

A SERVICE OF CHERRYLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

September 2010

# MICHIGAN Country Lines



## Mustang Memories



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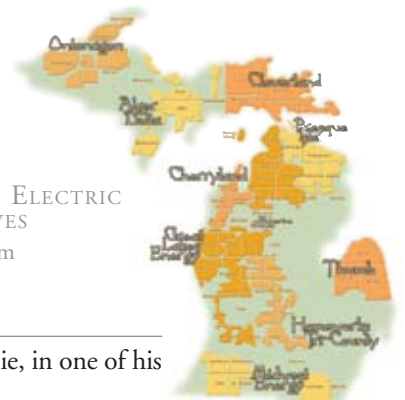
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### C O V E R \*

Great Lakes Energy member Pat Broderick of Manistee and his wife, Ellie, in one of his classic Mustangs. *Photo — Linda Kotzian*





# CHERRYLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## Jello Numbers



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**H**ave you ever held a Jello® square in your hand? It's firm, but a little shaky. If you set it down in the heat unattended, it can deteriorate to the point you won't be able to pick it up without a spoon.

Making long-term financial projections can be a lot like that simple Jello square—solid and yet a bit unstable. This occurred to me after a discussion (must have been just before lunch) with Cherryland's CFO, Mark Wilson, who has been working on a 10-year financial forecast for the cooperative.

There are many ingredients that go into a 10-year forecast. The first is growth. Do we use the last two years of a down economy or try and estimate when the growth we saw just five years ago will return?

Gaining more electric meters on our system will allow us to spread the costs over more members and more energy sales. Estimate too low and the computer gives you higher rate increases in the future. Estimate too high and it will show lower rate increases in the future that may not be realistic. We have kept rate increases well below the rate of inflation in the past, partially aided by the ability to spread rising costs over a larger member-customer base.

The next important ingredient is wholesale power. What is going to happen with rates from our supplier, Wolverine Power Cooperative? This question brings the whole Rogers City Clean Energy Venture that is currently being debated (see story, p. 24) into play. If Rogers City is "out," we must look at other options, both inside and outside of the state. If Rogers City is "in," we must look at whether or not the project will have partners.

We also need more renewable energy down the road to meet the state's mandate. This will raise prices, but by how much?

In the end, we have to pick estimated numbers and throw them into our Cherryland "mixing bowl."

We already know what our everyday expenses entail: wages, gasoline, main-

tenance on almost 3,000 miles of existing distribution line, depreciation on \$80 million in utility plant assets that is growing by at least \$3 million a year, taxes from all levels of local and state government and many, many more daily expenses that will change over the next 10 years.

Cherryland employees do a good job of holding the line on expenses, but estimating how well over a long-range forecast is a little like squeezing Jello in your fist – something is going to escape and while it may be easy to clean up, it will be messy for a time. However, we have to remember it is a *forecast*, which is a simple tool used as a guide for today and a reference point for future years.

Related to this is when to return capital credits, which is a big decision that sits squarely in the lap of the board of directors. This is the money we owe our members for profits realized from past years. Everyone knows these are used to offset our borrowing costs and then ultimately given back to co-op members.

Well, because we have to use these funds for hard assets like poles and wire, the money isn't just sitting in the bank waiting to be paid back. When the board decides to return money to Cherryland members, it's a decision to borrow funds and incur interest expense in future years. It is a balancing act between equity and debt that every cooperative debates.

The positive news is that the end result of Mark's work looks good. Looking out over the next 10 years with the knowledge we have today, we think future rate increases will be very manageable (maybe an average of 2 percent annually).

We think we can return some of your capital credits and maintain a solid financial condition. It's still a forecast that will need to be watched and adjusted on an annual basis.

I can eat Jello with a spoon, but your co-op's finances are obviously more important, and we have no plans to leave them unattended in the sun.



**Tony Anderson**  
General Manager

# Small Business of the Year

This Cherryland member has two successful businesses and great employees. **Nick Edson**

**T**erry Berden was born on a farm, attended a one-room school, and learned the value of hard work and perseverance by raising animals.

“That was really Business 101 for owning your own business,” says the 61-year-old Berden, who today owns two companies served by Cherryland Electric Cooperative and recently won the 2010 Small Business of the Year Award from the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce.

“Being raised on a farm teaches you lessons like: it’s not going to get done until you get it done and the work won’t wait until tomorrow,” he adds. “The animals all need to eat and their places need to be cleaned, so you better darn well have planned far enough in advance.”

Berden’s businesses—Great Lakes Stainless and Grand Traverse Refrigeration—are designed to work together. They work locally with places like the Munson Medical Center. On the state level they work with Ford Field, home of the Detroit Lions, along with Michigan State University and the Detroit Institute of Arts. Nationally, they work with Miller Stadium in Milwaukee and Kauffman Stadium, home of the Kansas City Royals.

Great Lakes Stainless manufactures everything from commercial and industrial food service equipment to highly customized residential kitchens. The company’s motto is: “If you can design it, we can build it.”

“A good example is a company that came to us to build stainless steel entrance doors,” Berden explains. “Never having built a door in our lives, we took it to our team and talked it over and decided we could do it. Within four weeks, we had a prototype and sold the job of 400 doors to the medical industry.”

Attitudes and workmanship like that is what opened the door for Berden and his companies.

“We started getting a lot of high profile jobs because of our customer service,” he



Terry Berden is pictured outside his businesses, which draw customers locally, statewide and from around the nation. As the sign shows, he’s planning on creating more businesses.

says. “When we were working on the Ford Field project with the Detroit Lions, they told us: ‘This is the NFL and we have to open on time.’” “We helped make that happen and doors started to open for us.”

A typical job is for Great Lakes Stainless to build the stainless steel prep tables and counters, service area, serving counters, and all the dish sinks and tables. Grand Traverse Refrigeration then does the installation.

“We quote jobs all over the country,” Berden adds. “We have products all over the Midwest and in New York, Georgia, Colorado, Texas and Connecticut. And hopefully, next year we’ll help with the Florida Marlins’ new baseball stadium.”

Berden, a Cheboygan native, has come a long ways since 1975, when he moved to Traverse City to work as a truck mechanic.

“I worked for a year doing that and realized that’s not what I wanted to do with my life,” he says. “Then I met a man who

had started Grand Traverse Refrigeration and he asked me if I would like to own half of it. I love people and was used to hard work, so I said ‘sure.’”

Thirty-four years later, he doesn’t regret the decision—he employs a total of about 50 people within the two businesses. And even though he is thrilled with the Small Business of the Year Award, he and his employees haven’t taken their feet off the pedal one bit.

“This award is for the people who helped me along the way and the great employees we have,” Berden says. “But we’re working to start a new business, and I have some people in training to take over these two businesses in five to eight years.”

So, does that mean Berden is looking forward to retirement?

“Semi-retirement is all I’ll consider,” he says with a smile, “because my passion is helping people. You can’t do that from a rocking chair.”

Photo (incl. cover photo inset) — John Russell/Great Lakes Images





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## Heat Pump Water Heaters Don't Work Here?

I read the article on the heat pump water heaters, and also happened to see many commercials for them during the recent Olympics for those units made by GE.

All the warm and fuzzy green stuff about saving energy needs to be taken cautiously. These units would rarely make sense in Michigan.

Heat pumps simply move heat from one place to another. In the case of the units in question, it is from where the unit is located to the water in the tank. If you put such a unit in "conditioned space," such as a basement, you will be taking the heat you generate with other means, and putting it into the water. The "waste" from the unit is cool air, which might not be desirable in your basement. If you put the unit in your garage, you must

protect it from freezing. If you put it outdoors, well—I've seen a lot of water heaters outdoors. In California, not in Michigan! Our climate is not conducive for outdoor water heaters.

Heat pump efficiency is rated by COP—coefficient of performance—and this is a moving target based upon the ambient temperature. If you are heating, the efficiency goes up as the ambient temperature goes up. In summer, an outdoor mounted heat pump water heater in Michigan would be very efficient... but that would be from May-September? In colder seasons, and as your ambient temperature drops to the 30s, they can't make enough heat.

Sorry, the units are not for Michigan climates. They don't work well where WE put our water heaters, and people buying them would just be using heat they made with other sources to pump into their water.

*Michael Salemi, Novi, via email*

*Even with the things you mention taken into consideration, heat pump water heaters produce hot*

## MYSTERY PHOTO

Everyone who identifies the correct location of the photo below by **Oct. 10** will be entered in a drawing for a **\$50 coupon redeemable for electricity from your electric cooperative.**

Call in your entry to *Country Lines* at 517-351-6322, ext.306, email **jhansen@countrylines.com**, or mail it to *Country Lines*, 2859 W. Jolly Road, Okemos, 48864. Include your name, address, phone number and co-op. The winner will be announced in the November/December 2010 issue.

The **July** contest winner is **Julie Traynor of Marion**, who correctly identified the old cabin on 20-Mile Road, east of Tustin in Osceola County.



July photo

**Do you know where this is?**



## Consumer Energy Forums Set

The state agency responsible for regulating electric and natural gas utilities, as well as certain services of telephone, cable and motor carriers, is hosting a series of forums for consumers in September and October.

At the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) forums, you can meet with an MPSC commissioner, learn about electric and natural gas rates, discuss telephone service updates, and voice utility-related concerns.

Local utility service providers and assistance organizations will be present.

To make the most of this opportunity, customers are asked to bring utility bills, shut-off notices, tax information and proof of any other assistance.

The forums:

**Southfield**, Sept. 20, 1 p.m.  
Southfield Senior Center,

McDonnell Towers Dining Room, 24350 Civic Center Dr.

