

# Hagar Township

## History

On a warm summer day in 1839, Charles Lamb and his wife decided to leave their home in Vermont. They packed their few belongings and, with their infant daughter, headed west to St. Joseph, Michigan. After working on the St. Joseph docks for a short while, Lamb purchased a canoe and traveled up the Paw Paw River into what is now Hagar Township. The Lambs built a log cabin and the young family became the first permanent settlers.

After helping the Lambs move and build their cabin, Mathias Farnum felt the attraction of the dense woods and beauty of the area. In the fall of 1839, he filed a claim on 160 acres and became the second permanent settler. More people soon followed and the decision was made to form a separate township. On March 25, 1846, the community was officially incorporated as Hagar Township.

## Observations

Hagar Township is located in northern Berrien County along the shoreline of Lake Michigan. As with most lakeshore communities, the majority of lakefront properties have been purchased by affluent Chicagoans. The Township is not as densely populated, as some of the other lakeshore towns and the cost of living in Hagar Township is generally lower. Despite the growing number of second-home owners, the Township is still dominated by grain and fruit farmers. The community is beautifully located amidst dense woods and along sandy beaches. It is easily accessible from I-196 and M-63. Industrial entrepreneurs are welcomed into Hagar Township, although there is no municipal water or sewer.

Hagar Township is beautifully located, very quiet, and within proximity of several shopping and recreational areas in Berrien County and neighboring Van Buren County. The Township has its own small shopping area, and a small community called Riverside forms the heart of Hagar Township. These characteristics make the community a welcome place to live.

## Community Vision

- A. Maintain the status quo of a rural, farming community.
- B. Attract some clean, light industry to increase the community's tax base.

# 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	0.6396
Special Voted	1.4754
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>9.5727</b>

## School Taxes (Berrien RESA)

State Education Tax	6.0000
Non-Homestead (Business)	17.8308
Extra Voted Building & Site	2.0000
Debt Retirement	0.0000
Berrien RESA	0.1745
Special Education	2.1954

### Subtotals

<b>Homestead</b>	<b>10.3699</b>
<b>Non-Homestead (Business)</b>	<b>28.2007</b>

## Benton Harbor

## Coloma

## Riverside

State Education Tax	6.0000	6.0000	6.0000
Non-Homestead (Business)	18.0000	18.0000	18.0000
Extra Voted Building & Site	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Debt Retirement	1.4000	0.0000	0.0000
Berrien RESA	0.1745	0.1745	0.1745
Special Education	2.1954	2.1954	2.1954

<b>Homestead</b>	<b>10.3699</b>	<b>9.7699</b>	<b>8.3699</b>
<b>Non-Homestead (Business)</b>	<b>28.2007</b>	<b>27.7699</b>	<b>26.3699</b>

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

### Population

1980 Census	4,943	
1990 Census	4,113	16.79 % decline
2000 Census	3,964	3.70 % decline
2009 Census Estimate	3,898	1.66 % decline

### Personal Income

Median Family	\$53,516.00
Average per Capita	\$24,043.00
Median Household	\$41,424.00

### Labor Force

Total Work Force	1,900
Unemployment Rate	6.7 %

### Principal Economic Base Employers - Manufacturing

Advanced Products Corp	40 Employees
APL Logistics	80 Employees
Coloma Frozen Foods	80 Employees
Midwest Timer Service	45 Employees
North Shore Manufacturing	35 Employees
Regal Finishing	60 Employees

### Housing

Number of Dwellings	2,328
Owner Occupied	1,224
Renter Occupied	440
Median Rent	\$639
Median Home Value	\$146,200

### Building Permits - 2010

	Number Issued	Dollar Amount
Residential	3	\$551,900.00
Industrial	1	\$511,631.00
Other	61	\$861,343.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>\$1,924,874.00</b>



Riverside School  
Hagar Township #6

# Government

## Municipal Hall

Hagar Township Hall  
P.O. Box 135  
3900 Riverside Road  
Riverside, MI 49084

Phone: (269) 849-0455  
Fax: (269) 849-2454

## Council Meetings

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

## County Commissioner

Robert Wooley (District 1)  
P.O. Box 324  
Coloma MI 49038  
Phone: (269) 468-7329  
nbsc@l2k.net

## State Governor

Rick Snyder (R)  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
Phone: (517) 373-3400  
Faz: (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



**Southwestern Michigan Crate, Barrel & Veneer Machinery Museum**

# Economic Development

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

North Berrien Community Development  
Chana Kniebes, Community Development Coordinator  
P.O. Box 1028  
Coloma, Mi 49038  
Phone: (269) 468-4430

## 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

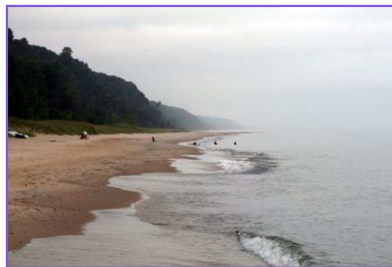
## U.S. Representative

Fred Upton, 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

**Hagar 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

Coloma Community Schools  
Terry Ann Boguth, Superintendent  
2518 Boyer Road  
P. O. Box 550  
Coloma, MI 49038  
Phone: (269) 468-2424  
Student membership: 1,778

