

A Service of **Cloverland Electric Cooperative**

March/April 2011

Michigan

COUNTRY LINES



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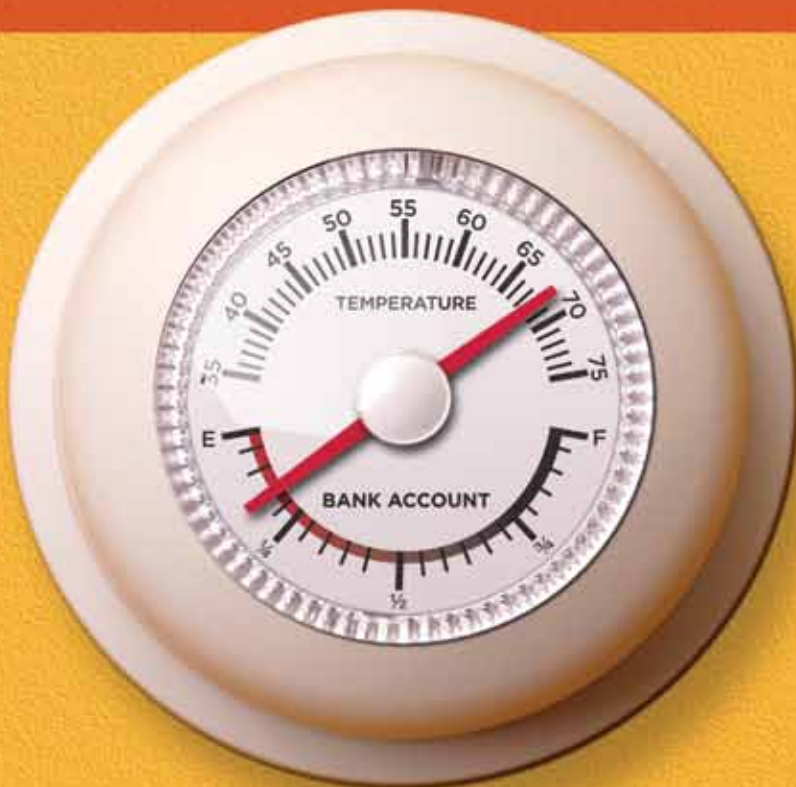
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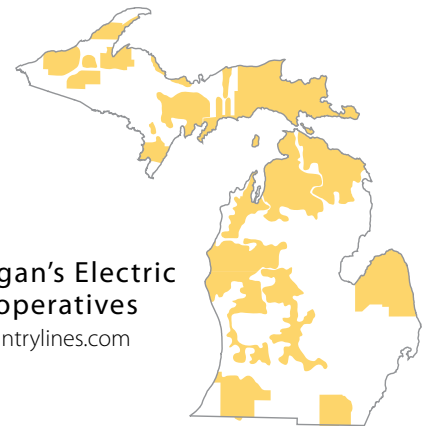
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On the Cover

The Heuers, of mid-Michigan, celebrate their family of biological twins and three adopted daughters. They have been foster parents to nine children.

Photo - Elizabeth Price, pricelessphotography.com

Michigan's Electric
Cooperatives
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Our Future Rests In Your Hands

For folks new to the Cloverland Electric Cooperative family (and family members who might need reminding), let me introduce you to the Second Cooperative Principle—Democratic Member Control. It's just one of seven guiding principles that govern co-op operations. That means you, as a member-owner of Cloverland Electric, ultimately select who represents you on the co-op's board of directors and helps determine the strategic direction of our local, not-for-profit business.

One of the main duties of co-op directors is hiring a general manager. Since I was hired in 2008, I've been responsible for running your co-op and ensuring that you receive a safe, reliable and affordable supply of power. But hiring a manager is by no means where the directors' duties end.

While directors are not involved in your co-op's daily affairs, they do provide vision, guidance and financial oversight. They carefully review and approve our annual operating budget and four-year construction work plan. These tasks require directors to have a solid understanding of the co-op's costs and needs in order to make important financial decisions about the construction of new lines, substations, investments in technology, and member service facility improvements. Ultimately, each director has a say and a vote, as in any democratic organization.

