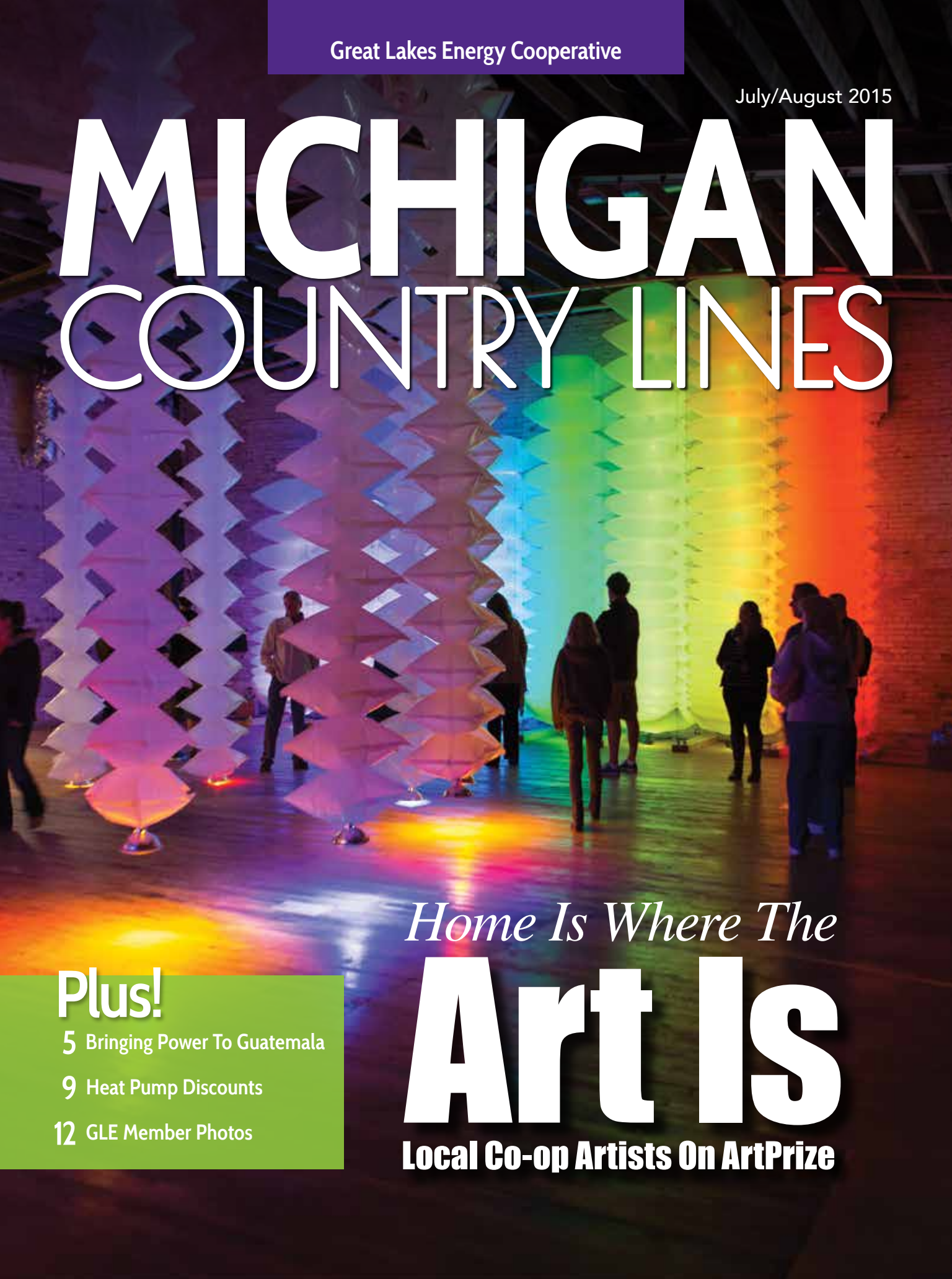


MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



Plus!

5 Bringing Power To Guatemala

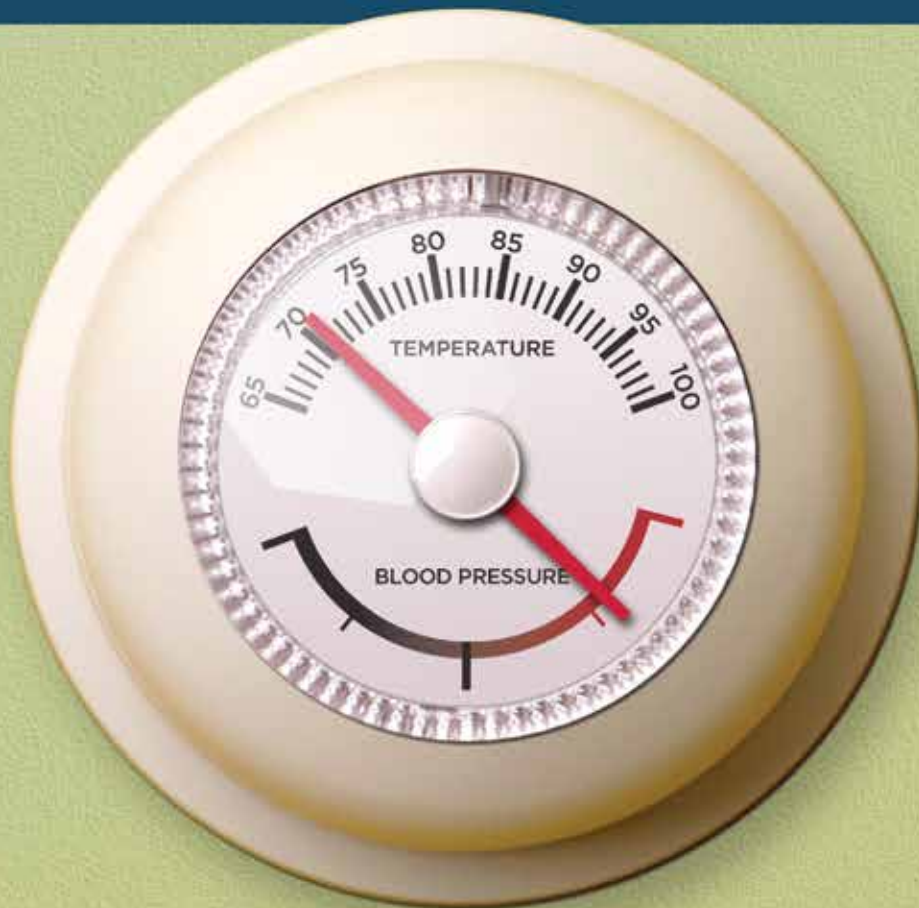
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Home Is Where The

