

Weesaw Township

History

Weesaw Township was named after the war chief of the Potawatomi Indians - a very dignified man who enjoyed the great pomp and regalia associated with his important office. The Weesaw area contained large forests of black walnut, maple, beech, ash, and white oak. It was not surprising that Solomon and Hiram Gould chose the area to build a sawmill, calling it "North Mill". Having learned of their success, Nelson Willard, Joseph Ames, and Ezra Stoner soon built a second "South Mill." Competition increased, as did the population of Weesaw. By 1837 the area looked so promising that the Village of Troy was platted and the lots divided between the founding fathers. In that same year, Weesaw Township was officially incorporated.

For some unknown reason, the mill-owners became disenchanted and left the area in 1838. It took fourteen years of court battles before proper ownership was identified. In the meantime, settlers began to arrive in the Township and soon its population totaled 142. Inspired by the Baptist Reverend Daniel B. Mead, the Township's first church was built in 1854 at Hills Corner. The Village of Troy underwent an identity crisis in 1869, when the just-completed Chicago and West Michigan Railroad established a station three miles west of the Village and called it "Troy". As a result, the village officially changed its name to "New Troy". New Troy has never been officially incorporated.

Observations

Weesaw Township is neighbor to the tourist-oriented Chikaming Township community, yet does not seem to profit from Chikaming's industry. Although the number of second-home owners in Weesaw is growing, the community is still dominated by grain and fruit farmers. The Township is located amidst the rolling hills that are characteristic of Berrien County and is notable because of an abundance of small ponds and little lakes that are too shallow for recreational purposes, yet are ideal for land irrigation.

Weesaw Township is a typical farming community with a low population density and offers few municipal services. The crime rate is low. The Township is not as wealthy and as active as some of its neighboring communities, and does not contribute financially to events organized by surrounding municipalities. New Troy consists of 144 housing units and forms the downtown area of Weesaw Township. Major shopping and recreational opportunities are provided by nearby communities.

Weesaw Township is less interested in new residential development than it is in attracting new industries to help alleviate its tax burden and broaden the job base. The Township has all the qualities required by those who prefer the outdoors and quiet, rural communities.

Community Vision

- A. Obtain financing and continue the municipal water system to service New Troy and the industrially zoned areas.
- B. Attract more medium-size industries.
- C. Improve the roads in the Township (there are still about 20 miles of dirt roads left).
- D. Maintain the status quo of a quiet, rural farming community.
- E. Increase population density of New Troy and Glendora areas.

All Demographic Information is based upon the 2009 Census Estimate

Population

1980 Census	2,164	
1990 Census	2,114	2.31 % decrease
2000 Census	2,065	2.31 % decrease
2009 Census Estimate	1,960	5.08 % decrease

Personal Income

Median Family	\$57,000.00
Average per Capita	\$26,005.00
Median Household	\$49,958.00

Labor Force

Total Work Force	1,116
Unemployment Rate	9.8 %

Housing

Number of Dwellings	926
Owner Occupied	688
Renter Occupied	163
Median Rent	\$596
Median Home Value	\$141,200

Principal Economic Base Employer

Tru Die Cast Corp.....	20 Employees
Vickers Engineering.....	125 Employees

Building Permits – 2010

	Number Issued	Dollar Amount
Residential	5	\$587,191.00
Other	15	\$374,748.00
Totals	20	\$961,939.00



Mill Road Bridge

Government

Municipal Hall

Weesaw Township Hall
13518 State Street
P.O. Box 38
New Troy, MI 49119
Phone: (269) 426-3002
Fax: (269) 426-7114
www.weesaw-township.com

Township Board Meetings

Third Wednesday of Each Month
Start: 7:30 p.m.

County Commissioner

Andrew Vavra
(District 10)
7120 W. Elm Valley Road
Three Oaks MI 49128
Phone: (269) 756-7162
vavrafamily@qtm.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 (R), 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

Weesaw Township is served by the following school districts:

Galien Township Schools
122 E. Southeastern Avenue
Galien MI 49113
Phone: (269) 545-3364
Enrollment: 185

River Valley School District
15480 Three Oaks Road
Three Oaks MI 49128
Phone: (269) 756-9541
Enrollment: 721

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	0.8395
Special Voted	1.7500
Special Voted Fire Protection	1.0000
Subtotal	11.0472



School Taxes (Berrien RESA)

	Galien	River Valley
State Education Tax	6.0000	6.0000
Non-Homestead (Business)	18.0000	18.0000
Extra Voted Building & Site	0.0000	0.0000
Debt Retirement	2.6500	0.0000
Berrien RESA	0.1745	0.1745
Special Education	2.1954	2.1954
Subtotals		
Homestead	11.0199	8.3699
Non-Homestead (Business)	29.0199	26.3699

Public Services

Police

Weesaw Township does not have its own police force. The Michigan State Police and the Berrien County Sheriff's Department cover the Township.

Michigan State Police – Niles Post
(269) 683-4411
Berrien County Sheriff's Department
(269) 695-3887 x7200

Fire

Fire Chief: Jack Hojara
Phone: (269) 426-3772
Number of Stations: 1
Professional Firemen: 0
Volunteers: 13
Insurance Rate Class: 7

Trash Collection

Contact Township Hall for information
Phone: (269) 426-3002
Type: Independent – Individual 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

Weesaw Township Hall
Phone: (269) 426-3002
Source: Individual Wells & Municipal Water
*Lake Township services residents and businesses located on Baldwin Road, Browntown Road, California Road and part of New Troy.

Sewer

Weesaw Township Hall
Phone: (269) 426-3002
System Type: Septic Tanks & Municipal Sewer in New Troy Vicinity

Telephone

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

Frontier Communications
Residential and single line
Business: 1-877-875-8899

Gas

Semco Energy Company
(800) 624-2019

Electric

American Electric Power Company
(800) 311-6424

Economic Development

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