

# MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Cherryland Electric Cooperative

## CHIPPIN' AWAY

With  
Great Lakes  
Potato Chip  
Co.

Caring For The Forgotten

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Looking Back Over  
Cherryland's 80 years

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Co-op Moms Remember  
Mother's Day Gifts



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Great Lakes Potato Chip Company, based in Traverse City, creates Michigan-grown, Michigan-packaged and uniquely Michigan-flavored chips. Bet you can't eat just one of these sensational creations! Read the GLPCC story on page 14.

Photo—Robert Bruce Photography

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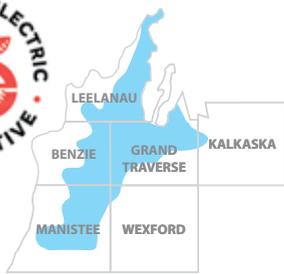
Joelle Majerowicz, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

Guess Our New Mystery Photo And Win A \$50 Bill Credit!

## Country Lines, Your Communications Partner

For more than 35 years, our co-op members have received *Michigan Country Lines* because it is the most effective and economical way to share information with our members. An empowering communication tool, *Country Lines* keeps members up-to-date about everything going on within their electric co-op. Issues contain news about our services, director elections, member meetings and management decisions that members need to know about as owners of the co-op. The magazine also includes legal notices that would otherwise have to be placed in local media at a substantial cost. And, sending *Michigan Country Lines* to you helps the co-op fulfill one of its important principles—to educate and communicate openly with its members. The board of directors authorizes the co-op to subscribe to *Michigan Country Lines* on behalf of each member at an average cost of \$3.82 per year, paid as part of members' electric bill. The current magazine cost is 47 cents per copy. *Michigan Country Lines* is published for us, at cost, by the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association in Lansing. As always, we welcome and value your comments.





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# CO-OP NEWS

## Cherryland Cares Awards \$20,900 To Six Nonprofits

At their first quarter board meeting, the Cherryland Cares board awarded grants to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Michigan, Child and Family Services of Northwestern Michigan, The Dream Team—Traverse City, Grand Traverse Dyslexia Association, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)—Grand Traverse, and the Women's Resource Center. Cherryland Cares awarded \$20,900 in grants to these area nonprofit agencies.

The Cherryland Cares board is comprised of five volunteer Cherryland members. The funds distributed by Cherryland Cares are a result of members electing to round up their monthly bills to the nearest dollar. Members can contribute to the Cherryland Cares fund by calling 231-486-9200, signing up through SmartHub, or emailing us at [cec@cherrylandelectric.coop](mailto:cec@cherrylandelectric.coop).

If you are an area nonprofit agency seeking financial help, second quarter grant applications are due Friday, June 8. For more information, please call Shannon Mattson at 231-486-9234 or email at [smattson@cherrylandelectric.coop](mailto:smattson@cherrylandelectric.coop).

## Bowl For Kids' Sake Returns May 8 And 9 At Incredible Mo's

Join us for this year's Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Michigan Bowl for Kids' Sake event! Cherryland is proud to sponsor the year's largest fundraising event for the Bigs program. The event takes place on May 8 and 9 at Incredible Mo's. To find out how to donate and join the fun, go to [BigsUpNorth.com](http://BigsUpNorth.com) and click on the Events page.

## Cherryland Joins The Annual Ideas For Life Senior Expo On May 16

Cherryland will be one of at least 100 exhibitors at the Ideas for Life Senior Expo at the Grand Traverse County Civic Center on Wednesday, May 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Bay Area Senior Advocates event features a variety of local and statewide services aimed at providing solutions for the changes families will experience with aging parents and spouses.

## Members Earn Rebates With Energy Efficiency Upgrades

Cherryland members are eligible to receive rebates for energy efficiency upgrades in their homes or businesses. Common upgrades include replacing incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs and purchasing Energy Star qualified appliances. For a guide to our residential rebate program and a complete listing of rebates available on Energy Star qualified appliances, visit our website at [cherrylandelectric.coop](http://cherrylandelectric.coop).

## Cherryland Office Closed Memorial Day

The Cherryland office will be closed Monday, May 28, in observance of Memorial Day. Regular business hours resume Tuesday, May 29.

Line crews are on call to respond to any outages or emergencies. You can report your outage through SmartHub or by calling us at 231-486-9200.



# Caring For The Forgotten

**Tony Anderson**, General Manager

For close to a decade now, Michigan utilities have had a state-mandated energy conservation program. It started out as Energy Optimization or EO, and recently the name was changed to Energy Waste Reduction or EWR. This law requires every electric utility in the state to reduce the energy used by its members or customers in the present year by 1 percent of the previous year's total energy sold.

