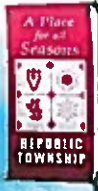


REPUBLIC TOWNSHIP NEWS
WWW.REPUBLICMICHIGAN.COM



Marilyn Gary Tina
 Terry THE JOY OF THE EASTER SEASON TO ALL Tom



Volume 1 Issue 26	
March 2015 issue	
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STATE OF MICHIGAN
 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
 UPPER PENINSULA DISTRICT OFFICE



March 27, 2015

CERTIFIED MAIL

Mr. Gary Johnson, Supervisor
 Republic Township
 P.O. Box 338
 Republic, Michigan 49879

VN No. VN-006012

Dear Mr. Johnson:

SUBJECT: Violation Notice

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Water Resources Division (WRD), staff inspected the Republic Township Waste Water Sewage Lagoon and associated collection system, located in Republic, Michigan, on March 13, 2015. The inspection was performed to determine compliance with Part 41, Sewerage Systems, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA), MCL 324.3101 *et seq.* and your National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Notice of Coverage (NOC) No. MI0023892, MIG580252, which was issued on October 10, 2014, effective October 10, 2014.

The inspection revealed extreme deficiencies with the maintenance of the township lift stations. Lift station failure will result in raw sewage in basements, streets, lawns and eventually public waters. The stations must be maintained to prevent this unacceptable hazard to human health and the environment.

Of the township's 6 lift stations, none have two pumps operating. Lift stations are designed with two pumps so that if a malfunction occurs in one pump the other can continue to transport sewage until the malfunction has been corrected. This standard redundancy is installed because failures of sewer systems can impact public health. While pump failures do occur from time to time, we have never encountered a community that did not have a single lift station with two pumps operating.

In addition to the obvious fact that the pumps have failed and have not been repaired or replaced, other deficiencies were noted. The other deficiencies are as follows:

- Not all stations have functioning alarm systems to notify maintenance personnel when a failure has occurred.
- The age of the station has rendered many of the components obsolete, resulting in difficulty in obtaining replacement parts.
- Flow measurements are not recorded at all stations. This is critical for proper maintenance and operation of the pumps.
- The electrical panels are outdated with multiple repairs. This contributes to continued pump failures.

1604 WEST WASHINGTON STREET • MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN 49855
 www.michigan.gov/deq • (800) 228-4863

Cont. on pages 5 & 6



St. Augustine's Pasty Sale
 Will be held on
 Saturday April 11th.
 Orders should be in by
 Tuesday March 31st.

TREASURER'S CORNER

Wishing you all a beautiful spring & Easter season!!!

The Republic Township Treasurer's office is no longer taking real property tax payments. All past due Personal Property taxes are still the responsibility of the Township Treasurer. The next tax season will begin July 1st, 2015. Please contact the Marquette County Treasurer's office for your balance due (1-906-225-425) on all past due real property tax payments. They are to be mailed to the County Treasurer at 234 W. Baraga Ave. Marquette, MI 49855.

I most recently acquired a Directory that can help our community find grants. Any interested organization/individual is welcome to come into the office to view this useful tool. It cannot be legally copied or downloaded by anyone else. It contains thousands of foundations and organization that can provide grant funds for different purposes.

Please keep in mind that I am always available for any questions the community may have. Please continue to communicate with your Board Members to stay informed and know the truths!

Thank you!

Kristina Koski

ASSESSING EXPLANATION

Q? what happened to my State Equalized Value on my tax notice?

A. This is the first year the roll is off overrides. From now on the SEV portion of the roll can, and will fluctuate based on Cost of living, the state/county multipliers, land sales and ECF studies. It will move around as the market dictates.

Each year when the tax roll was submitted right after December 31st, the roll was locked to prevent any accidental changes. When the new roll is started for the subsequent year, those rolled over numbers stayed "locked" and only adjusted for cost of living, or change in state/county multipliers. Land values didn't update each year, even though we do a new current land value study every year averaging the sales over the last two years. Nor did building values depreciate 1% per year. The toggle had to be manually activated in the program for each parcel, removing the over-ride, which allowed the parcel to update itself to whatever is current.

