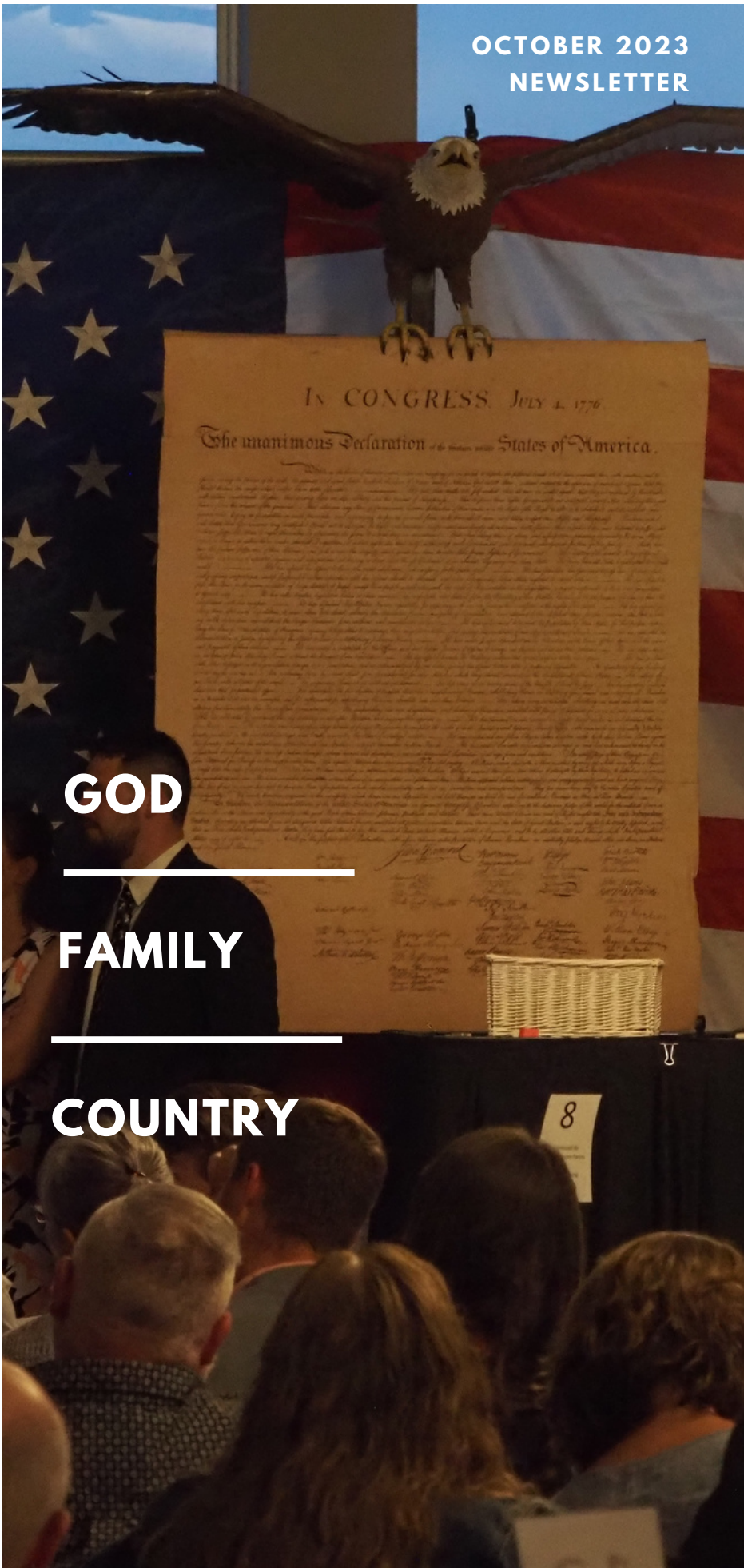




BCRP UPDATE

OCTOBER 2023
NEWSLETTER



GOD

FAMILY

COUNTRY



UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 26

BCRP EC MEETING

Hosted at the Walldorff 3rd floor 7pm

**STAY
CONNECTED**

WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED?

