

# Galien Township

## History

Galien Township took its name from the Galien River which had, in turn, been named by the early French explorers for Father René Brehant de Galineé, a map maker by origin and a good friend of Father Marquette. The French name Galineé was "Americanized" in 1836 to become Galien. The entire Township was once part of the "Galien Woods" -- an extremely dense forest of maple, beech, white oak and black walnut trees. The only thoroughfares available were those made by animals which were, subsequently, adopted by the local Indian tribes. Interestingly enough, these roadways became the settling points for many of the pioneers.

The first settler in the Township was Samuel Garwood, who had been attracted by the dense woods and the gentle waters of the Galien River. Captivated by the beautiful area, John Johnson and James Wilson decided to join Garwood as the next permanent settlers. The latter built the Township's first sawmill in 1836.

Galien Township, originally part of Bertrand then later Weesaw Township, was incorporated as a separate township on February 29, 1844. William Burns was elected the first supervisor and Samuel Garwood became the first treasurer. In 1861, the small village of Galien was laid out within the Township and became the center of all business activities. The appearance and character of the Township has changed little over the past century-and-a-half.

## Observations

Galien Township is everything one would expect to find in an old-fashioned, rural setting. The Township is beautifully located on U.S. 12, which provides good access to its industrial park. Located near I-94 and U.S. 31, it is only a few miles from the shores of Lake Michigan. The surrounding communities offer art centers, antique stores, theaters, a botanical garden and shopping malls. Galien's location provides easy access to several transportation service providers.

Although industries are welcomed in the industrial park located in the Village, the community would like to preserve its status quo as a traditional farming community, enjoying the resulting quality of life.

For some, the degree of social control in this small community may be a drawback -- for others it provides safety and comfort. For those who like the outdoors and prefer the quiet after a busy day at the office, Galien Township is a pleasant place to live.

## Community Vision

In the next two decades, the community would like to:

- A. Maintain the status quo of a traditional farming community.
- B. Attract industry to the industrial park.
- C. Install a municipal water system to serve the community and its industrial park.
- D. Construct a driveway to ease entry into the industrial park.
- E. Encourage residential growth to help cover needed expenditures.



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

### Population

1980 Census	1,786	
1990 Census	1,591	13.87 % decrease
2000 Census	1,611	1.75 % increase
2009 Census Estimate	1,615	0.25 % increase

### Personal Income

Median Family	\$58,843.00
Average per Capita	\$23,586.00
Median Household	\$54,271.00

### Labor Force

Total Work Force	866
Unemployment Rate	8.0 %

### Housing

Number of Dwellings	725
Owner Occupied	513
Renter Occupied	98
Median Rent	\$620
Median Home Value	\$129,000

### Building Permits – 2010

	<u>Number Issued</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
Other	13	\$257,929.00

## Climate

	<u>January</u>	<u>July</u>
Average Maximum Temperature	32F / 0C	82F / 28C
Average Minimum Temperature	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	



**Galien River**

# Government

## Municipal Hall

Galien Township Hall  
P.O. Box 246  
Galien, MI 49113  
Phone: (269) 545-8143

## Council Meetings

Third Wednesday of Each Month  
Start: 7:00 p.m.

## County Commissioner

R. McKinley Elliott  
(District 11)  
1 Park Court  
Buchanan MI 49107  
Phone: (269) 695-9312

## 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, 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

## 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

## Galien 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

# Public Services

## Police

Galien 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: James Trapp  
Phone: (269) 545-8379  
Number of Stations: 1  
Professional Firemen: 0  
Part-Time Paid: 15  
Volunteers: 0  
Insurance Rate Class: 7

## Trash Collection

B & E Refuse  
Phone: (269) 545-3523  
Type: Independent  
Pick Up: Wednesday & Thursday

## 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).

## Water

Galien Township Hall  
Phone: (269) 545-8143  
Source: Individual Wells

## Sewer

Galien Township Hall  
Phone: (269) 545-8143  
System Type: Septic Tanks

## Telephone

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

## 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

# 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	0.7149
Special Voted	3.6452
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>11.8178</b>

## School Taxes (Berrien RESA)

State Education Tax	6.0000
Non-Homestead (Business)	18.0000
Extra Voted Building & Site	0.0000
Debt Retirement	2.6500
Berrien RESA	0.1745
Special Education	2.1954