Art Is

Local Co-op Artists On ArtPrize



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July/August 2015
Vol. 35, No. 7

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POSTMASTER: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

Letters to the editor should be sent to *Country Lines*, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. 517-913-3531.
E-mail: cdorr@meca.coop

Association officers are **Robert Schallip**, Cloverland Electric Cooperative, chairman; **Mark Kappler**, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric, vice chairman; and **Eric Baker**, Wolverine Power Cooperative, secretary-treasurer. **Craig Borr** is president and CEO.

Unsolicited letters, photos and manuscripts are welcome. *Country Lines*, however, will not be responsible for their safe keeping or return.

The appearance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised.

Change of Address:
Please notify your electric cooperative. See page 4 for contact information.



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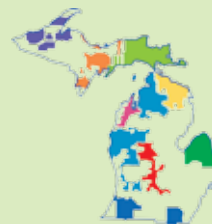
ON THE COVER*

"Trichromatic Spectra," created by Thomas Linder, was a past entry in the ArtPrize competition held annually in Grand Rapids, MI.

Linder's artwork is a kinetic inflatable installation involving thousands of LEDs that are controlled by computer animation.

Photo courtesy of ArtPrize.

*Some co-op editions have a different cover.



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Does Your Active Lifestyle Include Your Co-op?



Steve Boeckman
Great Lakes Energy
President/CEO

Like to think I'm active. I once ran the New York City Marathon, but in recent years have focused on activities that are easier on my body like gardening, golf and learning to fly-fish.

I enjoy the Michigan outdoors with its spectacular sunsets, beautiful lakes and scenic walking trails near my home. But having an energetic lifestyle is just one way to stay active. I also take an active part in my electric cooperative.

Like you, I'm a member of Great Lakes Energy. As a resident of Emmet County, I have the

opportunity this year to cast my vote for a director in District 1. The right to vote for a local director from your district comes along every three years. Don't let your chance to cast a vote pass you by.

Great Lakes Energy members in District 1 (Emmet County), District 2 (Charlevoix, Cheboygan counties) and District 7 (Oceana, Muskegon counties) received a mail-in ballot with their *Country Lines* July/August issue. Remaining GLE members will vote for a director in their district in either 2016 or 2017.

If you're in districts 1, 2 or 7 you will find candidate profiles in this election issue and a ballot on the outer cover. If you're not voting this year, you can still read candidate profiles online at countrylines.com/my-co-op. Simply cast your vote from the comfort of your home and drop the postage-paid ballot in the mailbox. Voting is that simple and convenient. If you lose or accidentally throw away the ballot, contact us and we'll send you another one.

Part of the value of being a cooperative member is everyone's vote carries equal weight. Whether it's a business with several owners or a small home with a single owner, each has one membership and one vote. In the case of a husband and wife, their joint membership entitles them to one vote.

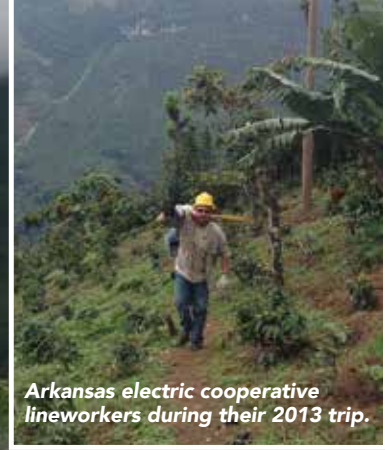
There are nine geographic districts with three district elections each year. The nine directors on the board are elected from each district for a three-year term.

Next year, elections for directors will be held in districts 6, 8 and 9 (see below). Currently, there are no directors who live in district 8 or 9, but in 2016 each district will gain a locally-elected director.

You don't have to take up running or golf to be active. Please join me in taking an active role in your cooperative this year. If you live in district 1, 2 or 7, cast your vote today. ■

Do You Live In District 6, 8 or 9?

Members in districts 6, 8 and 9 will vote next year. If you are interested in taking a more active role in your cooperative, consider running for the board next year in District 6 (Mason, Lake counties), District 8 (Osceola, Clare, Newaygo, Mecosta counties) or District 9 (Ottawa, Kent, Montcalm, Allegan, Barry counties). To learn more about eligibility and the responsibilities of a director, call 888-485-2537, ext. 1331, or email glenergy@glenergy.com.



Arkansas electric cooperative lineworkers during their 2013 trip.

GLE To Help Bring Power To Guatemala

Four Great Lakes Energy employees will travel to Guatemala this year to help bring electricity to 133 homes in the small villages of Soledad and Buena Vista.

They will join two teams of employees from other Michigan electric cooperatives who will construct approximately 10 miles of line. They also will become part of a 53-year tradition of NRECA International to help bring power to the world's developing countries. NRECA is the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association that serves the nation's electric cooperatives.