We have finally finished the change over from the old field card system and are totally operating the program off overrides as it was intended—the values can now move as the market does.

Q? how come Republic has two assessor's when no one else does?

A. I am the only Township supervisor in the central part of the UP and one of the very few in the state that still does assessing. And I am very aware of the political games that can be played no matter how honest I am and how fair I try to be. When I took the job in 2005, I asked the Board to take half my salary, which has been calculated at \$10 per parcel since 1988, and use it to hire an assistant. I did that to prevent the allegations of taking care of friends, or the opposite. My job is to ensure fairness and equity in the roll. The assistant takes care of the areas where "misunderstandings" can come about. If it bothers people that badly that we have two assessors, I will take back that half of my salary that I'm leaving on the table, and do the whole job. I'll leave that to the people.

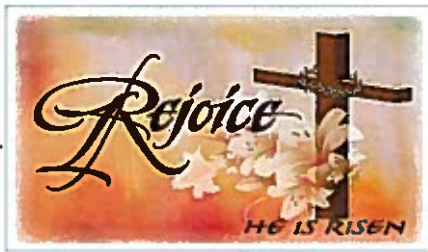
Q? what is the salary for?

A. Provide a finished yearly tax roll with records matching the State of Michigan's & Marquette County Equalization Department's. Buy your own gas, provide your own vehicle, spend whatever time needed, whatever day of the week, and visit each and every one of the 2,400 parcels in the land of 10,000 gates, every four years.

Q? How come the Township spends money on attorneys not from the U.P., like tribunal attorneys?

A. You don't use a back surgeon for brain surgery. The Township doesn't take going to court lightly, and we hire specialized aggressive attorneys for both FOIA & Tribunal. Successfully defending the taxpayers dollars allows us to have more to provide the services you need.

G.



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH.

EASTER WORSHIP

APRIL 5TH

8:00 AM WORSHIP

9:00-10:00 AM EASTER BREAKFAST

Served by the Bethany Youth Group

10:30 AM WORSHIP

A freewill offering will be taken for breakfast to help support our youth activities.

Senior Friendly, is April 9th at Noon, come for fellowship and a good meal. Anyone 60+ are welcome.

Pastor Kevin Kaiser

St. Augustine Parish invites you to attend:

Holy Thursday Services - April 2, 2015 at 5 P.M.

Easter Sunday Services - April 5, 2015 at 11 A.M.

The St. Augustine Soup Supper will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 from 4:30 - 6:00 P.M.

Sister Margey

Republic United Methodist Church

Observing Maundy Thurs.-Wed. April 1st, Woodland Church at 6:45 P.M.

Good Friday, Service of Tenebrae in Republic at 7:00 P.M.

Celebrating the Resurrection, Easter Sunday the 5th, at 9:00 A.M.

With breakfast following,

Pastor Terry.

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



The King's Countrymen

The public is invited for a time of inspiration and great family entertainment to the Republic United Methodist Church, on Sunday, June 28, 2015 at 7:00 PM. We are fortunate to have The King's Countrymen who are on the road to Jesus, playing and singing Bluegrass Gospel music. The founders, Lorne & Kristi Schultz, are based out of Mondovi, WI. Formed in August of 1994, the bluegrass gospel band performs at country fairs, festivals, nursing homes, retirement centers and churches in the Midwest and beyond. The King's Countrymen also host the annual Buffalo River Valley Bluegrass Gospel Festival held in the Schultz's farm located just east of Mondovi, WI.

REPUBLIC AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Presentation on Maj. Richard Bong

WWII fighter ace &

Recipient of Congressional Medal of Honor

On April 11th, at 2:00 P.M. at the Republic-Michigamme School (use back entrance), come to hear the story of Maj. Bong.

Tom J. Thomas, Director of the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame, will speak on the life & exploits of Maj. Bong from Poplar, WI

Coffee & refreshments will be served following the program.