In the beginning, Cherryland members were charged a \$1-per-month line item fee to fund energy-saving measures like rebates, pipe wrap, CFL and LED bulbs, etc. Several years ago, we dropped this separate charge and simply rolled the annual \$300,000 in expenses into our energy charge.

In the early years of the EO mandate, utilities quickly learned that low-income homes were a difficult place to make cost-effective, energy-saving gains. Eventually, the Michigan Public Service Commission lessened the low-income requirements, and utilities increasingly focused on the low hanging fruit of commercial and regular residential.

At your cooperative, we put a portion of our EWR funds into local weatherization efforts for low-income homes. We also lobbied state employees and elected officials for better programs to serve the low-income community. While the weatherization efforts were effective, our lobbying efforts over the years never were.

Finally, in the fall of 2017, we were presented with an opportunity by the Michigan Agency for Energy (MAE). They were looking for an electric cooperative to participate in a first-of-its-kind energy efficiency and community solar program targeted at low-income homes.

We matched 50 low-income cooperative homes that had gone through energy-saving upgrades in a Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency program with \$80,000 from MAE and \$100,000 from Cherryland.

The \$180,000 from the state and your cooperative funded nine solar panels per household out of the Wolverine Power Cooperative community solar project near Cadillac, Michigan. Since March 1, 2018, these 50 cooperative members have been receiving a monthly credit for the solar production of their nine assigned panels.

What are the goals of this pilot project? There are a few. First, we will track energy use to see if it remains stable,



*“50 cooperative members have been receiving a monthly credit for the solar production of their nine assigned panels.”*

declines or increases. Are the participants really trying to watch their energy use? Second, we will track the use of energy assistance in these homes. Are they becoming more self-sufficient which makes more assistance dollars available for others? Third, we will follow their disconnect history. Are they less costly to serve on a monthly basis?

Through clearly and easily measured metrics over a period of months and years, we will be able to determine whether or not the pilot accomplished its main goal of energy independence for low-income users of electricity.

I am excited about this program and proud of the Cherryland employees who are making it happen. We have always strived to be an energy leader locally, regionally and on a statewide level. Filling an unmet need for a segment of our membership that deserves the same treatment as any other member is one more step towards walking our leadership talk.

It certainly took longer than I had hoped. In the end, I believe this program will prove that if one doesn't give up hope and keeps searching for the right opportunity, it will eventually present itself. At Cherryland Electric Cooperative, no member is ever forgotten.



# To Easily Manage Your Energy Efficiency Project Contractor

By Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen

Once you've hired a contractor for your energy efficiency renovation, you need to manage your contractor to ensure quality. Follow the steps below and you'll be on your way to celebrating a successful project in no time.

1.

## Establish a single point of contact.

First, you should decide who will be the main contact with your contractor. Clear communication is critical because a renovation that includes energy efficiency improvements comes with extra challenges. A single point of contact will help avoid confusion, conflicts and cost overruns.

2.

## Have a discussion about quality.

Before the work starts, have a discussion with your contractor about quality. You want the contractor to know you'll be carefully overseeing the work and that there may be others involved in this oversight, such as building inspectors, your electric cooperative or an independent energy auditor. You can discuss the standards of a professional, high-quality job. And you can agree on the points at which the contractor will pause so you or someone you designate can review the work.

3.

## Put change orders in writing.

It will be tempting to add "just one more thing" along the way, and the contractor may agree a change is simple and possible within the timeframes. Contractors and customers often miscommunicate about change orders and end up disagreeing about additional costs when the project is completed. Before you make any changes, be sure to get a written cost quote. If it's significant, you can then weigh the cost against the benefit of the change.

4.

## End with an inspection.

Almost all efficiency measures require some kind of final inspection. For example, infrared thermometers can show voids in blown insulation, and fiberglass batts can be visually inspected to ensure there are no air gaps and the batts are not compressed.

HVAC measures require special attention. ENERGY STAR® has a program to ensure quality HVAC installation. Forced air systems typically have poorly balanced supply and return air delivery that can often be improved. Air flow can be measured at each register, and a duct blaster test can identify and quantify duct leakage.

When you review the work, it may be helpful to take photos or to bring in an energy auditor. Be sure to have these inspections outlined in the contract and discussed beforehand, so the contractor is comfortable.