"Similar to when electricity was brought to rural America, the lives of the Guatemalans will be forever changed through the efforts of our electric cooperatives," GLE CEO Steve Boeckman said.

A total of 14 GLE employees volunteered for two teams that will travel to Guatemala. Those selected to take on the challenge include Engineering Analyst Kevin Evans, Petoskey Working Foreman Adam Brewbaker, Petoskey Lineworker William LaTourneau, and Newaygo Lineworker Tony Reichle. Other electric cooperative employees in the state from Cherryland Electric, HomeWorks Tri-County, Michigan Electric Cooperative Association and Wolverine Power Cooperative will also be part of the teams.

"We were pleasantly surprised by the number of employees who volunteered to participate in the trip," said Dave Matz, GLE VP of operations. "We hope that there will be another opportunity in the future for other employees to travel with NRECA International."

The first team will take a six-day planning/briefing trip to Guatemala this summer. Evans is part of a four-person group that will evaluate material needs, terrain, and determine other logistical challenges the lineworkers may face on their 17-day construction trip in early November.

Brewbaker, LaTourneau and Reichle will be part of the second team that will leave in November. This group will consist of 10 lineworkers plus one or two employees from the first trip. They will set poles and string wire alongside Guatemalan lineworkers who will be responsible for work on the lines after the team departs. LaTourneau is fluent in Spanish and will help serve as an interpreter during the trip.

About NRECA International

Through work done by employee teams from electric co-ops across the nation and NRECA International, more than 110 million people in over 42 developing countries have received access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity. NRECA International began in 1962 with an agreement signed between NRECA and the newly-established U.S. Agency for International Development. The original purpose was to share information about rural electrification with developing countries. That purpose soon grew as NRECA International's experienced teams began building lines, designing distribution grids and training local people on how to operate a viable electric cooperative. With field offices in Bangladesh, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Philippines, South Sudan and Uganda, NRECA International works to fulfill its mission of bringing sustainable rural electrification to parts of the world to improve health, education and economic opportunities for millions. Electricity in these developing countries has led to millions of new jobs and a higher quality of life. ■

Want to help?

GLE members who would like to contribute to this project involving GLE and other Michigan electric cooperative workers can submit monetary donations for travel expenses and supplies. All contributions are tax deductible. To donate online through PayPal visit meca.coop/about-meca/international/ and click on "How can I support this project?". To donate by check, make payable to NRECA International and send to Great Lakes Energy, P.O. Box 70, Boyne City, MI 49712, Attention: Nicole Youngs. Write FND Mich/Guatemala in the memo line.

To learn more about NRECA International visit nreca.coop/what-we-do/international-programs/. Watch a video of a trip Indiana electric cooperatives took to Guatemala in 2012 at youtube.com/watch?v=-MNY7b1U02o.

Legislation Would Strengthen Tie Between Our Peninsulas



Craig Borr
Michigan Electric
Cooperative Association
President and CEO

The Mackinac Bridge opened to vehicle traffic between the upper and lower peninsulas nearly 60 years ago. To this day, it continues to be a vital commercial link, as well as a symbol of what Michiganders can do when we work together for our state's benefit.

Legislators in Lansing may soon have an opportunity to debate legislation that could be a similar “bridge” for enhanced

flows of electricity between our two peninsulas. But it will take a great deal of determination and willpower to move this legislation forward. There are likely to be many detractors—as there were when we built the “Mighty Mac”.

Legislation was recently introduced in the Michigan Legislature that could result in the development of an additional high-voltage transmission link between the peninsulas. The Senate version of SB 282 was introduced by Sen. Tom Casperson, while the House version, HB 4575, was introduced by Rep. Triston Cole.

Currently, our two peninsulas do not operate as one when it comes to electricity. Michigan policy, utilities and regulators control the Lower Peninsula, while Wisconsin interests and utilities dominate the Upper Peninsula. All too often these competing interests and policies do not align—and customers are caught in the middle.

In addition to creating a more robust electrical tie, the legislation would form one “resource adequacy zone” to include both peninsulas, as well as increase reliability by reducing electrical “congestion” costs involved in the flow of energy between the peninsulas.

These congestion costs are a hidden tax in the cost of electricity. Portions of the northern Lower Peninsula as well as the Upper Peninsula have some of the highest

congestion costs. Residents who live in these congested areas have higher electric costs because of this “hidden tax”. These costs could be dramatically reduced, and in some cases eliminated, if we as a state have the will to invest in a more robust transmission link between the peninsulas.

Since most of Michigan's electric cooperatives are net buyers of wholesale electricity, this legislation could create more competitive markets with additional buyers and sellers of wholesale energy, as well as renewable energy—and that should provide tangible long-term benefits for electric cooperative consumers.

This legislation could also expedite the development of newer, cleaner generating capacity for the Upper Peninsula—an area of our state that recognizes all too well what can happen when there is only one significant generation resource and no meaningful way to access bulk electricity from the Lower Peninsula, where most of Michigan's electrical generating capacity is currently located.

Further development of renewable energy, particularly wind, can also be enhanced with additional connectivity between the peninsulas. The Thumb region of Michigan's Lower Peninsula has been identified as the best region for developing wind energy. A more robust transmission link will allow us to export wind from the Thumb area to the Upper Peninsula—or perhaps export wind from the Great Plains and Upper Midwest to utilities throughout Michigan.

If Michigan legislators have the fortitude to enact this legislation and we eventually fund and construct a new, more robust transmission link between our peninsulas, I believe we will look back someday, like we often do when crossing the “Mighty Mac”, and feel a very real sense of accomplishment that we as Michiganders have done something to benefit many generations.

