

REPUBLIC TOWNSHIP NEWS

<http://www.republicmichigan.com>

AUGUST 2007 ISSUE

\$500 REWARD

FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE CONVICTION OF THE VANDAL THAT DAMAGED THE PORTAJON AT THE RUSTIC CAMPGROUND IN NORTH REPUBLIC



TRAIL CHANGE

A major problem has developed in North Republic which will force a temporary change in the snowmobile route through the village.

The railroad company has ordered that the trail be moved from the railroad

STRIKE ONE

The Township received the very unhappy news that the State of Michigan's guidelines for grants has been changed for the Heritage Trail area, and that we didn't qualify for either of the grants we had applied for. The state has set the construction of the trail surface as the priority, with no other parts to be funded until the surface is completed from Republic to Chocolay.

During several phone conferences the state officials expressed support for our plans and efforts, and pointed out alternative routes to get the funding needed for the town square complex. During the on-site visit by those same officials Tuesday August 14th they expressed hope that we use their suggestions to complete our plans. However, they could not directly help us do what we wanted to do under the grant application, with the present state directives.

The Board has decided to split up the request into several parts, and get a firm or firms to assist us in successfully implementing each section.

We are still at bat, and will keep swinging until we hit the home run.

grade where it travels between the mine property and North Republic.

There is no other realistic route to get the snowmobiles through town, except on the north side of School Lake. With five trails converging on Republic, the Board realizes we have to provide a temporary path to allow safe travel, and so are working with the Club to put in a trail through the property that we own.

A bright side to the problem is, this temporary need by the snowmobile enthusiasts will help us develop our non-motorized trail, which will travel from the proposed town square, to the link with the Heritage grade on the east side of town. The new trail will be a 12 foot wide walking, bicycling and horseback riding trail during the spring, summer and fall, until the grade is reopened.

The state is very aware of the problem that this relocation has caused, and has communicated that they are working as diligently as possible to acquire that piece of grade. When it is acquired, they will then move the snowmobile trail back on to it.

SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

In June the Board turned the area in North Republic along the river in the Festival area into a rustic campground, charging a fee for each night of camping. With the opening of the CCI Wetland Preserve to the public, we are going to need places for those people from out of the area, to stay. By next year the sites will be better identified, and a method of payment will be in place to allow for registration when the township office is not open. The fee was put in place to cover the cost of the liability insurance that is needed for campgrounds, with docks, on water.

The long hot summer has taken it's toll on the water table in the area. As one person aptly put it, it's so dry the Michigamme River only flows three days a week. We are starting to notice a big draw on our wells, and have to ask the people that are watering their lawns to start using common sense. Most people are considerate, and water for a period of time, and shut off the water. However, we have a few that turn the sprinklers on at daybreak, and forget to shut them off. We would hope that a word to the wise would be sufficient, but if it continues, all watering will have to be banned.

The Board is in the final stage of the condemnation process that we had to go through to get rid of the dilapidated mobile home in North Republic. The trailer is gone, and we are now waiting for a final response from the owner on his repayment for our costs incurred. Once that bill is taken care of, we have chosen the 390 Pine St. building in South Republic as the next cleanup site.

The township was notified that there will be changes mandated on the state level, within the tax assessing system. All township tax roll data will have to be electronically transmitted to the state, which will give the county and state direct oversight of the roll. What the assessor did, or didn't do, can be immediately shown on their computer screen, with a simple set of tests built into the system. Our assessing department has been participating in the pre-transmission forums, keeping abreast of the changes, and putting things in place to prevent potential problems.

One of the state implemented changes already in place since last year, was contracting out an audit of the Personal Residency Exemptions. The state requests the electronic (or written) list from the county equalization department and then compares it to what the state has in their files. This audit was the main trigger that caused your assessing department to request a filled out PRE form from individuals, if the County records showed the individual was receiving a PRE, but no completed form was in our file. Would you believe, we have two full pages of names that have not yet returned their forms? If the form is not in the state files, or our files, for whatever reason, it doesn't exist, and in the state's eyes the individual is not abiding by the law. The state doesn't care if you've lived in the house for twenty centuries. If there is no form on file, we understand they will claim the individual has received a tax exemption fraudulently, and collect for any back years they can. We also cannot help if any homeowner feels imposed on "because they filled it out before". The forms were obviously misplaced, somehow. We can only offer the remedy, and try to prevent problems for the individual. The first section of the state that was audited was in lower Michigan. The assessing department has been told EVERY unit in Michigan will be audited. They will get to us within a period of time.

