

Village of Eau Claire

History

In 1835 Henry Rush cleared a small plot of land in order to plant his first crops—a plot which would become the foundation for the Village of Eau Claire. Two families named Weaver, relatives of Mrs. Rush, soon settled there and the small community began to grow. By 1861 the population was sufficiently large for establishment as a village. A post office was acquired under the guidance of William Smythe Farmer, a local resident. Henry Rush accepted the appointment as the first Postmaster. Asked to name the new post office, Farmer, inspired by the beauty of a nearby brook, replied "Eau Claire," which is French for "clear water."

In 1882 the Big Four Railroad mainline was laid within a half mile of the settlement of Eau Claire. This event was perceived to be of such importance that the villagers relocated their cabins closer to the tracks, and soon a drug store, hotel, manufacturing plant, cider mill, and stove company brought increased activity to the little village. Eau Claire finally incorporated in 1891, boasting a population of 318.

Community Vision

- Attract more retailers.
- Encourage industrial entrepreneurs to come to the area.
- Witness the completion of the U.S. 31 Bypass near the Village.
- Once (C) is completed, attract a bed & breakfast or motel.



1912 Postcard of the Big Four Railroad Depot

Climate

	January	July
Average Maximum	32F / 0C	82F / 28C
Average Minimum	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	

All Demographic Information is based upon the 2009 Census Estimate

Population

1980 Census	573	
1990 Census	600	4.71 % increase
2000 Census	656	9.33 % increase
2009 Census Estimate	623	5.03 % decrease

Personal Income

Median Family	\$60,375.00
Average per Capita	\$20,174.00
Median Household	\$44,545.00

Labor Force

Total Work Force	336
Unemployment Rate	8.3 %

Principal Economic Base Employers

Hermel Die Casting	20 employees
Shawnee Specialties	25 employees
Trade Lines/Dickson Media	12 employees

Housing

Number of Dwellings	227
Owner Occupied	160
Renter Occupied	32
Median Rent	\$738
Median Home Value	\$104,600

Building Permits – 2010

	Number Issued	Dollar Amount
Residential	1	\$128,700.00
Commercial	4	\$110,117.00
Other	12	\$48,334.00
Total	17	\$287,151.00



Government

Municipal Hall

Eau Claire Village Hall
P.O. Box 338
6625 East Main Street
Eau Claire, MI 49111

Phone: (269) 461-6173
Fax: (269) 461-6813

Council Meetings

Third Monday of Each Month
Start: 6:30 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
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

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	11.5433
Special Voted	3.0000

Subtotal 22.0010

School Taxes (Berrien RESA) Eau Claire

State Education Tax	6.0000
Non-Homestead (Business)	18.0000
Extra Voted Building & Site	0.0000
Debt Retirement	3.2500

Berrien RESA	0.1745
Special Education	2.1954

Subtotals

Homestead	11.6199
Non-Homestead (Business)	29.6199

Education

The Village of Eau Claire is served by the following school district:

Eau Claire Public Schools
6190 W. Main Street
Eau Claire MI 49111
Phone: (269) 461-6947
Enrollment: 812



Chamber of Commerce

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

Economic Development

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

Public Services

Police

Chief of Police: Charles Sherene
Phone: (269) 461-4111
Sworn Officers: 3
Civilian Employees: 0
Number of Cars: 1

Fire

Fire Chief: Tom Stiles
Phone: 911
Number of Stations: 1
Professional Firemen: 0
Part-Time Paid: 30
Volunteers: 0
Insurance Rate Class: 7

Trash Collection

Best Way Disposal
Phone: (800) 246-5992
Type: Independent
Pick Up Day: Thursday

Recycling

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

Water

Eau Claire Village Hall
Phone: (269) 461-6173
Source: Municipal Wells
Capacity: 1,000,000 GPD

