



REPUBLIC TOWNSHIP NEWS  
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Marilyn Gary Tina  
Carol *MERRY CHRISTMAS* Tom

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On Sept. 18, 2013 Wilho Ritola and Norman Martti along with their sons George and Brian acting as their guardians were given a very memorable trip of a life time, going to Washington DC on the Honor Flight.

The Honor Flight is a tribute to all World War II Vets. This is an opportunity to go to Washington DC at no cost to the vets. It is funded by donations.

They left Escanaba and an hour and a half later they landed at Reagan Airport. They were greeted by lots of well-wishers.

They first went to the World War II Memorial, which is dedicated to all WW II Vets. Then they were off on a little bus tour of Washington DC seeing the White House, Capital Building, Pentagon and most of the department buildings. Next stop was the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and on to the Air Force Memorial.

With the help from a very generous donation from Republic Community Service and Youth Group this was made possible for the guardians to go.

There were 76 Vets who went and they all had a very good time. This was the fifth Honor Flight.

The next Honor Flight is going to be the spring of 2014.

Contributed by Gayle Ritola.



### Treasurers Corner

Wishing everyone a Happy Holiday Season!

Beginning December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 it is winter tax season. A couple reminders: receipts are only sent if a self-addressed stamped envelope is included with payment, and I accept installment payments on your tax bill. Beginning February 15<sup>th</sup> a 3% penalty is added to the bill. Bills are due in my office until February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014. After that date all bills are due at the Marquette County Treasurers office. However, I continue to collect delinquent personal property taxes.

There seems to be some "mass" confusion as to the water bills. Republic Township utilities are a "flat rate" system. Thus far no one has been billed for using the water; it is for the operating and maintenance of the system. No household on the water system will be experiencing an increase of the rates at this time. No one should have had the water operating and maintenance charge removed from their bill in the past, even though they requested their water be turned off. At this time there are 55 households with their water off. That is a revenue of 55 x \$25.50 each month. If we were to continue removing the O&M charge that would be a tremendous loss in revenue. In accordance with the USDA we have to continue to bill the water flat rate fees. Any water customer with special circumstances or a grievance is asked to please submit a letter in writing to the township board explaining why they should be exempt from being billed the flat rate fee. We are working towards an answer to make everything fair.

Please contact my office with any comments or questions. I am more than willing to explain things to the best of my ability. I realize that this has upset many people. However, we have to come to a conclusion that is fair without raising rates for those that keep their water on year round.

Thank You,  
Kristina Koski

### Republic Recreation Committee/School Lake Campground

The updated scores came in for the grant for the School Lake campground. We raised our score to number 10 on the funding list.

We've been notified that the School Lake Camp ground grant has been funded. We will receive the \$172,200 grant to build the campground.

Courtesy of Bill Sanders, PE.

### **REPUBLIC PHONE BOOK(376) UPDATE**

The Republic Area Historical Society is in the process of updating the Republic (Area Code 906) Phone Book at this time with the goal of having it ready for publication after the holidays in the month of January.

As many individuals no longer maintain a land line but instead make use of a cell phone, the option is being made available to have this listed in the directory if you so desire. A sign-up box is available in the vestibule of the Republic Twp. Hall or you may call 906/376-2345(M. Rankinen) to be listed. All information will be verified with you before printing.

Thank you,  
Marcy



**Answers cure water issue heartburn**

The Twp. Board could watch light bulbs go on in the eyes of the audience at the Nov. 21st meeting when they were told that the water rate increase issue was only about those buildings that were not paying water bills. Lots of people came to the meeting all wound up for nothing.

The regular water user is already paying a water maintenance charge. It's the \$25. fee on the bill. Users also pay an extra \$11 for water use. The Board was asking the public what was a fair method to charge those who—for whatever reason—have the water turned off in a house they own that's on the water system.

All houses on the system do have the water available whether it is turned on or not. Someone has to pay to keep that system running and by law it must only be the parcels that can be serviced by the system.

