

# Village of Baroda

## History

The history of the community goes back to the 1830's when the first settlers arrived and began clearing the land, draining the swamps, and building homes and farms.

The founder of Baroda was Michael Houser, a man of exceptional generosity and civic-mindedness. Houser had always dreamed of building a town, so he bargained with the railroad to put a station on his land. Houser then platted a town and sold lots on very generous terms. He offered a free lot to every person who would build a store or other building worth \$500. Houser sold lots for homes for \$35. He was not looking for personal glory and did not want the town named after him. Houser chose the name Baroda after a city in western India, 400 kilometers north of Bombay. Baroda has no memorial to Michael Houser, not even a photograph, but his generous spirit had a major impact on the community he founded. The Village of Baroda was incorporated in 1907.

Because the surrounding area was already well settled, the railroad well utilized, and the founder generous, the Village of Baroda experienced a quick start. It grew rapidly and competition began to form between the Village and the nearby town of Bridgman.

However, the world was changing. In 1958 Michigan Central Railroad, which had never been profitable, closed. Highways bypassed the area and Baroda became another small town destined for decline. The villagers rallied and found another avenue for economic growth. Rather than struggle for commercial development, they made the Village of Baroda a haven for the tool and die industry. Because of this encouragement the Village had the highest concentration of tool and die industries per capita within the State of Michigan for many years.

Kathleen Shafer, a writer of Baroda history, believes the hard times may have been the reason for its enduring community spirit. "We are unpretentious now, with no delusions of grandeur. We have a heritage of hard work begun by the early pioneers and continued by later immigrants. We have a tradition of generosity and a welcoming attitude toward newcomers. We also have created a climate of welcome for new industries through tax breaks, and a number of small businesses have begun here in the last ten or fifteen years. Baroda has a tradition of good government, unmarred by infighting and personal ambition. Baroda also has a tradition of good times. From the first dance in November 1889, through Centennial Week celebrations of 1990, to the present day, Baroda has shown that it knows how to celebrate."

## Observations

The Village of Baroda has captured the soul of rural living in Berrien County, with grain and fruit farmers predominate. It is located in the Chicago-Detroit corridor, amidst rolling hills and a few small lakes. Baroda's residents clearly enjoy their village's quality of life.

The Village has a very good school district and is proud to have its own municipal water and sewer facilities. The crime rate is very low. The refreshing waters of Lake Michigan are only a few miles away. The Village also welcomes new, light industries and commercial entrepreneurs who recognize the value of participating in the quality of life offered by this friendly, rural community.

As in many such small communities, the local restaurants or bar often functions as a meeting place for its residents. Baroda does not have a community center as such, but with new commercial businesses coming in, things are changing.

The reason is simple: the villagers do not provide a sufficiently large market for entrepreneurs to succeed in regular businesses such as groceries. Specialty stores or restaurants experience more success as customers are drawn from a larger area.

For those who enjoy the quiet and the outdoors, Baroda truly is "Casual Country Charm".

## Community Vision

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

- A. Increase industrial and residential development.
- B. Increase commercial/retail business.
- C. Repair one or two roads every year.
- D. First Street Streetscape Project (April 2011).

## 5 Year Recreation Plan (2008)

The 2008 Recreational Plan calls for several upgrades to the Park. So far, there has been the installation of additional lighting around the park and electricity to the west side of the park that showcases the gazebo. Additional sidewalk space has been added to allow greater mobility to handicapped persons, along with the installation of new picnic tables, grills and benches throughout the park. There are now also two new pieces of playground equipment that are enjoyed by children of all ages. The last item to be completed is upgrading the pavilion with vinyl siding.

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

### Population

1980 Census	627	
1990 Census	657	4.78 % increase
2000 Census	858	30.00 % increase
2009 Census Estimate	877	2.21 % increase

### Personal Income

Median Family	\$39,821
Average per Capita	\$21,501
Median Household	\$38,567

### Labor Force

Total Work Force	521
Unemployment Rate	5.0 %

### Principal Economic Base Employers - Manufacturing

Tigmaster  
Quality Mold & Engineering  
Select Tool & Die

### Housing

Number of Dwellings	434
Owner Occupied	302
Renter Occupied	117
Median Rent	\$702
Median Home Value	\$100,700

### Building Permits - 2010

	Number Issued	Dollar Amount
Residential	1	\$150,000.00
Commercial	7	\$140,000.00
Other	7	\$85,900.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>\$375,900.00</b>



# Government

## Municipal Hall

Baroda Village Hall  
9091 First Street  
P.O. Box 54  
Baroda, MI 49101  
Phone: (269) 422-1779  
Fax: (269) 422-2990  
www.barodavillage.org

## Council Meetings

Board Meetings: First Monday of Each Month at 6:30 p.m.

## County Commissioner

Dave Pagel  
(District 9)  
3221 E. Shawnee Road  
Berrien Springs, MI 49103  
Phone: (269) 471-7398  
davepagel@msn.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

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

# Public Services

## Police

Chief of Police: Gary Ruhl  
Phone: (269) 422-1344  
Fax: (269) 422-2407  
Sworn Officers - Full Time: 4  
Sworn Officers - Part Time: 13  
Civilian Employees: 1  
Number of Cars: 4

## Fire

Fire Chief: Larry Klug  
Phone: (269) 422-1753  
Number of Stations: 1  
Professional Firemen: 0  
Part-Time Paid: 21  
Volunteers: 0  
Insurance Rate Class: 7

## Trash Collection

Contact: Michiana Recycling & Disposal  
Phone: (800) 722-9710  
Type: Independent  
Pick Up Day: Thursday  
Cost Per Month: 1.8913 mills taxed  
Curbside Recycling Available