When the renovation is complete, it may be tempting to sign the check, shake hands and breathe a sigh of relief that it's all over. Depending on the size and complexity of the project, it may be worth the extra step of having a final audit by a licensed energy auditor.

Once you confirm that the work is 100 percent complete, you can write a check for the final payment, then sit back and enjoy your revitalized, more energy-efficient home!



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**Visit [missdig.org](http://missdig.org)  
for more information.**

# Looking Back Over 80 Years

By Rob Marsh

1930

1940

1950

1960

19

## 1938

**July 27, 1938**

Co-op founders Max Goin, Frank Burkhart, and Eino Lehto hold their first official Cherryland meeting.



## 1939

**May 25, 1939**

The first power lines are energized. Sixty members receive electricity over a stretch of 302 miles of line.

## 1947

Cherryland's first line crew consists of only a handful of men and a Ford pickup truck. Today, the co-op has 17 lineworkers with a fleet of 60 different vehicles. (L-R Bob Lambert, Ernie Lehn, and Erv Stibitz)

## 1951

Cherryland staff gather for a group photo outside the co-op's Cass Street location. Cherryland has always run a tight ship when it comes to staffing. In 2017 Cherryland had the second-fewest employees per meter among similar-sized co-ops in the country.

## 1964

**October 1964**

The first capital credit check is presented to Harrell Youker, the first member to receive electricity from Cherryland, by board President Eino Lehto. Cherryland returned over \$53,000 to its 3,000 members that year. Over the past nine years, Cherryland has returned \$20 million in capital credits to its members. (L-R, Co-op Manager Robert Lambert, Harrell Youker, board President Eino Lehto, and board Treasurer Max Goin)

In 1938, a few men had the idea to bring together their neighbors and electrify northern Michigan's countryside. Eighty years later, Cherryland Electric Cooperative is still helping our community and bringing electricity to our neighbors.

Cherryland is proud to be in the rare company of organizations that have thrived over 80 years. We owe our long life to the vision of our board of directors, the commitment of our staff and the involvement of our membership.

As we get closer to celebrating our 80th Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 21, here is a look back at some of the significant moments in our co-op's history.

70

1980

1990

2000

2010



## 1973

Cherryland moves to its current headquarters in Grawn. Prior to that move, Cherryland was located on East Front Street (1939-1946), Bay Street (1946-1951), and Cass Street (1951-1973) in Traverse City.



## 1981

Cherryland's staff, board of directors and membership gather together to discuss co-op financials, elect board directors, and learn about the co-op at their 43rd Annual Meeting. Today, our Annual Meeting is a family affair, with bowling, food, arcade games and bucket truck rides.

