

St. Joseph Charter Township

History

The Township's first permanent settler, William Burnett, arrived in 1780. Burnett established a successful trading post, but true settlement did not begin until 50 years later in 1830. The community grew so rapidly thereafter, that it incorporated as a township in 1832.

At one time, fruit agriculture was paramount with more than 2,000 acres devoted to this industry by the 1880's. The Township has gradually developed into a residential area, with areas of commercial, light industrial and medical facilities rounding out the community.

Observations

St. Joseph Charter Township is known to be an excellent, upper-class residential community fully equipped with water, sewer, and waste management services. There are paved roads throughout the Township, cable TV, and good recreational programs. The Township contracts for most of its services. This results in a relatively low tax rate. St. Joseph Charter Township is a typical bedroom community with no specific downtown area. The only lake-front property within the Township belongs to Shoreham Village, a small, incorporated community in the southwest corner of the Township. Most of the housing units are well maintained with a few upper class residential subdivisions added each year. The community is financially stable and has not increased its general operating mileage for 20 years. St. Joseph Charter Township's demographics are the most diverse in Berrien County.

Although the Township does have a number of industries in its Palladium Drive Business Park, it seeks to attract more to increase the community's tax base. Maintaining the reputation as a quality, upper-class community is important. Property is still available for residential growth.

Community Vision

- A. Encourage residential development.
- B. Keep government staff minimal.
- C. Encourage the development of high quality, residential subdivisions.
- D. Attract clean offices and businesses in the Township's Business park.

All Demographic Information is based upon the 2009 Census Estimate

Population

1980 Census	9,961	
1990 Census	9,613	3.49 % decrease
2000 Census	10,040	4.27 % increase
2009 Census Estimate	9,645	3.95 % decrease

Personal Income

Median Family	\$72,985
Average per Capita	\$31,169
Median Household	\$61,073

Labor Force

Total Work Force	4,961
Unemployment Rate	7.5 %

Principal Economic Base Employers

Herald-Palladium	125 Employees
Leco Corporation	650 Employees
Martins Supermarket	184 Employees
Michigan Pizza Hut Inc.	257 Employees
United Parcel Service	120 Employees

Housing

Number of Dwellings	4,157
Owner Occupied	3,435
Renter Occupied	400
Median Rent	\$870
Median Home Value	\$156,100

Building Permits – 2010

	Number Issued	Dollar Amount
Residential	4	\$524,200.00
Commercial	22	\$920,654.00
Other	323	\$1,862,336.00
Total	349	\$3,307,190.00

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	0.7591
Special Voted	5.1999
Subtotal	13.4167

School Taxes (Berrien RESA)

	Benton Harbor	Lakeshore	St. Joseph
State Education Tax	6.0000	6.0000	6.0000
Non-Homestead (Business)	17.8308	18.0000	18.0000
Extra Voted Building & Site	2.0000	1.4971	0.9946
Debt Retirement	0.0000	3.2000	3.5500
Berrien RESA	0.1745	0.1745	0.1745
Special Education	2.1954	2.1954	2.1954
Subtotals			
Homestead	10.3699	13.0670	12.9145
Non-Homestead (Business)	28.2007	31.0670	30.9145



Government

Municipal Hall

St. Joseph Charter Township Hall
3000 Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 147
St. Joseph, MI 49085-0147
Phone: (269) 429-7703
Fax: (269) 429-2079
Website: www.sjct.org

Council Meetings

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

County Commissioners

Catherine Thieneman
(District 5)
1417 Newberry Hills
St. Joseph MI 49085
Phone: (269) 983-7103
cathythieneman@hotmail.com

Jeanette Leahey
(District 6)
2985 E. Bluffwood Terrace
St. Joseph MI 49085
Phone: (269) 429-6349
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

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

Public Services

Police

Chief of Police: Ross Bates
Phone: (269) 429-6890
Sworn Officers – Full Time: 12
Sworn Officers – Part Time: 4
Civilian Employees – Full Time: 1
Civilian Employees – Part Time: 1
Number of Cars: 8

Fire

Phone: (269) 429-4100
Station One Fire Chief: Gary Maynard
Volunteers: 17
Station Two Fire Chief: Tom Holland
Volunteers: 18
Insurance Rate Class: 5

Trash Collection

Best Way Disposal
Phone: (269) 463-3232
Type: Independent
Pick Up Day: Various within the Township
(4 Days Per Week)
Cost Per Month: 1.5 mills (taxed)
Recycling: Every Other Week

Recycling

Berrien County Community Development
Jill Adams, Environmental Specialist
(269) 983-7111 Ext. 8234
Program information available online at
www.berriencounty.org/recycle.
(800) 311-6424

Water

St. Joseph Charter Township residents are served by the following water departments:

Benton Harbor Water Dept.
Phone: (269) 927-8471
Source: Lake Michigan
Capacity: 12,000,000 GPD

St. Joseph Department of Public Works
Phone: (269) 429-8113
Source: Lake Michigan
Capacity: 16,000,000 GPD
(Excess Capacity: 12,000,000 GPD)

Sewer

Benton Harbor / St. Joseph Waste Water Plant
Phone: (269) 983-7719
System Type: Activated Sludge
Capacity: 18,000,000 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

Education

St. Joseph Charter Township is served by the following school districts:

Benton Harbor Area Schools
823 Riverview Drive
Benton Harbor MI 49022
Phone: (269) 927-0600
Enrollment: 3,688



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



Economic Development

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

Cornerstone Alliance
38 West Wall Street, P.O. Box 428
Benton Harbor, MI 49023
Contact: Wendy Dant-Chesser, Exec VP
Phone: (269) 925-6100

