



BROOKLYN-IRISH HILLS GUIDE FOR VISITORS

2007

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BROOKLYN-IRISH HILLS AREA “WE HAVE IT ALL”

BROOKLYN-IRISH HILLS AREA

Whether you are a full-time resident or just visiting for a while, you have found “your” home with us here in the Brooklyn-Irish Hills area. The Village of Brooklyn is one mile square with a population of 1176 people. The whole Brooklyn mailing area has 5264 addresses. The Irish Hills area, including Brooklyn & Clark Lake, lies within the townships of Columbia, Cambridge, Norvell and Woodstock and includes portions of Franklin Township. There are three villages within the area, Brooklyn, Onsted and Cement City. It is connected with or in close proximity to several primary trunk lines: M-50 connects the area to Jackson and Monroe, while US-12 creates a link to Ann Arbor to the northeast and Coldwater (Chicago) to the west. I-94, I-96, US-127 and US-223 are all accessible from the Brooklyn-Irish Hills area.

BROOKLYN-IRISH HILLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Chamber is an organization composed of Business and Professional men and women who invest their time and money in a development program for the entire community. It strives to improve the economic, social, cultural, commercial, industrial and civic well-being of the Brooklyn Irish Hills area.

Our main purpose is to promote business, growth and development. The Chamber of Commerce enables business and professional people to accomplish collectively what no one could or would be able to do individually. It gives us a voice in civic affairs and government and provides a united effort to improve the overall well-being of the community.



VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN

The Village of Brooklyn was settled in 1832 by Elder Calvin Swain and his sons. The Village is nestled in the heart of the Irish Hills area in a fertile valley surrounded by 52 lakes. Brooklyn is located on M-50, two miles north of US-12. For more than 150 years, this area has been the home of descendants of the hardy New England pioneers who migrated from New Hampshire, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Vermont to establish homes in the great Northwest Territory. During the last 50 years, people from all areas have moved to the area establishing businesses and making their permanent homes here. Brooklyn has experienced the largest commercial growth of any village nearby and continues to grow at a rapid rate with businesses numbering over 300.

ONSTED HISTORY

The Village of Onsted was settled in 1883. There are over 50 business firms located within a two mile radius of the village. Twenty-two of those are retail firms. Onsted is located approximately three miles south of M-50, 4 1/2 miles south of US-12 on Onsted Highway between M-50 and US-223. Loch Erin is a man-made lake with eleven miles of shoreline. It is only one mile east of Onsted located in Cambridge Township.

CEMENT CITY HISTORY

The earliest recorded settler in what is now Cement City was Cornelius Millspaw in 1829. Churches and a store were built and in 1888 the town became known as Woodstock. When the cement plant came to town (1900), the name was changed to Cement City and the town boomed with several businesses, two hotels, one apartment house, two grocery stores, a saloon, two butcher shops, a barber shop, a grist mill, Oddfellows hall, a grange hall, a township hall and bank. The Village of Cement City incorporated in 1953. When the cement plant left in 1961, Cement City returned to being a quiet little community.

CLARK LAKE HISTORY

Clark Lake was surveyed & named by Robert Clark Jr. and was part of Lenawee County until Jackson County was erected in 1829. Clark Lake was located in Grass Lake Township 1832-1833, then in Napoleon from 1833-1839 and finally Columbia Township in 1839. The first family settlement of George Stranaham was 1834. The first railroad in 1896 at Clark Lake signaled a new era of vacation life at Clark Lake.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

The Columbia School District includes:
Columbia Central High School, Columbia Middle School, Brooklyn Elementary, Miller Elementary and Columbia Community Education.
Onsted School District includes: Onsted High School, Middle School, and Elementary School.
Private and Parochial Schools are available in Adrian and Jackson.

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Jackson Community College is located 13 miles west and Baker College is 20 miles northwest of Brooklyn.
Spring Arbor University is 20 miles west.
Adrian College and Siena Heights College are located in Adrian 25 miles away.
The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor is 35 miles away.
Michigan State University in East Lansing is 50 miles away.
Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti is 40 miles away.

