

REPUBLIC TOWNSHIP NEWS  
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Marilyn  
Terry

Gary  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Tina  
Tom



**FIX THE FLUSHER, GRANT OR CASH?**

Volume 1 Issue 25	
December 2014 issue	
<b>Inside this issue:</b>	
Treas. Corner The Giving Vine Sweet Dreams project Pasty sale Lions Club ThankU	2
Engineers report on sewer system grant	3 / 6
Church X-mas sched. Organizations info.	7
	8

Our sewer system is starting to fall apart. With a scheduled life expectancy of 20 years, ours is 10 years beyond that, and corrosion is showing all through the system. When a lift station pump falls off the pitless adaptor, things are getting bad. (picture below)

We've been trying to keep rates as low as possible, but have reached the point where we have had to call in companies with special equipment to pull corroded pipes apart and replace lift station pumps, had to have electronic service panel work done both at the sewer plant building and the North Republic main lift station, among other work. These costs have driven us over budget, and we had to implement an "emergency" \$3.00 per month rate increase to pay for the repairs. We have an \$11,500 pump repair pending at the Riverside Drive lift station to fix that picture below that we have to pay for.

The Township Board was finally given permission by Rural Development to begin applying for a sewer upgrade grant. Based on income level data provided by the grant agency, Rural Development, it appeared that a very substantial rate increase was going to be needed, to qualify for the grant. While those numbers are being reviewed and may be able to be modified by a sewer user survey, the Township Board wants to inform and hear from the users.

We will be holding an informational public meeting for the public, and the sewer customers some time early January. We will notify each sewer customer by direct mail, and would like them to attend to hear all of the facts.

At issue is, do the affected users want to apply for a grant, which will pay 75% to 80% of the repairs, with a modest monthly rate increase, or do the users want to pay for the repairs as they happen, realizing that repairs may be "catastrophic" meaning the system may be shut down and emergency repairs done, with time probably not allowing bidding. For example, if the electronics go out again in the main lift station in North Republic, people may not be able to use their toilets until the problem is fixed. If a repair as you go system is desired, a sizeable cash fund will have to be built up, to prepare for this.



**Please read the enclosed report starting on page 3 so you have the factual information.**

**REPUBLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY is hosting: ELDEN'S TRUE ARMY TALES**

The service letters of Republic MI's **PC ELDEN E. GJERS** with commentary & additional Material by Loraine Koski  
Program 2:00 p.m. Saturday December 6th. At Bethany Lutheran Church fellowship Hall, South Republic. Back entrance is barrier free

Lorraine's book will be for sale.

The 2015 RAHS Calendar will be available for \$10.00. It features photos & information on the Republic WW all Vets who died in action.

Coffee and refreshments after the program. Free will donations accepted.



TREASURER'S CORNER

Wishing you all a joyous Holiday season!

The Winter tax bills will be sent out December 1st, 2014. A reminder to those still owing on your summer tax bill! Please contact the township office prior to submitting your payment so the proper interest is included. A receipt for payment of taxes will be mailed if a SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) is included with the full payment. If monies are still owed on a tax bill once payment is received, no SASE is necessary.

Any questions please don't hesitate to contact the township office from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

Thank you!

Kristina Koski

To All Republic Residents:

**Republic Lions Club** sends out a huge Thank you for your continued support of the monthly Pie Social and for selling and buying Yooper bars. Your loyalty helps us to provide vision and hearing services to our community. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a successful and Happy New Year.



The St. Augustine Pasty Sale for January will be held on Saturday January 10, 2015 from 10:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

Park City Art Gallery will now be known as Park City Art Gallery and Craft Center.

*"I am the Vine If you are the Branches."*

**Please help the Giving Vine for Christmas**

**We are looking for families, individuals or groups of people to be one of those branches. In doing so you would purchase some Christmas presents for a needy family. We will provide a "want list" of gifts.**

**If you have any questions, please contact Carol Kellow at St. Vincent de Paul, Phone 906.376-2276**

*Please share the Giving Spirit this Christmas*



**SWEET DREAMS PILLOWCASE PROJECT.**



Do you sew? Would you like to make someone a little happier this Christmas?

Looking for people to make/sew pillowcases which will be included in the St.

Vincent de Paul Christmas baskets.

In addition, if you don't sew we are looking for donations of new bed pillows to be given with the pillowcases.