Donations accepted at the door.

COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT

Any RMS students wanting financial help from Republic Community Services and Youth Organization for one summer camp (basketball, church, horse etc...) must attend a meeting or have a letter in writing for the April 16 or May 21 meeting. No exceptions. Letters can also be given to Mrs. Currie in the library for RCS. Meetings are at 4:30 in the library.

Marquette County Aging Services **RSVP Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Program**

Your help is needed! If you are age 55 or better, have a good driving record and have a few hours to spare each week, consider sharing your time as an RSVP Transporter.

RSVP Transporters provide frail and/or isolated seniors age 60 and older living in Marquette County with a free ride to their non-emergency medical appointments. Occasionally this may also include a stop at the pharmacy to pick up needed prescriptions.

Many seniors in our area do not have family or friends available to help them because of work schedules or living out of the area. As an RSVP Transporter, you help these seniors access much-needed medical care.

Requests for help with a ride to medical appointments are called into the RSVP office from local senior centers, home health agencies and other senior service providers in Marquette County.

The senior who is in need of a ride must be fully ambulatory and able to get in and out of a car on their own. Those who have difficulty walking long distances, with the help of the volunteer, may be able to use a wheelchair at the medical center or hospital to get to and from their appointments.

Volunteer Benefits

- Training opportunities.
- Mileage reimbursement.
- Excess accident and liability insurance.
- Knowing you are making a difference in the quality of life for a neighbor in need!

Call the RSVP office at 485-1742 or 485-1782. Once you have completed an RSVP Enrollment form and background check, your name will be placed on a call sheet. You will be called when a request for help is received. *You* make the decision of when and how often you volunteer

Need some help?

Call the RSVP office at 485-1742 or 485-1782 with your medical appointment information. Please call at least 2 days in advance of your appointment. The more notice we have, the more successful we may be in finding ride for you. As a volunteer organization, we cannot guarantee a ride, but will do our best to help meet your needs

The RSVP Medical Transportation Program is funded by local donations, including funds from United Way of Marquette County. Donations are accepted to help with the cost of mileage reimbursement for RSVP volunteers providing this important service.



Marquette County Aging Services

215 W. Hematite Drive

Ishpeming, MI 49849

Phone: 906-485-1742

Whatever burdens you're carrying now, let them down for a moment. Relax, pick them up later after you've rested.
Life is short. Enjoy it.

Mr. Gary Johnson, Supervisor
 VN No. VN-006012
 Page 2
 March 27, 2015

- There is no ability to connect emergency power to the pumps in the event of an extended power outage.

Part 41, Sewerage Systems and NPDES Permit No. MI0023892, MIG580252 require that sewage systems be properly maintained and operated. Because of the township's failure to maintain the system, you are in violation of Part 41 and your NPDES Permit.

Republic Township should take immediate action to achieve and maintain compliance with the terms and conditions of NPDES Permit No. MI0023892, MIG580252 and Part 41. Please submit an approvable plan for correcting these violations to this office by April 27, 2015. At a minimum, the response shall include:

1. Schedule for correcting the deficiencies noted in the townships lift station.
2. Estimated cost of the work and funding source.

If you have any factual information you would like us to consider regarding the violations identified in this Notice, please provide them with your written response. We anticipate and appreciate your cooperation in resolving this matter. Should you require further information regarding this Notice or if you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss it, please contact me at the number listed below or via email at parentj@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,



Jay Parent
 Upper Peninsula District Office
 Water Resources Division
 906-236-9611

JP:TC

cc: Mr. Barry Selden, Enforcement Unit, WRD
 File: NPDES – Republic Twp, Marquette County, Correspondence

Why is the system in this condition? Because of the very same feelings that the public has right now. The overwhelming resistance to rate increases. Keep costs as low as possible, irrespective of maintenance needs. Throw in what appears to be sabotage, plastic garbage bags, rugs and twine plugging up the lift station pumps, the bill gets bigger. If a system rated to last 20 years isn't maintained, after 30 years the bill will come due sooner or later. It has.