## Recycling

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

## Water

Contact: Lake Charter Township Hall  
Phone: (269) 465-6601  
Source: Lake Michigan  
Usage: 6,000 GPD

## Sewer

Contact: Baroda WWSL  
(269) 422-1828, Leonard Krone  
System Type: Lagoon System  
Capacity: 25,000,000 GPD

## 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

# Education

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

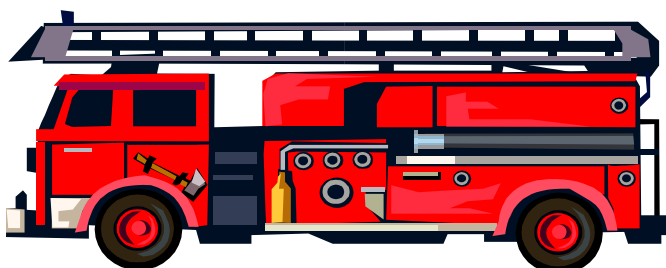
Lakeshore Public Schools  
5771 Cleveland Avenue  
Stevensville MI 49127  
Phone: (269) 428-1400  
Enrollment: 2,890



UpHill Climb - Music in the Park



Village Park



# 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	9.9000
Special Voted	0.0000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>17.3577</b>

## School Taxes (Berrien RESA)

State Education Tax	6.0000
Non-Homestead (Business)	8.3760
Extra Voted Building & Site	1.4971
Debt Retirement	3.2000
Berrien RESA	0.1745
Special Education	2.1954

## Subtotals

<b>Homestead</b>	<b>13.0670</b>
<b>Non-Homestead (Business)</b>	<b>31.0670</b>

## Lakeshore



Barodafest Parade

# 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	



# Economic Development

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



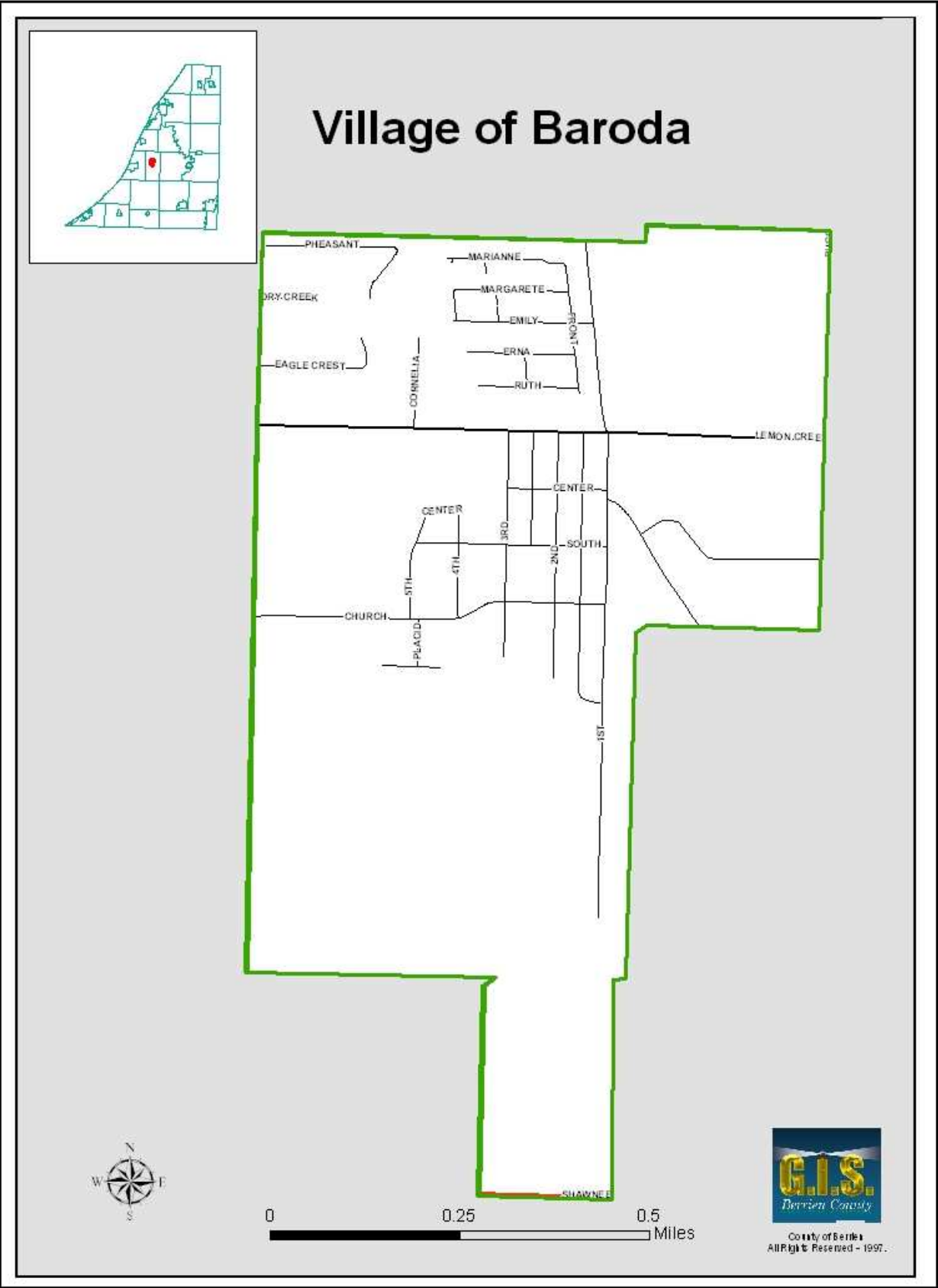
Safety Day in Baroda



Memorial Day Service at Ruggles Cemetary



First Street Planters



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.