**Sault Ste. Marie**, Sept. 30, 6 p.m., Lake Superior State University Cislser Center, West Superior Room, 650 W. Easterday Ave.

**Traverse City**, Oct. 6, 6 p.m.  
Grand Traverse Civic Center, 1213 W. Civic Center Drive

**Kalamazoo**, Oct. 12, 6 p.m.  
Kalamazoo Valley Community College, M-TEC Amphitheater, 7107 Elm Valley Drive

**Greenville**, Oct. 21, 6 p.m.  
Greenville Community Center, 900 E. Kent Road

**Detroit**, Oct. 25, 4 p.m.  
Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, 2080 W. Grand Boulevard

**Flint**, Oct. 28, 6 p.m., Univ. of Michigan-Flint, Northbank Center Ballroom, 432 N. Saginaw Street

*water at half the cost of other means. Performance declines in Michigan winters, but ambient heat is adequate for the HP water heater to operate, and the unit does double duty in summer by dehumidifying. —ed.*

## Car Wars

I am retired and live in northern Michigan. Many retirees have less income now than when we were working and have to get the most for our dollar. I recently traded a 6-year-old, "foreign-made" car for a 2010 "foreign-made" model. The old car never had any serious problems, got me 38-41 mpg and had 150,000 miles. The new car is getting the same mileage and cost \$14,200, including tax, title and prep. Show me a car made in America, not Mexico or Canada, that gets that gas mileage, and for that price, and I would consider buying it. Until then I will spend my money where it gets me the best deal.

Before we damn all cars with

a foreign name, remember most U.S. cars are not made in the USA. My car company has factories in the southern tier of states where most of their cars sold in America are made. This fact seems to me that they are American-made.

*Mike Obrigewitsch, via email*

I don't disagree that supporting local business is a good thing, but it is disheartening to listen to people complaining

## Recycled Paper

*Michigan Country Lines* is now printed on recycled paper from FutureMark Paper, which taps the "urban forest" of waste paper thrown out in Chicago every day. Using recycled paper reduces the carbon emitted in paper production, the paper deposited in landfills, and water and air pollution. The energy to produce recycled paper is about one-half the amount required to make paper from pulp.

about other peoples' spending habits. For example, lecturing about buying automobiles that are made in the U.S. but owned by a foreign company from Japan, China or Korea.

Honda builds automobiles in the U.S. and generates millions of dollars in tax revenue for local communities, as well as thousands of jobs for Americans. Those Americans earn good incomes that they, in most cases, spend in the U.S. economy, and they produce a great product.

Would you complain if China wanted to open a new manufacturing plant in Michigan and employ 2, 4 or 6,000 Michigan citizens? And how many foreign-made products can you count in an American-made automobile?

[If] you want everyone else to support your job, how about giving up your summer home to a homeless family who doesn't have a job in northern Michigan? How about jobs, anyway we can get them, foreign or otherwise?

*H.R. Lee, Howard City*

## Hydroelectric Questions

I received your [July] *Michigan Country Lines* and was happy to see you do a feature on Sault Ste. Marie, my home for 10 wonderful years.

[I have questions about] Cloverland Electric's hydroelectric power plant. I hope you can help; they have been nagging at me for years since I took a tour of the power plant many years ago. At the time I toured the power plant only four of the turbines were being used, even though there are over 100 (if my memory serves

A record 2,700 visitors attended Cloverland Electric's hydro plant open house June 25.



me) turbines in the powerhouse. Why doesn't Cloverland use all the turbines and sell the power and lower our electric bills?

I understand the renewable supply from Lake Superior is precisely the out-flow of the St. Marys River, (and power canal), whose 124-year average flow rate (from 1860 to 1984) is 75,500 cubic feet per second. Obviously, one of the benefits derived from this huge volume of water is the generation of hydroelectricity.

Hydroelectric power is cleaner than coal or nuclear power, but it seems none of the "powers that be" even bring up hydroelectricity.

Many of my friends and family in the Sault area wonder the same—in this time of massive amounts of oil polluting our oceans, nuclear power plants leaking spent fuel, and coal polluting our air and land—why isn't Cloverland Electric using the whole power plant, and if it needs repairs to its turbines why not repair or rebuild the turbines instead of building new power plants using billions of taxpayer dollars?

As a former member of Cloverland and a 26-year member of Great Lakes Energy—your service and people are fantastic!

*Priscilla Massie*

Cloverland replies: *The amount of water available for hydro power is decided by the International Joint Commission (IJC). Their job is to regulate all the Great Lakes levels to keep them balanced. Once the IJC decides how much water to release from Lake Superior, they divide this amount 50/50 between the U.S. and Canada. The 50 percent share of U.S. water is then divided between U.S. Hydro and Cloverland Hydro.*

*This surplus water is what is available after meeting the needs of all the government facilities within the Soo Locks complex, and water needed to supply the rapids area west of the lock systems. Each month, Cloverland receives an allocation of water. This allocation has been well below average in recent years, due to the low level of Lake Superior. Cloverland uses the water allocation in the most efficient manner possible to keep their members' electric bills lower. They do this by ramping up plant production during the peak-load hours of the day. This helps offset the amount of higher cost power that would have to be purchased from other sources to meet higher demand. Conversely, plant production is ramped down during "off peak" hours when demand is lower.*

*The Cloverland plant has 74 turbines. It seems highly unusual that only four would be*

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running. A possible explanation: There are four "buses" in the plant, with each bus having about 18 to 19 turbines. There may only be one bus running during off-peak hours, or possibly even on peak, depending on the time of year and demand levels.

During low-water years, when the allocation of water to the U.S. side of the river is too low to run both U.S. Hydro and Cloverland Hydro 24/7, all units would not run.



# Cherryland Bulletin Board

## Quarterly Member Input Sessions

The board of directors at Cherryland Electric Cooperative is offering the opportunity for members to provide direct input to the board on a quarterly basis. Members will be able to talk to the board without filing a formal request, as the cooperative's policy requires.

The first available date for such input will be Sept. 20, 2010, at 9 a.m. at the CEC office in Grawn. Members are asked to come to the lobby and request to speak to the board. Cherryland personnel will then direct interested members into the board room. Time constraints on member input will be at the board president's discretion, but members are asked to be prepared to keep comments to less than 5 minutes.

Member attendance at the board meeting will be allowed for the public input portion of the meeting only.

If a member wishes to discuss an issue with the full board outside the months of September, December, March and June, members will be asked to follow past co-op policy by filling out a request form. A copy of the policy will be supplied upon request.

## Cherryland Cares Board Awards \$11,000

The Cherryland Cares board awarded \$11,000 to area nonprofit agencies at its quarterly meeting in June.

The monies went to the STEP program (\$5,000) for area homeless students (see related story, p. 16), Grand Traverse Industries (\$500), and the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA (\$1,000).



**CHERRYLAND  
CARES**

The next Cherryland Cares board meeting is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 20.

Cherryland Cares is part of Cherryland Electric Cooperative's Operation Roundup, where members round up their bills to the nearest dollar and the extra money is distributed to nonprofit agencies in the Grand Traverse area. See page 29 for more information.

### Cherryland Office Closed Labor Day

Cherryland Electric's office will be closed on Labor Day, which falls on Monday, Sept. 6.

The office, located at 5930 U.S.-31 South in Grawn, will re-open on Tuesday, Sept. 7 at 7:30 a.m.

## Co-op Purchases Pig at Fair



A Cherryland board member, Terry Lautner, is pictured with 9-year-old Savannah Peplinski after the co-op purchased her pig at the Northwestern Michigan Fair.

Continuing its long-standing tradition, Cherryland Electric Cooperative has purchased a pig at the Northwestern Michigan Fair and donated it to charity.

Board member Terry Lautner and general manager, Tony Anderson, attended the fair's livestock auction on Aug. 11 and bought Savannah Peplinski's pig, Delilah.

Savannah is 9-years-old and goes to Glen Lake Schools. She is the daughter of Roger and Dawn Peplinski and the fourth generation of her family to take part in the fair.

## Pay Your Cherryland Electric Bill Online

Want to save money and pay your Cherryland Electric Cooperative bill online?

It's easy to do. You can now set up your account to get only an email bill—no more paper bills!

If you would like to do this, access your account on [cherrylandelectric.com](http://cherrylandelectric.com). It will prompt you immediately after you sign in to make a decision on whether or not you want the paper bill to continue; if you do, check the box, if not, simply press "Update."

Questions about the online payment service can be answered by Cherryland's Member Service Department at 231-486-9200.

## Cherryland Members Win \$500

Members Ken and Bonnie Tumey recently won a \$500 drawing from Cherryland Electric.

The drawing was for members who submitted their ballots by mail for our annual meeting in June, which was held at Wuefel Park and drew over 1,800 members.

Visit [cherrylandelectric.com](http://cherrylandelectric.com) for more information about co-op services.



# 30 Years!

I am writing this the day before my wife and I travel home to Illinois to attend our 30th high school reunion. Fortunately, we graduated together, so there will be no awkward moments for the spouse attending the other's reunion. We have not attended a class reunion since our 20th, so it will be interesting to see our "old" high school classmates and reminisce. I did see pictures from our 20th, and am glad I still have a full head of hair.

I am also writing this column the week before the retirement of Michael Buda, executive editor of *Michigan Country Lines* magazine and external affairs director for the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA). Mike retired Aug. 31 after 30 years of service on behalf of MECA, the electric cooperatives, and more importantly you, our readers and co-op members.