Directors also attend monthly meetings and must stay abreast of state and national changes in our industry so they can gauge the impact on our cooperative. Directors

must be a voice for us both in Lansing and Washington, D.C. To this end, the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) offer many learning opportunities that build each director's pool of knowledge. NRECA also offers a director certification program. I am proud to report that all of our directors have obtained their Credentialed Cooperative Director certification.

And after all that education, the task of sorting through difficult choices remains. Like any successful democracy, this decision-making process does not operate in the dark. We keep you informed through articles in this magazine and bill inserts, information on cloverland.com and most importantly, during face-to-face conversations. Our annual district meetings in April (see back cover) also provide opportunities for you to share what's on your mind and learn more about what we're doing and where we're heading.

In a democracy, knowledgeable member participation is crucial. That's why it is important for you to attend your district meeting. It's your chance to elect fellow members to Cloverland's board of directors that will represent your best interests and provide leadership and vision.

Co-ops are different than other businesses because of you, our members, and because of the way decisions are made. We always welcome and encourage your involvement. After all, it's *your* co-op.

I look forward to visiting with you at the upcoming meetings.



Daniel Dasho
General Manager

Co-op Names & Faces

Steve Markstrom was promoted to purchasing manager and **Steve Stec** to electronic technician foreman. **Megan Atkinson** joined our staking department. **Paul Warner** took the reins as manager of the Dafter-Sault line division. Dafter operations supervisor, **George Rogers**, retired after 45 years of service. **John L. McDonald** retired from the meter department after 37 years.

Photo (L-R): Cloverland welcomes **Crystal Spiker, Rhonda Savoie** and **Julie Chadwick** to our member services team.





Power of Giving – Cloverland Electric Cooperative and employees donated \$25,111 to this year's local United Way campaign. Pictured (L-R) are Tracey Laitinen, United Way executive director; David Jahn, campaign chairman; Cory Wilson and Michelle Dillon, Cloverland campaign co-chairs, and Daniel Dasho, Cloverland general manager.

Why Do We Send You Country Lines?

Sure, *Michigan Country Lines* is full of great articles, valuable energy-saving tips, and—of course—delicious recipes. But why does your electric co-op send you this magazine?

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

Sending *Country Lines* to you also helps the cooperative fulfill one of its basic principles—to educate and communicate openly with its members.

The board of directors authorizes Cloverland to subscribe to *Country Lines* on behalf of its members at a cost ranging from \$3 to \$4 per year. The current cost of the magazine is 35 cents per copy—less than the cost of a first-class stamp.

Country Lines is published, at cost, by the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association.



KEEP ON SAVING

with the 2011 Energy Optimization programs.

Take the first step. A home energy audit will pinpoint which areas of your home waste the most energy and suggest the most effective measures for cutting your energy use. Complete a full-profile online home energy audit and receive a **FREE energy savings kit**. Visit michigan-energy.org today to get started!

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Visit michigan-energy.org for a full listing of rebates, programs and qualifications, or call 877-296-4319 to learn more.

Rebates and programs subject to change and availability. *Replacement only. **Must have electric water heater.





Magazine Online?

I like that you put your articles online, but is there a way to receive our subscription electronically instead of the paper form? Downloading the magazine in one pdf document would be preferable to the paper copy or going to the website and jumping around from one article to another. Hopefully enough members would sign up for this where there would be a significant savings from printing and mailing. Thank you.

— Erik Booth

Good news—a pdf copy is already available online! Go to countrylines.com and click on “Find Your Co-op.” Choose your co-op and click “Download Latest Co-op Magazine PDF.”

We’re working to have a digital edition (maybe even one that can be sent automatically to a smart phone or iPad) and an online archive of back issues available this year, but we would still have to send

a paper copy because of legal notices the state requires your electric co-op to share with you. Also, not all readers have computers. — Ed.

Mystery Photo

I’m answering the Mystery Photo contest (Jan.). Yes, it’s on M-72, Kalkaska County, the old one-room schoolhouse still in use! Now I have entered my name, etc., many times and wondered how many copies and where were they sent before I got mine? I cannot call in, as a senior on fixed income, I don’t do long distance calls, and have no computer email so I have to reply by mail and lose two or three more days before my entry gets there. It’s like, ‘what’s my odds on getting picked...?’