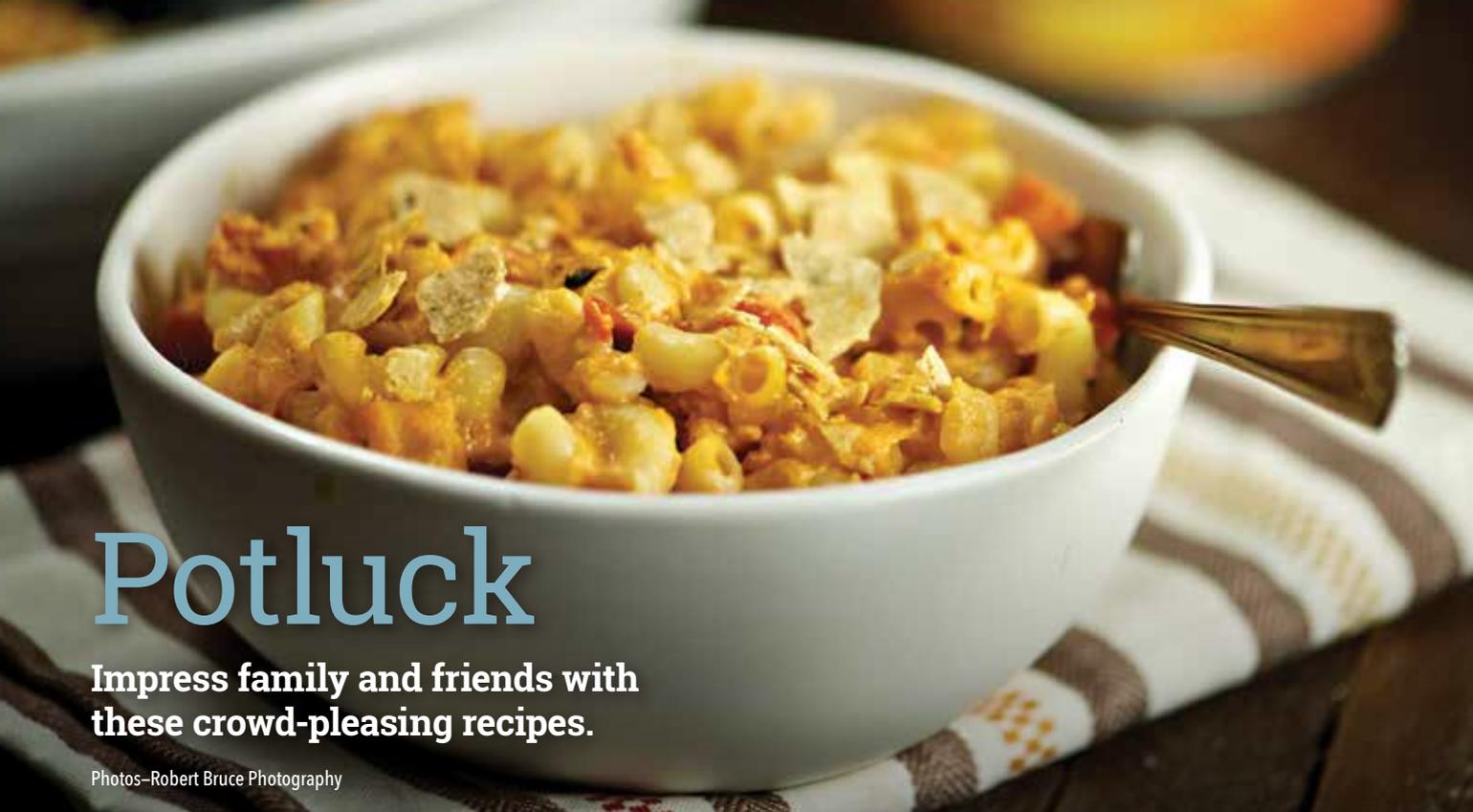


## 2013

**June 2013**  
In response to the growing interest in renewable energy, Cherryland partners with its members to form the Solar Up North (SUN) Alliance. This partnership led to the construction of Michigan's first community solar array located at the Cherryland headquarters.

**80th  
Annual Meeting**

**Thursday,  
June 21, 2018**



# Potluck

Impress family and friends with these crowd-pleasing recipes.

Photos—Robert Bruce Photography

## Southwest Mac And Cheese (pictured above)

Jennifer Quail, Midwest Energy & Communications

- 1 pound uncooked macaroni or shell pasta
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 15-ounce can packed pumpkin (not pie filling)
- 1 16-ounce package Mexican-style four cheese blend, shredded
- 4 ounces cream cheese, cut into small pieces (for a lighter option, use 4 ounces Neufchatel cheese instead)
- ¼ to ½ cup milk, almond milk, evaporated (not condensed) milk or heavy cream
- 1 10-ounce can diced tomatoes and green chilies, drained
- ¼ to 1 teaspoon dried chipotle chili powder, to taste
  - salt, to taste

Preheat oven to 350 F. Prepare pasta according to the package directions, drain and return to pot. Cover.

In a heavy skillet, melt the butter and sauté the diced onion until translucent but not browned. Add the pumpkin to the skillet with the onions and stir over medium heat until warmed through. Mix in the shredded cheese and cream cheese into the pumpkin mixture and stir until melted and smooth. Use milk product to thin as needed until consistency is smooth but not runny. Do not boil. Stir in the can of drained tomatoes and green chiles into the cheese sauce. Season with chipotle powder and salt to taste.

Add the warm sauce to the reserved pasta and stir until combined. Serve immediately, or transfer to a slow cooker set on warm. If you prefer baked mac and cheese, transfer pasta to a greased 3-quart casserole dish. Top with ½ cup shredded cheese and crumbled tortilla chips. Bake for 20 minutes or until top is browned.

Experiment with spices! For a brighter gold color and more bite to the flavor, add ¼–½ teaspoon mustard powder. For a traditional chili con carne flavor, add ¼ teaspoon ground cumin. You can also vary the heat by using different strength tomatoes and chilies, or you can use salsa instead of tomatoes, at your desired heat level.



Watch a video of this recipe at <https://goo.gl/qUZrVr>



## Cookies And Cakes: due July 1

Submit your favorite recipe for a chance to win a \$50 bill credit and have your recipe featured in *Country Lines*.

Go to [microopkitchen.com](http://microopkitchen.com) for more information and to register.

Enter to win a  
**\$50**  
energy bill  
credit!



