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September 2010

MICHIGAN Country Lines



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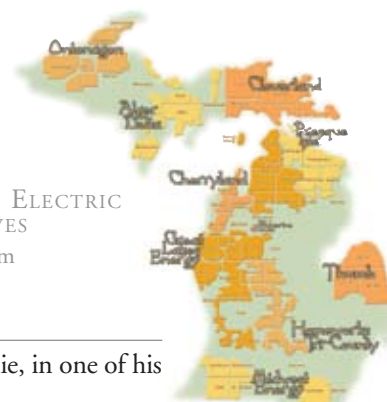
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MICHIGAN'S ELECTRIC
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C O V E R *

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



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Manager's Message

Mark Kappler



A History of Reliability

In planning our 73rd Annual Meeting, which took place Aug. 21 in Ionia, we started adding up the years of service given to the cooperative by its current board of directors and employees.

When you add in the Tri-County Electric People Fund board, we came up with a grand total of 1,187 years among 88 people.

That's a lot of years, and a lot of history. And there's more history among our members, a few of whom still remember when the lights came on in rural mid-Michigan, or heard the stories from their parents and grandparents.

Why is history important? The history of HomeWorks is also the history of rural electrification, and that's a story of trust. Rural families had to trust their neighbors and REA agents. They had to be willing to make big changes in their lives and learn to use new technologies, and they had to find a new way of working together to make good things happen for everyone involved.

And that's still happening.

We have a history of caring, of building trust, of making good things happen, and

of working together to meet our member-owners' needs.

Through the years, our board of directors has also supported us in seeking out better ways and newer technologies to do our jobs—not to be trendy, but so that we can continue to improve customer service and reliability while keeping your rates stable.

These days, of course, the electric and energy industries are so complicated and changing so quickly that the board has to focus more on strategic issues such as power supply, an equity management plan, or what services we can offer to you, our members and customers.

We also make sure the co-op has the right people in place. Trucks and computers and buildings are important, but our key tool is our people.

We know our member-owners rely on us to keep your lights on, to keep your family safe and comfortable, and we are humbled by your trust. Thank-you, and we look forward to many more years of serving you reliably.

Mark Kappler
General Manager



Join the conversation at
www.homeworks.org/blog

Notice to Members of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative

A Special Member Meeting is set for Sept. 27, 1 p.m., at the cooperative's Portland office

The board of directors will consider several changes to the cooperative's rates and tariffs at its meeting on Sept. 27, 2010, to be held at the cooperative office at 7973 E. Grand River Avenue, Portland, MI. The meeting will start at 1 p.m. and is open to all members of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative. Members will have an opportunity to address the board on the proposed changes prior to board action.

The following items will be considered:

- 1) Establish the 2011 Power Supply Cost Recovery Factor to be applied to Tri-County Electric Cooperative's retail member-customers' monthly kilowatt-hour use. The Power Supply Cost Recovery Factor represents the power supply costs as established by the cooperative in conjunction with Wolverine Power Cooperative. The factor is established annually, and reviewed monthly.
- 2) Revise the cooperative's Aid-to-Construction fee schedule to reflect cost increases since the schedule was last approved in 1978. If approved, these changes will affect member-customers who have electric service built to a new location, or request a change in service at their current location.
- 3) Revise the cooperative's Requirements for Pole Attachments tariff sheet to change the annual pole attachment rate per pole. Under the tariff, the cooperative may permit a cable television company or other attaching party to make attachments to its poles, ducts or conduits pursuant to a contract between the cooperative and the attaching party.
- 4) Review the cooperative's current billing deposit policy, in particular the interest rate paid on billing deposits.

Notice of changes or additions to the cooperative's rates or service rules shall be sent to all members, as required by P.A. 167, by publication in *Michigan Country Lines* at least 30 days prior to their effective date.

Participation: Any interested member may attend and participate. The location of the board meeting site is accessible, including handicapped parking. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact HomeWorks Tri-County Electric at 800-562-8232 a week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. Comments may also be made before the meeting date by calling General Manager Mark Kappler at 517-647-1281, or by email at mkappler@homeworks.org.

Notice of the board meeting shall be sent to all members, as required by P.A. 167, by publication in *Michigan Country Lines*.

Notice to Members of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative

Tariff and Fee Changes Effective Oct. 10, 2010

The HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors adopted the following changes to the cooperative's tariffs and fees at a Special Open Meeting held July 26, 2010, in accordance with P.A. 167.