I have been a co-op member for 40 years.

Thanks for everything.

— Thomas Campeau, Frederic

All readers have an equal chance because the winner is chosen by a drawing from names of those who guessed correctly (see note below).

Recycled Paper

As a former printer and International Paper Company employee, I have combined work experience

of over 45 years in making paper and putting ink on it. As a Great Lakes Energy customer, I enjoy reading *Country Lines* magazine.

I have particular interest in your use of recycled paper. While I applaud your efforts to do something favorable for the environment, I would ask if you know how much “sludge” waste material is created in recycling paper? The recycling process may have improved since I last visited a recycling paper mill at the beginning of the recycling days. But, when I last visited a recycling mill I saw a fleet of filthy and “grungy” trucks parked nearby. I asked what they were used for and was told they transported the “sludge” created in the recycling process to the dump. My next question was, “How much sludge is created in the process?” The answer was 6 tons for each ton of usable paper. With that much waste to dispose of, what real gain is there in using recycled paper?

— William Sheaffer, Gaylord

Glen Johnson, of FutureMark Paper, our supplier, responds:

The times, and de-inking of reclaimed paper recycling processes have changed, and our numbers are dramatically different than your experience. We reclaimed 115,987 tons of paper in 2010, so we can recover 98.5 percent of the reclaimed paper we buy and process. A dramatic improvement over the 75 percent previous, and a huge improvement over the ’60s-’70s.

We do get some post-consumer

rubbish (collection systems are terrible now) such as cans, staples, glass and plastics. In 2010, this totaled 1.36 percent of the purchased reclaimed paper, and that is compacted and recycled for metal and plastic recovery. — Ed.

Ice Climbing

Article on ice climbing may not have been accurate...visit google.com/search?q=ice+climbing+deaths&rls=com.microsoft:en-us&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&startIndex=&startPage=1

— J. Kuchnicki

Thanks for the catch...it does look from your query that there were some ice climbing-related deaths in the world, although we still found none reported in Michigan. — Ed.

Bad Bugs

I found Don Ingle’s article on foreign insects (*Feb.*) very interesting. There are a few measures we could take to eliminate some of these bugs. Most of the wood shipping pallets are ground up and used as decorative mulch. Talk about moving wood. This stuff is hauled home by unsuspecting homeowners and scattered around their trees and shrubs. This mulch has to be loaded with the eggs of the insects. These pallets should be banned. Only reusable plastic pallets should be allowed for any shipping. It will take an act of Congress to stop foreign countries from using wood products as shipping.

— Dennis Parsons, Bitley

MYSTERY PHOTO

Everyone who identifies the correct location of the photo below by **April 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 May 2011 issue.

The **January** contest winner is **Cheryl Darlington of Rapid City**, who correctly identified the Crawford Excelsior School on M-72 East in Kalkaska County.



January photo



Do you know where this is? ▶

Scholarships Offered

Each year, the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association awards two \$1,000 scholarships to qualifying applicants. Individuals are chosen based on their scholastic achievement and extracurricular involvement during their high school career.

The applicant’s parent or guardian must be a member or employee of a Michigan electric co-op, and the applicant must be planning to attend a Michigan college or school full-time.

Selection will be based on grade point average, character, leadership, academic achievement, extracurricular and community activities, and essay response.

Applications are available at countrylines.com; click on “Youth,” email wolford@countrylines.com, or call 517-351-6322, ext. 205. Eligible applications must be postmarked by *April 4, 2011.*



© iStockphoto.com/Damian Gadal

Separated at birth? Reader Debby Graham's dog, Tucker (L), and Bandit, adopted by our Ramblings columnist, Mike Buda.