RECREATION

Parks: Village of Brooklyn, Village of Onsted, Clarklake County Park, Vineyard Lake County Park, Columbia Twp. Parks in Brooklyn and Clark Lake.
Lakes: 52 within 15 minutes of Brooklyn
Golf Courses: 4 within 5 minutes
Campgrounds: 5 within 10 minutes
Tennis courts: 6 at Columbia Central High School
Baseball/softball: 13 fields in Brooklyn and Clark Lake

AVERAGE CLIMATE

Warmest month: July 85.2 F
Coldest month: January 32.8 F
Approx. days over 90 degrees: 20
Approx. days under 0 degrees: 5
Growing Season: 148 days
Average Annual Precipitation: Rain 31.03", Snow 36.7"
Altitude: 995 feet above sea level

TRAFFIC PATTERNS (1999)

Village on M-50	8300
On M-124 east of Brooklyn	4800
US-12 at M-50 intersection	6700
US-12 at M-124 intersection	6800
US-12 at M-52 intersection	7600
US-12 at Clinton east	13800
East on M-50 from US-12	6600
M-50 at M-52 intersection	9200
US-223 towards Adrian	9900
US-127 north of US-12	16200

MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Columbia School District
Brooklyn Products
Country Market
Onsted School District

AREA ECONOMIC BASE

The Brooklyn-Irish Hills area has a strong and diverse economic base. A good mix of manufacturing and government jobs exist. The manufacturing sector is not solely tied to any one industry. Above average growth has been experienced in the village and area for several years and many professional, commercial, service and retail firms have opened. Non-manufacturing is the largest employer for the area. There are 850 full-time and 750 part-time jobs available in many different types of professional and retail activities. The Columbia School District, the Onsted School District and villages and townships in the area employ over 400 people.

TOURIST ECONOMY

The Irish Hills area has been a recreational destination for travelers since the late 1800's. The many lakes in the area have provided summer water sports activities, winter skating and cross-country skiing as well as hunting and fishing. The establishment of recreational businesses along US-12 in the mid 1960's and construction of Michigan International Speedway in 1969 boosted the area's tourist economy. The Irish Hills area hosts over one million visitors annually. One of the Brooklyn-Irish Hills Chamber of Commerce' purposes is to promote tourism in the Brooklyn-Irish Hills area. There are one million potential customers for the recreation industry within a 60-mile radius of the Irish Hills area.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

POPULATION...2000 Census

Village of Brooklyn	1176
Cement City	452
Village of Onsted	800
Napoleon Township	6962
Columbia Township	7234
Cambridge Township	4429
Norvell Township	2922
Woodstock Township	3155
Jackson County	158,422
Lenawee County	91,476
Hillsdale County	43,431
Washtenaw County	282,937

COMMERCIAL SERVICES AVAILABLE

Machine Shops Newspapers: The Exponent (weekly)
Tool & Die Service Citizen Patriot (daily)
Accounting The Salesman (weekly)
Legal
Print Shops
Travel Services Radio: Adrian, Jackson & Lansing stations
Hotels: Brooklyn, Adrian & Jackson area
Motels: Brooklyn, Adrian, Jackson and Irish Hills area
Bed & Breakfasts: Brooklyn, Irish Hills & Clark Lake

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD VALUE

Village of Brooklyn	\$50,100
Cement City	\$31,500
Columbia Township	\$70,700
Liberty Township	\$63,500
Jackson County	\$47,900
Michigan	\$60,600
United States	\$79,100

UTILITIES

Electric: Consumers Power Company
Natural Gas: Consumers Power Company
Telephone: Frontier Communications & SBC
Sewers: Village of Brooklyn & Clark Lake
Village of Onsted & Loch Erin

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Onsted State Bank in Brooklyn, Onsted and Clark Lake
Citizens Bank in Brooklyn and Jackson
Comerica Bank in Brooklyn, Napoleon & Jackson
Flagstar Bank in Brooklyn, Napoleon & Jackson
Standard Federal Bank in Brooklyn
American 1 Federal Credit Union in Brooklyn
CP Federal Credit Union

TRANSPORTATION

Major Highways: M-50 & M-124, US-12 at edge of
Brooklyn US-127 west of Brooklyn

Shipping and Receiving: UPS and US Postal and trucking
Door to Door Transportation - Private Transport Service
Airports: Shamrock Airport in Brooklyn
Napoleon Airport in Napoleon
Onsted Airport in Onsted
Reynolds Airport in Jackson
Detroit Metro in Romulus (Detroit)
Willow Run Airport (Detroit)

MEDICAL FACILITIES

Brooklyn: Columbia Rescue
3 Clinics
3 Dentists
2 Optometrists
4 Chiropractors
1 Med Plus-After Hours Clinic
Jackson: Foote Hospital

COMMUNITY LIVING

Village of Brooklyn: 500 dwellings; plus apartments
Village of Onsted: 300 dwellings; plus apartments
Columbia Township: 3500 dwellings; plus rentals
Cambridge Township: 3900 dwellings
Norvell Township: 1500 dwellings
Jackson County: 67,600 households