

A Service of **Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op**

May/June 2012

# Michigan COUNTRY LINES



Michigan-made:

## *Luminature*

*Wildly unique lighting  
and decor*

### **Special PIE&G Board Meeting Open to Membership**

June 25, 2012 • 7 p.m.

PIE&G Headquarters • 19831 M-68 Hwy., Onaway

**Home  
Improvement**  
EDITION

5 Proposal To Become  
Member Regulated

8 Get Involved  
In Your Co-op

20 Battling The  
Storm



**PRESQUE ISLE ELECTRIC & GAS CO-OP**

**19831 M-68 Hwy., P.O. Box 308  
Onaway, 49765**

Business Office & Billing: **989-733-8515**

Toll-free: **800-423-6634**

**pieg.com**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**John F. Brown, Chairman**

231-625-2099

21 W. Devereaux Lake Rd.  
Indian River, MI 49749

**Allen Barr, Vice-Chairman**

231-625-2128

2591 Grant Siding Road  
Cheboygan, MI 49721

**David W. Smith, Secretary**

989-785-5345

P.O. Box 180  
Atlanta, MI 49709

**Daryl Peterson, Treasurer**

989-742-3145

P.O. Box 54  
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**Allan Berg** – 989-734-0044

1117 E. Heythaler Hwy.  
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**Sally Knopf** – 989-734-4196

1849 W. 638 Hwy.  
Rogers City, MI 49779

**Bernice Krajniak** – 989-379-2727

13478 Carr Rd.  
Posen, MI 49776

**Robert Wegmeyer** – 989-379-2311

16181 Beaver Lake Park Rd.  
Lachine, MI 49753

**Raymond Wozniak** – 989-766-2498

6737 State St.  
Posen, MI 49776

**PRESIDENT & CEO**

**Brian J. Burns**

PIE&G's natural gas operations are not regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission.



**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

# Member Regulation: *Common Sense for Not-for-profit Businesses*

**F**or about the first 30 years of its 75 years of existence, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op was not regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). In the 1960s, co-ops agreed to allow the state to regulate their business in exchange for “territorial protection” from other marauding utilities attempting to take customers from co-ops.

In 2008, the Michigan Legislature unanimously passed and the governor signed into law the “Electric Cooperative Member-Regulation Act,” or Public Act 167 (107 yeas to 0 nays in the House; 38 to 0 in the Senate). This noncontroversial, common-sense law allows not-for-profit, member-owned electric co-op members acting through their democratically elected boards of directors to establish their own rates, charges, accounting standards, billing practices, and terms and conditions of service, while the MPSC retains jurisdiction over safety, interconnection, code of conduct, customer choice, and distribution standards, among other matters.

The Act also declares that member regulation may be more efficient and cost-effective. The MPSC even reduces utility assessments of member-regulated co-ops by 50 percent (for 2012, PIE&G's utility assessment is more than \$70,000). It is estimated being member-regulated would save PIE&G up to \$100,000 per year in utility

assessments, legal fees, interest and other expenses. Ultimately, member-regulation lowers the electric rate burden to members.

The PIE&G board will consider becoming member-regulated on June 25 (see the notice on page 5). The process to become member-regulated is outlined in the Act and summarized in the notice.



**Brian J. Burns**  
President & CEO

Since the Act passed, four of nine Michigan electric co-ops have chosen to become member-regulated due to the benefits it brings to their membership. Electric co-ops in most states are already member-regulated,

with only 12 states choosing to rate-regulate co-ops. Member-regulated co-ops are similar to more than 40 Michigan municipals that are not rate-regulated by the MPSC for electric service (or water or sewer); cities and villages establish their own utility rates and charges via democratically elected leaders.

If it becomes member-regulated, PIE&G expects to employ the same common-sense business solutions and rate setting methods it does today, but without the expense and delay of many trips to Lansing for approval by the MPSC.

All co-op expenses are borne by member-owners, hence the co-op seeks cost-effective business solutions for its operations—but these are becoming increasingly difficult to find. Member regulation, however, is one of them.