Bandit The Dog

Our family enjoyed Mike Buda's article about Bandit (*Feb.*). We are also blessed with an Australian sheperd named Kiowa. As you were describing Bandit, it was as if you were describing our dog! Good luck with your adoption and many healthy and happy years with your Aussie!
— Scott, Lynda & Carly Holcomb

Thank-you so much for writing this wonderful article [about Bandit]. We have had several phone calls about adopting dogs from the Animal Placement Bureau because of it. Anyone interested in our organization or viewing photos of the dogs that are up for adoption can visit our website at apbpets.com

— Patti Lundy

The Animal Placement Bureau (APB) still has four or five Aussies available. One looks like

Bandit (her name is Jessie), and then we have a red tri-male and a Blue merle female—they are on PetFinder. The others are on the APB website. Thanks.

— Cheryl Thompson

Imagine my surprise after opening the February issue of *Country Lines* and seeing a picture that looked almost exactly like our little Tucker. Our 15-year-old English shepherd died in April 2009, and it really devastated us. We already had a 10-year-old-brown Australian Shepherd and I wanted to get another Aussie. So we picked one out and got him in May 2009.

...I completely know what you mean about Bandit's joy of romping in the snow. That is one of Tucker's favorite things, of course besides the rubber Frisbee and squeaky tennis balls...oh yeah, and did I mention sticks and tree branches? That boy sure can catch – it's amazing.

Bandit is beautiful in his picture in the magazine. After seeing Tucker's picture, you will know why I had to do a double-take at the dog in the picture (see both dogs, above).

— Debby Graham

At least 12 readers sent letters about Mike Buda's February column on his rescue dog, Bandit.

We print as many reader letters as space allows, but MCL stories and more letters can also be read at countrylines.com. Thanks.

Recycled Paper

Michigan Country Lines is 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 that required to make paper from pulp.

GRILLS GONE WILD

Enter Our Crazy BBQ Grill Contest!

Send us a photo of your home-made or custom BBQ grill—the crazier the better—along with a short description of your grilling tradition. If we print your entry in the May issue of *Michigan Country Lines* magazine, you'll receive a \$50 credit on your co-op electric bill.

- Entry deadline is *April 15*; one entry per co-op member. Special consideration will be given to photos with people in them.
- Complete the form below and attach a short description of your grilling tradition. Please identify anyone in your photo.
- **EMAIL** your photo as a high-resolution JPEG file (as an attachment) to photos@countrylines.com, or **MAIL** glossy prints, along with the form below, to: Crazy BBQ Grill Contest, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48879. (Prints will *not* be returned.)

We're looking forward to some grillarious entries!



CRAZY BBQ GRILL CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Electric Co-op: _____



Teens,

You could win a trip to Washington, D.C.!

It all starts with a free trip to **Teen Days** at the Kettunen 4-H Center near Cadillac in April.

At **Teen Days**, you'll learn about co-op career opportunities, electrical safety, how to use energy wisely, and the benefits of co-op membership in a fun and relaxed setting. We will then select one Cloverland student to attend the **Rural Electric Youth Tour** in Washington, D.C.

If you're a 10th or 11th grade high school student who will be 16 or 17 years old by June 2011, and your home or cabin is served by Cloverland Electric Cooperative, you are eligible to apply. Download an application at cloverland.com or call Cory Wilson at 906-632-5181.

Don't miss out! The application deadline is **April 6**.

Learn more about these programs at countrylines.com by clicking on "Youth." Also check out youthtour.coop to see videos and photos.

**Michigan
Electric Cooperative
Teen Days**
Tustin, MI
April 27-29

**National
Rural Electric
Youth Tour**
Washington, D.C.
June 11-16



Cloverland
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Yeah, That's How We Roll

Moving forward in the electric co-op world means rolling with the changes.

Change—it's a word we hear frequently these days from our elected officials in both Lansing and Washington, D.C. It also describes the challenges faced by your electric co-op.

From changes in political leaders and issues to the new look of this magazine, the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA) and its co-op members are seeing change in nearly all facets of the electricity business.

Change is requiring our team to build relationships with the 29 new senators and 58 new representatives in the Michigan Legislature, and our four new members in the U.S. Congress. We are working very closely with all the new legislators representing portions of rural Michigan to help them understand the many unique attributes of electric co-ops and how we differ from other types of utilities. We are also helping them understand the many challenges co-ops face in providing electricity to rural areas, and especially related to the current economic woes faced by rural residents.