Should we increase the rates for everyone—even those already paying the maintenance fee—so that those who don't have the water on shouldn't have to pay? What is fair?

*What happened?* We didn't catch the math mix-up because we were transferring the books during the second quarter of the fiscal year to a more streamlined accounting method the auditor recommended. USDA did their math with our third quarter report and said we were going to run about \$4,000 in the red if we didn't collect the water maintenance fee from everyone, even the empty houses & stores.

In a year or less the water meter billing will go into use. That will have a water system maintenance charge that every

house/store will have to pay whether the water is on or off. But that is next year, not now.

At a special Board Meeting on December 3rd, the Board voted the following actions to take effect January 1, 2014:

- There will be no fee change for current water users.
- The water maintenance fee shall be enforced every month on all buildings not previously billed, except two structures on the water system. This includes Churches and Non-Profits. The two temporarily exempt parcels are vandalized, and will have a time period for repair.
- Vacant lots currently being charged will be removed from the billing system.
- Owners whose bills are up to date will received free water turn-offs and turn-ons for vacations, etc.
- Owners whose bills are overdue will not be exempted from turn-off/turn-on fees, and the monthly maintenance charge will continue to run.
- Beginning January 1, 2014, utility bills will be in the name of the property owner, not renters. It is recommended that the landlords give their renters notice.

The Board expects that the additional income from the buildings that hadn't been paying the maintenance fee until now, will take care of the deficit.

The Board will meet again in Feb. or March, to verify the numbers, and make any other adjustments needed.



The Red Hat Club visited the Lions Club Pie social Wednesday September 2nd, 2013.

**St. Augustine:**

St. Augustine Church will host the Seed Sowers on Sunday, December 15th at 2 P.M. Their concert is entitled "Journey of Hope, The Birth of the Savior". A free will offering will be taken which will be given to local families in need in Marquette County.

*St. Augustine Parish will celebrate its' Christmas eve Mass on December 24th at 4 P.M. All visitors are greatly welcomed.*



Mark your calendar for the next pasty sale January 11, 2014.

**Bethany Lutheran Christmas Eve Worship**

December 24, 2012

5:00 & 7:00 pm Candle Light Services

*Come and celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ our Savior.*

Bethany Sunday School Christmas Play  
Sunday, December 16th at 10:30 am Worship,  
"The Twelve Days of Christmas"

Please come to enjoy this special time of the year with our children

**St Vincent DePaul Corner**

As we look forward to the holidays, our hearts at SVDP are full with gratitude to all of you who have helped to make this one of our most successful years ever. Now remember, SVDP does not measure its success by our bank statements!! Our measurement of success comes by the amount of times a donation was given by you allowing us to pass this generosity on to our friends in need.

Our holiday open house was a huge success, not to mention a world of fun!!

Thank you to everyone, individually and as a group, who "adopted" a family for Christmas, which will assure for a wonderful Christmas that will bring smiles to the children and adults as well.

We take this opportunity to wish everyone a very blessed Christmas.

Watch for changes coming to our store starting in January.



**Republic Community**

The Republic Lions Club has sincerely appreciated your continuing support of our fundraising events this year. You help us to serve others. We want you to know that the January 2014 Pie Social will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 10-2, because the first Wednesday is New Years Day. See you on January 8.

We will also be picking up Christmas trees on Saturday, January 4, 2014. Please put any trees by the road if you want them picked up.



**REPUBLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Saturday Dec. 14th.

1:00 to 3:00

RM School

Games and prizes for children 12 and under

Public is welcome

50/50

Donations of cakes & bakery items are always appreciated for the cake walk

**MICHIGAMME RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY DRAFT MINUTES**  
**November 13, 2013**

Meeting was **called to order** at 5:58 p.m. by the Chairperson, Norine.

The record will show that Chair, Norine M., John J., Laura M., and secretary Gary J. were in attendance, for a quorum. Absent were Chuck H., Todd R., & Tina A.

**The agenda was approved** after a motion by John J., supported by Gary J. Unanimously carried.

**The minutes were approved** after a motion by John J., supported by Norine M., unanimously carried.

The **treasurer** has had no transactions or changes to the previously provided records.