- 1) Eligibility requirements for Retail Access Choice (Schedule PSDS-C) were changed so that members with a peak load of less than 1 megawatt are no longer eligible for choice service.
- 2) A new LED Street Lighting tariff (Schedule SL) with two options was adopted, and the present tariffs were updated to include all current lighting options.
- 3) A distribution wheeling rate (Schedule DW) was established, setting requirements and charges for member-consumers using the cooperative's distribution system to wheel power for wholesale delivery purposes. This tariff applies to members installing distributed generation projects larger than 100 kilowatts (kWh).
- 4) The Energy Optimization Surcharge for all classes of irrigation was changed from a fixed monthly rate to a per-kWh charge.
- 5) Miscellaneous fees and charges were updated to reflect actual current costs.

For specific details of any HomeWorks tariffs or fees, please call us at 1-800-562-8232 or visit our website at homeworks.org.



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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

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.

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

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?



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

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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www.energystar.gov/taxcredits

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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.

Plan Before You Plant That Tree!

There's a constant conflict between our appreciation of the beauty and value of trees and our expectation of low-priced, almost-never-interrupted electric service.

Tree limbs brushing against power lines can cause blinks and wreak havoc with computers and digital electronics. Wind and ice can cause limbs to fall and break power lines, causing extended outages.

Tri-County's member-owners don't like power outages, but many also don't like having trees cut away from the power lines.

Avoid the Conflict

One way to avoid the conflict—and power outages—is to plan before you plant.

Over 80 percent of the trees under power

lines that have to be trimmed or removed were planted in the right-of-way after the lines were built.

Homeowners don't consider how large their little sapling will ultimately grow, but that sapling is a potential power outage if it's planted in the wrong place.

Besides staying away from power lines, there are other reasons to plan before you plant. Tree roots can damage sidewalks, driveways and foundations. If their roots find a moist spot caused by your sewer lines, they'll grow right in and set you up for an expensive plumbing repair.

So, ask for help—your local county Extension service or the nursery where you buy trees are good sources of information.

Know What's Below

The greatest danger to underground power lines occurs during tree planting. Whether you do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job. Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call—even small projects like planting trees and shrubs.

The depth of utility lines varies, and there may be multiple lines in a common area. Digging without calling can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm you and those around you, and result in fines and repair costs.

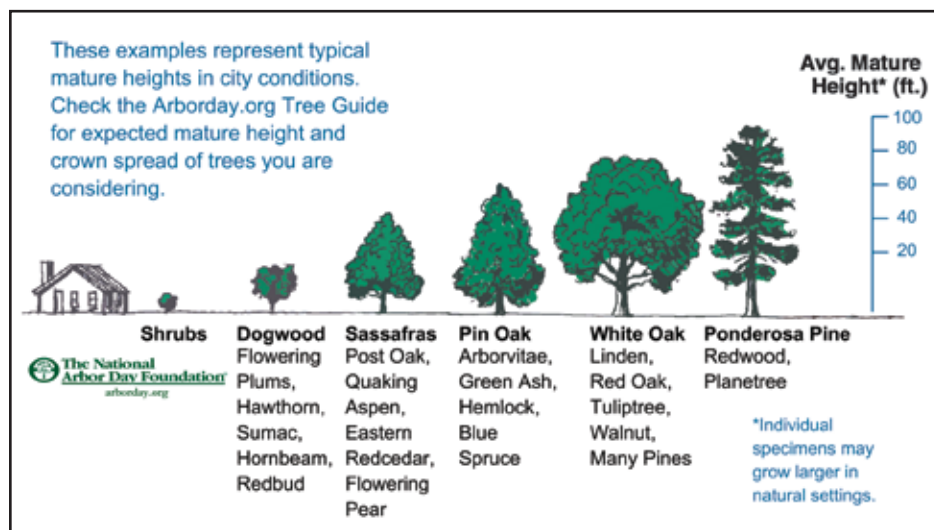
Calling 811 before every digging job gets your underground utility lines marked for free and helps prevent undesired consequences.

Timber! Or, Look Out Below...

Taking trees down is usually a job for professionals, especially if they're near power lines or buildings. By trying to do it yourself, you risk power outages or property damage, and you're also taking a chance on personal injuries.

If the tree appears to be too close to a power line, call us. We will check it out, and if needed, put it on our tree-removal list. Otherwise, if the tree is large, make sure to call on someone with the proper tools and experience for that kind of work.