## Member Regulation Facts:

- Four of Michigan's 9 electric distribution co-ops are already member-regulated.
- Applies to electric operations (not natural gas).
- If member-regulated, PIE&G can save up to \$100,000/year (\$1 million over 10 years) in assessments, legal fees and other expenses.
- Reducing co-op expenses ultimately reduces the rate burden to all co-op members.
- Member-regulated co-ops are similar to the over 40 Michigan municipals whose electric rates aren't regulated by the MPSC.
- PIE&G was *not* regulated by the MPSC from 1937 to 1965.

## Notice to Members of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

The Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op board will take action on the proposal to become member-regulated in accordance with P.A. 167 of 2008, at its meeting on June 25, 2012, to be held at 19831 M-68 Hwy., Onaway, MI 49765. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. Members will have an opportunity to address the board on the proposal prior to board action.

The following is the proposal to be considered:

### Proposal to Become a Member-Regulated Cooperative in Accordance with Public Act 167 of 2008

On June 26, 2008, Public Act 167 of 2008 (P.A. 167) became law.

P.A. 167 states that an electric cooperative, owned by the members it serves, is regulated by its members acting through its democratically elected board of directors.

P.A. 167 further states that member regulation by a cooperative in the areas of rates, charges, accounting standards, billing practices, and terms and conditions of service may be more efficient and cost-effective than regulation by the Michigan Public Service Commission.

P.A. 167 allows the board of directors of an electric cooperative to adopt member-regulation for rates, charges, accounting standards, billing practices, and terms and conditions of service by following the process set forth in the act.

That process requires the following:

- (a) A proposal by a director of the cooperative to become member-regulated, when such proposal is made at a properly convened board meeting.
- (b) Action on the proposal taken no earlier than 90 days have passed from the date the proposal was made.
- (c) Action on the proposal taken at a meeting of the board for which written notice is given and the meeting is open to all members of the cooperative.
- (d) At the meeting, members of the cooperative shall have reasonable time to address the board prior to its acting upon the proposal.
- (e) Following member comments, a roll call vote of the board of directors shall be taken.
- (f) For the proposal to be adopted, 2/3 of the members of the board must vote in favor of becoming member-regulated.

This proposal seeks that Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op become member-regulated in accordance with P.A. 167. Notice of the June 25, 2012, board meeting shall be sent to all members, as required by P.A. 167, by publication in *Michigan Country Lines*.

**PARTICIPATION:** Any interested member may attend and participate. Persons needing any special accommodation to participate should contact Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op at 800-423-6634, ext. 813, a week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

## Annual Meter Readings Begin in May



Over the next three months, our meter readers will visit each location receiving PIE&G electric and/or natural gas service to obtain a meter reading for our annual verification. Personnel will carry a PIE&G identification badge.

To help make this annual process easier, we ask that you:

▶ Please have animals leashed and away from the meter location.

▶ Make sure the meter is clear from obstructions and is easily accessible for our meter readers.

*Schedule by county:*

**MAY** Cheboygan, Emmet, Mackinac

**JUNE** Alpena, Alcona, Presque Isle

**JULY** Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego

*Thank you for your cooperation!*



**Presque Isle Electric & Gas  
Co-op offices will be  
closed for Memorial Day**

**~ Monday, May 31 ~**

Payments may be made at the drop box or online at [pieg.com](http://pieg.com) and will be posted on the next open business day.

**Have a safe and happy  
Memorial Day Weekend!**

# Get Involved In Your Co-op

*It's time to nominate potential directors.*

In a cooperative, the “Democratic Member Control” principle means that co-ops are self-governing organizations controlled by their members who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the full membership. Since Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op is a democracy, it works best when you participate in the organization.

Any qualified PIE&G member-owner can be elected to serve on the cooperative's board of directors. The term of office is three years. In 2012, three directors will be elected (one from each of the following districts): Montmorency, Cheboygan and one At-Large position.

