

# Village of Galien

## History

The birth of the Village of Galien began with the construction of a steam sawmill. By 1854, it had grown large enough that a general store was needed. George Blakeslee built the store and a large room above the store was set aside for all religious services, public meetings, and social affairs. The little settlement soon began to grow and become the center for the surrounding area's activities.

The Village was officially incorporated in 1879 with a total of 500 residents. As a result of his devotion, George Blakeslee was elected Village President, Postmaster, Justice of the Peace, and a member of the Board of Education. He was also responsible for laying out the plat of the Village. Later, George became the World Bishop of the Latter Day Saints' Church, in charge of the church's worldwide property and finances.

The Village of Galien has proven to be a strong supporter of industry evidenced by the creation of an industrial park within the village limits. The villagers are proud of its heritage and have been successful in keeping the Village of Galien a pleasant, quiet place to live and work. The Village encourages business growth and has an industrial park to provide a welcoming environment for manufacturers.

## Observations

The Village of Galien is everything one would expect to find in a rural setting, with everyone a neighbor. This small community contains 1.64 miles of major roads and 3.34 miles of local streets. The villagers are proud of their heritage, which is manifested in a refreshing community spirit. Their financial policies are conservative, yet healthy. The Council prefers to engage in large expenditures only if they have the money to do so. Galien enjoys a good school system of which the community is highly supportive. It is a typical bedroom community with a low crime rate that provides everything needed for families to raise their children.

## Community Vision

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

- Continue to attract industry to its industrial park.
- Put in a municipal water system to serve the community and its industrial park.
- Expand its recreational facilities.
- Encourage residential growth.



Michigan Central Railroad Depot in Galien

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

### Population

1980 Census	692	
1990 Census	596	13.87 % decrease
2000 Census	593	0.05 % decrease
2009 Census Estimate	557	6.07 % decrease

### Personal Income

Median Family	\$55,938.00
Average per Capita	\$22,029.00
Median Household	\$51,250.00

### Labor Force

Total Work Force	360
Unemployment Rate	5.0 %

### Housing

Number of Dwellings	250
Owner Occupied	166
Renter Occupied	54
Median Rent	\$588
Median Home Value	\$88,900

### Principal Economic Base Employers

Carris Reels	30 employees
Galien Township Schools	32 employees
Precision Plastics	70 employees

### Building Permits – 2010

	<u>Number Issued</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
Commercial	2	\$17,102.00
Other	10	\$89,925.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>\$107,027.00</b>

## 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 Public Library

# Government

## Municipal Hall

Galien Village Hall  
121 S. Cleveland Avenue  
P.O. Box 296  
Galien, MI 49113  
Phone: (269) 545-3647

## Council Meetings

Second Monday 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

The Village of Galien is served by the following school district:

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



Galien High School

# 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
Village	8.2248
Special Voted	0.0000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>15.6825</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>

# Public Services

## Police

Chief of Police: Dale Longacre  
Phone: (269) 545-3647  
Sworn Officers: 2  
Civilian Employees: 0  
Number of Cars: 1

## 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

Contact Village Hall for information  
Phone: (269) 545-3647  
Type: Independent  
Large Trash Pick Up

## 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

The residents of the Village of Galien obtain their water from individual, privately owned wells, rather than a municipal water system.

## Sewer

Galien WWTP  
Phone: (269) 545-3647  
System Type: Lagoon System  
Capacity: 1,000,000 GPD

## Telephone

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

## Gas

Semco Energy Company  
Phone: (800) 624-2019

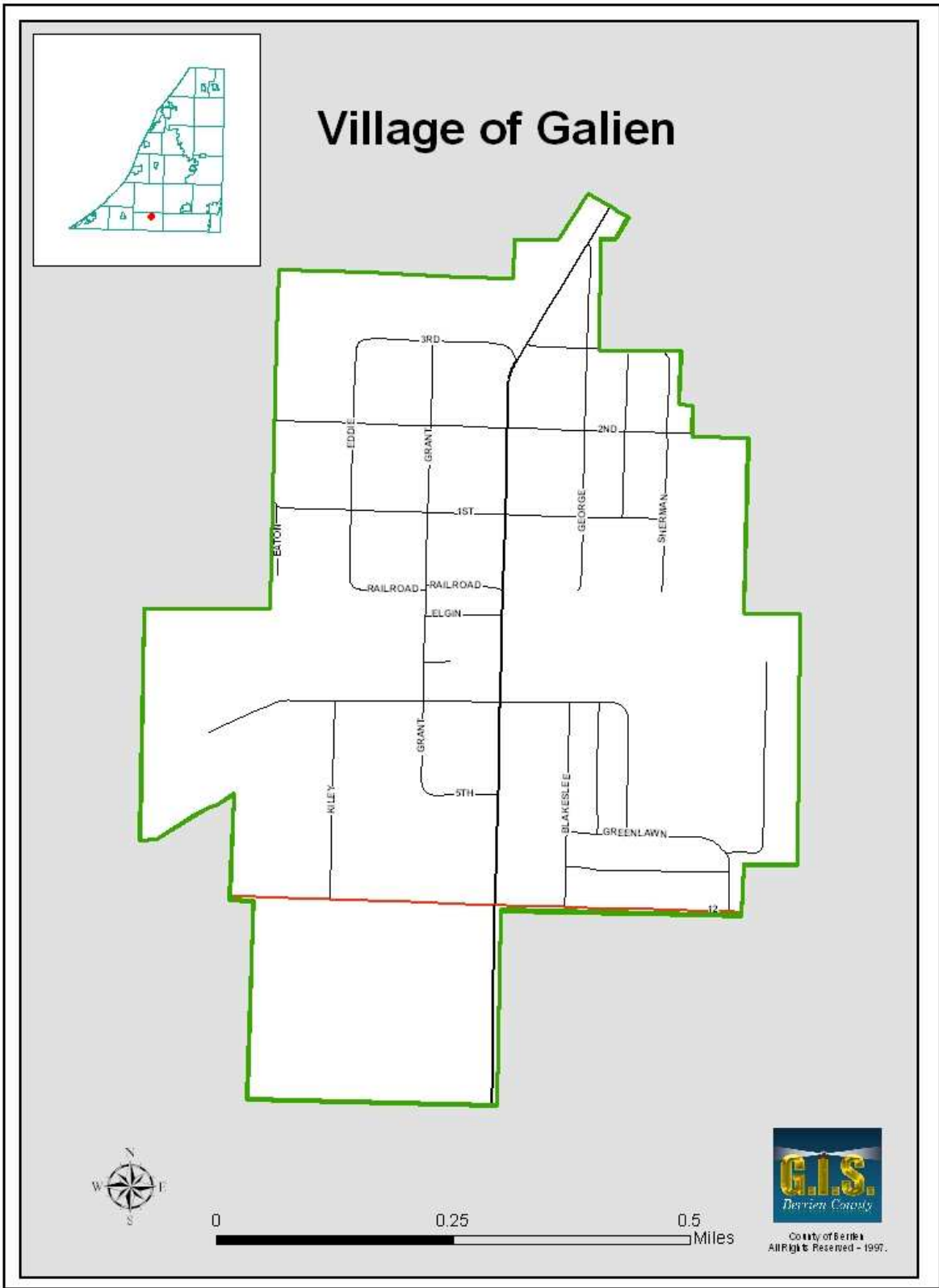
## Electric

American Electric Power Company  
(800) 311-6424  
2425 Meadowbrook Road; Benton Harbor, MI

# 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.