Time will tell. ■





ALL-AMERICAN FAVORITE BURGERS

Enjoy new twists on well-known favorites.

Bratburger Summertime Sliders



- 1 pkg. bratwurst
- 1 lb. 80/20 ground beef
- 2 pkg. pretzel dinner rolls

Onion Jam

- 3 T. butter
- ¼ c. olive oil
- 2½ lb. sweet onion, sliced thin
- ¼ c. balsamic vinegar
- 1 T. fresh thyme leaves (or 1 t. dried)
- 1 c. pure maple syrup
- salt and pepper

Remove bratwurst from casing and mix bratwurst and burger until evenly combined. Make small patties to match the size of your rolls. Salt and pepper to taste and grill or pan fry burgers to taste. Slice rolls, add burgers and top with onion jam and arugula, if desired. To make onion jam, melt butter and olive oil in a dutch oven. Add onions and sauté on low, stirring occasionally for 15–20 minutes. There should not be any “color” or browning; this process will evaporate the extra water in the onions and concentrate the sweet onion flavors. “Low and slow” is the ticket here. When the onions are soft but not quite translucent, add balsamic vinegar, maple syrup and thyme, and cook until liquid is incorporated into onion mixture. Put into 2–3 jars and enjoy! May keep in refrigerator for up to three weeks. Hot water bath or freeze and keep 6 months. Great on grilled fare, pizzas, and omelettes.

Denise Chapel, Gaylord

Bacon Blue Cheeseburger *(pictured)*

- ½ lb. bacon, cut into ¼ inch slices
- 2 lb. 90% lean ground hamburger
- ½ t. garlic powder
- ½ t. onion powder
- salt and pepper, to taste
- 1½ c. crumbled blue cheese
- 8 burger buns
- lettuce
- sliced tomatoes
- sliced onions
- your choice of condiments

In a large skillet, cook sliced bacon until crispy. Remove from skillet and drain on paper towel; discard fat or save for other use. Mix bacon with the hamburger and add the garlic powder, onion powder, salt and pepper. Divide the burger mixture into 8 portions. Divide each portion in half and flatten into patties ¼-inch thick, using waxed paper. Place 2 T. blue cheese in center of 4 patties and top with another patty. Seal by pressing edges together. Cook in large skillet or grill until medium well, or your choice of doneness. Remove from heat and place onto bottom half of buns, and top with more blue cheese and favorite toppings. Serves 4.

Ann Brown, Niles

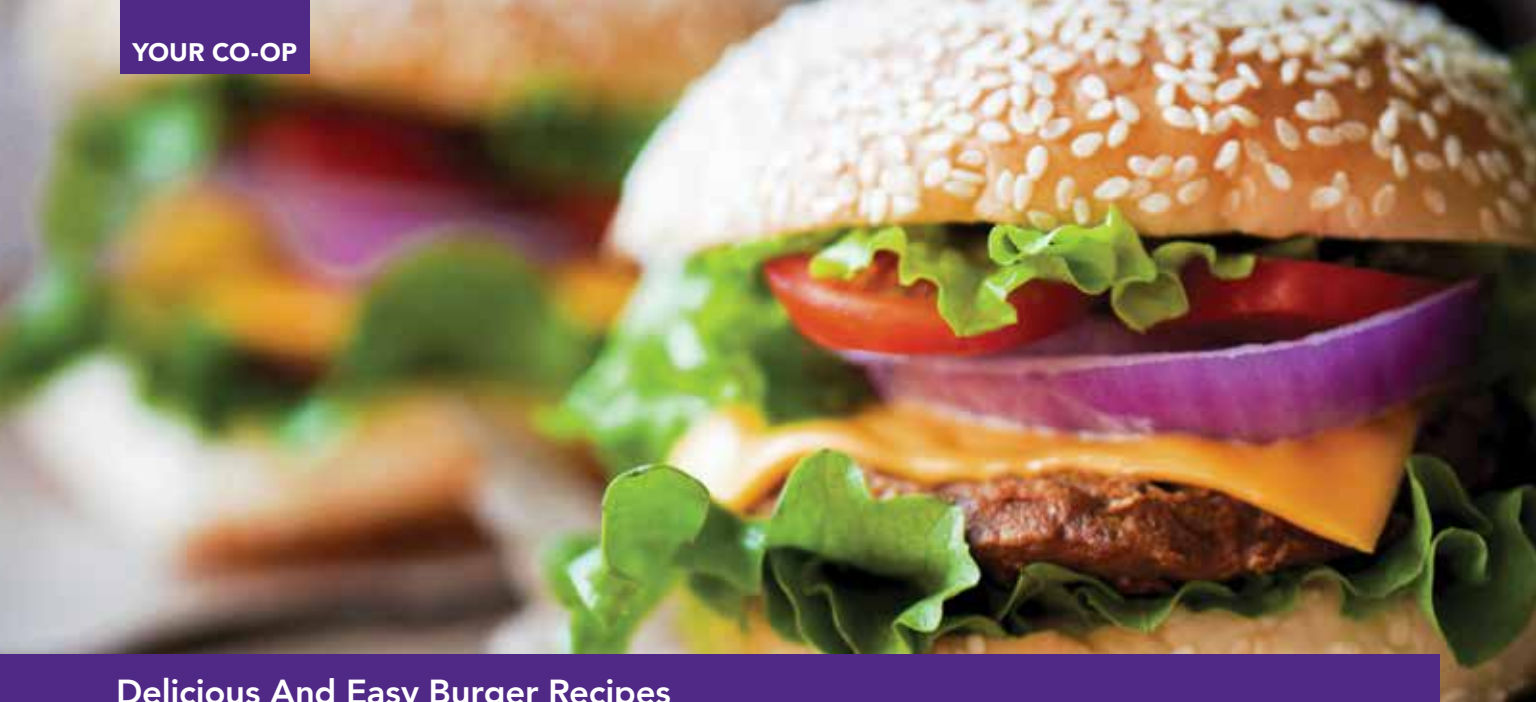
SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite “Candy” recipes by **Aug. 1** and “Easy Chicken” recipes by **Sept. 1**.