Potential nominees must meet the qualifications for the office of director as set forth in Article III, Section 2 of the PIE&G bylaws

(available on our website, [pieg.com](http://pieg.com)). Any member interested in becoming a candidate is invited to visit the cooperative's office and learn about the duties performed by the directors. Board of directors meetings are typically held the fourth Tuesday of each month, commencing at 9:30 a.m.

To place your name on the ballot as a candidate for election to the board of directors, nominations may be made by the nominating committee, by petition or from the floor at the annual meeting. You may submit a letter of interest by June 15, 2012 to: Nominating Committee, c/o PIE&G, PO Box 308, Onaway, MI 49765. All letters will be given to the nominating committee for review. Committee nominations will be made in July.

Watch upcoming issues of *Country Lines* for further information about the annual meeting in October.

**Any qualified member can be elected to serve. The term of office is three years.**

## Watch Out For Downed Power Lines

Downed lines may still be energized and can easily injure or kill someone nearby, so please use these tips for safety:

- ▶ Treat all power lines as energized. Never climb or touch a tree that has a limb caught in a power line.
- ▶ Maintain required clearances between equipment and power lines.
- ▶ If a fire starts from a fallen line, stay away. Call the fire department and PIE&G.
- ▶ Do not use water on or near a fallen power line.
- ▶ Look for nearby power lines before you cut down or trim trees. If a tree falls into a power line, call PIE&G at 800-423-6634.

You can help stop power line problems by notifying the co-op of trees or branches that may interfere with the lines.

## Your Board In Action

At their February and March 2012 regular meetings, the PIE&G Board of Directors:

- Set the date of June 25, 2012, at 7 p.m. at its headquarters for a special board meeting open to the membership to consider a proposal to become Member-Regulated in accordance with Public Act 167 of 2008.
- Welcomed and heard comments from guests and members Messrs. Vermilya and Tollini.
- Moved the date of the regular monthly board of directors meeting in July 2012 from Tuesday the 24th, to Tuesday, July 31.
- Heard and accepted the 2011 audit report of Harris Group CPAs.
- Accepted TIER (rate) analyses of CFO Sobeck based on audited 2011 financial statements for the electric, regulated gas, and non-regulated gas divisions, which showed there is no need to adjust distribution rates in 2012.
- Established the Gas Cost Recovery (GCR) factor to be announced to home-rule entities.
- Appointed to 3-year terms to the PIE&G Communities First Fund Board of Directors Co-op members Materna, Patrick, and Selesky.
- Appointed PIE&G director Brown to a 2-year term to the Wolverine Power Cooperative Board of Directors, and director Wozniak and CEO Burns to 1-year terms to the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association Board of Directors.



Trent Goudy (L) and John Belusar (R) represented PIE&G at this year's **Youth Leadership Summit**, and board of directors member Daryl Peterson chaperoned the 3-day event. Teens from across the state gathered at this annual conference near Cadillac to develop their leadership habits and learn about careers in the energy field. See more on p. 7.

# ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG



One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident:  
Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig.  
Visit [call811.com](http://call811.com) for more information.



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.



TRAVELERS  
Common Ground Alliance

# BATTLING THE STORM

By Nick Edson

**T**he scene was a mess, and it blanketed most of northern lower Michigan and part of the eastern U.P. with 18-24 inches of wet, heavy snow.

Huge trees were knocked over, pulling down power lines and poles with them.

Two feet of snow blocked roads and driveways.

Over 104,752 homes and businesses were left out in the cold in the service areas of Cherryland, Great Lakes Energy (GLE), Presque Isle Electric & Gas (PIE&G), Cloverland, and Alger Delta cooperatives. The first three were the hardest-hit, but the count doesn't even include consumers affected in areas served by other utilities.


"We had our work cut out for us," said Cherryland line superintendent, Jim Carpenter, of the 20,000 outages in their area. "I've worked here 34 years and I've never seen the kind of destruction that we were facing."

Engineering manager Frank Siepker agrees.