HomeWorks Tri-County Safety Coordinator



Your Board In Action

Meeting at Blanchard on June 28, your board of directors:

- ▶ Reviewed recommended rate and tariff changes in advance of the July 26 Open Member Meeting.
- ▶ Authorized staff to extend a low-interest line of credit for one year.
- ▶ Learned all three incumbent directors were re-elected to the board in the 2010 elections.
- ▶ Read and approved "Board Policy 117 – Privacy and Confidentiality," and "Board Policy 201 – Safety." Learned there were no identity theft incidents reported during the past quarter, in a report required by "Board Policy 316 – Identity Theft."
- ▶ Reviewed progress from the Portland

construction and renovation project.

- ▶ Went over preliminary plans for the annual meeting on August 21.
- ▶ Reviewed May 2010 financial statements and learned there were 97 new members for the month.
- ▶ Acknowledged the May safety report, with two safety meetings listed.

Meeting at Blanchard on July 26, your board of directors:

- ▶ Learned staff had met with Energy Optimization contractors to learn how the program is progressing and discuss ways to help members save energy.
- ▶ Reviewed plans for the upcoming annual

meeting and a strategic planning session.

- ▶ Read and approved "Board Policy 202 – Memorials and Illness Remembrances" and "Board Policy 203 – Drug-Free Workplace," with minor wording changes.
- ▶ Discussed progress on the Portland facility renovation project.
- ▶ Went over reports from the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative and RESCO, a rural electric supply cooperative, noting capital credit allocations and refunds made for 2009.
- ▶ Reviewed preliminary June 2010 financial statements, and learned there were 104 new members for the month.
- ▶ Acknowledged the June safety report, with two safety meetings listed.

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.



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

Wind and Basic Math

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

The 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).

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), 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.

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 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). 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 michiganfilmoffice.org.

Crescent Bakery owner Bob Korten (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).

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.

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.”

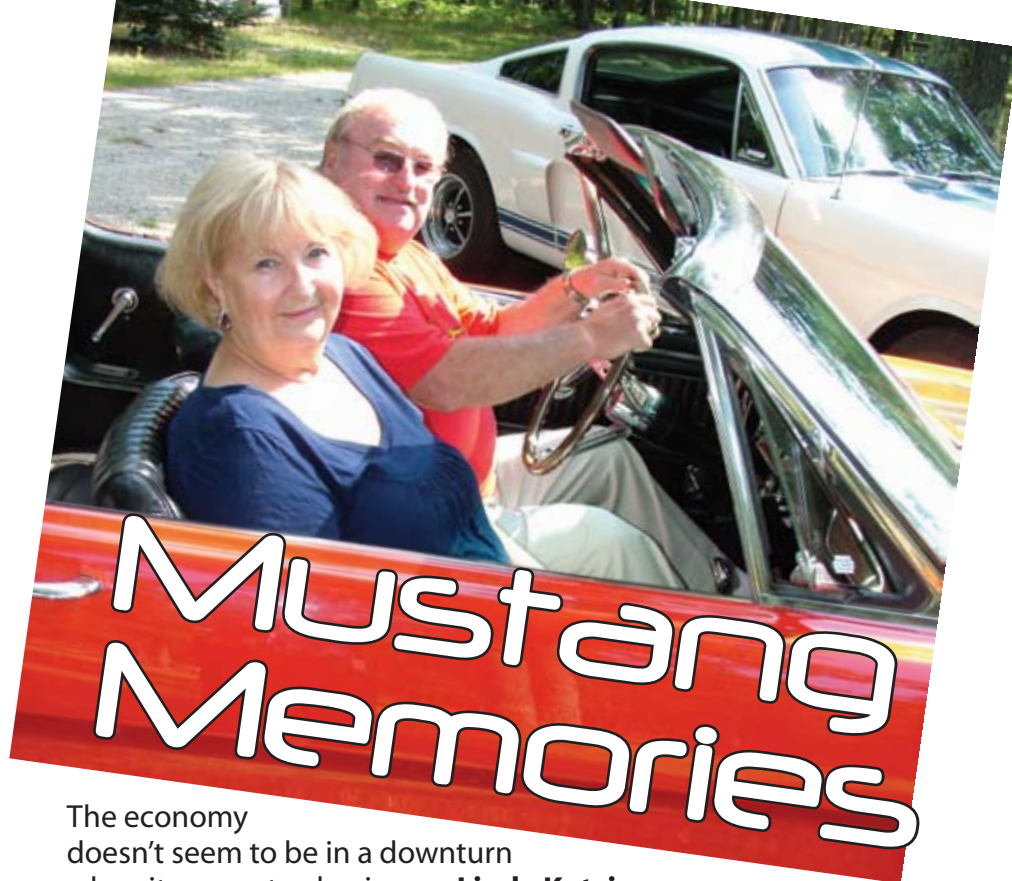
Dormitory lodging was an unexpected benefit of filming on a college campus for the creators of coming-of-age story “Cherry,” filmed at Kalamazoo College and Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo and released earlier this month.