<http://www.republicmichigan.com> — Check out what's happening.
Web service provided courtesy of Fred Nannestad.

REPUBLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

REPUBLIC, MICHIGAN 49879

REPUBLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES IS LAUNCHING ITS FALL 2007-2008 FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN.

THE GROUP IS THE PRIMARY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION THAT SPONSORS A HOST OF REPUBLIC COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES. THE GOAL FOR THIS YEAR'S FUNDRAISER IS \$12,000.

THE GROUP WAS CHARTERED IN 1958 THROUGH THE UNITED WAY OF MICHIGAN AND HAS BEEN OPERATING AS A CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION SINCE THAT TIME. ALL MEMBERS SERVE ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS AND NO FEES OR WAGES ARE PAID TO MEMBERS. NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. SEVENTY PERCENT OF ALL DONATIONS ARE USED FOR THE REPUBLIC AREA, LOCAL ACTIVITIES AND EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. THE REMAINING THIRTY PERCENT IS DISBURSED TO OTHER WORTHWHILE CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS ON A COUNTY, STATE AND NATIONAL BASIS AS UNITED WAY OF MICHIGAN, ISHPEMING CANCER SOCIETY, ST. VINCENT DEPAUL, BAY CLIFF, SALVATION ARMY, ISHPEMING COMMISSION ON AGING, HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION JUST TO NAME A FEW.

AMONG THIS YEAR'S GROUP ENDEAVORS AGAIN IS HELPING WITH THE RENOVATION OF THE REPUBLIC-MICHIGAN SCHOOL/PUBLIC LIBRARY & PLAYGROUND, THE R-M SCHOOL FUNDRAISING GROUP, R-M STUDENT, ALUMNI & FRIENDS, HS BAND, AS WELL AS THE TEEN CENTER.

THE GROUP ALSO SUPPORTS LOCAL YOUTH ACTIVITIES SUCH AS HELPING 36 STUDENTS WITH BASKETBALL AND CHURCH CAMPS THIS SUMMER, AS WELL AS SCHOLARSHIPS, ELEMENTARY SWIMMING PROGRAM, GIRL SCOUTS, CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY ETC... RCS ALSO HELPS PEOPLE IN DISTRESS SUCH AS ILLNESS, FIRE VICTIMS, AND SPOUSE ABUSE PROGRAMS. THE ELDERLY AND SHUT-INS RECEIVE CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS. DONATIONS ARE ALSO GIVEN TO THE REPUBLIC FESTIVAL DAY CELEBRATION, COMMUNITY PICNIC, AND OTHER LOCAL ACTIVITIES.

THE PRESENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS INCLUDE: CAROL NICHOLAS, PRESIDENT; JOAN ANTILLA, VICE PRESIDENT; DIANE PERRY, SECRETARY; ETHEL VALENZIO, TREASURER; TAMMY KAMINEN, DISTRESS; AND DONNA VENN, SUNSHINE. TRUSTEES ARE: RICHARD NICHOLAS, FEDORA FOWLER, MARIE OJA, PETE AND DUSTY JUIDICI, MARGIE ISAACSON, BETTY HEIKKINEN, AILEEN TODD, DAVID ALLAIN, GAYLE RITOLA AND MICHAEL KOLASA.

TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS FUNDRAISING EFFORT, CONTACT ANY RCS MEMBER, DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE RCS ACCOUNT AT THE ISHPEMING COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION - REPUBLIC BRANCH, OR MAIL TO: REPUBLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES, P.O. BOX 265, REPUBLIC, MI 49879. CONTRIBUTIONS CAN ALSO BE MADE THROUGH PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS.

REPUBLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES DONATION FORM

YOUR NAME: _____ AMOUNT \$ _____

ADDRESS: _____

SIGNED: _____

_____ CHECK HERE IF YOU NEED A RECEIPT

A DOOR CLOSSES, WILL ONE OPEN?

After 20 years, the Festival Committee has decided to disband. We are hoping a new committee will form, maybe do things differently and bring in some new ideas. Activities can benefit a small town in many ways. They bring in people who might not have come here otherwise, and also get the new people that are here to know one another.

We are grateful to everyone who helped us fundraise by working at our dinners, pancake breakfasts, bake sales, selling raffle tickets, etc. Many also helped with the Festival Day, itself.

Thank you all so very much for the years of volunteering with us, and for the businesses who backed us so many times.

The Festival Committee.

**RABBIT CLUB
upcoming activities**

Next meeting, 9/9/07, 4 p.m. at Arvo's house
376-2025

October meeting, 10/7/07, 4 p.m. at Arvo's.
October meeting includes annual meeting and election of officers. Please attend, as there will be changes in the officers positions that will have to be filled.

Junior hunts will be scheduled at the September 9th meeting.

THE SENILITY PRAYER :

Grant me the senility to forget the people
I never liked anyway,
the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and
the eyesight to tell the difference.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The first Cemetery Tour, which was on August 18th, was fairly well attended, with about 45 people taking the tour. About half of them were from out of town, and were probably relatives of the deceased. Our society members and others researched and provided information on ten people buried in the cemetery. They were:

Peter Pascoe—First Republic Iron Co. mine captain, State senator and judge

Elden Gjers—Young Republic boy who was killed in action in WWII at age 20.

Priscilla Fountain—Republic business woman who operated three businesses.

“Curley” Woodin—Local trapper, woodsman and poet.

Matthew Gibson—Republic pioneer whose family was the first to move here.

Isaac Sillberg—Finnish church leader and activist

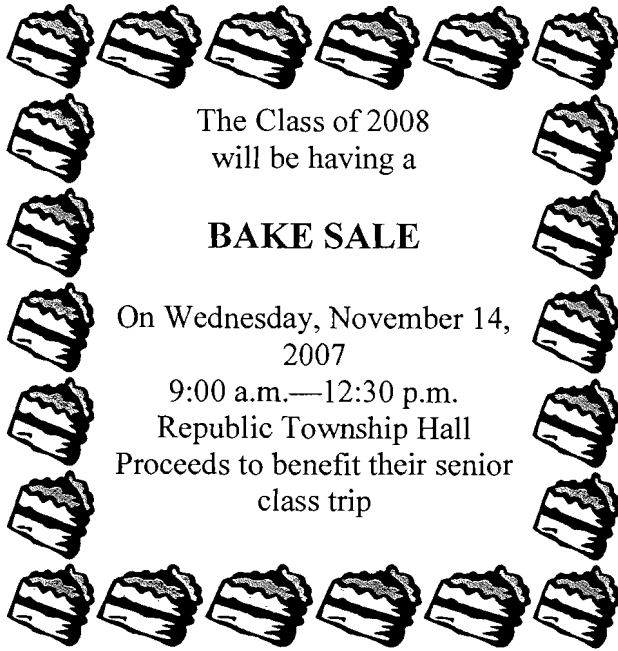
James Dower, Sr.—Pioneer, miner and business man

Louis LaForais, Sr.—Pioneer and business man.

Father Martin Fox—Catholic priest and missionary

Edward Eytbenz—Local artist who painted a large altar-type painting found at Fortune Lake Lutheran Bible camp.

The Tour ended with coffee and refreshments at the town hall. If anyone would like the typed presentations of any (or all) of these people, please contact a member of the society. Thank you to those who attended.



The Class of 2008
will be having a

BAKE SALE

On Wednesday, November 14,
2007

9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
Republic Township Hall

Proceeds to benefit their senior
class trip

RAFFLE TICKETS

The Class of 2008 is now selling raffle tickets.
Cost is \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00

- 1st prize: \$1,500.00 cash
- 2nd prize: \$300.00 cash
- 3rd prize: \$100.00 cash
- Many other prizes.