## Buffalo Chicken Meatballs

Heather Poland, Cherryland

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>1½ pound ground chicken</b>       | <b>½ teaspoon salt</b>                  |
| <b>½ cup panko breadcrumbs</b>       | <b>¼ teaspoon black pepper</b>          |
| <b>1 egg, lightly beaten</b>         | <b>⅓ cup buffalo sauce (I used</b>      |
| <b>1 small carrot, finely grated</b> | <b>Franks, or use your favorite</b>     |
| <b>1 celery stalk, minced</b>        | <b>buffalo sauce)</b>                   |
| <b>2 green onions, minced</b>        | <b>⅓ cup blue cheese or mozzarella</b>  |
| <b>3 garlic cloves, minced</b>       | <b>3 teaspoons blue cheese or ranch</b> |
| <b>½ teaspoon paprika</b>            | <b>dressing, optional for garnish</b>   |

Preheat oven to 400 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper; set aside. In a large mixing bowl, combine the ground chicken, panko and egg. Let set for 5 minutes, so panko is soaked by the egg. Add the carrot, celery, green onion, garlic, paprika, salt and pepper. Using your hands mix together until just combined. Using a spoon or cookie scoop, shape into meatballs and place onto prepared baking sheet. Place in oven and bake for 15–20 minutes until cooked through (internal temperature of 160 F). Remove from oven, place the meatballs in a bowl, add the buffalo sauce and gently toss to combine. Drizzle with ranch dressing and blue cheese, if desired. Serve immediately.



## Key West 'Shrooms

James Maxwell, Great Lakes Energy

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <b>1 package of portobello or white button mushrooms</b> | <b>1 package Swiss cheese, sliced</b> |
| <b>1 package Phillips crab cakes (or similar)</b>        | <b>4 dashes Old Bay Spice</b>         |
|  | <b>½ stick melted butter</b>          |

Clean mushrooms and remove stems. Place on a microwaveable plate. Dip the mushrooms in the melted butter. Drizzle remaining butter over mushroom tops. Stuff mushroom tops with crab cakes. Sprinkle mushrooms with Old Bay spice to taste. Quarter the cheese slices and place over the stuffed mushrooms. Sprinkle mushrooms with remaining Old Bay spice. Microwave mushrooms for 4 minutes. Place on a serving tray, garnish and serve.

## Featured Guest Chef

Enjoy this simple, yet delicious, dish with family and friends gathered around—no matter what the season.



## Cherry BBQ Potato Chip Crusted Chicken Fingers

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1 cup mayonnaise</b>   | <b>• pinch salt</b>   |
| <b>1 large bag Great Lakes Michigan Cherry BBQ Chips, crushed</b> | <b>• non-stick oil spray</b>  |
| <b>¼ teaspoon ground black pepper</b>                             | <b>2 pounds boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch strips</b> |
|   | <b>¼ cup butter, melted</b>   |

Preheat oven to 400 F. Scoop mayonnaise into a shallow bowl. Place crushed BBQ chips in another shallow bowl and combine crushed chips with black pepper and a pinch of salt. Dip chicken pieces (just 1 or 2 at a time) in mayonnaise and then coat with chip mixture. Place chicken strips onto a greased baking pan. Make sure to space chicken out a bit so the sides are not touching and can get crispy. Drizzle chicken strips with melted butter. Bake for 20 to 22 minutes until chicken is no longer pink. Remove and allow to cool for 5 to 8 minutes before serving, so chips harden back up. Serve and enjoy!

Optional: Serve with dip or sauce.

**Read the full story about Great Lakes Potato Chip Co. on page 14, and find this recipe and others at [micoopkitchen.com](http://micoopkitchen.com).**

# HOW YOUR ELECTRIC CO-OP WORKS



**1. Members elect their board directors.**

**2. The board defines expectations for Cherryland's general manager (GM) and provides policies and strategic goals.**

**3. GM interprets the board's expectations to create a plan.**



**8. The board reflects on policies and updates them as needed.**



**Members provide input and feedback to board, GM and staff.**



**4. GM delegates responsibilities to staff who help carry out the plan.**



**7. GM shares results with the board.**



**6. GM collects data from staff about their efforts.**



**5. Staff develop and oversee programs to accomplish their tasks.**

# Mother's Day Gifts

Coming up with the perfect gift for your mom on Mother's Day can be difficult. What do you get that special person who gave you the gift of life? We asked a few Cherryland moms about some of the most memorable gifts they've given or received and why they are so special to them.