“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.”



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

Classic 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.

Heather, 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

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, Middletown

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.

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

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

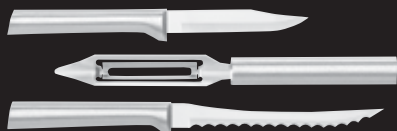
Spread 2 tablespoons peanut butter in each bun. Place a banana inside each bun. Spread 1 tablespoon preserves over each banana. Wrap in colored plastic until ready to serve.

Bonnie Bourn, Constantine

More sandwich recipes on page 20 ►

► **Send in your recipes!** If published, you'll receive a free kitchen gadget. Send in: **STIR FRY recipes by Sept. 10**, and **your ALL-TIME FAVORITE previously published Country Lines recipe by Oct. 10** (no gadgets this category). Mail to: Country Lines Recipes, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864; or email jhsansen@countrylines.com.

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Sandwich Recipes, continued from page 18

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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TODAY - The United States Rare Coin & Bullion Reserve has scheduled the final release of U.S. Gov't Issued \$5 Gold Coins previously held at the U.S. Mint at West Point. Please be advised: These Gov't Issued Gold Coins are being released on a first-come, first-serve basis and our U.S. Gov't Gold inventory priced at \$139.26 per coin could very possibly sell out! Call immediately to avoid disappointment. This "at-cost" Gov't Gold offer could be cancelled at any time. Do not delay. Call a Sr. Gold Specialist today.

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Coins enlarged
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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). 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.

Have a question for Jim? Send inquiries to: James Dulley, Michigan Country Lines, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit dulley.com.



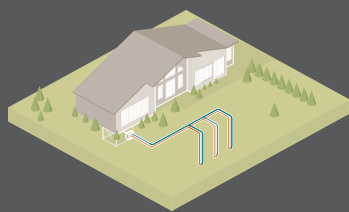
Photo - James Dulley

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

Wolverine 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."

Information For All HomeWorks Customers

Your cooperative offers a program called the Tri-County Electric People Fund, which is funded through the voluntary rounding up of your monthly utility bill to the next whole dollar. An all-volunteer board of directors appointed by the member-elected board of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative is charged with distributing the funds throughout the

cooperative's service area to support charitable efforts within the communities we serve.

Funds from the People Fund have been distributed to educational programs, fire departments, medical emergency groups, recreational organizations, senior organizations, numerous local charities, and many local families and individuals. A copy of the People Fund's annual report detailing contri-

butions is available and has been highlighted in previous issues of *Country Lines* magazine. All grants made are also listed at our website, homeworks.org.

Your participation in the Tri-County Electric People Fund is *voluntary*. If at any time you wish to discontinue participation in the People Fund, please let us know and we will be happy to remove your account.

If you are participating, your monthly bill is rounded up to the next whole dollar amount. If your bill is \$78.42, it would be rounded up to \$79. The 58 cents is then contributed by HomeWorks on your behalf to the People Fund, to be used as explained above. A customer's average annual contribution is approximately \$6. Your annual contribution to the People Fund is tax deductible and is reported on your monthly statement in January of the following year.