Mike started at MECA in 1980, to promote energy efficiency and education for the members. However, his true calling was found when he launched *Michigan Country Lines* magazine. The highly-regarded consumer publication you are reading today began as a tabloid newspaper, and under his creativity and leadership evolved into today's color publication with a circulation of over 270,000. Mike's work as editor and *Michigan Country Lines* magazine have been recognized on three separate occasions (Haggard Memorial Journalism Award) as the best co-op consumer publication in the nation by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

But for MECA and the co-ops, Mike does so much more. He directed MECA's marketing and economic development efforts, and over the years has worked closely with all the co-ops on member communications and marketing. He also leads MECA's efforts in working with various outside groups, such as the "Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm," a group of utility representatives and government staff work-

ing to assist low-income customers with utility service. Mike started and continues to run the Michigan Geothermal Energy Association, created to educate consumers and promote the use of geothermal heating and cooling systems. Mike has played a major role on behalf of the Michigan Centennial Farm Association, created to recognize farms with continual family ownership for over 100 years. Mike created the MECA and *Michigan Country Lines* websites, putting the award-winning publication online. He has played a valuable role as part of MECA's government relations team, working to educate legislators about the electric co-ops, and protecting consumers. On more than a few occasions, Mike's Yooper roots (Ironwood native) have proven extremely beneficial in working with our legislators and Congressmen from the U.P.

Although Mike has retired from MECA's daily operations, he won't go too far because he plans to con-

tinue writing his "Ramblings" column (p. 30)—about Michigan people, places and things—and freelance stories for the magazine. As you recall, the "last page" was occupied for many years by a "Right At Home" column written by former *Lansing State Journal* columnist, Jim Hough. Mike also plans to enjoy travel with his wife, Barbara, who retired this year after 33 years as a Mason home-ec teacher.

Even with Mike's retirement, we assure you the magazine will continue. Gail Knudtson, who has 18 years with MECA and the magazine, will become executive editor, and our staff will work together to maintain the standards Mike established as we continue educating consumers about using electricity

wisely and the benefits of co-op ownership. I know we have big shoes to fill, but Mike has taught us well over these 30 years.

30 years! It sure goes by fast.



**Michael Peters** is president and CEO of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association. His email address is [mpeters@countrylines.com](mailto:mpeters@countrylines.com).



Mike and Barb Buda with sons Dan (left) and Jon.

# Wind and Basic Math

Get the facts before buying into wind power. **Bob Gibson**

**T**he spinning fan of a windmill pumping water from a well was once a common sight across rural America. When electric co-ops began lighting up the countryside in the late 1930s, farmers and rural residents began replacing the windmills' mechanical energy with electricity from power lines.

Today's wind turbines are distant cousins to those windmills. The essential difference is that today's systems—generally a three-blade rotor connected to a generator and tail and mounted on a tower—convert wind energy into electricity, rather than simply turning gears to lift water. The most popular residential-scale wind turbines can generate between 2 and 10 kilowatts of power—about one-third to one-half of what a typical home needs—but actual output can vary drastically. The wind turbine in Midwest Energy Cooperative's renewable energy park, for example, produces only 4.3 percent of the maximum energy possible.

The Cassopolis co-op developed their Danny Young Memorial Renewable Energy Park to help consumers understand what to really expect, in terms of up-front costs and expected generation ([teammidwest.com](http://teammidwest.com)).

In recent years, small wind turbines have become more reliable and, to a degree, prices have decreased as more are built. More dealers are also offering a better choice of products and more experienced installers are available to erect the units.

So, is installing a wind turbine at your home a good idea? That depends on two basic factors: your motivation and your location.

If your motivation is to save money by spending less on electricity or to make money by expecting the small wind turbine to earn you a profit by selling power back to your local electric co-op—proceed with care. Even though federal tax credits and utility incentives and rebates have helped lower the cost for some, in most parts of the country it remains difficult to generate electricity at a price equal to or lower than what you'll obtain from your electric co-op. While the wind that blows through your property may be free, the equipment needed to capture it is



This small wind turbine stands about 46 feet tall, compared to the 300 feet reached by utility-scale wind turbines.

*Source: Central Rural Electric Cooperative/Oklahoma*

not, and wind doesn't blow all the time.

Electric utilities are required by law to buy your excess power, but in many areas they are only required to pay the same price they

pay any other power generator—known in utility jargon as “avoided cost.” But even where your bill might be credited for wind power at retail rates, called “net metering,”





# Questions You Should Ask

*Interested in buying a wind turbine? Make sure to ask these questions first:*

the sale of those kilowatts won't make you rich. Paying back the cost of installing a wind turbine, which runs from several thousand dollars to \$50,000, can take several years to several decades.

You also need to consider your location. In more densely settled areas, local zoning laws may prohibit construction of a wind turbine. But in any location, you must know just how much wind you have, day after day. In these calculations, average wind speed becomes critical.

While the federal government has mapped out average wind speeds across the country ([nrel.gov/wind](http://nrel.gov/wind)), each specific site is unique, affected by factors such as elevation and obstruction from buildings and trees. Better wind speeds are found higher off the ground, and there can be a huge difference between speeds at the 300-foot height of a large-scale wind turbine and the 80- to 100-feet of a small one.

Before installing a small wind turbine, do your homework. This includes checking with your electric co-op well in advance of making a purchase. Being aware of your co-op's policies and procedures on interconnecting a wind system to the grid will avoid headaches, disappointments and unexpected costs.

The grid is a complex, interrelated machine and some costs may need to be incurred for studies or upgrades to preserve safety, reliability, or quality of power. Your co-op may be able to help you estimate what those costs might be in advance and help you find additional opportunities for energy efficiency that could further reduce your electric bills.

To find out what incentives may be available in your state, go to the Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency at [dsireusa.org](http://dsireusa.org).

More and more people are attracted to the idea of generating their own electric power through the use of "backyard" renewable energy systems. Small wind turbines are one of the most popular choices, but careful study and assistance from your co-op can make sure you know the facts before buying one.

*Bob Gibson manages research in renewable energy and energy efficiency for the Cooperative Research Network, an arm of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*

## **1. How reliable is the rated energy output? How do you calculate the output? What wind speeds do you use?**

Experts advise ignoring the "peak output" and "power curves" provided by vendors. Rather, look for the monthly or annual energy output (in kilowatt-hours) for the turbine, estimated for the average wind speed you expect or measured at your site.

## **2. Is the inverter UL® listed?**

If the inverter (required to convert direct current power from the turbine to alternating current power of the grid) is not Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL), listed, find another vendor. Most electric co-ops require an inverter to carry a UL 1741 certification for interconnection with the grid.

## **3. What is the estimated total installed cost? What do the turbine and tower cost each? How much will installation and interconnection cost? How much maintenance will be required, and cost?**

Budget for labor expenses as well as the cost of equipment rental, concrete and rebar, electrical components, shipping, and sales tax. It adds up fast.

Avoid giving a large deposit if you can. This may help protect you if the vendor doesn't honor what's promised or service/equipment isn't up to par.

Work with the turbine manufacturer to find reputable installers and pay close attention to the process. If something doesn't seem right, don't accept it just because the vendor says so.

Visit [teammidwest.com](http://teammidwest.com) to see the economic analysis used for Midwest Energy's renewable energy park (shows all costs and compares them against the generation).

## **4. How long is the warranty and what does it cover—parts? Labor? Can it be extended? If so, what will it cost?**

Warranties (longer = better) range from one to five years. Make sure it covers labor and parts. Ask the owners of wind systems bought from the same vendor about performance and reliability before deciding on an extended warranty, if available. If you live in a lightning-prone area, strongly consider

the lightning protection option.

## **5. How long has the vendor been in business? How many turbines have they sold? Are their turbines certified? Can they perform maintenance, or is there another licensed repair technician in the area?**

Look for vendors that have been in business for at least five years or have acquired the product line of another vendor. Also research the number and types of wind turbines the vendor has installed (don't just take their word for it) and ask for the names of at least two people who have installed a similar model. Check with the references and ask them if there was anything they wish they had known before investing in a turbine.

The Small Wind Certification Council has been conducting a certification process in the U.S. ([smallwindcertification.org](http://smallwindcertification.org)). Small turbines can be certified using the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standard, IEC 61400-2, for testing wind turbine power performance. This standard is increasingly used by U.S. manufacturers.

## **6. What are your electric co-op's interconnection policies? What will the co-op pay for any excess energy you may produce?**

Electric co-ops must provide all of their members with safe, reliable, affordable electric service. Most co-ops have interconnection policies designed to permit interested members to own their own generation without impacting the quality or cost-of-service received by other members. Knowing what these policies are before buying a wind turbine will help you better evaluate the full costs and benefits of the investment.

## **7. What local zoning laws, electrical codes, homeowners' association requirements or other local laws and standards apply to wind turbines?**

Some local zoning ordinances and homeowners' association policies restrict the height of wind turbines or require that they be set back a specified distance from the property line. These restrictions may keep you from taking advantage of the best wind resources or require extra time to get a waiver or exception. Local electrical or building codes may also impose additional time or expense.



### Looking For Farm Sites

The Michigan Film Office is looking for farming locations in the Thumb and southeast regions of the state for a potential movie production by acclaimed director Ramin Bahrani. They're looking for large corn/soy farms, elevators with corn, dirt roads and boarded-up small towns with maybe only a Post Office and diner left. For more about filming in Michigan, go to [michiganfilloffice.org](http://michiganfilloffice.org).

Crescent Bakery owner Bob Kortzen (R), Frankfort, poses with actor Michael Cera and the donuts made famous in the film "Youth in Revolt."

# Hollywood Discovers Mi

Directors are increasingly looking to rural Michigan for their movies. **Kim Schneider**

Shirts that read "Tom's Feed Mill" become Hollywood's latest fashion statement, thank Lisa VanDenTop. Passing out free caps to the cast and crew of the feature film "Touchback" was just one ploy to attract the attention of Kurt Russell and company as they filmed recently outside her Coopersville shop.

