.5349
Special Voted	0.2500
Subtotal	24.2426

School Taxes (Berrien RESA)

State Education Tax	6.0000
Non-Homestead (Business)	18.0000
Extra Voted Building & Site	0.0000
Debt Retirement	1.4000

Berrien RESA	0.1745
Special Education	2.1954

Subtotals

Homestead	9.7699
Non-Homestead (Business)	27.7699



Paw Paw Lake

Economic Development

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

North Berrien Community Development
 Chana Kniebes, Community Development Coordinator
 P.O. Box 1028
 Coloma, Mi 49038
 Phone: (269) 468-4430

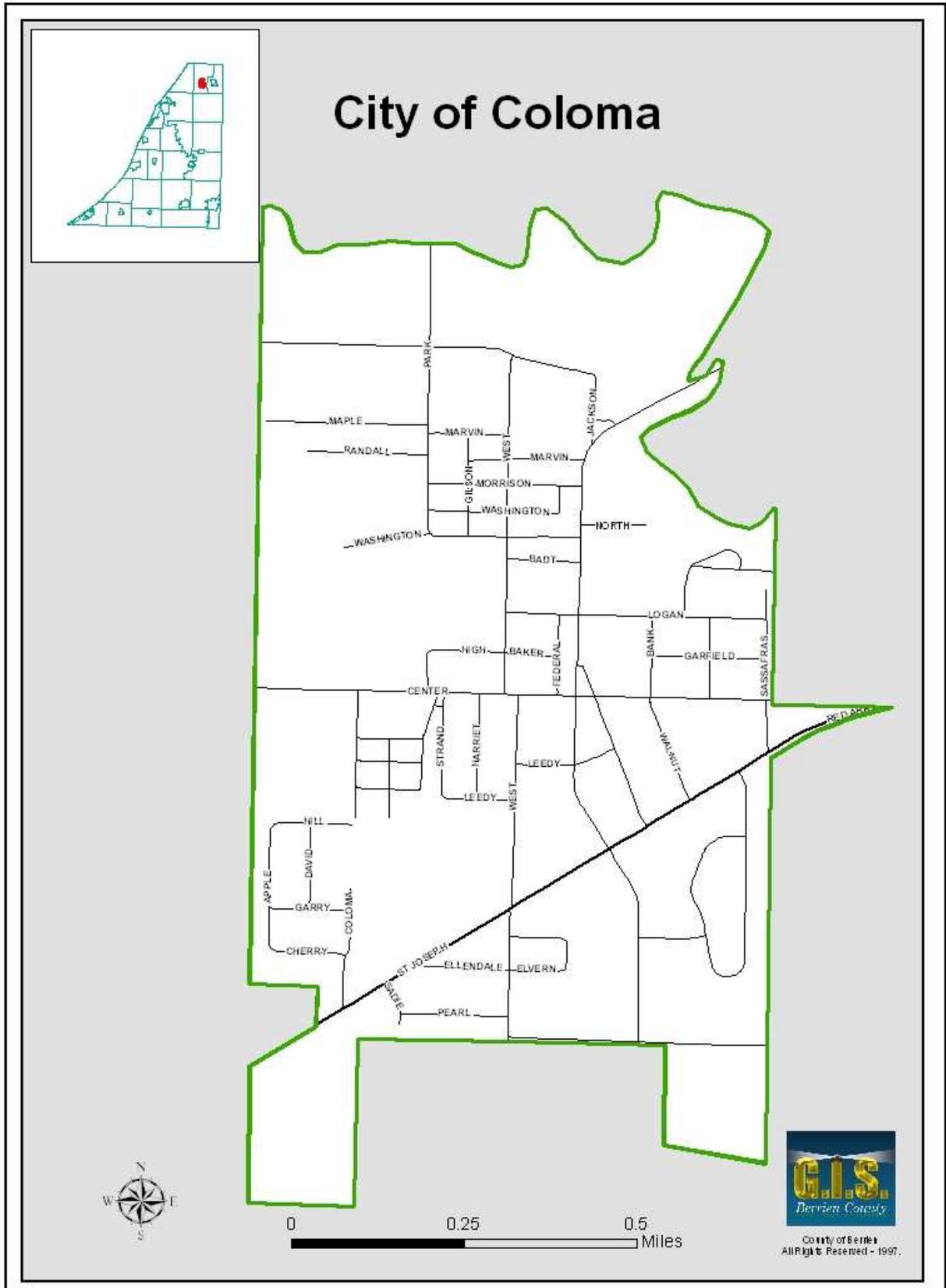


Climate

	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	



Downtown Coloma



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.