

# Royalton Township

## History

When John Pike moved down the river from Berrien Springs in 1832, he became the first settler in what was to become Royalton Township. Jehiel Enos soon followed to survey the land, which the Indians had just ceded to the United States government. Until 1868, Royalton Township included portions of Lincoln, Sodus and St. Joseph Townships.

Royalton Township was officially organized in 1835. The first log schoolhouse was erected in approximately 1840. Three years later, a post office was established to serve Royalton's 280 residents. Over the next 150 years, the Township experienced a gradual growth, but remained predominately agricultural. The rich soil in the Township made it ideal for the growing of grapes.

In recent years, Royalton Township has become known as a prime residential area. Industry and commercial development has also found the Township to be an advantageous location.

## Observations

Royalton Township, which covers approximately 18 square miles, lends itself well to families with young children. The southern two-thirds of the Township are largely agricultural; the northern one-third is mainly residential. A major physical therapy and kidney dialysis center for Lakeland Regional Health System, along with physicians' center and outpatient surgery center is located there, as well as a cancer center that has just been constructed. The community consists mainly of upper class households with many of the inhabitants holding an executive position in one of the Berrien County businesses. The median income in Royalton Township is higher than in nearby communities, which is reflected in the price of housing. The Township is easily accessible from U.S. 31, I-94, and M-63. Royalton Township is within five miles of Lake Michigan.

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

### Population

1980 Census	3,046	
1990 Census	3,135	29.20 % increase
2000 Census	3,888	24.00 % increase
2009 Census Estimate	4,646	19.50 % increase

### Personal Income

Median Family	\$87,212
Average per Capita	\$35,742
Median Household	\$70,583

### Labor Force

Total Work Force	2,370
Unemployment Rate	6.5 %

### Principal Economic Base Employers

Fiskars, Inc.	125 Employees
Lakeland Regional Medical Center	800 Employees
YMCA	202 Employees

### Housing

Number of Dwellings	1,824
Owner Occupied	1,498
Renter Occupied	239
Median Rent	\$644
Median Home Value	\$217,800

### Building Permits – 2010

	Number Issued	Dollar Amount
Residential	4	\$1,440,000.00
Commercial	8	\$14,920,662.00
Other	88	\$1,314,314.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>\$17,674,976.00</b>

# 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	0.7504
Special Voted	2.0965
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>10.3046</b>

## School Taxes (Berrien RESA)

	Berrien Springs	Lakeshore	St. Joseph
State Education Tax	6.0000	6.0000	6.0000
Non-Homestead (Business)	18.0000	18.0000	18.0000
Extra Voted Building & Site	1.0000	1.4971	0.9946
Debt Retirement	1.9254	3.2000	3.5500
Berrien RESA	0.1745	0.1745	0.1745
Special Education	2.1954	2.1954	2.1954
<b>Subtotals</b>			
<b>Homestead</b>	<b>11.2953</b>	<b>13.0670</b>	<b>12.9145</b>
<b>Non-Homestead (Business)</b>	<b>29.2953</b>	<b>31.0670</b>	<b>30.9145</b>

# Government

## Municipal Hall

Royalton Township Hall  
980 Miners Road  
St. Joseph, MI 49085  
Phone: (269) 429-2501  
Fax: (269) 429-8373  
Email: [royaltontpw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:royaltontpw@sbcglobal.net)  
Website: [www.royaltontownship.org](http://www.royaltontownship.org)

## Council Meetings

Second Tuesday of Each Month  
Start: 7:00 p.m.

## County Commissioner

Jeanette Leahey  
(District 6)  
2985 E. Bluffwood Terrace  
St. Joseph MI 49085  
Phone: (269) 429-6349  
[jeanetteleahey@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanetteleahey@hotmail.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

Royalton Township does not have its own police force. The Berrien County Sheriff's Department covers the Township.

Berrien County Sheriff's Department  
(269) 983-7141

## Fire

Fire Chief: Ron Burkett  
Phone: (269) 428-2385  
Number of Stations: 1  
Professional Firemen/Part-Time/Volunteer: 20  
Vehicles: 6  
Insurance Rate Class: 8 – 9

## Trash Collection

Individual, Licensed Carriers  
Contact Township Hall for Referrals  
Phone: (269) 429-2501

## 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).  
(800) 311-6424

## Water

St. Joseph WFP  
Phone: (269) 983-1240  
Source: Lake Michigan  
Capacity: 16,000,000 GPD

## Sewer

St. Joseph Department of Public Works  
Phone: (269) 983-6341  
System Type: Liquid Sludge  
Capacity: 13,000,000 GPD (Excess capacity:  
1,500,000 GPD)