Enter your recipe online at countrylines.com or send to (handprinted or typed on one side, please): *Country Lines* Recipes, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. Please note the co-op from which you receive your electric service.

Contributors whose recipes we print in 2015 will be entered in a drawing and *Country Lines* will pay the winner’s January 2016 electric bill (up to \$200)!

Photos—831 Creative



Delicious And Easy Burger Recipes

Hobo Burgers

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 lb. lean ground beef,
bison, lamb, or
a combination | 4 carrots, cleaned
and sliced |
| 4 potatoes, cleaned
and sliced | 4 onion slices
black pepper, to taste
ketchup |

Preheat oven to 350°. Shape burger into 4 patties; place each on foil square. Surround each burger with sliced potatoes, onions and carrots; sprinkle with pepper and ketchup. Fold and seal foil. Place on baking sheet and bake 45–60 minutes.

Robin Musselman, Charlotte

Texas Tomato Burger

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1 lb. ground beef | hamburger buns |
| 1 T. steak sauce | yellow mustard |
| 1 T. Worcestershire® sauce | sliced dill pickles |
| ½ T. Mesquite seasoning | 1 lg. tomato, cut into
¾ inch slices |
| ¼ t. salt | Optional: Pepperjack
cheese, jalapeño |
| ¼ t. pepper | |
| 1 can chili (no beans) | |

Mix ground beef, steak sauce, Worcestershire sauce, and seasonings. Shape mixture into patties. Grill patties over medium heat until done, turning once. While the patties are grilling, heat chili until warmed through. During the last few moments, place buns on grill and lightly toast. Place bun bottom on a plate. Make one circle of mustard, place three sliced dill pickle chips, then ½ T. of chili, top with grilled burger, another ½ T. of chili, then tomato slice, and bun top. Add cheese for Texas Tomato Cheeseburger. Sprinkle some finely chopped jalapeño on the top layer of chili for an added bite.

Ted Herrst, Mancelona

Emeril's Essence Burgers

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| ½ lb. ground sirloin | olive oil |
| ½ lb. ground chuck | |

Emeril's Essence Seasoning
(available in stores or make your own)

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 2 ½ T. paprika | 1 T. oregano |
| 2 T. salt | 1 T. thyme |
| 2 T. garlic powder | cheddar cheese |
| 1 T. onion powder | mayonnaise |
| 1 T. pepper | sliced sweet onion |
| 1 T. cayenne | sliced tomato |

Combine ground sirloin and ground chuck. Make patties ½ inch thick; rub with olive oil. Combine all ingredients for Emeril's Seasoning and season burgers generously. Grill or pan fry to taste, turn once, then add a slice of cheddar cheese. Melt slightly. Spread buns with mayonnaise, sliced sweet onion and sliced tomato. Pass the napkins.

Barbara Steele, Charlevoix

Aunt Lena Davis' Tender Burgers

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 lb. lean ground beef | salt and pepper, to taste |
| 1 slice bread | oregano, to taste |
| 3 T. milk | chopped onions |
| 3 T. ketchup | |

Mix all ingredients together and shape into patties. Grill patties over medium heat until done, turning once.

Audrey Davis, Reed City

Volunteer Spirit Lives at Great Lakes Energy

Concern for Community is one of the seven cooperative principles that Great Lakes Energy employees regularly put into practice.

One good example is the volunteer team of 15 employees at our Boyne City office who alone have raised several thousand dollars for cancer charities since 2009.

“The GLE team has raised over \$17,000 through fundraising, including craft and bake sales, soup lunches, a dunk tank and even flamingo flocking,” team organizer Julie Bailey, a member support/marketing rep, said.

“This topic is very close to my heart and I appreciate working for an employer that takes community involvement seriously.”

They first became involved by forming an American Cancer Society Relay for Life team, and later focused on raising money for The Northern Michigan Cancer Crusaders.

Other participating employees are Nicole Youngs, Danette Knight, Cyndy Streasick, Amy Van Horn, Nicole Stewart, Mary Smith, Tina Gilbert, Kathy Massey, Holly LaVanway, Vicki Farrell, Jen Wilson, Kari Camiller, Laurie Hubble and Whitney Gilland.

The Northern Michigan Cancer Crusaders organization was created to ensure 100 percent of the funds they raise are donated back into the local community. The funds help

provide gas cards for people traveling for treatments, provide wigs, and help cover medical bills. The Northern Michigan Cancer Crusaders host their own fundraising events, as well.

If you live in Northern Michigan and are interested in volunteering or donating, please contact Northern Michigan Cancer Crusaders at 231-487-3060 or 231-347-2768, email lcaccounting@yahoo.com, or visit northernmichigancancercrusaders.org. ■



Volunteer fundraising projects by Great Lakes Energy employees raised \$1,500 that was recently donated to the Northern Michigan Cancer Crusaders. Accepting the employees' donation are Gary Cook and (holding check at right) Gail Farley with the local Cancer Crusaders.

Heat Pump Discounts

Qualifying Great Lakes Energy members whose primary heating system is a heat pump (ground-source or air-source) can have it separately metered at a lower kilowatt-hour (kWh) rate.

The efficient electric heat rate offers a 3 cents per kWh credit year-round for qualifying ground-source heat pumps. Qualifying air-source heat pumps can receive the credit during the heating season, bills rendered November through May.