It worked. That, or the large sign she painted that read, "Welcome Kurt Russell and Brian Presley."

"I can't tell you anything he said when I met him," VanDenTop said, "but I know he talked. I don't remember, because it was Kurt Russell!"

Russell and co-stars like former Detroit Lions running back Barry Sanders were charming locals and taking the local football field with a huge cast of local football players, teachers, coaches and marching band members for the movie "Touchback" about the same time Hope College theater major Ben Hertel was getting his big screen shot a bit further up the Lake Michigan coast.

Playing a young Nazi, he shot the lead character in the film "Return to the Hiding Place"—Dutch resistance fighter Piet Hartog (aka L.A.-based actor Craig Robert Young)—as the sun sank over a scenic Manistee beach.

Meanwhile, across the state, nearly 200 potential extras were flocking to a casting call in Bad Axe. Some pulled up in a four-

wheel drive pick-up or brought along a dog, as requested by producers, hoping for a shot at joining Sean Penn in this month's filming of "This Must Be the Place."

If anyone doubts that rural Michigan is the place for filmmaking these days, they need only glance at onlocationvacations.com, a traveler's guide to what's filming where. Or they can take a gander at the Michigan Film Office's current list of features in production.

Nineteen films have been made in Michigan so far this year, 14 currently in production, thanks largely to a generous state film incentive. Since the program began in April

2008, 106 films have been completed, according to the Michigan Film Office.

The largest filming concentration remains in the Detroit metropolitan area, home to a large film crew base and other practical perks. But as trained crews pop up elsewhere, directors are increasingly looking rural to film farmland scenes, find lake-front settings, even make horror movies, says Ken Droz, the film office communications director.

Hugh Jackman shot scenes for his movie "Real Steel" on a Livingston County farm recently, Droz said, and at the Ingham County Courthouse in Mason. Ben Stiller's been in Grand Rapids this summer, shooting

Filming a scene for "Fitful" inside the car ferry S.S. City of Milwaukee in Manistee.







Makeup artist Dan Phillips of St. Clair Shores uses makeup to “beat up” L.A.-based actor Craig Robert Young before a culminating scene in “Return to the Hiding Place,” being filmed on a Manistee beach. The *City of Milwaukee*, a car ferry docked in Manistee, was the inspiration for the movie “Fitful,” mostly filmed there. (Photo by Rich Brauer Productions)



# Michigan

“30 Minutes or Less” about a pizza delivery man abducted during a delivery and forced to rob a bank. Newly-released films like “Youth in Revolt” (Michael Cera and Justin Long) and “What If?” (Kevin Sorbo and Kristy Swanson) and the upcoming “A Year in Mooring” (Josh Lucas) were made entirely in rural northwest Michigan.

“We currently have well over 100 leads we’re working on, feature films looking at filming in our area,” says Rick Hert, head of the West Michigan Film Office. “It’s a very exciting time.”

Once discovered, locations can sell an area or even inspire a film. Filmmaker Rich Brauer says he wrote the script for the thriller “Fitful” around the S.S. *City of Milwaukee*, a historic car ferry docked in Manistee.

Similarly, director Lee Storey couldn’t have found a more perfect setting for her documentary “Smile ‘Til It Hurts: The Up With People Story,” than Mission Point Resort, where the group actually originated. The Dutch-influenced architecture of Holland, MI, also proved fortuitous for the directors of “Return to the Hiding Place,” a moving action film about some heroic Dutch resistance workers who saved an entire orphanage slated for genocide by the Nazis. A few scenes will be filmed in the Netherlands, but most were recently shot in Holland, Zeeland or Manistee, where 10 West Studios built intricate sets that included a replica made



## Popular Movie Sites

Michigan may not have Iowa’s “field of dreams,” New Zealand’s hobbit-happy scenery or Austrian hills alive with music, but it does have the Grand Hotel, perhaps the most intact film location in the world. The setting for the time-travel romance “Somewhere in Time” is also the state’s biggest movie location draw, particularly in mid-October when the annual “Somewhere in Time” weekend is held (Oct. 15-17 in 2010). Attendees can mingle with cast, crew and other fans in (optional) period dress over five-course dinners, champagne receptions and lectures on everything from cinematography to Victorian underpinnings ([grandhotel.com](http://grandhotel.com)).

Self-guided tours that follow the footsteps of Jimmy Stewart and Lee Remick, stars of the 1959 film “Anatomy of a Murder,” remain a popular draw to Marquette and are downloadable at [marquettecountry.org](http://marquettecountry.org).

A growing number of west Michigan locales are also showing up on the big screen, including the Lake Leelanau RV Park and Frankfort’s Crescent Bakery (see photo, opposite page), where various donuts “auditioned” for directors.

to exact dimensions of the original “hiding place.”

Dormitory lodging was an unexpected benefit of filming on a college campus for the creators of coming-of-age story “Cherry,” filmed at Kalamazoo College and Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo and released earlier this month.

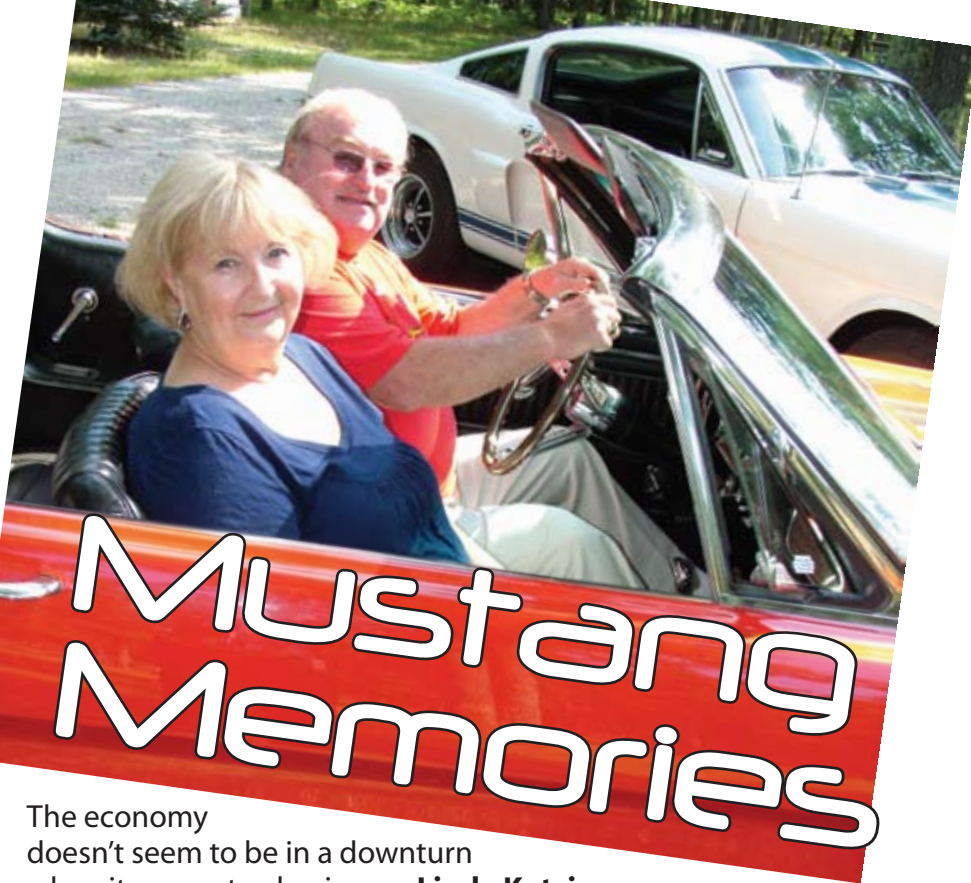
“We had bocce ball tournaments down halls, had a putt-putt course set up on one of the floors,” said producer Jeffrey Fine. “There’s even a shout-out in our credits giving special thanks to the Fox Hall mattresses. I was pretty happy to get back to my bed at

home, but that was the only part about Fox Hall I didn’t love.”

What made an even bigger impression was Midwestern kindness and generosity, a theme echoed over and over by various producers, filmmakers and cast.

“Cell reception was so bad with AT&T in Michigan that I’d be in rural Michigan and pull over to talk on my cell phone,” Fine says. “People would literally pull over to see if I was okay. We’d go to film somebody’s house, flip their lights upside down, and they’d bring us cookies. People were so excited that Hollywood was coming to town.”





# Mustang Memories

The economy doesn't seem to be in a downturn when it comes to classic cars. **Linda Kotzian**

**C**lassic car collecting provides a boost to many a personal pocketbook. Some experts estimate that a classic car, properly restored and cared for, can appreciate in value an average of over 10 percent annually.

Great Lakes Energy Co-op member Pat Broderick, a classic car collector in Manistee, says that rather than speculating in stocks or a 401(k), auto collectors prefer investing in something they can see and touch.

Following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, Broderick hired into Ford Motor Company in Dearborn during 1961, and worked over 30 years in the sales and service division.

In 1966, he bought a brand new '66 red Ford Mustang fastback that he still owns. The car now has 39,000 actual miles.

Over the following years, he bought four more vintage Mustangs, including northwest Michigan's oldest model—a 1964-1/2 brown coupe known as "Plain Jane." He exhibited

it at Ford's world headquarters in Dearborn during their 100th anniversary in 2003.

"The cars are like his children," Broderick's wife Ellie explains. "I think it's great that he has this hobby and was fortunate enough to acquire such nice cars."