"It wasn't just the amount of damage that was done," Siepker notes. "It was the fact that we had guys walking in waist-deep snow for miles at a time just to get back to where the line was down. We had many places where we couldn't send our line crews until our tree-trimming crews went in and cleared trees away from the road."

The storm hit late on Friday, March 2, and took more than a week of grueling work in fast-changing weather conditions to get everyone's power restored.

Not only were the co-op line crews working 16 hours at a stretch, but outside line, tree-trimming and equipment contracting crews came from all over Michigan and part of Indiana to help. Mutual aid teams, coordinated by safety professionals Joe McElroy and Dan King of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA), came from seven other



A crew works to reconnect power lines with the help of a bucket truck. The deep snow and ice produced by this record storm slowed restoration progress, and many outage areas weren't accessible by vehicles, causing some lineworkers to crawl through snow drifts on their hands and knees to reach downed wires.

electric co-ops and nine cities.

About 50 additional crews were called in to assist with Great Lakes Energy restoration efforts alone. By the storm's end, Cherryland had 150 people working in addition to regular staff—the largest workforce ever deployed on their system, and Presque Isle required about 30 additional workers.

"It was a huge undertaking," explains Siepker. "But the bottom line was that we had members sitting in the cold. We couldn't let up until the last one had power."

As the crews struggled to work in harsh conditions, member service representatives were answering phones and updating the media, web pages, and Facebook and Twitter sites with the latest news about power restoration.

"Most of our members understood the monumental task we faced," said Cherryland General Manager Tony Anderson. "But a few became frustrated and voiced that to our employees. That comes along with the job. I'm very proud of the job our employees did handling this massive outage."

At Great Lakes Energy, the state's largest co-op, outages spread over 18 counties and affected over 60,000 of 125,000 members.

"Getting to outage locations took more time with this storm," says Great Lakes CEO Steven Boeckman. "Big line trucks got stuck in the snow. Snowshoes, special tracked vehicles and snowmobiles were needed to get to many trouble spots, and even those sank into the snow."

Rain followed the storm, causing snow to



Photo and opposite page – John Russell, Great Lakes Images

The scene pictured here was unfortunately common as trees and limbs tore down lines in the storm's path.

**Below:** Lineworkers prepare to replace a pole that snapped in half under the pressure of heavy, wet snow.

freeze on some downed wires, and it had to be knocked-off before hoisting them back up into place. Over 50 broken poles were replaced, sometimes using tracked vehicles to haul them in. "Most of this hard, time-consuming work had to be repeated over and over again at each location with downed wires," Boeckman says.

Presque Isle had over one-half of their members—about 18,290 locations—out in their seven-county service area.

Towards the storm's edge, Cloverland and Alger Delta handled their own outages without outside help. "Our line crews began responding to outages early Saturday morning and hit it hard all weekend and continued into Monday morning," says Wendy Malaska, Cloverland marketing/communications director. About 10,000 services across their five-county area were affected, and Alger Delta had 40-50 outages.

"I cannot remember one this bad since the windstorm of '98, and cannot describe how bad it is on the line personnel...extremely challenging!" explains Joe McElroy, MECA's safety/loss control director. Deep snow also means bucket trucks are replaced by lineworkers climbing the slippery poles.

Each co-op has unique stories about how this record storm affected both their members and employees.

Some Cherryland members needed help and came right to the co-op's Grawn office to get it when they needed water for their horses. They came twice a day, meeting Member Service Manager Kevin Cragg outside as he filled up their big buckets with water. Other times, thoughtful members brought baked goods for employees to eat as they manned the office at all hours of the day and night.

It's not uncommon for co-op employees to

help arrange hotel rooms and meals for field crews, but one co-op even had employees who helped with lineworker laundry and another found a school bus to shuttle crews to and from the hotel after their equipment was stolen in the parking lot.

"It takes everyone to help out by doing things they don't normally do to get the job done," explains Scott Szymoniak, PIE&G's operations/engineering manager. This may mean an accounting employee takes outage calls and member services and management employees run materials and guide outside crews to outage sites.