There were **no Committee reports**.

**New Business: Dam Grant**

John Kraft attended the meeting, and reviewed the current grant application. Pointed out pages two and three of the grant application, which required a detailed plan included sketches and a firm budget for the work, which the Authority did not have. Second, he pointed out that the grant required local match, the larger the better. Third, and most important, was the difficulty of application within the criteria that the dam grant people had put for guidelines for this year's application. This application did not fit into any of the eligible projects which include removal of dams which had no economic purpose, and \*repair/maintenance of dams which have an imminent public safety issue, and are deemed of unsatisfactory condition by the DEQ Dam Safety Program, or are under DEQ order. (*The Republic Dam has passed all safety inspections, and the rock crib dam is not listed as a water retention structure, right now*) John J. asked the question, "**so it would be a waste of time to apply right now?**". "Yes".

**The Authority moved to not apply for the grant, on a motion by Norine M, supported by Laura M. Unanimously carried.**

The Authority then discussed a suggestion by George Kiiskila, PE, dam expert for UPEA. **He suggested building a much more simple structure using concrete highway lane barriers to set the water level at the height needed** in the center of the repaired current rock dam structure, and slightly higher rock used for the remainder of the retention system, with the entire upstream face covered with lagoon fabric - and the entire structure covered with rock. The rock would also be used heavily on both sides of the concrete barriers, with a tapered channel layer downstream, which would allow fish passage similar to regular river rapids. Using the concrete barriers would set a much more permanent historic water level edge, and would save maintenance in the future - which the Michigamme Lake dam has needed. This structure could be built mostly with volunteer and donated labor, taking into consideration the limited funds the TIFA will generate.

**The Authority by consensus established a committee with Board Member Laura M., and two non-board members, to work on a repair permit for the existing 1880's rock crib dam from the Department of Natural Resources, Dam Section.** This will help the Authority define the limits the DNR will allow, and tell the Authority where help is needed.

When asked, John Kraft agreed to help the Authority in any portion of the successive grant application he could. John did suggest that the work committee check how long it takes for the permit to be approved, and how long it would be good for. If the Authority did a lot of the work in house, the Authority would have to be sure to fit the work into the permit time allowed.

The authority also discussed the possibility of involvement of the basin river frontage property owners. They are the ones that will benefit the most from the structure.

The Chair asked for **Public Comment**. There was none.

Motion by John J., supported by Norine M., to **adjourn** at 6:45. Carried.

A PLACE FOR ALL  
SEASONS

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#### 'Twas commotion & chaos

'Twas a week before Christmas  
and oh how I struggle  
with so much to do  
and no time to juggle

Cards to be sent  
and letters to write  
burning the candle  
way into the night.

There's sewing pajamas  
for Susie's best doll  
and finishing touches  
on Grandma's white shawl.

The bike in the package  
Still needs a wrench—  
the one out of reach  
behind the workbench.

The shopping is done,  
I wish I could say,  
but that's a task  
for some other day.

The tree isn't trimmed  
as our family had planned,  
to make matters worse  
I can't find the stand.

Three days before Christmas  
and oh what a hassle,  
No baking is done,  
no gift has a tassel.

But we're off to see Santa  
to fight through the throng,  
only to find out  
what I purchased was wrong.

The last days zip by  
Like you wouldn't believe  
I frantically race toward  
the goal to achieve.

And the night before Christmas  
this is the scene:  
I'm calm and collected,  
you might say serene

The house is in order  
Even Santa won't guess  
that one week ago  
It was simply a mess.

There's food in abundance  
and gifts piled high.  
Kids snuggled in bed  
Their thoughts in the sky.

A pause in their doorway  
I take one last look,  
Deciding it's worth  
the effort it took.

Then I turn my eyes upward  
and utter a prayer  
"Lord, give me the strength  
to repeat this next year"

Story by Betty Stearns. Gilmore City,  
Iowa./Country magazine.com/humor