

A PLACE FOR ALL SEASONS

Happy Holidays from the Republic Township Board.



MICHIGAMME BASIN AUTHORITY STARTING

The new Michigamme River Basin Authority has been supported by Marquette County, and will take effect upon notification to the state. The new TIFA Board members were approved by the Township Board and are a cross-representation of the dam owner, major property and business owners in North Republic, and affected business owners on the basin. One additional member is being interviewed to

complete the seven member board.

The initial job for the TIFA Board is to draw together all of the information on the dam itself. This data will be given to the Township Board for their decision on what type of structure is wanted to maintain permanent impoundment of the basin.

A study was done by U.P. Engineers on the cost to refurbish the



dam to a hydroelectric producer. The present owner of the dam is willing to share that information with the TIFA Board, and it will

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Customer service is not a department, it's an attitude.

WHICH ROADS?

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING DATE CHANGE
Due to schedule conflicts the Republic Township Board will hold their regular meeting **December 17th, 7 p.m.** at the Township Hall.

When 82 out of 106 voters agreed that the roads needed major work, and voted yes on the millage request, there was no way for each voter to list which road(s) that particular voter wanted repaired.

After the millage was passed, traffic counters were discussed, to try to figure out which roads received the most traf-

fic. However, traffic counters do not work well in below freezing temperatures. Also several roads are not being used fully, because they are so rough.

In an attempt to comply with the wishes of the majority of the residents, we are asking that residents make their wishes known.

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Clerk and Treasurer office hours requirement change

The Township Board found that a policy that had been in place since the early 1990s could no longer be used. The Township Clerk and Township Treasurer had been paid a salary for their duties. A separate hourly wage system had been set up for each department, where the elected official could be paid for maintaining office hours to provide service to the community. Under that system, the elected official could choose to take a day off, and the hourly pay would then be used to pay the fill in person. That system has been ruled a conflict of interest by a recent State Attorney General's opinion, and can no longer be used.

The policy had to be changed, so that the elected official, Clerk or Treasurer, are not bound to any specific hours, nor specific direction from the Board on any-

thing related to their legislated duties. Each elected official is now totally autonomous in their office, as the law requires. Under the tight budget, the Board can not afford to pay additional people to fill in office hours when the elected officials were not available, with exceptions for emergencies.

Both the Clerk and Treasurer have stated their intentions to continue providing the services of their departments in the same manner as has been in the past, as much as possible. A new process that complies with the Attorney General's opinion allowing the elected official to pay for any office hours fill-in by another individual, is in the testing process. We ask your patience until the bugs, if any, get worked out.



Early bird special

It was Christmas and the judge was in a merry mood as he asked the prisoner, "what are you charged with?"

"Doing my Christmas shopping early" replied the defendant.

"That's no offense," said the judge. "How early were you doing this shopping?"

"Before the store opened".

St. Lucia Breakfast

Saturday December 12

9am – 12 noon,

\$5.00 Adults,

\$2.50 Children 12 and under.

Also a Fancy Christmas Cookie Sale.

Sponsored by the Republic Historical Society.

(Replaces "Breakfast with Santa")



INTERNET SERVICE

A service reminder: there are multiple internet service providers in the area.

AT&T Cable service

Cable America, formerly Grove Cable

Pasty.net, wireless

Alltel wireless. (used primarily in the Witch Lake area, and southwest portions of the township)



LIONS FREE VISION SCREEING

The Republic Lions Club in cooperation with Project Kidsight, will be offering a free vision screening to any child, age 1 to 6. This non-invasive photo-screening will be offered at the Republic-Michigamme School on Tuesday December 15th and Wednesday December 16th from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. each day.

This screening tests for : *amblyopia* (lazy eye), *anisometropia* (difference in refraction), astigmatism (malformed cornea), *hyperopia* (farsightedness), *media opacity* (cataracts), *myopia* (nearsightedness), *ptosis* (droopy eyelid) and *strabismus* (crossed or out-turning eye).

Two to five percent of children 1 to 5 years of age have some type of vision impairment. Early detection can often lead to treatment and cure.

Any questions, please contact Dave Finegan, 376-2256.

MAKING A DAY OF IT

Lions Christmas Tree Pickup.

The Republic Lions Club will pick up used Christmas trees, Sat. Jan 9th, for use in the Epiphany bonfire. Please have your used tree on the curb in front of your residence no later than 9:00 a.m. that morning, for pickup.

The areas serviced include North and South Republic, and the county roads in between and immediately around the two vil-lages.

ST AUGUSTINE'S PASTY SALE

January 9th.

Orders must be placed by 11:00 A.M. on Wed. January 6th.

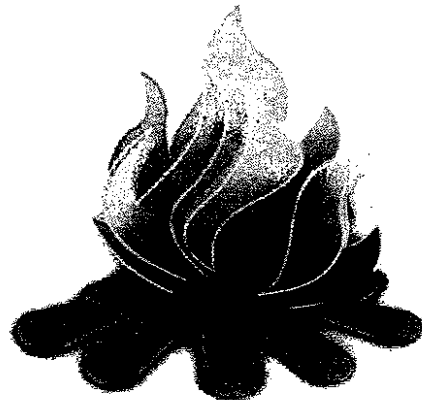
Pasty orders may be picked up after 10:00 A.M. on Satur-day.