## At-Home Restaurant Experience

One of my most memorable Mother's Days was when my daughters turned my kitchen and dining room into a restaurant. They were nine and five-years-old at the time. They created a menu and put up a rope to separate the kitchen from the dining room. They served my husband and me spaghetti and crescent rolls with ice cream for dessert. They even made us coffee for after dinner. Such a great Mother's Day memory of my two girls working together, giggling and laughing the entire time, to give me a break from cooking.

—Kerry K.

## Staples And BBQ Sauce

I remember a Mother's Day gift that my dad, one of my brothers, and I gave my mom so many years ago. My brother and I were young, so at that time, remembering to get a gift was up to my dad. He is a unique person, to say the least, and my mom is a very practical person which makes this holiday even tougher (you aren't supposed to buy vacuums or pots or pans, right?).

This year, once again, my dad forgot. Luckily my mom had been to the grocery store earlier in the day but forgot a couple of items that she really needed. My dad thought he could be a "knight in shining armor" by getting her these items as a gift. Well, she loved it! I will always remember that Mother's Day when my dad, brother and I wrapped up and gave my mom staples and BBQ sauce as a gift.

—Sommer B.



## Engraved Necklace

This will be the first year I will not be buying a Mother's Day card to celebrate the most inspiring person in my life. All the "first" holidays without Mom have been difficult. If I can leave a legacy as my mother has done for me, it would be an honor.

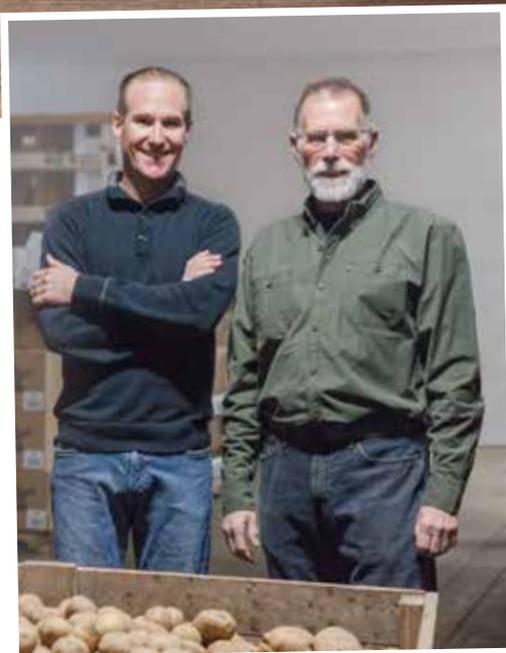
This year my Mother's Day will be different for me, but one thing that will remain the same is the love that I have for my daughter. I am so proud to have watched her grow into the amazing young woman she has become. When she was eight, she gave me a necklace. It was a simple heart with the word "Mom" in the center of it for Mother's Day. I have worn this necklace every day since. As years have passed, the word "Mom" has worn to almost unrecognizable. The word "Mom" means so many things to so many people; unrecognizable, maybe, but never faded so far beyond the love and memories that were shared.

—Lori C.

# CHIPPIN' AWAY

By James A. Curtis // Photos by Robert Bruce Photography and Dre Photography

With  
Great Lakes  
Potato Chip  
Co.



**Chris Girrbach and Ed Girrbach,**  
owners of Great Lakes Potato Chip Company.

“**E**ddie, what happened to my blankets?” said Ed Girrbach’s mother when she noticed they were missing. Ed jokes that after he explained he’d been selling them as ponchos to his schoolmates, “mom’s reaction helped me understand at an early age about the ‘cost of goods sold.’”

Ponchos were Ed’s first foray into business, but the now co-founder of Great Lakes Potato Chip Company (GLPCC)—a member of Cherryland Electric Cooperative—would carry that entrepreneurial spirit his entire life, eventually leading him—along with his son and business partner, Chris Girrbach—to open Pangea’s Pizza Pub in Traverse City. Even more, it was that same spirit that inspired a growing interest in manufacturing.

Ultimately, deciding where they would strike out next came down to a simple question: “Dad, what do you like?” asked Chris.

Ed thought for a moment and replied, “Well, aside from pizza, I like potato chips.” And the idea for GLPCC was born.

The Girrbauchs threw themselves into researching potato chips; and on May 5, 2010, they founded GLPCC with two part-time employees and one old fryer to begin manufacturing their favorite—skin-on kettle chips.

In the eight years since, the chip company has experienced tremendous growth and won numerous accolades, including being named “Number One Kettle Chip” by *The Chicago Tribune*, and “Most Investable Second-stage Food Company” at Crain’s Food Summit. They also received a “Gold” rating for kettle and tortilla chips at the Saratoga Springs Chip Festival—the birthplace of the potato chip.

