



Tama County, Iowa
Economic Development

Garwin, Iowa

The story of Garwin...

Garwin owes its existence to the fact that in 1879, at the county seat in Toledo, which is southeast of Garwin's location, the Toledo and Northwestern Railroad was sold to the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. After the sale, the line was extended northwestward from Toledo. Other towns sprang up along the tracks, but Garwin was the first station beyond Toledo.

There was difficulty in giving the townsite a name. The first name chosen was Maple, or some say, Myrtle. Neither was an overwhelming favorite. The next choice was Marvin in honor of Marvin Hewitt, an official of the Northwestern railroad, but another town already bore that name. When the site was being considered, several landowners were interested in selling their land for that purpose, among them being George Rider and John Galvizer. After much controversy, these two men won out and a message was sent to Toledo: "G (for Galvizer) and R (for Rider) win". This was construed to be Garwin and the town had its name.



Location: Garwin is located in east central Iowa at the intersection of county road T47 and county road E27. Garwin is 6 miles west of U.S. highway 63 and 7 miles north of U.S. highway 30.

Population: 549 (2005).

Per Capita Income: \$16,660 (2000); county average \$24,112 (2002); state average, \$28,089 (2002); median household income \$38,269 (2000).

Geography/Climate: Gently rolling mid-continent farmlands. Four \ seasons. A few brittle cold winter days may not rise above zero; a few sultry summer days may reach high 90's. July average temperature is 72, January average temperature is 14. Precipitation averages: 35 inches of rain, 32 inches of snow.

Employment: Corn, soybeans, cattle, & hogs anchor the agricultural economy. Larger payrolls: GMG Middle & High School; Pronto Convenience Store.

Financial Institutions: 1 commercial bank: Lincoln Savings Bank has 12 statewide locations with total deposits of \$325,219,000.

Newspaper: Northern Sun Print, published Fridays. One-year subscription: \$39.00. Other regional newspapers: Des Moines Register, Cedar Rapids Gazette, Waterloo Courier, El Heraldo Hispano.



Communications: Local Public Access, Cable and broadband available via Mediacom. Phone service and High Speed DSL internet via IowaTelecom.

Utilities: Alliant Energy provides electric service and natural gas for residents of Garwin. Alliant offers a rebate for customers who build an energy-efficient home. Water & sewer are provided by the City of Garwin.

Health Care: Nearest medical clinic is in Gladbrook, 7 miles away.

Schools: Green Mountain-Garwin Community School District enrollment of 457; 10.6 students per teacher, \$6,906 spending per student. State ACT average 22; SAT average 1204, graduation rate 89.4%.

Educational Level: 4% of Garwin residents have an associate's degree; 4% have a bachelor's degree; 1% have a graduate or professional degree.

Library: Garwin Public Library has 8,457 books & serial volumes, 2 public internet terminal, total circulation of 6,856. Circulation of children's materials: N/A, children's program attendance: N/A.

Recreation: 1 city park. Swimming, fishing, boating, camping at Union Grove State Park, south of Garwin.

Housing: Median value of housing units in Tama County (2000) is \$64,200; median gross rent of units in Tama County (2000) is \$418. Garwin offers free water hook-up and six months free water for new construction.

Taxes: State sales tax rate is 5% plus Garwin's local option sales tax is 1% and school infrastructure local option tax is 1% for a total sales tax rate of 7% in Garwin. State income tax rates range from 0.36% to 8.98% plus a base rate.

Churches: Methodist, Catholic.

Further Information:

City Clerk's Office

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Garwin Redevelopment Corporation

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Tama County Economic Development

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