Riverside School - Hagar Twp #6  
3422 Riverside Road  
P.O. Box 133  
Riverside, MI 49084  
Phone: (269) 849-1343  
Enrollment: 68

# Public Services

## Police

Hagar 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

North Berrien Fire Rescue  
Fire Chief: Randy Morris  
Phone: (269) 468-4412  
Number of Stations: 1  
Part-Time Paid: 30  
Insurance Rate Class: 5



## Trash Collection

Reliable Disposal  
Phone: (800) 677-1083  
Type: Independent  
Pick Up Day: Tuesday

Best Way Disposal, Inc.  
Phone: (269) 463-3232  
Type: Independent  
Pick Up Day: Monday

## 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

Hagar Township Hall  
Phone: (269) 849-0455  
Source: Individual Wells

## Sewer

Hagar Township Hall  
Phone: (269) 849-0455  
System Type: Septic Tanks

## Telephone

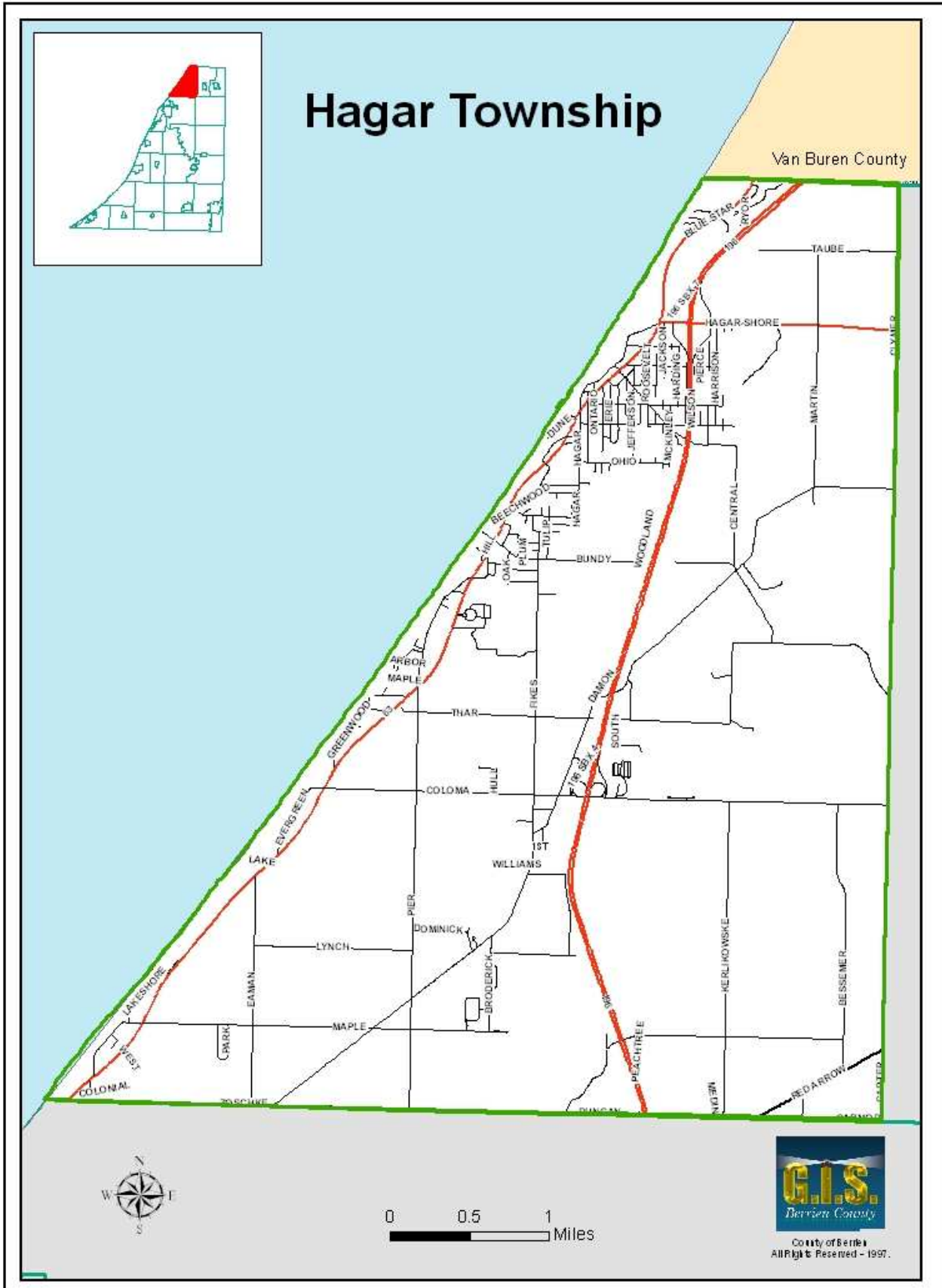
A T & T  
Residential Customers (800) 244-4444  
Business Customers (800) 660-3000

## Gas

Michigan Gas Utilities  
1-800-778-3802

## Electric

American Electric Power Company  
(800) 311-6424



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.