And sometimes, it means co-op members help, too. Some PIE&G members drove lineworkers on their personal snowmobiles or tracked quads to reach outage sites. "Our members were glad to do anything to help," Szymoniak says.

At Great Lakes Energy, co-op members used snowblowers and tractors to clear roadways and to-the-pole paths for the crews, says operations director Dave Matz. A local restaurant provided meals and refused payment.

On the seventh day after the storm, Cherryland still had 150 lineworkers fixing outages that affected about 400 members; Great Lakes Energy still had 290 members without power; and PIE&G about 25.

The storm's magnitude will incur huge costs for the co-ops that bore the worst damage. For example, Cherryland estimates a final cost in the \$1 million range, Great Lakes \$1.5 million, and PIE&G in the \$600,00 range.

"There were no winners in this thing," says Siepker. "Only survivors. We did the best we could to get power restored. Our members did the best they could to stay warm. Many members told us they would never take electricity for granted again."



Photo – Great Lakes Energy

# Treat Do-It-Yourself Wiring Projects Carefully

If spring sends you into remodeling mode, consider checking with professionals before migrating to the nearest hardware store. While do-it-yourself (DIY) projects can be very satisfying to complete, they pose risks when it comes to electricity.

“Mistakes can be costly—or even deadly,” warns John Drengenberg, consumer affairs manager for Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., (UL), a Chicago-based nonprofit firm that tests and sets minimum standards for electric products. “The first and best safety tip is to call in an expert rather than be your own electrician.”

An ongoing study by the Fire Protection Research Foundation has given UL engineers a better understanding of typical DIY wiring mistakes. The most common are:

## Working With a Live Wire

It may seem obvious, but thousands of do-it-yourselfers get electric shock injuries each year. To avoid becoming a statistic, always turn off the circuit breaker (or remove the fuse) before working on or replacing electrical equipment. If you have a pre-1940s home, you probably have more than one breaker box, or panel board, as electricians call them.

## Using the Wrong Lightbulb

Most lighting fixtures have a sticker on the socket that tells you the proper type and maximum lightbulb wattage to use. Installing a different type of bulb, or one with higher wattage, will not only make the room brighter, but could damage the lights and cause a fire. The higher the wattage, the hotter the bulb, and the hotter the wire that goes to the lighting fixture.

## Not Being Grounded

For optimal safety, receptacles should be wired with the proper grounding and polarity. Generally, three-pronged outlets signify an effective ground path in the circuit. However, homes built before the mid-1960s probably don't have a grounding path, and simply replacing the existing outlet with a three-pronged outlet won't give you one.

“You see instances of this in homes with older wiring,” Drengenberg says. “It's no

worse than if you plug your two-pronged device into a two-pronged outlet. But it does give the homeowner a false sense of security.”

Wiring with a grounding path usually has a copper grounding wire with the cable. If you are uncertain whether your home's wiring is grounded, inexpensive UL-listed outlet circuit testers are available to check for proper grounding and polarity. If your outlet is improperly grounded, call an electrician before moving forward in any project.

## Splicing, Splicing, Splicing

Always make sure your wiring size and type match. Splicing wires by simply twisting them together and covering them with electrical tape is rarely a good idea. Instead, use wiring suitable to your home's wiring and place wiring connections in metal or plastic boxes to decrease fire risk.

Also keep in mind that circuits protected by 15-amp fuses or breakers should be wired with No. 14 AWG copper wire minimum. For 20 amps, use No. 12 AWG minimum size copper wire. Other guidelines apply, so seek professional help before you begin.

## Hooking New Lights to Old Wires

Most light fixtures are marked with instructions for supply connections, such as “Use wire rated for at least 90C,” which refers to the maximum temperature—90 degrees Celsius or about 200 degrees Fahrenheit—under which a wire's insulation can safely be used. Again, if you have an older home (pre-1984, in this case), wiring may have a lower temperature rating than a new luminaire.