The sewer users of Republic are facing a very large repair/replacement bill. Individuals do have a right of opinion, and we've said repeatedly we will let the people tell us what they want us to do – for paying the repairs. NOT for what has to be done.

The DEQ has the legal authority, and they are ordering us to do the work. The work will be done.

Page 6 has the cost breakdown. Current sewer rates are \$38.00 per month. DEQ stated at the January Board meeting that a repair/replacement fund is newly mandated. That charge will be \$23,850 per year = \$6.20 (+/-) per month, new charge.

The Board will apply for a 75%/25% Rural Development grant/loan. The users pay 25% of the cost over 40 years. If enough people sign a petition for a referendum, a vote on the bonds will be held. The users themselves are not the only people who will vote on this. The vote is open to all voters in the township. Unfortunately, many of those residents who are not living on the sewer system don't understand that they do NOT pay anything on the sewer—or so it seemed from individual responses after the last "petition" that was passed around. Checking individually with those people, we were told by several that they didn't want to be unfairly billed. How they got their ideas, we don't know.

The Board will take the actions they deem necessary to take care of the needs, in the most financially responsible way possible. The people will make the decision on how to pay the bills—cash or grant. Page 6 has the breakdown

**REPUBLIC TOWNSHIP WATER PROJECT
REPUBLIC TOWNSHIP
ENGINEER'S OPINION OF COST**

	ITEM	QTY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1	MOBILIZATION	1	LS	75,000.00	75,000.00
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	POLE BARN/ EQUIPMENT STOR/SERVICE	1	LS	225,000.00	225,000.00
6	LIFT STATION REPLACEMENT	4	EA	90,000.00	360,000.00
7	LIFT STATION MAIN REPLACEMENT	2	EA	150,000.00	300,000.00
8	GRINDER STATION	1	EA	15,500.00	15,500.00
9	EVERGREEN STREET SEWER UPGRADE	1	LS	70,000.00	70,000.00
10	VACTOR PAD	1	LS	10,000.00	10,000.00
11	CIPP LINING	3000	LF	40.00	120,000.00
Base Estimate Subtotal					1,240,000.00

Contingency	\$	124,000.00
Engineering	\$	240,000.00
Sewer Televising	\$	45,000.00
Admin/Local Attorney	\$	10,000.00
Bond Counsel	\$	25,000.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST		\$1,684,000

Additive Alternate Work, if budget allows.					
12	MANHOLE SEALING	10	EA	850.00	8,500.00
13	SEWER MAIN POINT REPAIR	5	EA	5,000.00	25,000.00
14	8" SEWER REPLACEMENT	500	EA	50.00	25,000.00
15	SANITARY MANHOLE REPLACEMENT	10	EA	5,000.00	50,000.00
16	MANHOLE LID REPLACEMENT	10	EA	2,000.00	20,000.00
17	6" GRAVEL BASE (CIP)	750	SY	6.00	4,500.00
18	12" SUBBASE (CIP)	750	SY	5.00	3,750.00
19	AGGREGATE SURFACE, 6" 23A	250	SY	6.00	1,500.00
20	2 1/2" BITUMINOUS PAVEMENT	750	SY	20.00	15,000.00
21	TURF RESTORATION*	750	SY	3.00	2,250.00
22	ROCK EXCAVATION	50	CY	100.00	5,000.00
23	FORCEMAIN VALVE REPLACEMENT	12	EA	2,000.00	24,000.00
24	LAGOON SLUDGE REMOVAL	2000000	GAL	0.12	240,000.00
Subtotal					424,500.00

#	Sewer Fund Budget Items	2014 Actual Budget	2014-2015 Current Budget	Total Project Cost \$1,684,000 at 75% Grant (\$421,000 RD Loan at 2.5%)	Private Funding (\$800,000 Private Bond at 5% over 15 yrs)	Self Funded (\$775,000 Paid over 3 years)
	Revenues					
	Sales	\$124,798	\$124,957	\$171,414	\$234,972	\$410,238
	(Average User Rate) 321 EDUs			\$44.50	\$61.00	\$106.50
	Total Revenues	\$124,798	\$124,957	\$171,414	\$234,972	\$410,238

By law, Townships cannot take out loans. We have to either pay cash, or take out bonds.