The electric heat pump must meet these energy efficiency standards to qualify for the lower rate:

Geothermal System – minimum requirements of EER 17.1 COP 3.6 for closed loop water-to-air; EER 21.1 COP 4.1 for open loop water-to-air;

EER 16.1 COP 3.1 for closed loop water-to-water; EER 20.1 COP 3.5 for open loop water-to-water; EER 16 COP 3.6 for direct geoechange.

Air-Source Heat Pump – minimum requirements of HSPF 8.5, EER 12.5, & SEER 15 for split systems and HSPF 8, EER 12 & SEER 14 for package systems.

Rebates of \$500 (ground-source) and \$250 (air-source) are also available for qualifying systems. For more information on the rebates and lower rate, call us at 1-888-485-2537, ext. 8957, or email us at: glenergy@glenergy.com.

Additional heat pump rebates up to \$450 are available through our Energy Optimization program. Visit michigan-energy.org or call 877-296-4319. ■

GLE in the Community

Concern for community is one of seven cooperative principles that Great Lakes Energy follows.



GLE's Rodger Freeman shows Bellaire students how a branch can conduct electricity on a power line. Free electrical safety demonstrations are offered to area schools within the electric cooperative's service area.



Julie Bailey gives a member a bag of energy-saving gifts at GLE's booth at the annual business expo in Boyne City.



Oceana Christian School students in Hart received a nearly \$1,372 Touchstone Energy® grant from Great Lakes Energy for a LEGO robotics math and science enrichment program. GLE awarded over \$20,200 in technology grants this past school year to 13 schools throughout its service territory.



GLE members within the Reed City service district learn about power line technologies that reduce outage times from Dave Matz at one of the co-op's annual luncheon presentations.

Board of Directors Candidate _____ Please Vote!

DISTRICT 1 EMMET COUNTY



PAUL SCHEMANSKI

Home: Petoskey
Occupation: Healthcare
 Technology Team Leader at
 McLaren Northern Michigan
Co-op Member: 16 years
Co-op Director: 3 years

1) Why are you seeking a board seat?

I am seeking a second term in order to continue to be a proponent of:

- Continuously improving the quality and reliability of the distribution system
- Supporting renewable energy and energy conservation initiatives
- Pursuing cost saving opportunities
- Courteous, respectful, and fair treatment of all members at all times

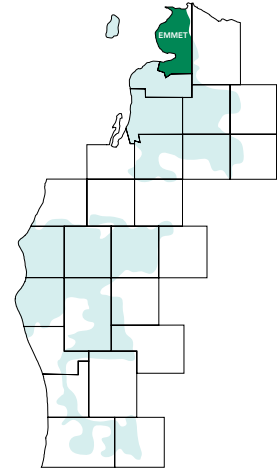
It has been a rewarding and challenging honor to serve as your local board member. Thank you for your trust and confidence. I ask for your continued support and your vote.

2) Do you have energy industry experience, including work as a Great Lakes Energy employee, electric utility contractor or at another energy service provider? If yes, please list employer(s), years of experience and brief details.

Yes, over 16 years with both an investor owned utility (1989–1999) and the cooperative (1999–2006). With this leadership experience, I was able to “hit the ground running” as they say. Over the past three years I have completed two board member certification programs (Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership Certificate) offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. These programs focus on the roles and responsibilities of board members, strategic and financial planning, rate setting, power supply, governance issues, and more.

3) What other qualifications or relevant information about yourself would you like to share?

I grew up in rural Michigan learning the value of hard work on our family farm, have been married for 27 years, and have two children. I volunteer as a mentor with the Strive program, as a mediator with Northern Community Mediation, and with Manna. I’m a member of Rotary and the North Country Trail Association, a graduate of the Leadership Little Traverse program and served on Resort Township’s Parks and Recreation Committee for six years. I hold a master’s in business administration degree. Thank you for your continued support.



District 1

As a member and owner of an electric cooperative, you decide who will represent you on the Great Lakes Energy Cooperative Board of Directors.



Vote!

See the back cover to cast your ballot for one candidate in District 1.

Talented Members Share “America the Beautiful” Photos



1. Fifty flags flying on the 4th of July for our country's freedom.
Photo by Dan Kuiper, Morley
2. Yellowstone National Park, WY.
Photo by Amber Tippet, Montague
3. Farmstand in Michigan.
Photo by Mary Bennett, Alanson
4. Glacier National Park, Highline Trail and Heavens Peak, MT.
Photo by David Howell, Gaylord
5. Celebrating a first 4th of July on the shore of Lake Michigan.
Photo by Gregory O'Rourke, Vanderbilt
6. The Mighty Mac!
Photo by Shawn Kellogg, Kewadin
7. Hermit's Rest along the South rim of the Grand Canyon, AZ.
Photo by Sherry Day, Rapid City
8. War Memorial, Gettysburg, PA.
Photo by Linda Jensen, Evert



See more amazing photos at
[facebook.com/greatlakesenergy](https://www.facebook.com/greatlakesenergy)

Enter the 'Pay My Bill' Photo Contest!

Great Lakes Energy members whose photos we print in *Country Lines* will be entered in a drawing and one lucky member will win a credit (up to \$200) on their December 2015 energy bill. Submit photos now through Sept. 21. Upcoming topics and deadlines are: All About Michigan, due July 20; Sunrises/Sunsets, due Aug. 20 and Kids at Play, due Sept. 21.

Visit gtlakes.com/photocontest to submit your high resolution digital photo, read contest rules and see upcoming themes. It's fast and easy. To send by mail: Include your name, address, phone number, photographer's name, topic and details about your photo to: *Country Lines* Best Shots, P.O. Box 70, Boyne City, MI 49712. Photos will not be returned. Do not send color laser prints or professional studio photos. We look forward to seeing your best shot!