Epiphany Bonfire

Coming Sat. Jan. 9 at 4pm

At the base of Carlson's hill in South Republic.

Come for games, sledding, hot chocolate and Christ-mas tree bonfire.



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go a long way toward making the final decision, what type structure does the Board want? A spillway? A hydro dam? Leave the dam as is? The Basin Board will put in place whatever the Board wants.

For the Republic area to successfully rebuild itself, it must rely on the 3 legged Economic Development stool the EDC is working with:

1. Tourism, including scheduled events, the wetlands, Heritage Trail, Etc.
2. History
3. The River Basin.

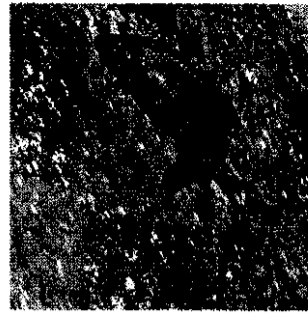
The Board believes the stabilization of the River Basin is critical to the future re-development of this area. In addition to the primary goal of ownership and maintenance of the dam, having the TIFA in place will allow us to use any remaining captured dollars to leverage grants to do projects such as: additional boat launch access sites and rebuild the beach house to an actual welcome center/bath house unit, all of which are intended to draw additional tourism/potential residents to our area.

The public will be kept informed as much as possible, both through this newsletter, and any other means we can use.

TROUT LAKES GETTING HELP

The Republic Sportsman's Club has partnered with the Michigan DNR in an ambitious project to help the chemistry of four of the designated trout lakes in the area.

The Sportsman's Club has purchased 10 tons of lime to be injected by slurry in the first of four trout lakes, to stabilize the ph factor. When this treatment is completed, the remaining three lakes to be treated will be analyzed and the proper amount will be purchased for each.



With approval from the DNR, the Wisconsin supplies were back-hauled by Nathan Mattson, and unloaded by Euren Skogman at Mike Kolasa's M-95 Storage. Mr. Kolasa has donated two of the storage units to house the materials until they are used.

The Sportsman's Club has a history of major projects just like this, including building several major fishing access sites in past years. Last year they finished developing the additional lower area next to the river at Munson Park and built picnic tables for public use.

They are also partnering with the Township Board in the development of a handicapped access fishing site on School Lake.

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The Planning Commission has been charged by Michigan law with providing a capitol improvements list for the Township Board's review.

To get a more accurate priority list for the roads, we would ask you to contact one of the Planning Commission members listed below, and register the road you want repaired.

Dan Mitchell, Chairperson,

Leslie Hurst, Vice-Chairperson,

Marie Serafin, Secretary

Paul Polanski

Tom Feldhusen,

Steve Koski , Township Board Liaison

Jim Brennan,

Bill Bergin,

Tom Sandblom,

The Planning Commission will begin reviewing the capitol improvements needed at their next meeting, December 21st. Your opinion should be registered with them by that time.

A road repair estimate will be requested from the Road Commission, to ensure the income from the millage is sufficient to cover the Township's responsibility. The construction cost historically has been 50% County responsibility and 50% township.

Stay tuned for future updates.

ST AUGUSTINES CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE:

Sacred Heart, Champion, 5:30 P.M.

St. Augustine, Republic, 7:30 P.M.

First Baptist Church of Witch Lake

Christmas Program- 12-20-09

Sunday School for all ages 9:15-10:00

Coffee fellowship 10:00-10:30

Christmas Program 10:30-11:30 "God's Gift to Mankind"

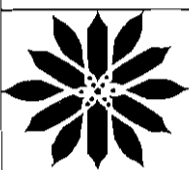
REPUBLIC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas Eve services:

Republic, 4:00 P.M.

Woodland United Methodist: 7:00 P.M.

*Bethany Lutheran
Christmas Eve Worship
Thursday December 24
Holy Communion and
Candlelight Worship
at 5:00pm and 7:00pm*



Ladies

Ecumenical Christmas Dinner

Sunday December 6 at 6:00pm

Tickets \$9.00 for dinner and program.

All Republic Women and Daughters are invited to participate.

REPUBLIC APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CONGREGATION

We will not have Christmas Eve or Day services. As always, we welcome everyone to worship and hear the word with us on Sundays at 2 p.m.

May the peace of God abide in our hearts during this holy season, and in the new year.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED.

FROM ST. AUGUSTINE'S PASTY CREW

Thank you so very much to all who helped us during the deer season pasty sale.

We baked 1236 pasties that day. (So much for Tammy's "scouts honor" that not ONE more than 1,200 would be made. 😊)

Without the support of so many from our great community, this would not be possible.

Bethany Lutheran

Sunday School Christmas Play – "Christmas Hang-ups"

Sunday December 20 at 3:00pm with reception following

Presented by the Sunday School children, teachers, and parents of Bethany. All are welcome!

A freewill offering will be taken.

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