Drawing date is February 15, 2008
at RMS Gym, - 7:30 p.m.

Class members selling tickets are:

- Taylor Antilla
- Danny Koski
- Amber Kulju
- Elicia Mattson
- Mini Mongiat
- Becky Shipe

Thanks for your continued support!

FIRST CHURCH PASTY SALE

Saturday, November 10th, 2007

Pickup: 10:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
St Augustine's church—Kloman Ave.
Cost \$3.00 per pasty

Sign up sheets will be posted in town
Or call 376-8143 or 376-2612

CRITICISM

*To avoid criticism, do nothing.
Don't speak
Don't act. *

*Dr. A.J. Kennedy

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Tai Chi will begin in September. The first class is Sept. 5, and will start at 9 a.m., Monday and Wednesday of each week. It is free for Senior Citizens, 60 years of age and older, under an NMU scholarship. Everyone is welcome. Tai Chi is a slow gentle movement that helps circulation, breathing, balance and flexibility. It will be held at the South Republic Senior Center.

Yoga classes will also begin starting September 6th, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Mondays will be 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Classes will run Mondays and Thursdays until Dec. 6th, 2008. Cost for 12 classes is \$72.00. Drop-in for a class is \$10.00.

BRING A BLANKET OR YOGA MAT.

This emphasizes gentle stretches with core strength work, balance, breathing and relaxation. The instructor is Maria Formola, 376-8868

THOUGHTS FROM ST. VINCENT DEPAUL:

THE GOOD:

The St. Vincent DePaul Store in Republic cannot be successful without the thoughtfulness of the people. We want to thank everyone who has made a contribution or donation in the form of food, saleable materials, or money. It is greatly appreciated and helps to keep our store open.

We also want to thank our volunteers. Without you we would not be able to stay open. We would also invite anyone who has a little free time to join us in providing a needed service to the west end communities.

In the next couple of weeks, the St Vincent DePaul Store will be completely re-sided, and the electric system will be upgraded. Our store is a part of the Ishpeming St. Vincent DePaul district, and they will be paying for the repairs.

THE BAD:

This is the list of items the we cannot accept.

Microwaves	Computers or parts	TV's
VHS players	Stereos	Readers Digest Magazines
National Geographics	Wire clothing hangers	Boxes of old magazines
Bowling balls	Electric Blankets	Heating Pads
Car seats	Baby cribs	
Toaster ovens	Exercise equipment (all kinds)	
Suitcases without wheels	Anything with gas or propane	

THE UGLY:

Recently someone dropped off a hide-a-bed with no mattress outside of our building, when the store was closed. Unfortunately, people will try to justify in their mind that some poor soul will be so destitute that they will take damaged goods, or in this case, expect the store to go out and buy parts, just so they can sell donated items. Following those righteous thoughts, the donating person can avoid having to pay for disposal at the transfer station. That useless unit did have to be disposed of by St. Vincent DePaul at the transfer station. Money that should have been able to be spent to provide service, had to be used to pay for junk disposal. This is not the first time, and if it continues, the store will probably be forced to purchase a surveillance camera.

A comment heard too many times when a damaged item is rejected by the store: "Well, what am I going to do with it?" How about doing what the store would have to do if they took something that they couldn't sell, liked the dumped hide-a-bed? Pay to dispose of it at the transfer station. Indirectly, that individual would still be giving the store a donation, by paying for the disposal instead of the store having to do it.

**No matter how destitute, people still have pride.
If you wouldn't buy it and use it, neither will they.**

FALL FEST

This year's Fall Fest will take place on Saturday, September 15th from 10 am - 5 pm. If we're lucky, it won't snow! Plans are to have the majority of vendors (mostly local) on Front Street and Kloman Avenue, but a few vendors will be in the Town Hall. Free-will coffee will be available there also. Street musicians will play at various locations throughout the day with the children from the McGregor School of Scottish Highland Pipe and Dance performing at 1 pm. Come to eat and join in the fun!