Current sewer rate is \$38.00 per month. DEQ told us in January we will have to have a repair replacement fund. Will cost approx. \$6.20 +/- per user. When that is mandated by the DEQ, the rate will be \$44.20 +/-, Rural Development enforces the Repair Replacement funding, for the DEQ requirement.

A vote to pay cash , if passed (right column, just above) will cost the user \$106.50 per month for three years.

The grant will cost the users \$44.50 per month.

Mark your calendars!
25th Anniversary of
The Republic Sportsmen's Club
Fishing Derby

Friday July 17th 80'S Parade

Fishing is on
Saturday July 18th 6:00am to 9:00pm
Sunday July 19th 7:00am to 3:00pm

This year's top Walleye is

\$2,500

There are many more details to come.
Questions please call 906-376-2456

Planning Commission Report

During the first quarter of 2015 the Planning Commission began to reorganize itself so we can move forward with a more focused, but broad view of future planning for the Township. The current members of the Planning Commission, and the respective areas of focus are listed below. We are, however, looking to add members so that we can more effectively undertake plans for the various opportunities for growth in Republic. I am excited by the desire of the Planning Commission to create a vision for the future of Republic and look forward to working together. If you have ideas for the growth of Republic and want to participate in that planning, please consider submitting an application for membership on the Planning Commission. Interested persons should

submit their applications to the Planning Commission Chair, for submission to the Township Board for final approval. We would like to have all applications in by the end of April so that we can proceed with a full body. You can leave applications for the Planning Commission Chair at the Township office.

- Stacy Davis - Township Recreational Facilities/Wetlands/ Iron Ore Heritage Trail
- Tom Feldhusen - Township Board Liaison
- John Kraft - Natural Resources/Grant Facilitator/DNR Liaison
- Tom Sandblom - Economic Development
- Tara Williams - Chair

7th annual community rummage sale

Sat June 6th, 9a.m to 4 p.m.

We will be organizing another town wide rummage sale again. In the past we have had an average of 20 families participate.

There is a \$2.00 for posters, maps, and Mining Journal advertising. To get your name on the map, call by May 29th.

For information call Marilyn Helmila, 906.376.8830

Lions Club Pie Social



Republic Lions Club Pie Social is held the 1st Wednesday of each month in the Township Hall, 10:00 AM-2:00PM

To donate a pie contact Ann Carne at 376-2580

A PLACE FOR ALL SEASONS

REPUBLIC TOWNSHIP
 P.O. BOX 338
 REPUBLIC, MI 49879

 Phone: 906-376-8827
 Fax: 906-376-2383
 E-mail: republicsupervisor@northpines.net
 fmattila@northpines.net

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Daughter: Mommy, what's it like to have the most awesome daughter in the world?
Mother: I don't know, ask your grandmother.
As I watched the dog chasing his tail, I thought "Dogs are easily amused." Then I realized I was watching the dog chase his tail
Ain't it funny how the colors red, white, and blue represent freedom until they are flashing behind your car.
It's amazing how fast your mood can change after you step in some water with socks on.
With great power comes great electricity bill
if it wasn't for blinds it would be curtains for all of us
What happens to a frogs car when it breaks down?
It gets toad away
I wondered why the ball was getting bigger!
Then it hit me.

AN IRISH TOAST

 Always remember to forget
 The trouble that passes away
 But never forget to remember
 The blessings that come each day

Always remember to forget
 The friends that proved untrue
 But never forget to remember
 Those that have stuck by you

May you have food and raiment
 A soft pillow for your head
 May you be forty years in heaven
 Before the devil knows you're dead. 