Reach out to get more involved with one of our ongoing sub-committees

EVERY FRIDAY

COFFEE AND POLITICS

Old Towne Tavern in Hastings 8am

OCTOBER 12TH

DELEGATE TRAINING

Reach out for more details for this in depth delegate training put on by our very own education comm.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Barry County Republicans

Barry County is fortunate enough to have a very conservative population that has consistently voted in all republicans in every partisan office for our county, state, and federal levels. Now, it is the responsibility of the BCRP (Barry County Republican Party) to make sure that our elected republicans are, in fact, conservative in nature and not just republican in name. I would make the argument that this is the main job and focus of the party before all other matters. If we cannot, at the very least, vet and prop up conservative representatives as true Republicans for, the people to vote for then we have truly lost sight of what our purpose is as a party. That means that each elected republican at the very least has an affiliation to the party, for that is the first and foremost sign of where ones sympathies lay. If there isn't a true "republican" on the ballot, then it is the duty of the party to raise one up for the people.

As we move forward in the everchanging political environment I'm reminded of a few very simple principles that will give success to our movement. First I want to commend those of us who have great ambitions within our party and movement. In whatever capacity that plays out, it is a positive, but only if it sits in the proper place of priorities. Ultimately, the #1 priority has to be the submission to God and His laws. Only then can we properly understand the steps necessary to achieve greatness, both individually and as an organization. For what good is it to gain the world and lose our soul? And we, as a nation, are dangerously close to losing the American spirit that made us a great nation. I'm often reminded of the story where Jesus flipped the tables and drove out the people in the temple for defiling the house of God with their greed. How much more would he do in his time if his own people set up an "abortion" clinic in his house? If we are truly under the mighty hand of God, then the zeal for justice will be burning in your soul! Let us be diligent in our pursuit to do justice in all that we set out to do, both in small and big things alike.



LINCOLN DAY DINNER

The Lincoln Day Dinner was a great success for the BCRP. As a time of celebration and fundraising, we more than met our goal! Thank you to everyone who joined us, and we look forward to building upon this event for more future events.



Special **Thanks** to our Fundraising, Outreach, and Planning Committee for a job well done!

Kelli Case
Jason Watson
John Hawkins
April Taggart
Vickie Betit
Shelly Lake
Jon Rocha
Nancy Hooker

COUNTY REPORT

September recap

-Prairieville

"special assessment resolution" meeting was held on August 9th in the presence of about 50 local taxpayers. The boards intent was to evaluate a change in the process of procuring Township revenues for police and fire protection via a "Resolution" proposal to implement an assessment taxation process, this would permanently replace the current and historic millage taxation process.

(1) Assessment... the Township Board would have the authority to develop new and permanent revenue processes increasing property taxation based on the board's "wants or needs" with no taxpayer input and done in the darkness of night. The politicians win, We the People lose!!

(2) Millage... a tried and true taxation process where individual taxpayers research and decide the actual needs, confirmed or rejected via a voting process, and the transparency of day. We the People win, the politicians lose!!!

After several expressions and personal comments from the audience at the meeting, the board agreed to table the resolution and imply that they will likely not consider it in the future.

-Maple Grove

It was reported that a possible solar farm is being explored for the township.

-Johnstown

Many County residents came to push back against solar farms. 1000 of 1600 acres will be taken out of farming when the project is started, local feed costs will go up at that time. Property is being registered as Spring Creek Solar, but will be owned by consumers energy.

COUNTY CONTINUED

-Yankee Springs

Township park had some work done on it.

The engineering firm that did the design underestimated the cost. They gave a quote then exceeded it by 50,000. Board used the remaining ARPA funds to help pay it off.

-Hastings City Council

A public hearing was held for a meadowstone planned unit development modification and final site plan. This would add 5 more buildings for 92 unit's. Lot's of push back from residents with concerns from standing water in the area. The plan passed 5 to 3.