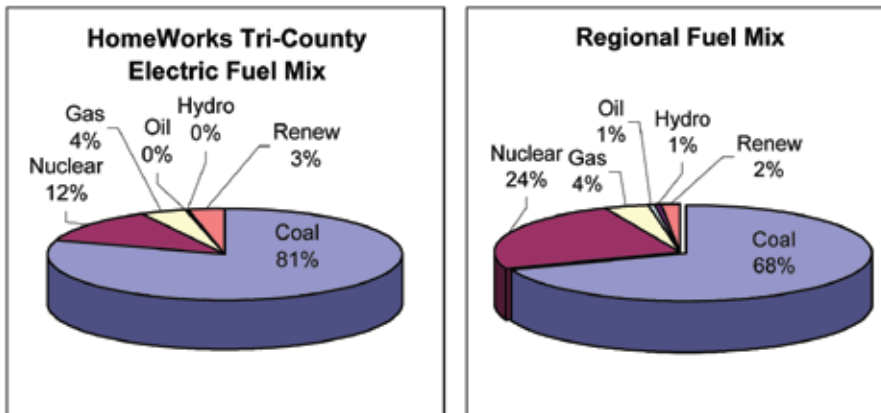
For additional information regarding the Tri-County Electric People Fund, you can contact the cooperative's office by mail, or call 877-466-3957 (menu option one).

HomeWorks Tri-County 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

HomeWorks Tri-County vs. regional average for the 12-month period ended 6/30/2010



Fuel Sources	Percentage of fuel types used to produce HomeWorks Tri-County 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

HomeWorks Tri-County vs. regional average for the 12-month period ended 6/30/2010.

Type of emission/waste	HomeWorks Tri-County 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: HomeWorks Tri-County purchases 100% of its electricity from Wolverine Power Cooperative, which provided this fuel mix and environmental data.

For applications, board meeting dates, or a listing of every People Fund grant made since the program began in 1993, visit homeworks.org.



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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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(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

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.

VACATIONS

MARTINY WATERFRONT COTTAGES – Completely furnished, air and boats included. Pontoon rental available. 616-897-5062.

SNOW BIRDS – Join us in Raymondville, Texas Golf Vue RV Park. 9-hole golf course across the street, 40 minutes north of Mexico. Call 956-690-4008.

WANTED

BUYING OLD WOODEN DUCK – Goose, fish, decoys. 248-877-0210.

BUYING GUN RELOADING EQUIPMENT – Bullets, ammo, gun parts, back stock and more. 517-623-0416.

WANTED, DIVCO MILK TRUCK – Doodle Bug tractors, pick-up trucks 1930 thru 1975. Call Harold, 231-652-6421.

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Member Satisfaction Surveyed

How do you feel about the way we do business? What do you think about energy efficiency or renewable energy issues? How can we continue to improve our service to you?

These questions and more were covered on a recent survey commissioned by HomeWorks to determine the overall satisfaction our members have with our service.

"We try to do these surveys about once every two to three years," says Doug Snitgen, marketing coordinator for HomeWorks. For the project, HomeWorks hired Inside Information, Inc., a professional research team that has done similar studies for other electric co-ops across the nation.

Comparing Changes or Trends With Previous Surveys

"We've worked with Inside Information in the past and were really impressed with the quality of what they do. Working with them again this year allowed us to also measure any changes or trends from previous surveys," Snitgen says.

The survey was conducted in May, when interviewers collected telephone survey responses from 303 randomly selected HomeWorks members from throughout the service area.

"The study was designed to be

statistically accurate," Snitgen continues, "so even if you weren't one of the members selected to take the survey, chances are we still have a pretty good idea what you think based on the responses of your neighbors."

For you statistics buffs out there, Snitgen adds, the results of the survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 5.6 percent at a 95 percent degree of probability.

High Overall Satisfaction Continues

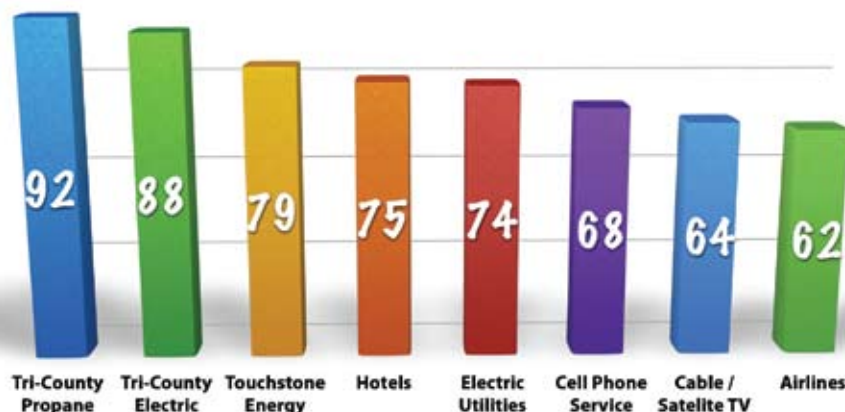
The survey shows HomeWorks members continue to have very high overall satisfaction with the co-op.