In Lansing, we are working hard to evaluate and understand the impact of the many proposed changes in how our state's revenues are collected from

residents and businesses. And, how the Snyder Administration is proposing those monies be allocated to the varied state departments and agencies that provide services to our residents.

The changes proposed by Gov. Snyder are bold and intended to place our state and its residents on a sound financial footing for the future. However, they will be very painful for all of us. Michigan's electric co-ops look forward to engaging in the political dialogue as many of these measures work their way through the Legislature.

In Washington, D.C., change is coming swiftly in the form of many proposals for new rules from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. While Michigan's electric co-ops are proud of their environmental stewardship, a number of these rulemaking proposals are very problematic and could result in significant, and in some cases, unnecessary costs for power plants that generate electricity throughout the Midwest.

These proposals involve actions such as limiting the operating hours of the small generators some co-ops use as backup power during times of high electricity demand to more stringent regulation of

Craig Borr is the president and CEO of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association. His email is cborr@countrylines.com



combustion byproducts from fossil-fuel generation plants.

The MECA team is working very closely with our colleagues from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to ensure that these provisions are not overly burdensome on the power generation plants that co-ops rely on to provide you with affordable electricity.

You are also seeing change in the look of this magazine (see editor's note below), which is published specifically for you as an electric co-op member-owner. The new format is intended to help you, our readers, better view the magazine's content.

It's good to know that some things won't change, however, like the quality of service and reliability that you receive from your electric co-op. As for all of us that serve you through your electric co-op, we'll keep rolling with the changes.



A Fresh New Look

Welcome to the new face of *Michigan Country Lines*!

This magazine is published especially for you, because you get your electric service from a nonprofit cooperative. Besides sharing interesting stories about Michigan people, places and

things, it's the most economical way for you to get important news about your electric co-op, of which you are also an owner.

In a time when many printed publications are experiencing declining readership, surveys have shown that our reader participation rate is the second-highest of the 32 co-op statewide magazines in the country. But we'll still continue working to improve the

quality of *Michigan Country Lines*.

You'll notice that the cover masthead has a cleaner, bolder typeface. The headlines running along the bottom of the cover are larger and easier to read. Inside, the contents page is reorganized and simplified, so you can quickly find the stories you want to read.

But don't worry, the things you enjoy most about the magazine haven't changed. It will continue to be packed full of interesting stories, tips for saving energy and money on your electric bill, news about your co-op, and—of course—recipes!

We'd love to hear what you think about our new look. Send me an email at knudtson@countrylines.com.

Thanks for reading with us!

— Gail Knudtson, editor



Finding a 'Forever Family'

Some Michigan families are turning foster homes into "forever" homes.
Linda Wacyk & Lisa Doublestein

What could be a more natural wish for a child than having a family to call your own? For more than 15,000 Michigan children, however, that's a wish still waiting to be fulfilled.

These are children who have been removed from their biological homes—most often due to abuse or neglect. About one-third of them live with relatives. The others live with unrelated foster care families or in other settings supervised by the Department of Human Services (DHS).

No matter where they live now, though, all these children have one common desire: they want their own "forever family."

"Foster care is seen as a short-term solution to an emergency situation," says Edward Woods III, a DHS spokesperson who manages foster care and adoption. "It is founded on the premise that all children have the right to physical care and educational and emotional nurturance."

The Heuer family, who lives in mid-Michigan, is one of more than 7,000 licensed family foster care homes, providing a substitute family life experience for children in need. Andrew, 40, and Renatta, 41, along with biological 12-year-old twins Ian and Evan, have fostered nine children over the years.

"We both grew up in Africa as missionary kids," Renatta explains, "and we both saw the need for homes for kids in poverty."

How Does Foster Care Work?

When a child is taken from his or her family, a team of foster care workers, foster parents and the courts work with parents for up to a year to correct what-

ever problems caused them to lose custody: getting a job, going to rehab, secure housing, or more.

"The primary goal during foster care is to reunite the child with his or her parents," Woods says. "The foster family plays an important role in the treatment plan for the child and family."

If parents progress and begin meeting those needs, they can start visiting their child. When the child cannot be reunited with the parents, the children are prepared for permanent placement with relatives or unrelated adoptive families. Under certain circumstances, a foster family may adopt children in their care.