**“We get asked a lot why we leave the SKIN ON.”**

**“It’s simple. It just TASTES BETTER.”**

Today, the chip company produces seven flavors of kettle chip, a tortilla chip, has 16 distributors, retails in seven states, employs 30 people, and is growing at a rate of 30 percent per year.

All this growth means more potatoes, and Michigan has no shortage—it’s the leading producer of chipping potatoes in the nation. The Girrbauchs developed a special relationship with Sackett Farms in Mecosta—a HomeWorks Tri-County Cooperative member—to supply their potatoes. Sackett Farms is a sixth-generation, family-owned farm specializing in A-grade chipping potatoes, whose crop is in high demand.

“Chris’ first trip to Sackett Farms was humorous,” said Ed. “He drove 110 miles to the farm in his pickup truck with a crate in the back and had to get in line with semi-trucks to load up the potatoes. He was the only pickup in the line, and we’re thankful they let us jump in and hold up their process.”

Chipping away at the potato chip industry, the Girrbauchs eventually sent more than a pickup truck to Sackett Farms. Now, a semi-truck delivers 120,000 pounds of potatoes a week—and they are looking for more. The chip company has invested nearly half a million dollars in automation to double its capacity to keep up with demand. With each upgrade, Ed and Chris look closely at the most energy efficient equipment as part of their commitment to sustainability, and they value their partnership with their electric cooperative.

Coincidentally, GLPCC and Sackett Farms belong to electric cooperatives that are members of Wolverine Power Cooperative. The Wolverine cooperatives lead Michigan in new renewable energy. In 2018, the co-ops reduced their carbon footprint by 25 percent—now providing members with 56 percent carbon-free energy. “Cherryland operates as a true partner, their whole mindset is how do they help us, and how do we work together to find more ways to be energy efficient,” said Ed. “We love doing business with them.”

As Great Lakes Potato Chip Company continues to grow, Ed takes great pride in his Michigan-made products, their highest-quality ingredients, and their unique process to get a crispier, crunchier, tastier chip. “We get asked a lot why we leave the skin on,” said Ed. “It’s simple. It just tastes better.”



**Visit [greatlakespotatochips.com](http://greatlakespotatochips.com) to learn more about these Michigan-made chips.**



# Photo Contest

## Show Us Your Garden

1. "Meet me in the garden!" by Angela Widrig
2. "In Nana's garden" by Emily Moore
3. "We grew our first jack-o-lanterns" by Sarah Anderson
4. "All my flowers in bloom" by Micki Maki
5. "Drought tolerant trail garden" by Ann Hackett



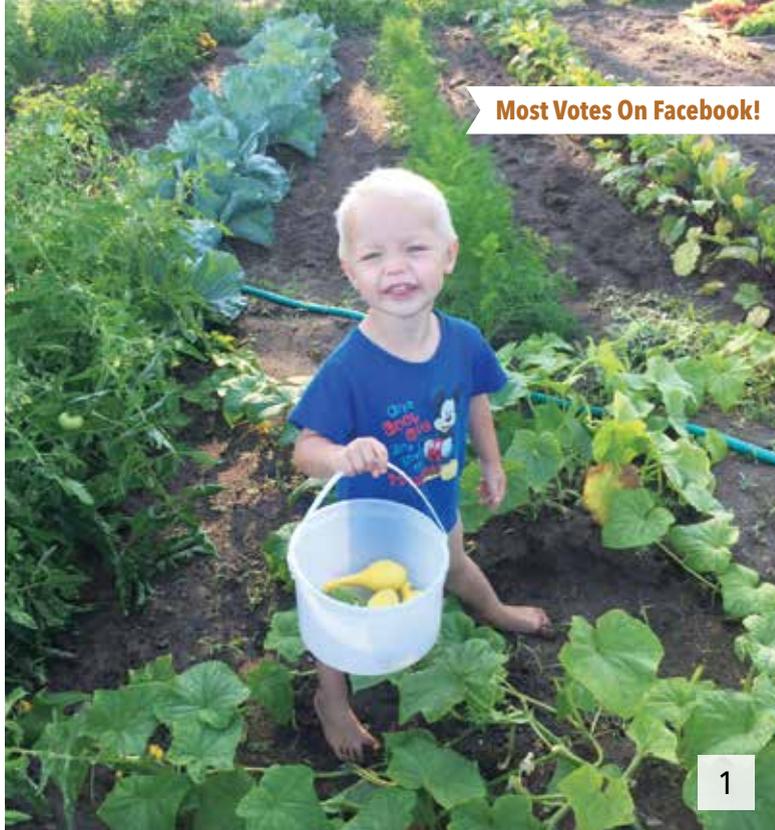
2



4



5



Most Votes On Facebook!