They approved a workshop session to hear a report by McGrath consulting regarding the Hastings fire department.

-Planning Commission

Check the county calendar for these meetings. Attendance is important!



COUNTY CONTINUED

School Boards

-Hastings

Bond passed

-Lakewood

Some concerning changes to the high school dress code. Allowing midriff tops and pajamas, and they removed a specific prohibition of low cut blouses.

-Thornapple Kellogg

Approved the 5 year plan that was developed over the past year.

A new AP class book was introduced. It's a class on environmental science.

-Commissioners Report

Approved the 2023-2024 Child Care Fund Plan and Budget

Approved in accordance with the Airport Commission Joint Operating Agreement to purchase a Zero Turn lawn mower.

Adopted Resolution to Abolish the County Officer Compensation Commission for Barry County.

Approved meeting minutes, transfers and disbursements.

Approved all easements between GenCap Hastings Limited Dividend Housing Assoc. LLC and Barry County and for the County Board Chair, County Clerk and County Administrator to execute all documents necessary for the sale of County real property (102 S. Broadway St.)

Presentation by Courtney Ziny, Director of COA-Annual Report.

All the agendas and minutes of each meeting are available online.

Just go to www.barrycounty.org and go to Board of Commissioners.

SOLAR FIELDS



ATTENTION PROPERTY OWNERS IN BARRY COUNTY

The Barry County Board of Commissioners has recently approved the “Barry County 2040 Master Plan” which includes an alternative energy plan that could take roughly 15,000 acres of farmland and woods and convert it to solar or wind farms. This could take around \$12,000,000 in annual revenue out of our county, as well as affect the jobs and habitat those acres provide.

We need to act now! There is power in numbers! Don’t let them ruin our beautiful, rural county. If you live in Barry County, this affects you. You can help by attending township meetings, where they are considering allowing these farms to be built, and letting them know you oppose the plan and you’re asking them to vote NO. Just because the county plan allows for it, does NOT mean the local townships, villages, cities, or the planning commission must approve it to be done in your neighborhood.

Please look up your next township meeting (to see if this is or will be on the agenda in your community and address any concerns you might have). Although you can plan to speak during public comment and make signs to hold up, even just showing up in large numbers to oppose will speak volumes and encourage a NO vote in your community! We encourage every Barry County resident to show up at all meetings where this is on the agenda to speak in solidarity against this coming to our county. Your township could be next! Please come!

In addition, please write a message of opposition, similar to the one below (or just copy/paste this one), and send it to all of the Barry County Commissioners and your Representatives. Tell them that you do not support large-scale, energy company solar or wind farms in Barry County and ask them to rescind the approval of the plan. We’ve provided a helpful list of email addresses below. This can take less than 5 minutes, but will have a monumental impact! If you have any questions or would like more information, feel free to contact our Executive Committee, as we are here to help!

*****TEMPLATE OF A SUGGESTED MESSAGE TO YOUR OFFICIALS**
DEAR COMMISSIONERS AND REPRESENTATIVES,**

I AM IN OPPOSITION OF LARGE-SCALE, SOLAR OR WIND FARMS BEING INSTALLED IN BARRY COUNTY. 15,000 ACRES, WHICH IS OVER 24 SQUARE MILES, IS TOO MUCH TO BE TAKEN AWAY FROM OUR COUNTY AND THESE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY FARMS WILL NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE RESIDENTS OF BARRY COUNTY, AS STATED IN THE PLAN ITSELF.

