

Oronoko Charter Township

History

Oronoko Township was organized on March 11, 1837 and became a Charter Township in 1988. Some believe that the township was named after Oronoko, an Indian Chief known by the Governor, George Mason. Others believe that the township was named after the heroine in the novel "Oronoko, OR, The Royal Slave: A True History", published by Mrs. Aphra Behn in 1688. The seat of Berrien County government was moved to Berrien Springs, the heart of Oronoko Charter Township, that same year of 1837.

During the past two centuries, Oronoko Charter Township has been essentially a rural farming community. In 1901, it became the home of Emmanuel Missionary College, a Seventh-day Adventist institution. This institution, renamed Andrews University, has become an important member of the community.

Observations

Oronoko Charter Township is nicely located amidst the rolling hills of Berrien County, in proximity of Lake Michigan and the St. Joseph River. The river and the American Electric Power Dam, completed in 1908, have become very popular fishing sites in the area. The Township is located right in the county's fruit belt and is home to many fruit and grape growers.

Oronoko Charter Township is a quiet, conservative, bedroom community that prides itself on its fruit industry and its cultural diversity, due to the presence of Andrews University. The university, which is located on 1300 acres in the township, has enrolled students from over 80 different nationalities, and has proven to be a strength to the community's development. Oronoko's good fire and police department and its conservative character make it an ideal place for families with young children.

Community Vision

- Maintain the status quo of a quiet bedroom / farming community.
- Attract more tourists to the area.
- Encourage light industrial entrepreneurs to locate in the township.
- Extend water, sewer and gas lines.

All Demographic Information is based upon the 2009 Census Estimate

Population

1980 Census	10,761	
1990 Census	9,819	8.75 % decrease
2000 Census	9,843	0.92 % increase
2009 Census Estimate	9,846	0.03 % increase

Personal Income

Median Family	\$55,309.00
Average per Capita	\$20,300.00
Median Household	\$38,371.00

Labor Force

Total Work Force	5,136
Unemployment Rate	9.0 %

Principal Economic Base Employers

Andrew's University	3,202 Employees
Berrien Springs Public Schools	250 Employees
Dalson Enterprises	40 Employees
Lemon Creek Winery	25 Employees

Housing

Number of Dwellings	3,875
Owner Occupied	1,936
Renter Occupied	1,566
Median Rent	\$557
Median Home Value	\$152,400

Building Permits – 2010

	Number Issued	Dollar Amount
Residential	7	\$2,718,550.00
Commercial	13	\$17,410,200.00
Other	40	\$793,655.00
Total	60	\$20,922,405.00

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	0.8195
Special Voted	4.0000
Library Operation	0.9983
Subtotal	13.2755

School Taxes (Berrien RESA)

	Berrien Springs	Buchanan	Lakeshore	River Valley
State Education Tax	6.0000	6.0000	6.0000	6.0000
Non-Homestead (Business)	18.0000	18.0000	18.0000	18.0000
Extra Voted Building & Site	1.0000	0.8000	1.4971	0.0000
Debt Retirement	1.9254	4.2000	3.2000	0.0000
Berrien RESA	0.1745	0.1745	0.1745	0.1745
Special Education	2.1954	2.1954	2.1954	2.1954
Subtotals				
Homestead	11.2953	13.3699	13.0670	8.3699
Non-Homestead (Business)	29.2953	31.3699	31.0670	26.3699

Government

Municipal Hall

Oronoko Charter Township
P.O. Box 214
4583 East Snow Road
Berrien Springs, MI 49103
Phone: (269) 471-2824
Fax: (269) 471-2826

Council Meetings

Second Tuesday of Each Month
Start: 7:30 p.m.

County Commissioner

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

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

Economic Development

Berrien County Community Development
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

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

Education

Oronoko Charter Township is served by the following school districts:

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

Buchanan Community Schools
401 W. Chicago Street
Buchanan MI 49107
Phone: (269) 695-8401
Enrollment: 1,677

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

Public Services

Police

Chief of Police: Milton Agay
Phone: (269) 471-2813
Sworn officers: 9
Civilian employees: 2
Number of cars: 5

Fire

Fire Chief: Bruce Stover
Phone: (269) 473-3731
Number of stations: 1
Professional firefighters: 1
Volunteers: 24
Insurance rate class: 6

Trash Collection

Contact Township Hall for referrals
Phone: (269) 471-2824
Type: Independent Contracts