**DEADLINE: DECEMBER 6TH.**

You can drop off your pillowcases/pillows with Tammy Mattson (376-8143), Kim Isaacson (376-2168), at St. Vincent de Paul store or True Value.

Let's make our pillowcases with love, sew them with hope, donate them with prayer

And deliver them with a smile.





**REPUBLIC TOWNSHIP  
SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS  
11/13/14**

**Project Description/Need**

The Republic Township sewer system was constructed in the early 1980's. Overall the system consists of a collection system, lift stations, and an equalization basin treatment facility. The infrastructure is 30 years old and several portions are in need of repair, replacement and upgrading. The current state of the infrastructure is typical for a smaller rural wastewater system where the small customer base is spread out; there is a small maintenance staff, and the original operating budget (and thus rates) was not necessarily set up to include major replacement or upgrade work.

UPEA looked at the system overall and has come up with a project scope based on known component deficiencies and a list of additional required work items and equipment.

**Known needs:**

- Replace lift stations and grinder stations as they are at the end of their service life (7 stations)
- Replace remaining valves at treatment site (existing valves are inoperable)
- Replace lagoon manhole lids and hatches (where necessary due to damage and wear)
- Remove Sludge from lagoon #1 at treatment site (lagoon sludge accumulation taking up space and reducing treatment effectiveness)

**Additional needs: (as budget allows and by future phases)**

- Evergreen Street sewer upgrades
- Vector Dump Pad
- Inspect and seal manholes against infiltration
- Replace severely deteriorated manholes
- Install additional manhole (Identified need on Cedar Street)
- Line (CIPP) leaking sewers
- Limited replacement of damaged sewer pipe

The income numbers for this study have been provided by Rural Development, the grant agency. They are the basis for the customer rate projections and are based on the average income for the entire township, including rural residents.

The rates for this study COULD be significantly changed by doing an income study on the sewer users alone.

Further, the scope of this project is subject to change, both adding additional areas, changing areas or deleting areas— similar to our having to modify the water project because of increased material costs, which limited the amount we could do. 2008 estimated water construction costs did not equate to 2012 construction costs & 2014 projections may not cover 2016 costs. We will have to prioritize levels of need.

Editor.





**Project Cost**

The Engineers Opinion of Cost for the proposal scope of work is:

**ENGINEER'S OPINION OF COST**

	ITEM	QTY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1	MOBILIZATION	1	LS	-	-
2	12" LAGOON VALVE REPAIR	4	EA	7,500.00	30,000.00
3	16" LAGOON VALVE REPAIR	3	EA	7,500.00	22,500.00
4	REPLACE LAGOON STRUCTURE HATCHES	6	EA	2,000.00	12,000.00
5	LAGOON SLUDGE REMOVAL	2000000	GAL	0.12	240,000.00
6	LIFT STATION REPLACEMENT	4	EA	90,000.00	360,000.00
7	LIFT STATION MAIN REPLACEMENT	2	EA	120,000.00	240,000.00
8	GRINDER STATION REPLACEMENT	1	EA	15,000.00	15,000.00
11	CIPP LINING	3000	LF	40.00	120,000.00
<b>Base Estimate Subtotal</b>					<b>1,039,500.00</b>
<b>Additive Alternate Work, if budget allows.</b>					
9	EVERGREEN STREET SEWER UPGRADE	1	LS	70,000	70,000
10	VECTOR PAD	1	LS	10,000	10,000
9	MANHOLE SEALING	10	EA	850.00	8,500.00
10	SEWER MAIN POINT REPAIR	5	EA	5,000.00	25,000.00
12	8" SEWER REPLACEMENT	500	EA	50.00	25,000.00
13	SANITARY MANHOLE REPLACEMENT	10	EA	5,000.00	50,000.00
14	MANHOLE LID REPLACEMENT	10	EA	2,000.00	20,000.00
15	6" GRAVEL BASE (CIP)	750	SY	6.00	4,500.00
16	12" SUBBASE (CIP)	750	SY	5.00	3,750.00
17	AGGREGATE SURFACE, 6" 23A	250	SY	6.00	1,500.00
18	2 1/2" BITUMINOUS PAVEMENT	750	SY	20.00	15,000.00
19	TURF RESTORATION*	750	SY	3.00	2,250.00
20	ROCK EXCAVATION	50	CY	100.00	5,000.00
21	FORCEMAIN VALVE REPLACEMENT	12	EA	2,000.00	24,000.00
				Subtotal	<b>244,500.00</b>
<b>TOTAL BASE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT ESTIMATE:</b>					<b>\$ 1,039,500.00</b>
				Contingency	103,950.00
				Equipment (Vector, Jetter, Backhoe 1/2)	225,000.00
				Engineering	202,962.00
				Sewer Televising	45,000.00
				Adm/Local Attorney	10,000.00
				Bond Counsel	25,000.00
<b>TOTAL PROJECT:</b>					<b>\$ 1,651,412.00</b>