Playground Gets A New Look

Mason County Central students in grades kindergarten through second enjoy the improvements at their school playground made possible in part by a \$5,000 People Fund grant. Upgrades so far include replacing and relocating playground equipment, installing a drainage system and resurfacing the area near the equipment to make the playground safer, easier to monitor and more useable. Spearheading the project is the Mason County Central Parent Teacher Committee.

YOUR SMALL CHANGE MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE



Bellaire Public Library
Children's Literacy Station Computer

Can you give a few cents a month to help your community? The People Fund program works because there is power in numbers. A contribution of less than \$1 each month adds up fast when thousands of Great Lakes Energy members get involved.

The needs of our local communities continue to grow, and you have the power to give the People Fund a bigger role in meeting those needs. We round up your electric bill to the next dollar and the amount, which averaged just 49 cents a month in 2014, goes into the People Fund. There are no administrative costs. All donations are returned to our local communities.

We Need Your Help!

Enroll in the People Fund today: 1-888-485-2537 • gtlakes.com





Acrylic on canvas of a factory ceiling by John Dempsey.

Home is Where the Art Is

Local Co-op Artists on ArtPrize

Coined the largest open art competition in the world—Grand Rapid’s ArtPrize has made its mark on the art world. It has been covered by the likes of *The New York Times* and *GQ* and lauded as both a great art experiment and lambasted as the art equivalent of a reality TV show.

The art competition opens up to any adult artist with the \$50 entry fee and a venue willing to act as its pop-up gallery for the event. When it launched in 2009, no one knew what to expect, but after the first week local restaurants had run out of food, hotels were booked solid and over 200,000 people came from around the country to check out the phenomenon. The big twist is the two \$200,000 grand prizes and eight category awards, resulting in more than \$500,000 awarded by both the public and a jury of art experts.

Whether you love the artful canvas that Grand Rapids becomes once a year or prefer your art in a climate-controlled museum amongst whispered commentary—ArtPrize has some very real rewards for Michigan artists.

“A large number of people see my work at ArtPrize. It is a large-scale event by any measure,” says John Dempsey, who lives on the Ocqueoc River and is a member of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op. “The number of people who come to see ArtPrize is extremely large



Colleen Whittaker’s Michigan map is made from authentic license plates fitted together like a puzzle.



Craig Snook's artwork, created with shredded paper, makes a kaleidoscope of colors that represents the beauty of a Michigan woodland landscape.



Lily Lihting Li Kostrzewa's "urban interweave" artwork is acrylic and mixed media on canvas.



Royce Deans' "kitsch 2 kunst" is a matrix of 36 panels with original paintings.

compared to all of the other exhibition opportunities available to the vast majority of contemporary artists."

A Traverse City artist and member of Cherryland Electric Cooperative, Royce Deans says that with the sheer volume of people having exposure to his artwork, the feedback is immediate and thrilling. "ArtPrize is a good place to try out some new ideas in front of people. It can be a little dangerous."

The opportunities that ArtPrize exposes participating artists to can be anything from potential buyers, connections with fellow artists and even future employers. Grand Rapids artist and member of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative, Lily Lihting Li Kostrzewa credits her current teaching position at Kendall College of Art and Design to her participation in ArtPrize. Lily's daughter, Isabella Kostrzewa, entered the ArtPrize young filmmaker awards and won second place. Her prize allowed her to purchase video equipment to continue her passion.

While exposure to a massive audience and opportunities is rewarding, many artists have also benefited on a very personal level.

"I gained a lot of confidence as an artist," says Craig Snook, an artist who splits his time between Saginaw and Lakeview, and is a member of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative. "It was a great learning experience and it is fun being known as an 'ArtPrize artist'."

Colleen Whittaker, a Traverse City artist and member of Cherryland Electric Cooperative, says overhearing people comment on her artwork allowed her to capture uncensored opinions from the public. "The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, but the ones I remember are the critical comments—which I keep in mind while creating new work. Feedback from such a wide variety of people is invaluable in my quest to create art that appeals to a wide range of people while still being true to my artistic vision." ■

**ArtPrize 2015 will take place
Sept. 23–Oct. 11. Visit Artprize.org
for more information.**

Four Easy Ways to Reduce Commercial Refrigeration Costs

Commercial refrigeration costs can be one of a business owner's greatest expenses. Check out four easy efficiency upgrades below that can help reduce your commercial refrigeration energy usage by up to 35 percent!

1. Anti-sweat heater controls

The electric heaters in cooler and freezer cases run *all the time*, while they only need to kick in when it's extremely humid.

The fix? Anti-sweat heater controls automatically sense humidity levels and selectively run the heaters as needed.

Energy Optimization rebate: \$100 per door.

2. LED cooler case lighting

Older coolers use fluorescent lights that waste most of their energy generating heat instead of light, forcing the refrigeration system to work harder to remove the excess heat.

The fix? Light-emitting diode (LED) technology literally provides cooler light. LED case lights use significantly less electricity and produce 50 percent less heat.

Energy Optimization rebate: \$30 per door.

3. Occupancy sensors

The lights inside reach-in coolers and freezers are on constantly, whether customers are nearby or not.

The fix? LED occupancy sensors trigger lights to illuminate when a shopper approaches the cooler. Or, they can be programmed to stay on for a set amount of time and then shut off. **Energy Optimization rebate:** \$15 per door.

4. ECM motors

The fans that circulate cold air inside reach-in or walk-in coolers and freezers run non-stop, wasting energy and putting extra wear and tear on the equipment.

The fix? Electronically commutated motors (ECMs) are designed to use electricity sparingly, thereby reducing the load on your refrigerator.

Energy Optimization rebate: \$40–80 per motor.

Check out a full list of incentives at michigan-energy.org or call 877.296.4319 for more information.