Smiling, she says Broderick occasionally lines up his cars in their yard to take pictures because he enjoys the memories each one brings him.

The couple's eight children and 18 grandchildren enjoy and encourage his hobby.

Broderick says that memories account for a lot classic car collecting's appeal. In general, classic cars are those 25 years or older. Gazing at cars from their younger days often causes a rush of memories for people who visit car shows. For younger fans, the responsibility of owning, restoring and caring for a classic car often involves family members and creates togetherness.

Classic car shows also boost local economies. Even small shows can draw thousands

of people. Large shows in big cities like Detroit and Chicago typically attract spectators in the hundreds of thousands.

Broderick says car collecting also fosters "cottage industry" businesses, such as shops that provide detailing or restoration work. Others stock parts or literature, such as owner and service manuals.

He feels retired baby boomers with time and money are likely behind the current interest in this hobby. "They recognize the investment potential of classic cars and enjoy the related memories," he explains.

Many car clubs sponsor local charitable groups, turning club shows and events into fundraisers and providing another economic boost. "Our car shows draw people (to a community)," Broderick adds. Meanwhile, car club members donate their time.

Broderick has been president of the Customs-n-Classics Car Club of Manistee for over eight years.

Manistee club members will next bring their cars to a show at the Port City Street Fair in Manistee on Sept. 11. In an average year, members take their cars to at least 10 shows, mostly in western Michigan.

Manistee club members are close-knit and passionate about their cars, and enjoy sharing car history with the public and act as resources to help each other find, restore and maintain their vehicles. "We all work together, get things done, and know each other like family," Broderick says.

Wives and significant others are active in the club, too. They manage event publicity and select suitable local charities to accept car show proceeds. Some enjoy working on restoring, upholstering or detailing cars.

Regular club social occasions include monthly luncheons, an annual steak fry, holiday parties, and a fall color tour.

For those who want to join the growing society of classic car collectors, Broderick has some advice: "Don't be afraid to ask other collectors for help, attend car shows and swap meets to learn, and expect to work hard."

Broderick and his fellow collectors get a lot of satisfaction and pride in preserving these great pieces of car history.

This herd of classic Mustangs looks ready to ride in Pat and Ellie Broderick's yard. Shown (L-R) are: "Drop-top"—a 1966 convertible; "Shelby"—a 1965 Shelby GT350; Pat's first Mustang, a 1966 fastback; "Plain Jane" (for its lack of flashy options)—a 1964-1/2 coupe; and "Grandpa's Car"—a 1965 coupe that was owned by Pat's father. The Ford toy pedal car shown was a promotional release (\$12.95) when the Mustang convertible came out in '65.







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# A Lifeline for Homeless Students

STEP program helps 800 teens in Grand Traverse area.

**H**eather, Mike and Haley are your typical Traverse City high school aged students for eight hours every day.

They look and talk like other teenagers. However, they are part of a group of over 800 Grand Traverse area students who have one thing in common: They are homeless.

But they aren't hopeless because of a program called Students in Transition Empowerment Program (STEP). It's been in operation more than 10 years and is supported through a grant with the Department of Education—plus local donations—and serves 22 public school districts in the five-county Grand Traverse area.

"We live in a beautiful area, a tourist area where there is wealth and many second homes," said Joan Abbott, who coordinates the STEP program. "What we tend to overlook are the children, the teens, the families who are in homeless situations. They can be invisible to us."

That's because, Abbott says, homeless families and teens who aren't living with a parent or legal guardian tend to find shelter with family friends, with relatives or share housing with a friend. There are those, however, who live in shelters, tents or even in cars.

But the Grand Traverse area isn't alone. According to the Michigan Department of Education, there are nearly 15,000 homeless students in the state. That number reflects a 92 percent increase in the last three years.

How do students wind up in these situations?

"For two out of three students, it's because of family conflict," said Abbott. "That can be because they are abandoned by their parents, abuse or neglect and/or family financial issues."

Some students don't seek out the STEP program, Abbott said. So she trains school secretaries, principals, counselors, social workers and teachers to look for tell-tale signs that students need help.

"We have to be very sensitive about approaching students," she said. "We look for signs like who suddenly stops buying lunch and starts sharing lunch with a friend. Or who

goes to get the free peanut butter lunch day after day. There are also behavioral issues we watch for."

When a student is approached, Abbott said it's in a very non-confrontational manner.

"We want the students to know that being homeless is a situation, it doesn't define who they are," she said. "In fact, when communicating with the students, we don't use the word homeless. We prefer to call them Students in Transition."

Abbott works closely with liaisons in each area school district to ensure that eligible students are identified and receive educational services, as required by federal law.

Once a student has been identified, the help begins. The STEP program ensures a free breakfast and lunch at school, academic assistance, clothing for school purposes, transportation to school via a school bus, BATA or gas card and referrals for everything from housing, counseling and job training.

"We believe that early identification is the key to successful intervention," said Abbott. "Our goal is to reduce dropout rates and provide a support system that leads to life skills training to the most at-risk teens."

A recent report indicates that 68 percent of all criminal activity in Michigan is committed by high school dropouts. Over 50 percent of the inmates in Michigan jails are high school dropouts, and it costs the state \$30,000 a year to house each one. Also, 40 percent of parents on public assistance in Michigan are also drop-outs.

So the money spent to fund the STEP program is well worth it, said Abbott. That money comes not only from the State Department of Education, but from private individuals and service organizations, such as Cherryland Cares.

The Cherryland Cares program donated



© iStockphoto.com/Jordan Chesbrough

\$5,000 to the STEP program at its June meeting. The Cares board is made up of five Cherryland Electric Cooperative members. They decide which 501 3c non-profit groups will receive monies from Cherryland's Operation Round-up. It's a fund that Cherryland members have funded by rounding up their electric bills to the nearest dollar.

Over the past six months, the Cares board has handed out more than \$42,000 in assistance to programs like STEP.

"Students experiencing homelessness have diverse needs," said Abbott. "But it starts with a safe and stable place to live."

The STEP program is making a difference in the lives of homeless teens, Abbott said. Many of the students in the program agree.

"I needed help to figure out how to manage time between school work, work and the things I love to do," said Heather. "In addition, I appreciated help in finding ways to return to my home and for conflict resolution to heal the pain."

There has been an 11 percent increase in family homelessness over the last three years, according to the Department of Education, with the largest increases occurring in rural areas.





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# Sandwiches



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Sandwiches became popular in America when bakeries first started making pre-sliced bread. Here are some favorite reader recipes. Find many more at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com).

## Nina's Cheesy Chicken Buns

1 15-oz. jar Cheese Whiz®  
 1 10 3/4-oz. can cream of mushroom soup  
 1/2 c. mayonnaise  
 1/4 t. pepper  
 4 c. chicken, cooked and cubed  
 1 c. chopped celery  
 1/4 c. chopped onion  
 4 boiled eggs, chopped

Mix Cheese Whiz, soup, mayonnaise and pepper together. Stir in chicken, celery, onion and eggs. Simmer in a saucepan on stovetop or bake uncovered, at 350° for 20-30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Serve on your favorite type of bun. To serve more people, add more chicken, eggs, celery and onion, but do not increase the sauce.

Joyce Tamminga, Jenison

## Roast Beef Sandwich

1 sheet puff pastry, slightly thawed  
 1 c. thinly sliced roast beef for sandwiches  
 4 oz. cream cheese  
 1 T. Parmesan cheese  
 1/8 c. bleu cheese crumbles  
 kosher salt  
 freshly cracked pepper

Place puff pastry on a flat surface. Using a rolling pin, roll it out twice in each direction. Spray a 10x15-inch cookie sheet with non-stick spray. Place pastry on cookie sheet. Slice cream cheese lengthwise into 1/4-inch thick slices. You will be layering ingredients on half the puff pastry, leaving the other half to fold over filling layers. Working from left, lengthwise, place first cheese slice 1-inch from left edge of pastry. Lay remaining cheese slices end-to-end on pastry. Sprinkle Parmesan cheese on top of cream cheese. Layer roast

beef on top of cheeses. Sprinkle bleu cheese over roast beef. Fold unused half of pastry over filling layers and seal edges. Cut three slits on top of pastry. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Bake at 385° for 25 minutes until top is golden brown.

Danielle Cochran, Grayling

## Mushroom-Cucumber Veggie Sandwich

bread  
 fresh mushrooms, sliced and sautéed  
 Swiss cheese slices  
 cucumbers, peeled and sliced  
 radish sprouts  
 Italian dressing

Place cheese and mushrooms on a slice of bread. Top with another slice and grill both sides like a grilled cheese sandwich. As soon as sandwich is golden brown, open it and add cucumbers, sprouts and a light sprinkling of dressing. Replace bread slice and enjoy.

Leslie McCrum, Howard City

## Greek Burgers

2 lbs. ground beef  
 2 T. dried onion  
 2 T. chopped fresh parsley  
 2 t. garlic salt  
 2 t. oregano  
 pita bread  
 sour cream  
 sliced onion  
 sliced cucumber

Combine ground beef, dried onion, parsley, garlic salt and oregano; shape into patties and refrigerate eight hours or overnight. Fry patties to desired doneness. Warm pita bread in oven or microwave. Cut bread in half. Place a burger in each pita half. Top with sour cream, and sliced onion and cucumber.