**Project Budget Review**

Per the 2013/2014 sewer budget, the system income was approximately \$125,000. The system operation and maintenance expenditures were \$113,500 not including \$6,080 for construction expenditure and \$21,250 for RD revenue bond debt service. Including these costs, the total expense is \$140,833, for a system deficit of approximately \$16,000. 2014/2015 current budget also still shows a deficit.

Assuming USDA Rural Development financing at 2.5% for 40 years, on a 25% loan/75% grant funding package the loan amount of \$412,850 will have a yearly debt service of \$16,450. In addition to the debt service account must be funded at 10% of yearly debt or \$1,695 Bond Reserve, plus a "repair and replacement" (short-lived depreciation) must be included in the budget as a condition of the financing. Such a repair and replacement account would require approximately \$31,850 per year to be included in the annual budget for major repairs and equipment replacement, as follows:

**Repair and Replacement Budget**

ITEM	QTY	COST	FACTOR*	SERVICE LIFE	ANNUAL REPLACEMENT COST
Lift Stations, Main	2	\$50,000	1	20	\$5,000
Lift Stations, Intermediate	4	\$25,000	1	20	\$5,000
Lift Station Simplex Grinder	1	\$2,000	1	20	\$100
Standby Generators	6	\$35,000	1	20	\$10,500
Vactor/Jetter	1	\$150,000	1	20	\$7,500
Combination backhoe/loader	1	\$150,000	0.5	20	\$3,750
					<b>\$31,850</b>

**Project Funding**

Rural Development has indicated that they will have funding available for a project of this nature. Also, RD has indicated in an e-mail dated 10/23/14, that the Township has taken steps on their financials to allow for a sewer project funding application. The RD Funding would be in the form of a low interest loan over a 40 year payback period. Current interest rate on RD loans is 2.5%. The formula RD uses to determine loan to grant ratios is based on existing user rates compared to RD's formula for affordable rates. The RD affordable rate is determined by taking 1.5% times the Township's 2010 median house hold income (MHI). Based on Rural Development officials, the 2010 MHI income for Republic Township is \$37,130. Therefore, the RD affordable user rate is \$46.41/month. The current average monthly user rate in the Township is approximately \$33 per month. Therefore, the Township would need to increase sewer rates to \$46.41 before becoming eligible for grant dollars from RD. The increase in water rate to \$46.41 would be used for the required repair and replacement budget and remaining would be used to back into a RD loan amount.



R01-11467

**User Rate**

Assuming the Township is agreeable to an increase in water rates of \$13.41/month, the Township would be able to move forward with a \$1,651,000 project to address a large portion of the needs. See the attached summary of the Township's current water budget, along with future budget including the \$413,000 RD low interest loan and \$1,238,000 grant. Based on the anticipated schedule below, the Township would not need to fully increase rates until early spring of 2016.

**Next Steps/Schedule**

If the Township decides to move forward with a comprehensive sewer improvement project the first step is applying for financing, presumably through USDA. The funding application has about 14 parts; the two major parts are the preliminary engineering report and the environmental report. It is in the preliminary engineering report stage where the detailed project scope is developed, costs estimated, and a proposed rate schedule calculated. The entire application process takes 4-6 months, followed by waiting for USDA to obligate funds; which can take more than a year when grant funds are involved.

The cost of submitting an application is \$15,000 to \$20,000 and reimbursable from the funding package at closing. Closing occurs immediately before construction begins.

**Anticipated Schedule:**

Submit Full RD Application	April 2015
RD Offers Funding	September 2015
Design/Permitting	October 2015 – March 2016
Bidding	May 2016
Construction	Summer/Fall 2016

**Option: No Project**

If the Township elects to not proceed with a project at this time, the sewer operation can expect an increase in pump malfunctions and incidents over time, along with a corresponding increase in operation and maintenance costs to repair and replace pumps and controls. Along with increase in inflow and infiltration into the sewer system.