Three of the Heuers' foster daughters found their "forever family" through adoption by their foster family.

"Our littlest daughter, Naomi, we got straight from the hospital," Renatta explains. She was a crystal meth baby; she and her mom tested positive, and she was pulled from her mom right away. I look at her now at age 6, and it's a joy to know that she has no issues."

Older daughters Niki, 12, and Ikeya, 8, were 9 and 5 when they arrived at the Heuers' home. Their mother was first pregnant at age 15.

"Where would they be now if we hadn't taken them in? Men would be coming in and out. We know we've done something to prevent that cycle from continuing with them."

Waiting for "Forever"

About 4,000 Michigan foster children are currently available for adoption, meaning a court has terminated their parents' rights. And DHS is working hard to find permanent homes for all of them.

"We know that children do best when they are placed

in a safe, loving and stable home,” Woods says. “Adoption is a great way for children to achieve permanency.”

The Heuers stress that foster parents are under no obligation to adopt, but many make that choice. And unlike international adoptions, the state picks up adoption costs for children in foster care, making it more affordable for families. But the process is not without its price.

“The biggest issue is the heartache of the children’s situations,” Renatta admits. When you see what some of these children are living through, just the hopelessness of it—those things, for me, are the hardest.”

Then there is the risk that birth parents could appeal a court’s termination, derailing the adoption.

“We had twin babies last fall for a year,” Renatta says. “When we went to court to terminate the parents’ rights, it was overturned on a technicality. It was very fast, all in one day, and it was a shock. We were planning to adopt them. And then, the mother lost them again. It still is heartbreaking.”

The Heuers currently are preparing to say goodbye to a 3-and-a-half-year-old son who will soon be adopted by a local family.

“Our attitude was, ‘This is our responsibility—to be their family for however long they need us. We don’t know if we’re going to be able to keep them, but we’re going to love them every day until we have to give them back,’” Renatta says.

Michigan Recession Takes a Toll

Finding safe, stable and loving homes for over 15,000 children would be a challenge at any time. But tackling it in the midst of a deep recession has exacted a price—on children, their families, and the state itself.

“We lost a lot of workers in 2002. Caseload ratio went higher than the remaining staff could manage,” explains Woods, who applauds people still working in the field.

In 2006, Michigan operated the nation’s seventh largest foster care system, with about 19,000 children in its custody. At that time, the New York-based Children’s Rights Advocacy Group filed a class action lawsuit in federal court alleging that the state violated children’s rights by failing to find enough safe foster homes, allowing delays in adoption referrals, and providing inadequate services for children aging out of the system. Moreover, they charged that too many foster children lacked adequate mental health care or even routine medical and dental exams, citing at least five children who died in foster care.

The state settled the case with a 2008 binding agreement that calls for sweeping reforms. Now, Michigan has made significant progress in reuniting families, completing adoptions, and working with partners to improve access to adequate health care. In fact, Woods says, 3,030 children were adopted from foster care in 2009—more than any other year, and also earning the state a \$3.5 million federal adoption incentive award.

Yet, a second round of early incentives in 2010 has left DHS scrambling for workers once again. But

the department, now directed by Maura Corrigan, is determined to live up to its commitment to find safe, stable and loving homes for every child who needs one.

“We are hiring up to 700 workers for Michigan’s



Photos – Elizabeth Price, pricelessphotography.com

children,” Woods says. We need foster care workers, people with backgrounds in social work, sociology and psychology. We want to recruit the best and the brightest to stay here in Michigan.”

The Need is Great

Despite improvements, between 500 and 600 children each year age-out of Michigan’s foster care system when they turn 18. On their own with little support, some end up homeless or in jail. That is just one of the reasons it is so important to get them out of the system and into loving homes.

Foster families are needed in every sort of community: rural, suburban and urban, he adds, and the primary goal is to find homes that best fit a child’s interests and needs. The DHS is also recruiting mentors (michigan.gov/mentormichigan)—adults who are not ready for full-time parenting, but have love and support to offer a child. Volunteers are also needed to advocate for the best interests of children in court. Your local court clerk should be able to get you started.