Cynthia Yingling, Wolverine

## Basil Tomato Grilled Cheese

8 slices Italian bread, cut 3/4-inch thick  
 8 slices part-skim mozzarella  
 2 lg. plum tomatoes, sliced

2 T. minced fresh basil  
 2 t. balsamic vinegar  
 salt and pepper to taste  
 1/4 c. olive oil  
 3 T. grated Parmesan cheese  
 1/4 t. garlic powder

On four slices of bread, layer mozzarella cheese and tomatoes. Sprinkle with basil, vinegar, salt and pepper. Top with remaining bread slices. In a small bowl, combine oil, Parmesan cheese and garlic powder. Brush over outsides of each sandwich. Cook sandwiches, on a griddle, over medium heat until golden brown on both sides.

Shannon Powers, Middleville

## Mock Monte Cristo Sandwich

2 c. crushed Rice Krispies® cereal  
 3 eggs  
 3/4 c. milk  
 1/4 t. salt  
 2 T. powdered sugar  
 1/4 t. salt  
 12 slices bread  
 6 oz. thinly sliced cooked ham  
 6 oz. thinly sliced cooked turkey  
 6 oz. sliced cheese, any type  
 powdered sugar

Place crushed cereal in a shallow dish. In another shallow dish, beat eggs slightly; add milk, powdered sugar and salt, blend well. Assemble sandwiches by layering six slices of bread with ham, turkey and cheese and topping each off with another slice of bread. Dip each sandwich into the egg mixture, then coat each side of each sandwich with the crushed cereal. Place on a greased cookie sheet. Bake at 425° for 10-15 minutes, until crisp and slightly browned. Sprinkle with powdered sugar before serving.

Debbie Coombs, Wayland

## Bananawiches

12 T. peanut butter  
 6 hot dog buns, split open  
 6 bananas  
 6 T. strawberry preserves

Spread 2 tablespoons peanut butter in each bun. Place a banana inside each bun. Spread 1 tablespoon preserves over each banana. Wrap in colored plastic until ready to serve.

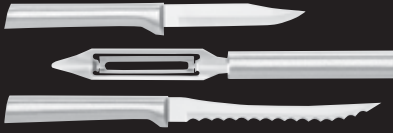
Bonnie Bourn, Constantine

More sandwich recipes on page 20 ►

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## Rolled Sandwiches

- 16 slices white or whole wheat bread
- 16 slices bacon
- 16 slices American cheese
- 32 wood toothpicks

Lay one slice of cheese on each slice of bread. Roll them up and wrap with a slice of bacon. Secure each end with a toothpick and place on a lightly greased broiler pan top. Bake at 400° for 10-15 minutes, turning if necessary, until toasty brown and bacon is cooked. Serve with tomato soup or cut rolled sandwiches in half and serve as appetizers. Reheat any leftovers quickly in a microwave.

*Pat Mooney, South Lyon*

## Ham and Cheese Sticky Buns

- 1 pkg. dinner rolls
- 1/2 lb. ham, sliced
- 1 lb. cheese
- Sauce:**
- 1/2 c. butter
- 1/3 c. brown sugar
- 2 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 T. mustard

Put a slice of ham and a slice of cheese on each bun. Place tops on buns and place them in a pan or cookie sheet close together. Combine butter, brown sugar, Worcestershire sauce and mustard in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil and boil for 2 minutes. Pour sauce over buns; cover with foil and bake at 350° for 20 minutes.

*Arlene Yoder, Scottville*

## Pulled Pork Sandwiches with Jerry's BBQ Sauce

- 2 c. ketchup
- 1/4 c. molasses
- 1/2 c. light Karo® syrup
- 1/2 t. liquid smoke
- 1/4 c. minced onion
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 t. paprika
- 1 T. lemon juice
- 1/2 t. salt
- dash of crushed red pepper
- dash cumin
- 2 t. cornstarch

Roast a pork shoulder roast overnight in a slow cooker, remove and discard any fat, then shred pork back into the cooker. Blend sauce ingredients in a saucepan, heat and simmer for 5-10 minutes. Pour a generous amount of sauce over meat, heat 1-2 hours until the flavors meld. Serve on your favorite type of bun.

*Jerry Martin, Sandusky*



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# The Old Switcheroo

Slide into energy savings by replacing an old, wide window with a sliding glass door.

The overall efficiency of an airtight sliding glass door can be better than an insulated partial wall with a large inefficient window above it. My double horizontal slider window had double-pane glass, but the gap seal failed on one panel and all the weather-stripping was worn out, creating air leaks.

Although homes are constructed differently, you'll generally find a lot of reinforcing lumber framing around window openings. This is great for structural strength, but leads to inefficient thermal bridges and leaves little room for insulation. Once I removed the drywall, I found the sill plate had not been sealed properly and air was leaking in at the bottom of the wall. Seal as much of the sill as possible to the foundation.

I selected a super-high-efficiency sliding glass door made by Thermal Industries ([thermalindustries.com](http://thermalindustries.com)). It uses a steel-reinforced vinyl frame and triple-pane glass panels. Two of the glass panes have a low-emissivity coating and dense krypton

inert gas between them. This provides a high insulation level and cuts down on noise. Always select a door which is Energy Star®-qualified and meets federal energy tax credit requirements.

Another option is double-swinging French patio doors. If you have clearance in your dining room for swinging doors, these are more efficient. Swinging doors close on compression weatherstripping, so they seal better over the long-term than a seal on sliding glass doors. Also, when you open both swinging doors, there is more open area for natural ventilation.

Thermal Industries sent along an expert to help me with my installation. Following are some of the tips he taught me.

Spend a few extra dollars and rent a large masonry saw to cut through the brick wall

also recesses the door, making it easier to install tight thermal drapes during winter. The Warm™ Company makes good thermal drapes for this application.

For the simplest installation, cut straight down from the existing window opening. You will have to build out the interior opening with studs to the same width as the brick, but this is still easier than resizing the entire opening. This will leave a gap between the new studs and the brick which must be insulated.

I used Great Stuff® low-expansion foam, but fiberglass is also effective. Once the foam was sprayed in and expanded, the insulation was covered with 3/4-inch pressure treated plywood. Thermal Industries had custom-sized the door to fit in this final opening size with about one-half inch overall clearance. Make sure to use shims for all screws and don't over-tighten them. The framing on a large door can easily be pulled out of balance during installation without supportive shims.

My door frame was placed over pressure-treated lumber trimmed with aluminum flashing to raise it because I mistakenly cut the brick too low. Whether you're installing a door over lumber, brick, or a precast sill, liberally apply silicone caulk between the bottom of the door frame and the base to prevent leaks. There are weep vents in the door track to prevent water collection.

To see all the project photos and details, visit [dulley.com/newdoor](http://dulley.com/newdoor).

*Have a question for Jim? Send inquiries to: James Dulley, Michigan Country Lines, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit [dulley.com](http://dulley.com).*



Photo - James Dulley

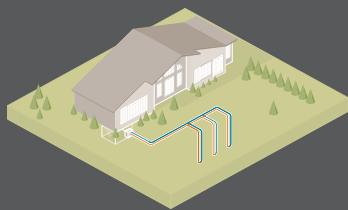
in one pass from the outdoors. I bought a cheap masonry blade for my circular saw. It cut through the brick, but I had to make both outdoor and indoor cuts to get through the full width of the wall. This led to an uneven cut and an unbelievable amount of dust indoors. Wear a good N95 breathing mask whenever you cut masonry.

With a brick veneer wall, the width of the brick and the total wall-framing thickness will be about twice the width of the sliding glass door frame. The installer recommended positioning the door out on the brick to create a more stable door base. Indoors, this



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# Wolverine Appeals Air Permit Denial

**W**olverine Power Cooperative recently filed a petition in Missaukee County Circuit Court seeking reversal of the state's denial of the air quality permit for its proposed Wolverine Clean Energy Venture (WCEV) power plant near Rogers City. Wolverine is asking the court to reverse the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment's (MDNRE) denial and return the application for reconsideration.

"We believe the administration's denial of the permit was a political decision rather than one based on the technical merits of our application," explains Craig Borr, Wolverine's executive vice president. "We hope the appeal process will be completed in a timely manner to allow for further consideration and potential future development of the WCEV."

Wolverine submitted its air permit application to the MDNRE in September 2007. The agency issued a draft air permit for the project in October 2008 and accepted public comment in writing and at hearings held in Rogers City and Lansing.

"We worked closely with MDNRE staff in an effort to keep the permitting process



This is a computer rendering of the proposed Wolverine Clean Energy Venture power plant near Rogers City.

moving forward and expected a decision on our permit in 2009," Borr adds. "Consumers Energy was granted an air permit for a power plant development near Bay City in December 2009, yet we received no word."

The administration acted in May 2010, denying Wolverine's permit based on the anticipated costs of the project. The state also cited the plant's negative impact on the environment and said Wolverine failed to demonstrate the need for new generation.

Wolverine proposed a state-of-the-art facility capable of generating 600 megawatts of electricity.

"Wolverine and its members should be allowed to evaluate the cost and need aspects of a project and decide how to best deliver reliable, competitively priced power to those they serve," Borr says. "Through the appeal process, we hope to be granted the opportunity to further evaluate the WCEV and determine our next steps."

## Wolverine Members Set New Energy Record



A team of seven power coordinators, including Mike Anderson, monitor energy demand around the clock in Wolverine's Energy Control Center.

Wolverine's four electric distribution co-op members—Cherryland Electric Cooperative, Great Lakes Energy, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative and Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op—set a new monthly energy use record of 245,901 megawatt-hours (MWh) in July. The members' previous monthly record was 238,506 MWh, set in January 2009.

"We saw an energy demand increase of 19 percent for our traditional co-op members in July 2010, compared to July 2009," said Pete Chase, Wolverine's vice president of power supply and energy control. "The weather has been considerably warmer than last summer, and energy demand is up."