## Subtotals

<b>Homestead</b>	<b>11.0199</b>
<b>Non-Homestead (Business)</b>	<b>29.0199</b>

## River Valley

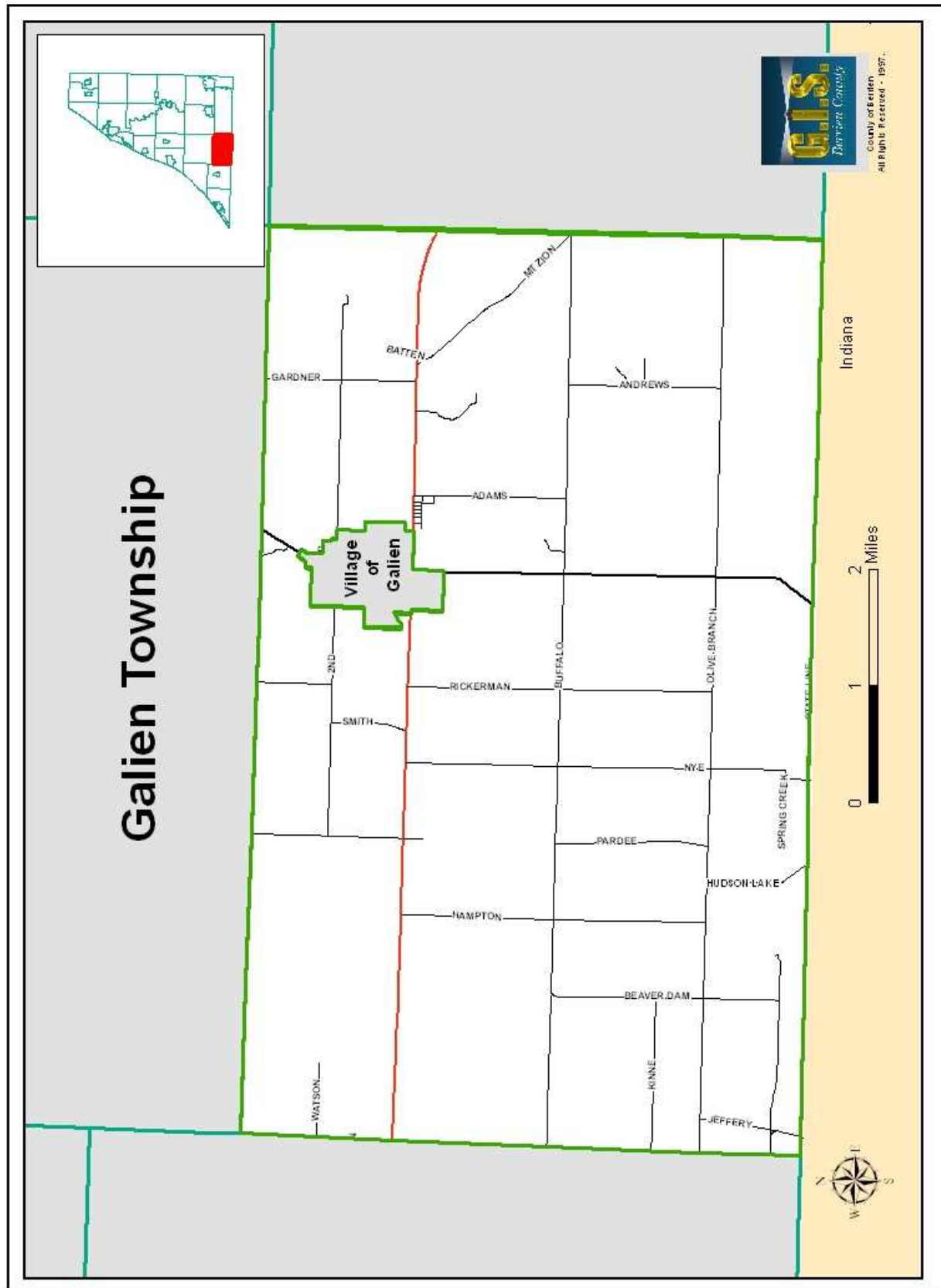
6.0000
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<b>8.3699</b>
<b>26.3699</b>

# Economic Development

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

Southwest Michigan Economic Growth Alliance  
Shelley Klug, Executive Director  
1950 Industrial Drive  
Niles, MI 49120  
Phone: (269) 683-1833



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.