“This isn't something most DIYers even think to consider,” Drengenberg cautions. “It probably won't burst into flame immediately, but it does increase the risk of a fire.” To avoid that risk, check your wire rating first, and either upgrade it or buy fixtures within the supply connection range.

## Other Electrical Clues

Electrical upgrades often require a professional who knows what inspections and permits are needed. Following are a few other clues to help you find out if your home's electric network needs a professional switch.



Source – Electrical Safety Foundation International

Be careful not to install new lighting to old, inferior wires. To avoid this fire hazard, check your wire rating first, and either upgrade it or buy fixtures within the supply connection range.

- **Type of wiring.** Modern wiring is insulated, meaning covered in plastic. Older homes may have copper or aluminum wiring. Copper wiring can work just as well as modern wiring if it is still in good condition and has not been altered or improperly installed. However, fire risk also increases in homes with both copper and aluminum wiring. Corrosion to aluminum from copper can lead to loose connections causing fires. Use only aluminum-approved switches, outlets, and other accessories if your home has aluminum wiring.

- **Plugs fall out of outlets easily.** Loose plugs are a high fire danger. Older outlets that have lost their grip need to be replaced.

- **Not enough outlets.** The increasing use of chargers for phones and electronic devices means outlets are in high demand, especially in older homes where outlets are not as plentiful. This can result in overuse of extension cords and power strips. Be sure to use quality, 14-gauge or thicker cords that are approved by Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Never overload an outlet. Overloading can cause heat, leading to fire risk. Consider hiring a licensed electrician to add outlets to your home.

- **Danger in wet areas.** GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) outlets are now required in areas around water like near a kitchen or bathroom sink or outdoors. But in older homes, GFCIs may not have been installed. It is fairly simple to replace old receptacles with GFCIs; hire a professional to upgrade outlets near water.

- **Wind causes lights to blink.** If you notice your lights blinking on windy days, it may be due to worn wiring in the weatherhead (where overhead lines enter your home). Contact your electric co-op to check weatherhead wiring.

Sources: *This Old House*, Underwriters Laboratories, Kelly Trapnell



# Out With the Old...For Real

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op offers recycling for refrigerators and freezers.

Over the past two years, many consumers received federal rebates when purchasing a new refrigerator, water heater, or other household appliance. About 1.7 million rebates were redeemed, and the U.S. Department of Energy estimates these appliances will cut \$65 million from electric bills every year. Around \$48 million of that chunk will be saved mainly by consumers who bought energy-efficient refrigerators, clothes washers, and dishwashers.

Great news, right? But suppose you just bought a new refrigerator or freezer, what did you do with your old one? Kick it to the curb? Move it out to the garage? Recycle it? The reason we ask isn't to make you feel guilty, but to point out that recycling old appliances isn't the first thing most of us think about.

In fact, a lot of us are still using our old refrigerator and the new one. A national survey from the Cooperative Research Network, a branch of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, reported that 19 percent of U.S. homes have two refrigera-

tors running at all times. Another 2 percent of U.S. households operate three or more refrigerators at the same time.

So much for the adage, "Out with the old and in with the new."

## One Is Best

The problem with keeping an old refrigerator or freezer is simple: It costs you money. By continuing to use these "energy hogs" in your basement or garage, your energy bills may be \$100-200 higher per year than necessary.

The older your refrigerator or freezer is, the more energy it wastes. For example, a modern refrigerator costs 60 percent less to use than a 1970s-era unit. In addition, a new refrigerator is about 20 percent larger than the 1970s avocado green or blaze orange

versions, making it easier for most families to have just one fridge.

## Energy Optimization Appliance Recycling

As your energy provider, we want to help you really save energy when you buy a new Energy Star® or energy-efficient refrigerator or freezer. That's why we're proud of our refrigerator recycling program.

### How you benefit:

- \$30 rebate on each recycled refrigerator or freezer. Appliance must be in working condition. (Limit 2)
- Convenient door-to-door pick up
- Ongoing savings on your electric bills

### Bonus rebate alert

You know every dollar counts. So, if you're in the market to buy a new refrigerator or freezer, be sure to check out rebates that may be available through PIE&G's Energy Optimization program for Energy Star appliances.