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 Berrien Springs Village Hall
Phone: (269) 473-6921
Source: Individual Wells

Sewer

Contact Berrien Springs Village Hall
Phone: (269) 473-6921
System Type: Septic Tanks

Telephone

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

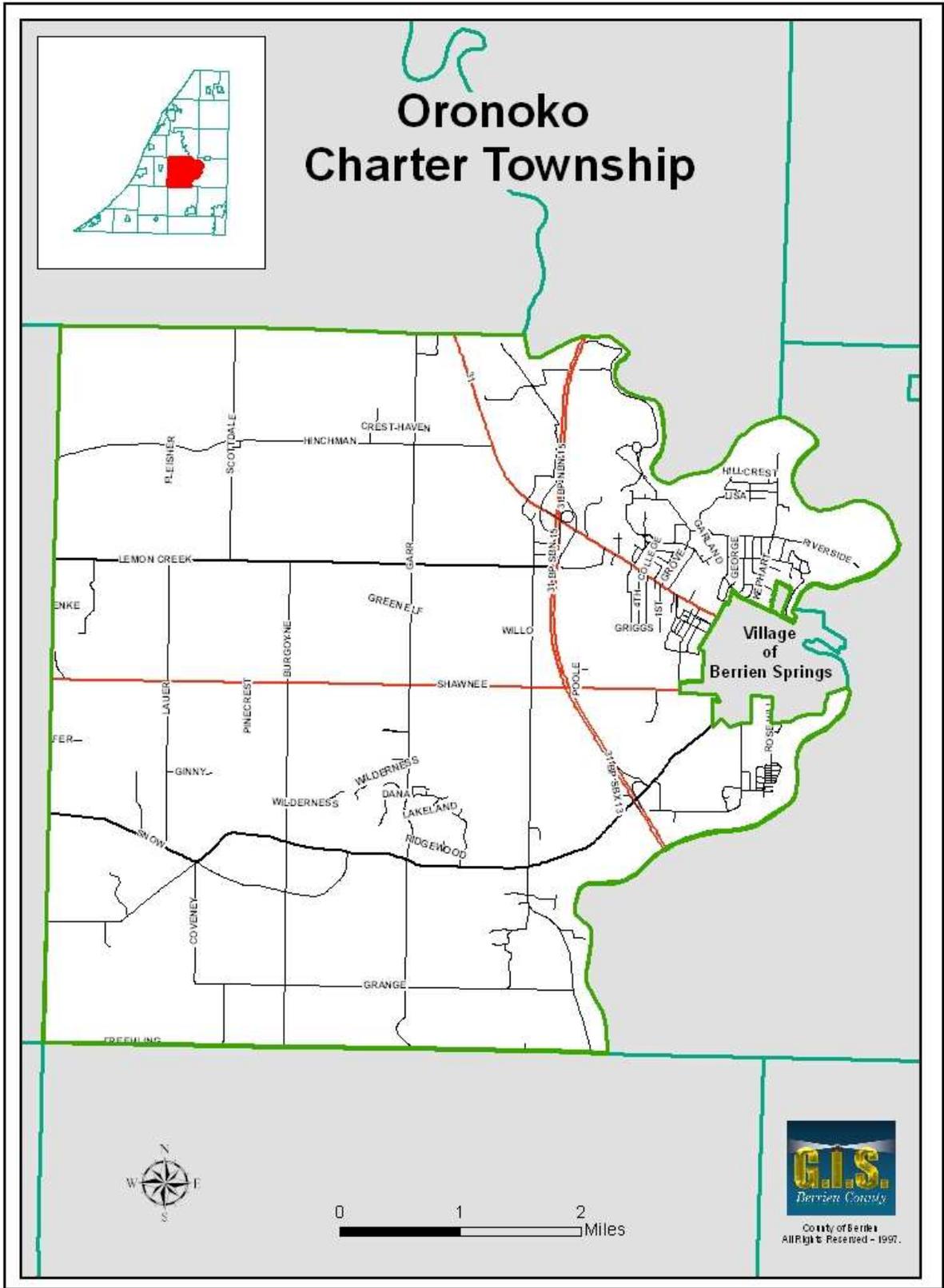
Gas

Michigan Gas Utilities
1-800-778-3802

Electric

American Electric Power Company
(800) 311-6424





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.