## 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

# Economic Development

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

# Education

Royalton Township is served by the following school districts:

Berrien Springs Public Schools  
One Sylvester Avenue  
Berrien Springs MI 49103  
Phone: (269) 471-2891  
Enrollment: 1,981

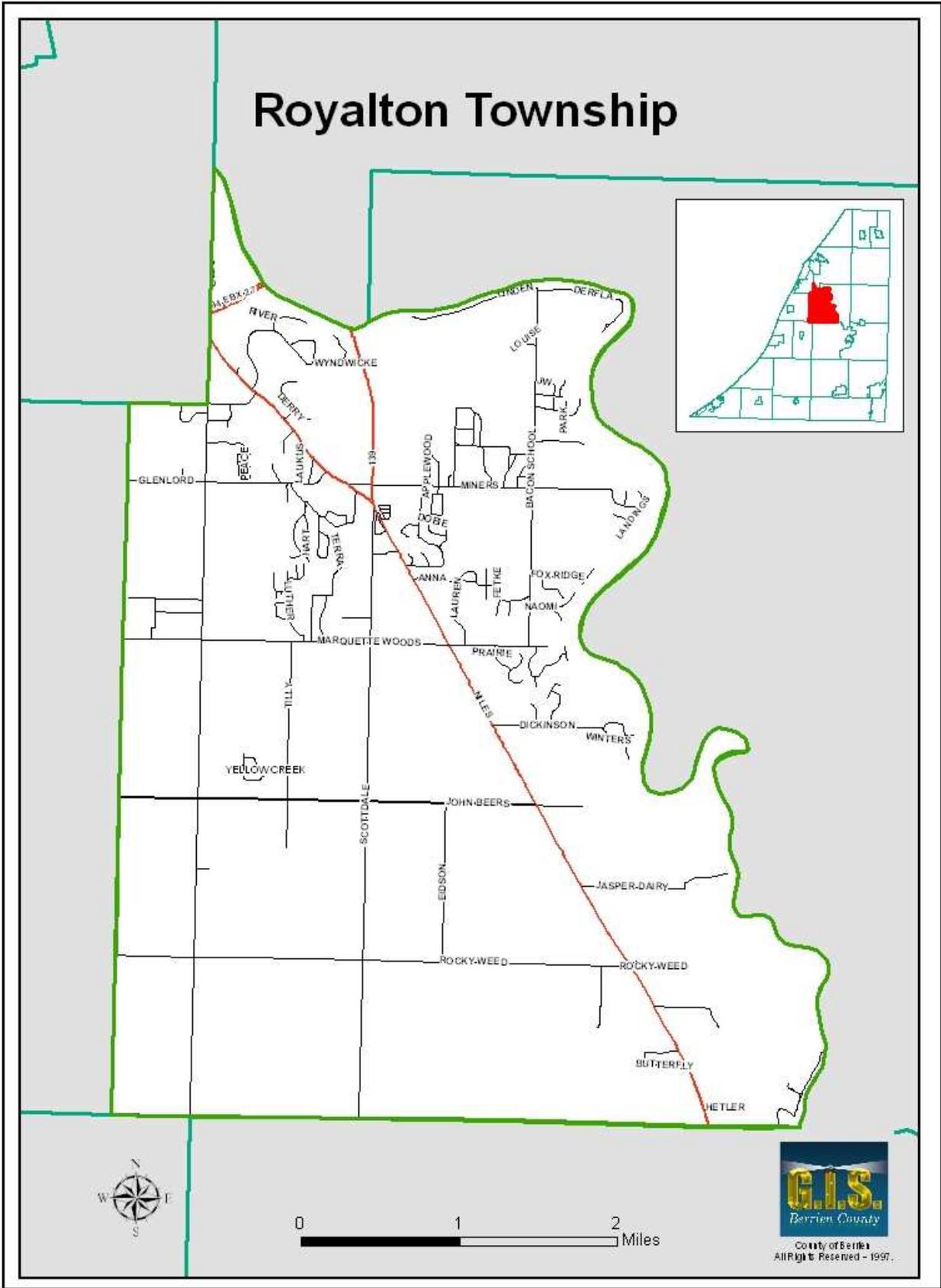


Lakeshore Public Schools  
5771 Cleveland Avenue  
Stevensville MI 49127  
Phone: (269) 428-1400  
Enrollment: 2,890



St. Joseph Public Schools  
2214 S. State Street  
St. Joseph MI 49085  
Phone: (269) 982-4621  
Enrollment: 2,860





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.