HERITAGE TRAIL NOTES

Tuesday, August 14th, a group of state employees from Lansing toured the Heritage Trail. The Tour started at the Republic Township Hall, and finished in Chocolay. In Republic, Chuck Hurst acted as moderator, preparing the group for Republic's part of the trail.

Chuck led the group from the Town Square area, along the north shore of School Lake, and out to the wetlands. Chuck gave explanations to the occupants of his van, as Gary did to the occupants of his. The state employees all commented very favorably on the present and proposed developments, and made several suggestions on funding and possible help.

The trail within North Republic will start at the town square, and cross Republic Ave. southerly. It will travel easterly along the edge of the high ground along the north shore of School Lake until it gets to 4th St. The property to the east of 4th St, and south of Center St. belongs to Roger Crimmins, and he has agreed to allow the Snowmobile Club to put a trail through his land, easterly, which we will share. We've asked the Club to keep the trail as far away from the houses in that area as possible, but have to rely on Mr. Crimmins approval of trail site. On the east end of Mr. Crimmin's property, the Board is considering leaving the snowmobile trail, and swinging the trail northward into and through the cemetery. From the east end of the cemetery, it is a short distance to the Heritage grade where it meets the East Road by Perch Lake.

Our portion of the trail within the village will be non-motorized. It will make an excellent walking, biking or horseback trail for those who want to use it. The state wants the entire trail to be covered with a crushed limestone surface. When this material compacts, you can do anything but roller blade on it. State grants are available for that work. Those grants need matched funds.

A question that often comes up is, what is this millage I hear associated with the Heritage Trail Organization?

How often have you heard of 80/20 or 70/30 grants? In almost all cases, grant money must be matched by local contribution in some percentage amount. To build up a pot of money to be able to do those grant matches, it is being discussed to ask for a minimal millage, for a short period of time. This would be a one time vote, one time implementation, and finished. The grant money, supplemented with the matching funds, can then be used to do the trail surfaces, signage, etc. needed.

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sun. Sept. 9 Fall Kick-Off and Activities Fair: 10:30 - 11:30 am Worship
11:30 am Fair and Potluck, Sunday School Registration and Door Prize Drawing.
Bring yourself, your family, and a dish to pass.

Thursday Sept 13 - Senior Friendly Society, Come for worship at 12 noon and a meal to follow.
All are welcome. Freewill donation gratefully accepted.
We meet the second Thursday of every month.

Sun. Sept. 16 First day of Sunday school and Confirmation
9:00 am Class - 10 am Coffee - 10:30 am Worship

Sept 9 - Oct 21 5 - 7 pm Sunday Nights
The Lutheran Course - a seven week course for the lifelong Lutheran and those new to the faith.
Includes dinner, riveting discussion, DVD presentation and materials.
Cost: \$10 a participant, \$15 a couple

Sat. Sept 29 - Walk for Hunger - Meet at 10 am at Bethany in Ishpeming - Walk at AL Quaal

Confirmation Sunday: Sunday Oct 28 at 10 am You are welcome to come to worship and celebrate
the Confirmation in the Faith of Noah Finegan, Nathan Jarvi, and Jacob Hansen.

Oct. 28 - Halloween Party for Elementary kids 3 pm

Also coming this Fall - Fall Bazaar (call Ethel Valenzio for date and more info)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WITCH LAKE

Regular Services: Sunday, 9:15, Bible classes for all ages
10:30 Morning service
7:00 p.m. Night of Music (second Sunday night only)
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Prayer meeting and Bible study for all ages.

Sept. 9, 7 p.m., Second Sunday Night of Music

Sept. 16, 10:30 a.m., Grandparents Day at First Baptist

Sept. 23, 10:30 a.m. Jewish Heritage Day, a look at the Jewish Calendar, (especially Yom Kippur)

Oct. 14, 7 p.m., Night of Music

Nov. 11, 10:30 a.m., Veterans Day Patriotic Service, 7 p.m. Night of Music

Nov. 18, 10:30 a.m. Thanksgiving emphasis

Nov. 21, 7 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service.

You will always find a warm welcome at the First Baptist Church