Jump In

Cool off with energy savings for your business

"Close the refrigerator!" Remember hearing that as a kid? Luckily, plenty of energy-efficient technologies are available today to help keep the electricity costs of commercial refrigeration low, beyond simply keeping the doors shut:

- LED cooler case lighting and occupancy sensors
- Anti-sweat heater controls
- ECM evaporator fan motors

ENERGY TIP: Energy Optimization Program rebates are available for all of the above commercial refrigeration upgrades and more.

ONLINE: 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.

Check Your Boat, Dock, and the Neighbor's, Too!

Almost one-half of Michigan is comprised of water, so it's easy to see why Michigan boasts a thriving recreational industry and leads the nation with approximately 1 million registered pleasure boats. For boating and water safety, there are items you must legally have on your watercraft—life vests, fire extinguisher, throwable flotation device, and properly working lights—but make sure the boat and the dock are safe, too.

To help prevent accidents, the National Electrical Contractors Association says:

- All installations should be performed by a professional electrical contractor.
- All dock receptacles must comply with the National Electrical Code, which mandates a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). A GFCI measures a circuit's current and senses any imbalance (such as a discharge into the water), which trips the GFCI and cuts off the power.
- Test a GFCI at least monthly. Locate it along the ramp to the dock so it can be easily tested by local fire departments.
- Metal dock frames should have "bonding jumpers" that connect all metal parts to an on-shore

grounding rod. This means any dock part that becomes energized by electrical malfunction will trip the GFCI or circuit breaker.

- Ask neighbors if their dock electrical systems have been inspected and are up to Code.
- Household wire is not suitable for boats.
- *Do not* use wire nuts (these are for solid conductor wire, which should never be on a boat) or splice connectors (can cut wire strands)!
- Fuses are rated to protect the wire, not the stereo. If a fuse blows continuously, something else is wrong.
- If you rent a dock or boat, notify the owner of safety violations immediately.
- Have your boat's system (especially with onboard generators) checked at least annually, and when something is added or removed.
- Ropes, string, masts and rigging also conduct electricity—don't be the common ground between water and electricity! ■

See SafeElectricity.org for more tips.

Summer May "Peak" Your Power

The demand for electrical power rises and falls throughout a typical day based on how we use our electricity each day. With summer months upon us, we typically increase our "peaking" usage.

Peaking plants are a category of power plants that operate primarily during times when the demand for power is at its peak. Now imagine a 90 degree summer day and your air conditioning is running constantly. This causes electricity usage to reach its highest levels. Peaking plants are often powered by natural gas, but they can also be powered by water at hydroelectric dams or by fuel oil.

Peaking plants can be turned on quickly to begin generating additional electricity to satisfy the rapidly increasing demand for power on hot summer days, and can be turned off quickly as demand lowers in the evening.

One Last Mission

World War II seems like ancient history to a lot of folks. After all, it ended nearly 70 years ago! Never mind that 16 million Americans served, and over 400,000 lost their lives in a war spanning 61 countries. Despite the staggering statistics, school history books dedicate little more than a page or two to what many today call “The Greatest Generation.”

Recently, I was privileged to join 150 WWII veterans and volunteers as they set off to rewrite a page in history during a “Tour of Honor” thanks to Mid-Michigan Honor Flight. Embarking on a one-day tour of Washington, D.C., that included stops to Arlington National Cemetery, Iwo Jima and of course, the National World War II Memorial, veterans learned first-hand the scope of this country’s gratitude.

Dedicated in 2004, the WWII Memorial serves as a fitting tribute to the magnitude of this global conflict. Set between the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial, stone architecture, bronze sculptures and water features pay homage to both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. More impressive, though, were the tourists who stopped to salute or shake hands with members of the Honor Flight as they walked by. Hearing young and old alike say “thank you” reminded me that in an era when history might be lost to the archives, there are still many who care.

Averaging 92 years old, many veterans pass before having an opportunity to see the monument built in their honor. Honor Flights transport WWII and terminally ill veterans to Washington, D.C., where they can visit the memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifice. Paired with an attentive guardian, each vet was personally escorted from one memorial to the next with a volunteer staff of medics on-call in case of emergency. Every effort is made to make this a once-in-a-lifetime experience. From the corridor of flags lining a path to the departure gate at Cherry Capital Airport to the Pin Curl Girls singing us off at Reagan International Airport to the welcome home celebration at the U.S. Coast Guard Base in Traverse City, no detail was overlooked.



And while attention to detail is obviously critical to the enjoyment and safety of those participating in an Honor Flight, the unplanned displays of gratitude were often the most touching. A man walking through Arlington National Cemetery dropping his bags to salute our three-bus motorcade. A group of middle school students stopping to give thanks. A tour guide inviting a veteran to share his story. A veteran commenting softly in front of the Freedom Wall, “I never thought I’d see this.”

Reporting for WTCM Radio, I wasn’t paired with a veteran like most others traveling that day. Still, I had a few sentimental moments of my own. As I silently thanked my dad for his service in the Pacific Theatre as a member of the Fifth Air Force in New Guinea, I had the undeniable feeling he was with me while I paid reverence to a monument he didn’t live to see.

Harry Truman once said, “Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.” Within the next five years, most, if not all of our WWII veterans will be gone, and with them, a living piece of history. So the next time you see one, say ‘thanks’. Because we all know freedom isn’t free. And it’s never too late to thank a veteran. ■



Jack O'Malley



Mystery Photo Contest Winner

The May 2015 Mystery Photo contest winner is Michael Mattox, a Midwest Energy Cooperative member who correctly identified the photo as “Turnip Rock” in Port Austin, MI, just off the shore in Lake Huron. The unique shape of the rock-island is the result of thousands of years of erosion by storm waves.

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