THIS MATTERS TO ME AND MY NEIGHBORS BECAUSE IT WOULD:

●TAKE ROUGHLY \$12,000,000 OF REVENUE, EVERY YEAR, OUT OF OUR ECONOMY

●INCUR SIGNIFICANT JOB LOSS

●NEGATIVELY IMPACT OUR PROPERTY VALUES

●SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE OR LOSE TAX REVENUE

●RAISE OUR UTILITY BILLS

●DESTROY HABITAT AND FOOD SOURCE FOR OUR WILDLIFE

●KILL THOUSANDS OF BIRDS, BATS, AND INSECTS FROM THE HIGH TEMPERATURES OF SOLAR PANELS AND/OR THE TURBINES OF WIND FARMS

●CREATE TECHNOLOGY WASTE THAT HAS NO KNOWN DISPOSAL PATH

●UTILIZE UNSIGHTLY, POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS HIGH-TENSION POWER CORRIDORS IN ORDER TO CONNECT SYSTEMS TO THE GRID

●BRING GLARE, NOISE, VIBRATION, AND MOTION CONCERNS FOR NEIGHBORS AND WILDLIFE

●DISRUPT THE RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCE BARRY COUNTY IS KNOWN FOR IN OUR OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL AREAS, RIVERS, AND LAKES

I AM ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE WASTE CREATED BY THESE FARMS, AS SOLAR TECHNOLOGY IS CHANGING RAPIDLY AND THERE IS NO CREDIBLE WAY TO DISPOSE OF OUTDATED, BROKEN, OR OTHERWISE USELESS PANELS OR TURBINES, WHICH COULD REQUIRE SPECIALIZED TRANSPORT. WITH ONLY AN AVERAGE OF 100 DAYS PER YEAR OF SUN, THE SOLAR PANEL FARMS WOULD LIKELY NOT PRODUCE A SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF ENERGY TO JUSTIFY INSTALLING LARGE FARMS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY.

AS YOUR CONSTITUENT, I IMPLORE YOU TO VOTE NO ON BRINGING ALTERNATIVE ENERGY FARMS TO BARRY COUNTY.

RESPECTFULLY,

SEND TO THE FOLLOWING EMAIL ADDRESSES:

BTEUNESSEN@BARRYCOUNTY.ORG - BOB TEUNESSEN, COMMISSIONER

CGETTY@BARRYCOUNTY.ORG - CATHERINE GETTY, COMMISSIONER

DJACKSON@BARRYCOUNTY.ORG - DAVE JACKSON, COMMISSIONER

JSMELKER@BARRYCOUNTY.ORG - JON SMELKER, COMMISSIONER

MCALLTON@BARRYCOUNTY.ORG - MIKE CALLTON, COMMISSIONER

MDOSTER@BARRYCOUNTY.ORG - MARK DOSTER, COMMISSIONER

BCAMPBELL@BARRYCOUNTY.ORG - BRUCE CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONER

DHATFIELD@BARRYCOUNTY.ORG - DAVE HATFIELD, COMMISSIONER

ANGELARIGAS@HOUSE.MI.GOV - ANGELA RIGAS, REPRESENTATIVE 79TH DISTRICT

GJOHNSON@HOUSE.MI.GOV - GINA JOHNSON, REPRESENTATIVE 78TH DISTRICT

RACHELLESMIT@HOUSE.MI.GOV - RACHELLE SMIT 43RD DISTRICT

THOMASALBERT@HOUSE.MI.GOV - THOMAS ALBERT, SENATOR 18TH DISTRICT

JMCMANUS@BARRYCOUNTY.ORG - JAMES MCMANUS, PLANNING AND ZONING DIRECTOR

JOHNSTOWNSUPER@MEI.NET - BARBARA EARL, JOHNSTOWN TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

BALTIMORESUPER@MEI.NET - CHAD VANSYCKLE, BALTIMORE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR



Good Neighbor Training

The Good Neighbor training for Precinct Delegates (and those wanting to know more about the workings of local government) kicks off on

Thursday, October 12th at 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Location: Barry County Christian School, 2999 McKeown Rd. Hastings

**Your Barry County Republican Party education team is looking forward to a fun, educational experience. We hope to see you there!
Please RSVP to this email so that we know how many plan to attend.**

If you have any questions, call Vickie at 616-893-5545.

Thank you!

P.S. There will be 2 more meetings scheduled at the October 12th. Don't miss October 12th even if you can't make the other meetings.



Thank you

from the

Barry County Republican Party

2 SAMUEL 7:28



RESPOND TO YOUR CALLING