# 40 Years From Perfect

**F**orty years ago, we were perfect. It was the autumn of 1970 and our Mancelona Ironmen football team turned in one of the best records in school history: 7 wins, 0 losses and 1 tie.

We had been ranked No. 1 in Class D most of the year and only a 26-26 tie with Grayling—ranked No. 3 in Class C—cost us the top spot in the final poll.

Five years later, in 1975, the high school playoffs started. It was too late for us, but over the years all 17 of our team's players were convinced we would have made a great run in the playoffs. Okay, technically we weren't perfect because of the tie. But because during that final game we felt like the little school (Hickory) in the film *Hoosiers*, we felt like we had attained perfection.

It's funny how, decades later, one team and one season out of so many can make a 56-year-old man smile.

I guess it's because when you're 16 years old, you're still discovering what you can accomplish: Drive cars, date girls, score touchdowns and become part of something that the community is proud of. In some ways, you were perfect back then.

Now I look back at the imperfect people we've grown into. Some of us have lost hair, others have lost houses and wives and children. Life does that to mortals.

But for that one season in 1970, we didn't worry about losing anything. We felt immortal. Our first game was the dedication of our new football field and we had new uniforms. We had known since fifth grade that this was going to be our year, when this group of seniors and our group of juniors all played together.

We got a taste of success the year before, winning six of our eight games. Now we wanted more. We knew that first game was supposed to be one of our toughest tests. We won 42-0. After that, we were on our way.

When you're winning, even the prac-

tices are fun. Okay, not fun, but they were easier to put up with. Every Tuesday, Coach would announce that this practice would last three hours unless we gave him 90 minutes of all-out effort. And every Tuesday we did. We never were smart enough to figure out that he probably had dinner plans at 6 o'clock and wasn't going to be there three hours anyway.

Winning made that okay. Some of us had part-time jobs and mine was a stock boy at the

local IGA store. On Saturday mornings, when I was stiff and sore from playing the night before, I'd oftentimes turn around in the aisle and find Mancelona fans anxious to talk about the game. I'd look over at my boss and he would nod his approval.

He later told me he didn't mind because it brought people into the store and small-town people usually had the manners to buy something before they left.

One of my greatest memories of that season was our trip over to Grayling for

the showdown game. As we were riding the school bus and going up and over hills, Coach told us to take a peek toward the back of the bus. There—as far as we could see—were our fans following us in their cars.

"Boys, don't ever forget that," he said with a smile.

We never did.

In the years since, of course, we have grown apart, raised families and forged new lives.

We only had 17 players on that team, so we learned to play hurt and we learned not to make excuses. We learned to work

*"We learned to work hard and to depend on each other."*

hard and to depend on each other. We also learned how to perform and persevere under pressure.

Those are lessons you won't find inside a high school textbook. They are found inside ourselves.

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Nick Edson



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**CONCEALED PISTOL LICENSE CLASS** – Sept. 25, \$135. frontierways.com or 231-258-4817.

**LYMAN OUTBOARD BOAT** – 15-foot Merc 200 motor, cover, stored inside, excellent, MI registration, \$1,500. 260-758-3471.

**FREE BOOKS/DVDS** – Soon the “Mark of the Beast” will be enforced as church and state unite. Let the bible reveal. The Bible Says, POB 99, Lenoir City, TN 37771. 888-211-1715. thebiblesaystruth@yahoo.com

**WORK CLOTHES, GOOD, CLEAN** – Rental type, 6-pants and 6-shirts, \$44.95; lined work jackets, \$10.95; denim jeans, \$6. Call 800-233-1853. 100% satisfaction guaranteed. usedworkclothing.com

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## REAL ESTATE

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**LAKEFRONT CABIN** – Near Big Star Lake, Baldwin. 110 feet lake frontage, paved road, one mile to Pere Marquette River, 1.4 acres, garage, bunkhouse, perfect condition, \$99,000. 616-669-8424.

**BREVOORT LAKE** – Upper Peninsula 3-bedroom, 1-bath cabin, stone fireplace, deck, storage shed, on 100x740-foot lot. Reduced, phone 906-293-8770.

**9 ACRES, MASON COUNTY** – Well, septic, power, \$30,000 or best offer. 231-750-4129.

**ATLANTA, ELK CAPITAL OF MICHIGAN** – 3-bedroom home, 4-car garage and workshop attached. Approximately 275x125 foot lot, \$21,000. Call 989-785-4110.

**ATLANTA, ELK CAPITAL OF MICHIGAN** – 3-bedroom, sunroom and balcony-top floor. 2-bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, walk-in guest quarters, 20x40 foot pole barn, 300-foot stream frontage, bridge crossing, inland lake within 30 feet with fishing dock, boat included. Call 989-785-4110.

**HUNTING CABIN AND 70 ACRES** – of prime hunting land near Hale, MI. 810-441-7623.

**MOBILE HOME, WEIDMAN** – Lakefront, year-round, furnished, \$35,000. 517-485-9335 or 989-644-3754.

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### Classified ad rates:

▲ **\$3 per word (\$30 min.), including ALL business, agent and broker ads**

▲ **\$1.50 per word (\$15 min.) for co-op members running nonbusiness ads**

Each initial, group of figures, phone number, abbreviation, e-mail address and website address counts as one word. Hyphenated and slashed words count as two or more words. Ads are subject to editor's approval and editing. For member rate, attach your mailing label. To pay by credit card, include card number, exp. date, address related to the card and signature with ad. M/C or VISA only, please indicate which. Send your printed or typed ad and check made payable to MECA (advance payment required) by 15th of month prior to publication to: *Country Lines*, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864, or email [jhansen@countrylines.com](mailto:jhansen@countrylines.com). Call 517-351-6322, Ext. 201, for more information.

**No classifieds accepted by telephone.**

Also, place order online at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com), and ads will be posted **FOR NO EXTRA CHARGE**

(Until the next issue of the magazine is published.)

in Fife Lake, MI. 3-bedroom, 1-bath, garage and outbuildings, \$215,000. 231-879-3109.

**RIVERFRONT HOME, 7 ACRES** – With 1,100 feet N. Branch Lincoln River, pole barn, garage, shop. 6 miles north of Scottville, \$220,000. 231-757-2106.

**8 ACRES, 800 FEET** – North Branch Lincoln River, 6 miles north of Scottville, good building site, hunting, fishing, \$45,000. 231-757-2106.

**RECREATIONAL HAVEN** – Whitefish Bay. Spacious home, 28x40 ft. garage, 179 feet lakefront with 18 acres, can sub-divide. Skiing, hiking, ATV, snowmobile, trails, year-round secluded playground, \$399,000. 906-440-8276.

**FOR SALE, RIVERFRONT HOME** – Walkout, 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths, 1,700 sq. ft. up, 1,000 sq. ft. down. Two-car attached and 24x36 ft. matching building, 2.3 acres, huge windows with a 400-ft. view of the Sauble River. Half-way between Ludington and Manistee. Easy access cul-de-sac, privacy, dry, beautifully landscaped, \$229,900. 231-464-5004.

**\$64,900, 3-BEDROOM HOUSE** – On 18 acres. Best Kalkaska County deal for a totally remodeled stick-built with garage. Call Realtor Mike at 231-570-1111 or visit [TCarea.com](http://TCarea.com)

**MARTINY LAKES, BARRYTON** – Canal front. Furnished mobil home and garage with access to several good fishing lakes, \$56,000. 517-626-2046.

**ONAWAY AREA LEASE** – S.E. Cheboygan County, 100 acres, Black River frontage. Lease now for turkey, bow and gun seasons. Pay taxes. 248-217-5217.

**THUNDER BAY RIVER, ALPENA MI** – 100 feet river frontage, 2-bedroom, 1-bath, newly remodeled home. 989-354-3650, leave message.

**WEIDMAN, MI, 40 ACRES** – Trails, wildlife, 3-bedroom, 2-bath house built 1994, covered porch, 2-car garage, geothermal heat, pole barn, workshop, \$299,000. David Zamarron, ERA Central Real Estate, 989-773-6000.

**BIG SAUBLE RIVERFRONT** – Home/retreat. Mason County, 3 large bedrooms, 2 baths, fireplace/heatilator in open plan living area, laundry, patio and covered porch on river-side, 2-car attached garage, workshop, many updates. 115 feet of trout stream frontage. Beaches, biking, hiking, golf, skiing, incredible salmon, trout, steelhead fishing nearby, \$199,750. 231-464-7228.



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# Watch Out For Downed Power Lines

Power lines are easy to overlook—stringing high above your roof, along property lines and roadways, or near trees—but can pose serious hazards if they are forgotten.

Strong winds, storms and heavy ice can topple trees or shatter branches that pull down power lines and cause outages. Even if heavily damaged, lines can stay energized,

with the potential to electrify trees and nearby objects.

Electric current caused by arcing or flashovers can also easily injure or kill someone nearby. In winter, extra weight from snow and ice can bend or break branches and bring them close to power lines. In warm weather or when the lines are carrying heavy electrical loads, they can heat up and sag as much as

15 or 20 feet, dropping them toward vegetation. Be sure to pay attention to power lines by using these safety tips:

- ▶ Look for nearby power lines before you cut down or trim trees. If a tree falls into a power line, call Cherryland Electric Cooperative at 231-486-9200.

- ▶ Treat all power lines as energized. Never climb or touch a tree that has a limb caught in a power line. Evidence that the tree is “electrified” or dangerous may not be visible.

- ▶ Maintain required clearances between equipment and power lines.

- ▶ If a fire starts from a fallen line, stay away. Call the fire department and Cherryland.

- ▶ Do not use water on or near a fallen power line.

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

When planting trees, shrubs or hedges, do not put them directly under or within 25 feet of power lines for short trees, and at least 40 feet away for medium-sized trees.