1



3

### Submit Your "Fan Spirit" Photo!

Submit your best photo and encourage your friends to vote! The photo receiving the most votes from our Facebook contest will be printed in an issue of *Country Lines* along with some of our other favorites.

Our May theme is **Fan Spirit**. Photos can be submitted from **May 1 to May 20** to be featured in our July/August issue.

Enter to win a  
**\$200**  
energy bill  
credit!

### Enter Your Photos And Win A Bill Credit!

To enter the contest visit [facebook.com/cherrylandelectriccoop](https://facebook.com/cherrylandelectriccoop) and click "Photo Contest" from the menu tabs. If you're not on Facebook, that's okay. You can also enter the contest at [cherrylandelectric.coop/photo-contest](https://cherrylandelectric.coop/photo-contest). Enter your picture, cast your vote, and encourage others to vote for you as well. If your photo is printed in *Country Lines* during 2018, you will be entered to win a credit of up to \$200 on your December 2018 bill.



# Your Board In *Action*

## March Board Meeting

- The co-op's member relations manager reported to the board the results of the 2018 Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) drive. Cherryland members and employees contributed a total of over \$15,000 this year—a higher contribution than 16 other states last year. ACRE is the political action committee of the nation's electric cooperative members.
- The board elected Director Tom Van Pelt to serve on Wolverine Power Cooperative's board of directors. Two Cherryland directors represent the co-op on Wolverine's board.
- The board approved changes to the co-op's telecommuting policy. The changes would allow, for instance, a member service representative to provide member support from home in the event of a severe storm.

### Access To Rules And Rates

Please be advised that the following information is available to Cherryland Electric Cooperative members:

1. Complete rate schedules;
2. Clear and concise explanation of all rates that the member may be eligible to receive;
3. Assistance from the cooperative in determining the most appropriate rate for a member when the member is eligible to receive service under more than one rate;
4. Clear and concise explanation of the members' actual energy use for each billing period during the last 12 months.

The information can be obtained by visiting [cherrylandelectric.coop](http://cherrylandelectric.coop) or contacting Cherryland Electric Cooperative at 231-486-9200.

Guess this photo and enter to win a \$50 energy bill credit!



# I Remember...



My grandfather, Carl (Lavy) Hagstrom, is holding me, Joelle, and my Uncle Carl is looking on.

## Where In Michigan Is This?

Identify the correct location of the photo above by May 20 and be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 electric bill credit. Enter your guess at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) or send by mail to: *Country Lines* Mystery Photo, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Include the name on your account, address, phone number and the name of your co-op.

Our Mystery Photo Contest winner from the March 2018 issue is Ann Pihlaja, an Ontonagon County REA member, who correctly identified the photo as the Traverse City Cherry Festival Air Show.

Winners are announced in the following issues of *Country Lines*: January, March, May, July/August, September and November/December.

### March 2018



Photo courtesy of Karen Murphy

## Berry Picking

I remember going berry picking with my grandfather, Carl (Lavy) Hagstrom, in the woods around Cheboygan. My grandfather had special berry picking pails and adjustable belts. He said it was important for both hands to be free to pick the juiciest ones! But my belt was always too big, so I hung it from my neck.

I never saw anyone who could pick berries as fast as he could. It didn't matter if we were picking raspberries or huckleberries, he always filled his pail first. He would tease me because I couldn't keep up with him, but he knew I was eating two berries for every one I put into my pail. My hands were always stained with the juice.

We took the berries home for my grandmother to can and the rest she saved for us to eat on our cereal or to make a special treat. Many evenings after dinner, our family would get involved in making homemade ice cream. It was hard work turning the handle of their ice cream machine, but it was worth it, as my grandfather would add some delicious berries. I always looked forward to summers in Cheboygan with my grandparents and making berry ice cream!

*Joelle Majerowicz, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op*

We invite members to share their fondest memories.

#### Guidelines

1. Approximately 200 words
2. Digital photos must be at least 600 KB
3. Only one entry per household, per month
4. *Country Lines* retains reprint rights
5. Please include your name, address, email, phone number and the name of your electric co-op
6. Submit your memories online: [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) or email to [cdorr@meca.coop](mailto:cdorr@meca.coop)

*Country Lines* will pay \$50 for stories we publish.

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