**Call 877.296.4319 or visit [Michigan-energy.org](http://Michigan-energy.org) to schedule a pick-up of your old refrigerator.**



## Get \$30 for your old refrigerator or freezer.

Have an extra working refrigerator or freezer? Don't let it sit there wasting energy. Turn it in. You'll receive a \$30 rebate from the Energy Optimization (EO) Appliance Recycling program and we'll recycle it. Schedule your FREE pick-up today.

# recycle it

**ENERGY TIP: Shopping for new appliances? Take advantage of EO rebates on ENERGY STAR models.**

Online: [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) Phone: 877.296.4319



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org).

# 2012 Community Calendar



Photo - iStockphoto.com

## MAY

- 1-31 Sturgeon Guarding–Black River – Cheboygan, 231-625-2776, sturgeonfortomorrow.org
- 12 Morel Mushroom Festival – Lewiston, lewistonchamber.com
- 19 Blessing of the Bikes – Hillman, hillmanchamber.org
- 25 Presque Isle Lighthouses (Old & New) – Presque Isle, Open thru Labor Day, alpenacvb.com
- 26-27 40 Mile Point Lighthouse Arts & Crafts Weekend, Rogers City, 40milepointlighthouse.org
- 26-28 Bridge Race / Memorial Day Parade, 1 p.m. / Fireworks at dusk – Mackinaw City, mackinawinformation.com
- 28 Memorial Day Parade, 1 p.m. – Indian River, irchamber.com

## JUNE

- 8-18 57th Annual Lilac Festival – Mackinac Island, mackinawinformation.com
- 9-10 DNRE Free Fishing Weekend
- 9-10 Relay For Life – Cheboygan County, Cheboygan County Fairgrounds
- 16 20th Annual Presque Isle Harbor Wooden Boat Show, alpenacvb.com
- 16-17 Relay For Life – Presque Isle County, Rogers City High School
- 28-30 37th Annual St. Ignace Car Show Weekend – 5 miles from Mackinaw City, mackinawinformation.com

## JULY

- 3-6 Mill River Days – Hillman, nemichigan.com
- 4 Fourth celebrations: Alpena, alpenacvb.com; Atlanta, atlantamichiganchamber.com; Cheboygan, cheboygan.com; Indian River, irchamber.com; Onaway, onawaychamber.com; Mackinaw City, mackinawinformation.com

- 12-22 38th Annual Michigan Brown Trout Festival – Alpena, alpenacvb.com
- 16-22 32nd Annual SummerFest – Indian River, irchamber.com

## AUGUST

- July 31-5 100th Anniversary Nautical Festival – Rogers City, nauticalfestival.org
- 3-5 Timberfest – Lewiston, lewistonchamber.com
- 4-6 Historical Reenactment / 18th Century Market Fair – Mackinaw City, mackinawinformation.com
- 4-11 Cheboygan County Fair – Cheboygan, cheboygan.com
- 14-15 Riverfest – Cheboygan, cheboygan.com
- 14-18 Montmorency County Fair – Fairgrounds, Atlanta
- 18 PIE&G Charity Golf Classic – Stoney Links, Onaway

## SEPTEMBER

- Aug 29-3 Millersburg Annual Homecoming– Millersburg Fairgrounds, rogerscity.com / Presque Isle Co. Fair – picountyfair.org
- Aug 29-3 138th Alpena County Fair – alpenacvb.com
- 3 55th Annual Labor Day Mackinaw Bridge Walk – mackinawinformation.com
- 7-9 61st Annual Posen Potato Festival – posenchamber.com
- 28-30 28th Annual Elk Festival – Atlanta, atlantamichiganchamber.com

## OCTOBER

- 11-14 17th Annual Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival – Alpena, lighthousefestival.org

*Visit [michigan.org](http://michigan.org) for events statewide!*