"We were very encouraged by the results of the survey," said Snitgen. "Our ACSI (American Consumer Satisfaction Index) score came back well above the national averages for other industries." (See chart below.)

Among the drivers of overall satisfaction, respondents gave the highest ratings for having courteous, knowledgeable employees; a professional business manner; and quality customer service. Respondents also give higher satisfaction ratings for reliable power and prompt outage response.

HomeWorks will continue to share more findings from this survey in upcoming issues of *Country Lines*.

HomeWorks' ACSI compared to other utilities and industries:



This graph shows how HomeWorks Tri-County Propane and HomeWorks Tri-County Electric stack up in overall customer satisfaction ratings against other Touchstone Energy electric cooperatives and electric utilities in general, as well as several other services popular with customers across the U.S.

Your Time Is Important

Spend less of it paying your bill.

HomeWorks offers several convenient options for paying your energy bills:

Automatic Payments: No more writing



AUTOMATIC

checks, buying stamps, or racing to catch the mail—there is no charge for our convenient auto-pay service! Your payment will be withdrawn automatically each month from your preferred account. You will still receive a billing statement at least 10 days before it's due that indicates the amount owed.

Online Payments: To make a payment



ONLINE

at any time, log-on to ebill.homeworks.org. You can also use eBill to review your monthly HomeWorks energy bills and account history.

HomeWorks Tri-County members have used Co-op Connections® Card pharmacy benefits

2,133 times, saving
\$47,379.56



Visit connections.coop to search for Connections Card deals in Michigan or with national companies. Offers are updated frequently, so check often.

If your local business would like to offer HomeWorks members a discount on your products or services, call Jayne Graham at 517-647-1252 or email jayne@homeworks.org.

If You're Looking for Price, Look Closely

We want to keep your trust, and your business.

What if you decide to order a value meal for lunch? You see one restaurant advertising a cheeseburger value meal at \$1.99. The one across the street charges \$2.99.

You pull into the drive-through lane for the one advertised at \$1.99 and place your order.

The voice comes back through the intercom saying your total is \$3.49, and "please pull ahead."

"But wait, the sign says \$1.99," you protest.

"Yes, but that price is just for the burger," you hear. "Then we added all the condiments you wanted, and your total is \$3.49."

You're hungry and out of time, so you have a choice: pay the inflated price or do without.

Ever have this happen to you? Well, propane pricing is getting to be nearly as bad. The good news however, is that as a HomeWorks Tri-County Propane customer you *have never* had to pay any

additional fees for our price protection, or charges such as hazmat fees and fuel surcharges for each delivery. When we tell you our price-per-gallon, there are no add-ons!

You can see the value of being a HomeWorks Tri-County Propane customer. Plus, you are enrolled in our price protection automatically—at no charge—from the day you become our propane customer.

Our goal is to be your propane supplier for the long term, and we believe by building trust with honest pricing you will find value in being our customer.

Visit homeworks.org/9questions for a copy of our *free* report, "The 9 Crucial Questions You Need To Ask Your Propane Company," and a comparison shopping worksheet.



Randy Halstead
Propane Manager

To learn more about propane service from HomeWorks, call 877-574-2740 or visit homeworks.org

HomeWorks Tri-County Propane is a wholly-owned subsidiary of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

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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 3 1/2-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.



We go this way to school.

That way to work. One way home.

And before we know it, we get stuck in a routine.

So let's take a left instead of a right.

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Do you know the

9 Crucial Questions

you need to ask your propane company?

If you're a typical homeowner shopping for a propane supplier, you'll probably call three to five propane companies and make a decision based on what sounds like the lowest price. Unfortunately, price-per-gallon can be a deceiving number. Many propane companies will attract new customers with a low advertised price-per-gallon, then surprise the customer with additional fees and hidden charges.

By asking your propane supplier the **9 crucial questions** found in our **FREE report**, you'll discover how much you *really* pay for service, and how to choose a company that will give you the **best value**. Our FREE report, includes:

- The 9 crucial questions you need to ask when shopping for a propane company.
- A worksheet for easy side-by-side comparison of each propane company you call.

This report is a free service of HomeWorks Tri-County Propane. And we're so confident that we can provide you with the best value propane service, that **we'll even give you contact information for 12 of our competitors** so you can call and compare for yourself.

Get a copy of the **FREE REPORT** by visiting www.homeworks.org/9questions or calling 1-877-574-2740.



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