**REPUBLIC COMMUNITY SERVICE**

The group is a primary community organization that sponsors a host of Republic community activities.

The present Board of Directors include: Gaye Ritola, President, Tom Feldhusen, Vice President, Diane Perry Secretary, Faye Mattila, Treasurer, Carol Nicholas and Tammy Kamminen, Distress, and Donna Venn, Sunshine. Trustees are: Millie Alatalo, Patty Feldhusen, Kaye Mitchell, Dick Nicholas, Cyndi Armitage, Ethel Valenzio Mike Kolasa and Dave Allain. New members are welcome.

To contribute to the fundraising effort, mail your contribution to Republic Community Service, P.O. Box 265, Republic, MI 49879 or deposit contributions in the RCS account at TruNorth Credit Union. Contributions can also be made through payroll deductions.

Christmas Annual Party is Saturday Dec. 13, 2014 at the school from 1:00 to 3:00 Games and cake walk for 12 and under. 50/50 raffle and Chinese raffle. Pictures taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Public is welcome.

80 & older and shut in baskets will be delivered Dec 18, 2014.

**Bethany Lutheran Church, South Republic**

Rev. Kevin Kaiser

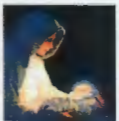
Women's Ecumenical Christmas Dinner is December 7<sup>th</sup>, tickets are on sale at every church for \$12.00. Please join the ladies of our community for a short program and a wonderful Christmas meal.

Senior Friendly will meet Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, at noon, this is an ecumenical group that meets the second Thursday of each month. Anyone 60 and older, are welcome to attend for a short worship service and a good lunch.

Sunday School Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 21, during Worship at 10:30 am.

Christmas Eve Worship Candle Light Service with Holy Communion. Two services on December 24, at 5:00 and 7:00 pm. All Are Welcome!

You are invited to celebrate Christmas Eve Mass at **St. Augustine Catholic Church** at 7:30 P.M. on Christmas eve.



Sister Margey



**Republic United Methodist Church**

We will be having a special Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2014 at 4:00pm. All are welcome to come and share this glorious time of worship with us. God Bless.

~Shalom~ Pastor Terri

**Park City AG & C Center** is looking for craft instructors.

Examples of classes: quilling, quilting, crocheting, knitting, macramé, or any craft you would consider teaching at the Art Gallery. Call Sandy Travis 376-2483

**Crochet Along**

Beginning Dec. 4, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. we will have a crochet along at Park City AG & C Center. We'll be working on a triangle shawl. Interested? Grab 3 skeins of Lion Brand Homespun yarn & a "N" hook. Easy pattern & great for beginners. Pattern provided. (A limited number of kits can be purchased for \$25.)

**ALL SCHOOL REUNION 2015**

The Committee is planning the 2015 reunion for Saturday July 18th on Fishing Derby Weekend.

With more and more people now using cell phones it is becoming very difficult to find and contact graduates. Please consider helping the Reunion Committee contact your friends and relatives.



- Peggy Latela, 376-2632
- Kathy Johnson, 376-2612
- Brenda Mattson, 376-2388
- Anita Keto, 376-2022
- Faye Mattila, 376-8879
- Marilyn Helmila, 376-8830.

Park City Art Gallery & Craft Center will be starting a Crafter's Group. If you do any type of needlework or would like to learn, please consider joining us for coffee, fellowship, laughter & sharing. Meeting on Wednesdays, starting December 3, 2014 from 2 to 4 p.m.

When driving to South Republic a week ago Monday, prior to the pickup, there were several bags of garbage that had been ripped apart by the birds or other animals. We do not expect GAD drivers to pick up trash scattered all over the side of the road. The trash ordinance states all garbage should be placed in trash bags and placed in covered trash cans. The homeowner is responsible for cleaning up the strewn garbage.

**THE CHICKEN COOP OF REPUBLIC ANNOUNCES ITS NEW HOLIDAY/WINTER HOURS**

Holiday hours 11/22— 12/20  
 Opened Wed thru Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 Winter hours 12/26— 1/4/2015  
 Opened Fri. & Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 pm  
 Have the most Blessed and wonderful Holiday Season  
 Thank you  
 Sandy & Liz



A PLACE FOR ALL SEASONS

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Thank you to Liz, Rick, Sandy and Rickie for taking the time to put up the decorations around the North Village. Gives it a much more festive look. Again, Thank you.