Sewer

Eau Claire DPW, Michael Keesler
Phone: (269) 461-6173
System Type: Lagoon System

Telephone

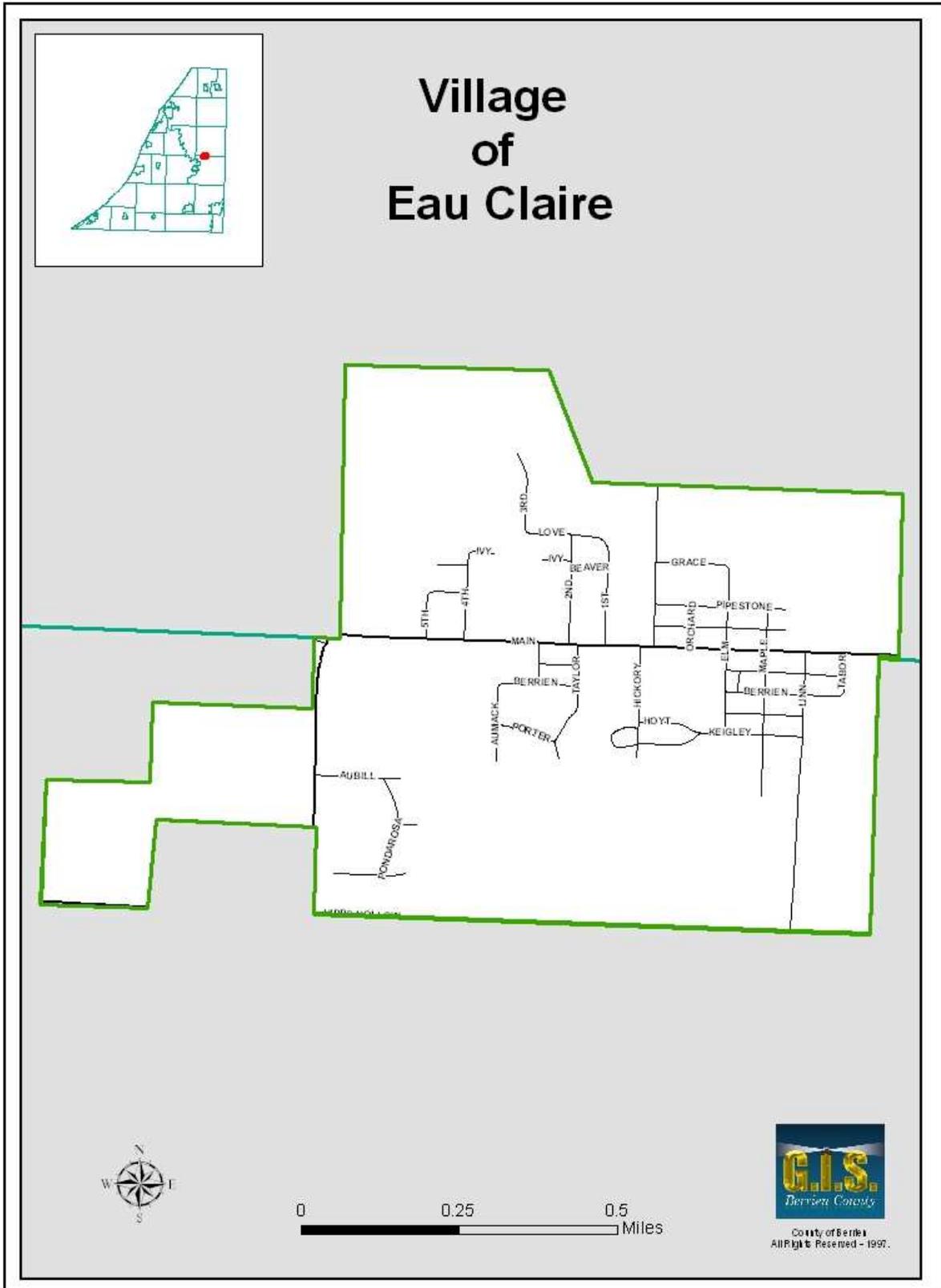
A T & T
Residential Customers (800) 244-4444
Business Customers (800) 660-3000

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



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.