– U.S. Department of Energy

## Why Do We Send You Country Lines?

We send *Country Lines* to you because it is a convenient and economical way to share information with Cherryland Electric members. It takes the place of many mailings we would otherwise make to get information to you about our services, director elections, member meetings, and the staff and management decisions you should know about as an owner of the co-op. The magazine also carries legal notices that would otherwise have to be placed in local media at a substantial cost.

And, sending *Country Lines* to you helps the co-op fulfill one of its basic principles—to educate and communicate openly with its members.

The board of directors authorizes the co-op to subscribe to *Country Lines* on your behalf at a cost ranging from \$3 to \$4 per year, paid as part of your electric bill. The current magazine cost is 36 cents per copy, less than the cost of a first-class stamp.

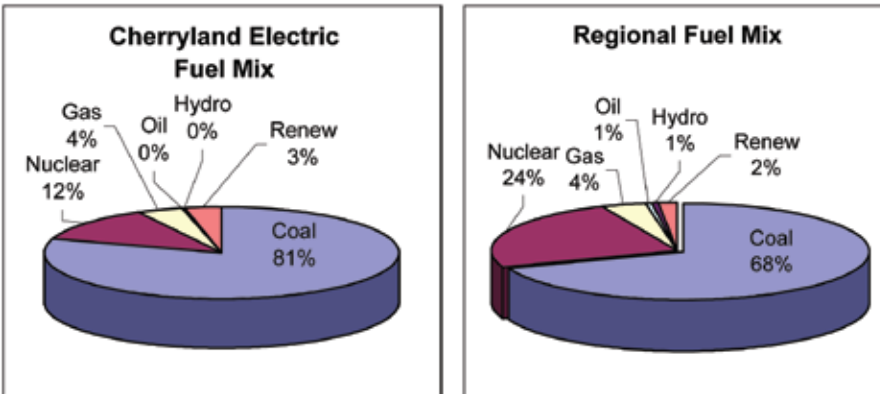
*Country Lines* is published for us, at cost, by the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association in Okemos. As always, we value your comments about your magazine.

### Cherryland Electric Cooperative

The environmental characteristics of your electricity as required by Public Act 141 of 2000.

#### Comparison of the Fuel Sources Used to Generate Electricity

Cherryland Electric vs. regional average for the 12-month period ended 6/30/2010



Fuel Sources	Percentage of fuel types used to produce Cherryland electricity.	Percentage of fuel type used to produce electricity in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin (12/31/08).
Coal	80.1	69.4
Nuclear	12.2	23.9
Gas	4.2	4
Oil	0.1	0.5
Hydroelectric	0.2	0.6
Total Renewable Fuels	3.2	1.6
Biomass	0	0
Biofuel	0	0
Solid Waste Incineration	0.1	0.6
Wind	2.9	0.3
Wood	0.2	0.7
Solar	0	0

Note: (1) Biomass above excludes wood; solid waste incineration includes landfill gas, and (2) Inclusion of long-term renewable (wind) purchase power contract in Wolverine's mix.

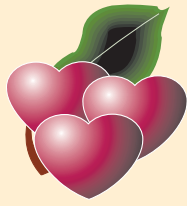
#### Airborne Emissions and High-Level Nuclear Waste Comparison

Cherryland Electric vs. regional average for the 12-month period ended 6/30/2010.

Type of emission/waste	Cherryland Electric average lbs/MWh	A regional average of all generation in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin (12/31/08).
Sulfur Dioxide	6.8	10.4
Carbon Dioxide	1,920	2,049
Oxides of Nitrogen	2.3	3.1
High-level nuclear waste	0.0042	0.0083

Note: Cherryland Electric purchases 100% of its electricity from Wolverine Power Cooperative, which provided this fuel mix and environmental data.





CHERRYLAND  
CARES

## Our Name Says It All

***Sign up today for Operation Roundup!***

**What is Operation Roundup? It's where we round your Cherryland Electric Cooperative bill up to the nearest dollar and donate the difference to our Cherryland Cares program. The volunteer Cherryland Cares board then distributes 100 percent of the money in the Cherryland coverage area to those in need.**

**\$41,900**

*This is the amount of money our Cherryland Cares board has given to those in need since December. Thanks to you—our Cherryland members—we are making a difference. Your donations have helped many, including the Children's Bereavement Network, Pregnancy Care Center, Michael's Place, Child & Family Services, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Grand Traverse Bay YMCA, and many others.*

***Yes!***

I want to help by joining Operation Roundup. Please "round-up" my bill to the next highest dollar each month.

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Cherryland Electric Cooperative  
P.O. Box 298  
Grawn, MI 49637**



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Or email Nick at [nicke@cecelec.com](mailto:nicke@cecelec.com), or call him at 231-486-9222 or 800-442-8616, Ext. 222.

# Leftovers

I'm cleaning out my office. Retirement is just two days away. There's 30 years worth of 'leftovers' here that I never had the good sense to toss.

Most of it will end up in the trash. Dozens of folders filled with agendas, notes and reports that will never be read again and probably didn't need to be saved at all. I've just realized that most of these files end in the mid '90s, when we started using computers and email to move documents around. It was supposed to be a paperless revolution, but we still make paper copies of important things. Knowing that an original is still on the computer, though, we usually throw out the copy, which just adds to our pile of paper trash.

Some of these leftovers are interesting.

A bookcase is filled with books and notebooks about energy conservation, remnants of the early '80s, when, once again, we were going to 'get off of foreign oil.'

A camera bag holds a couple of Canon camera bodies and several lenses, which no one here remembers how to use. Everything is digital now, and so much easier.

Boxes of slides, photos and black-and-white contact sheets fill drawers and shelves. We took dozens of photos to make sure we got a few useable ones. A co-op director, worried we were spending too much money on photography, once asked why we didn't publish *all* the photos we took.

There's also a gadget for viewing those slides. It's bigger than a laptop computer.

One cupboard contains stacks of 3½-inch computer floppy disks and ZIP disks. (ZIP disks once cost \$25 a pop, no wonder it's hard to throw them out.) We don't have equipment that will read them anymore.

There are rubber-banded bundles of business cards collected over decades from people I haven't seen or heard from in years, from businesses no longer in existence. All the 'keepers' have long since been transferred to a computer address book.

There's a folder of old job performance evaluations. I don't even want to look. They were a painful exercise for both sides.

There are notes from Ray Kuhl, who

(thankfully) hired me in 1980 and fathered this magazine, although not without complications: There are forms dated 1980 from co-op managers who said they wouldn't subscribe to *Country Lines* because it was an unnecessary expense. So we started with six out of 13 co-ops; within a year, all had subscribed for their members.

There's a folder with columns and ideas from Harold 'Doc' McCaughrin, one of the sharpest directors the co-ops ever had. He died in February at age 99.

If there ever was a role model for retirement, it was Doc. He managed to create a whole new life after he retired as a dentist and moved to northern Michigan. He read every day for three hours, learning new things and staying informed about the energy industry. He became a director for Great Lakes Energy Co-op at 78 and served until 90. His questions were always the best and most informed.

My father is another model. Frank's body is 93, but his mind is 25. He still watches the news and Charlie Rose, reads the newspaper every day, helps my mother, does the laundry, and cooks. He combats the indignity of failing strength with his own quiet dignity and acceptance. When he retired at 61 after years of tough, physical outdoor labor on the Soo Line Railroad in Upper Michigan and northern Wisconsin, he didn't just sit back with a beer and watch the sunsets. He reinvented himself as a carpenter, rebuilding, with my mother, an abandoned, run-down farmhouse on Pump Station Road north of Ironwood. It became his job, something to do every day.

"What are you going to do?" friends ask when we tell them we are "retiring."

"We don't know yet," we say, realizing that sounds pretty lame, like the kid who answers 'nothin' when his mother asks him what he's doing. Obviously, we'll be doing something. We just haven't decided exactly what.

Retirement is not a simple thing. One day you're working, the next you're not. We feel fortunate to have had careers we enjoyed—Barbara teaching, me publishing

this magazine and working with and for the best businesses in the state: the co-ops, and co-workers we enjoyed spending time with (you'd better like them, you spend more waking time with them than at home). We knew it was coming, but we never really thought about the days after retirement. Oh sure, we say, we want to travel, see new places, do new things, meet new people, visit family and friends. And we will, but the structure of the days after that is up in the air.

We've had structure for 40 years. The daily, weekly and yearly schedules were fairly predictable and those schedules propped us up. Daily events changed, but our lives had a pattern; we knew what was coming, what was expected of us.

Now, we're free to do what we want, when we want. That's exciting and intimidating at the same time. And we're mindful that not everyone is as fortunate as we are. The bad economy has ruined retirement for many.

We've watched others go through this. Some chuck everything at once—the job, the house, the spouse—and move on. Others are more measured, making elaborate plans for golf and fishing and second homes in the sunny south.

I asked my dad for advice on retiring. "Just take it as it comes," he said.

So the formula might go like this: Stay physically active and mentally engaged, watch Charlie Rose—and have a beer and watch the sunsets.

Thanks for joining us. It's been fun.



*Mike Buda, the founding editor of Country Lines, will continue to write this column and help out on the magazine as he tries to figure out the rest of his life.*

*Email Mike at [mbuda@countrylines.com](mailto:mbuda@countrylines.com).*





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[www.michigansaves.org/cherrylandpilot](http://www.michigansaves.org/cherrylandpilot) 231.995.5700

\*Savings estimates from [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov) based on Energy Star®-qualified products. Actual savings may vary.

\*\*Must participate in Michigan Saves loan program to receive audit.