“You don’t have to be rich, married or own your own home to be a foster or adoptive parent,” Woods says. “There is little to no cost to adopting, and most expenses are reimbursed. Foster and adoptive parents may also receive support toward the cost for caring for the child, and the child has insurance for medical care.”

Renatta admits that providing foster care was way out of her comfort zone, but she was motivated by the extreme needs that she saw.

“If somebody doesn’t love these children, they may never have love,” she adds. “Even if it’s for five months, if that child doesn’t go into a loving home, they never have had love. Our little boy is going to leave us, yes, but he’s going to leave knowing that he was a treasured child in my home.”

Opposite, left: The Heuers enjoy some backyard fun for the camera.

Above: Renatta and Andrew Heuer enjoy a card game with their family of biological twin boys and three daughters they fostered and later adopted.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

BECOME A FOSTER PARENT. Michigan needs many more foster parents, and foster parenting can open doors to adoption. Learn more at adoptuskids.org or call 888-200-4005.

MAKE THEM VISIBLE. Learn and share the facts about Michigan’s waiting children. View selected profiles at mare.org.

Say 'Hello' to A No-Dig Garden



Photo - Judy Thomas, cvog.blogspot.com

Say goodbye to tilling, digging and costly garden chemicals, and say hello to no-dig gardening. Use this proven method to grow vegetables and flowers naturally—and with less work.

The rationale for traditional row gardening and tilling is to remove weeds, loosen and aerate the soil, and bury organic matter. Tilling can remove existing weeds, but it almost always brings dormant weed seeds to the surface where they can germinate. When organic materials are moved deeper, less oxygen is available for converting the materials into nutrients. Since the nutrients then need to be replaced, traditional gardeners usually rely on synthetic fertilizers.

No-dig gardening lets nature do the work. It uses worms, bugs and microbes to provide nutrients and disease prevention. Plants deliver part of the carbon energy they produce into the soil, and microbes convert this energy into organic materials and minerals that plants need.

"I remember my own 'Ahhhh!' moment," says no-dig gardening author Patricia Lanza, "when I put all the pieces together that allowed me to make wonderful growing

spaces without the use of power tools or purchased material."

With no-dig methods, Lanza says, there's less fuss over the planting area. Free organic material, such as grass clippings and compost, are used in layers on top of a newspaper ground cover. Don't cut through the paper before planting.

One strategy is to first remove all weeds and grass from a garden area. Materials such as rotten manure, decayed sawdust or compost go straight on the surface as a layer of mulch 2 to 6 inches deep. Worms, beneficial bugs and microbes get busy beefing up the soil. They create a healthy habitat for roots to flourish.

Sheet Mulching

One no-dig method is sheet mulching. Newspaper or cardboard is spread out on the garden area and topped with landscape mulch. Again, weeds should be removed first if there's no time to let them die out and decay under a new blanket of sheet mulch.

Sheet mulch blocks daylight and suffocates existing grass and weeds that decompose over time (before the actual sheets do) to become part of the biosphere that garden plants need

to thrive. Ideally, the newspaper or cardboard should be spread out before a heavy rain, but a garden hose can also do what's needed to keep the sheet thoroughly wet. When ready to plant, use a hand shovel to cut out holes for planting seeds or seedlings.

Straw-bale Gardening

This is a simple twist to the no-dig method and similarly, it requires no herbicides, insecticides or fungicides. A wide variety of vegetables (except top-heavy ones like corn), fruits and flowers can be planted in conditioned straw bales.

On the minus side, the bales eventually need to be replaced and the aesthetics may not be suitable for yards in suburban subdivisions.

Straw baled in plastic twine is preferable to bales with sisal twine or wire because plastic does not decompose or rust. Straw that has begun to decompose is ideal, since it shortens the conditioning time that fresh straw needs.

The bales need to be placed over a mesh or other barrier to prevent pests such as moles from pilfering the plants. Also, place the bale so that the twine binding runs parallel around the sides of the bale to help preserve its shape. Thoroughly watering the bale and adding a high-nitrogen fertilizer on top begins the conditioning process, lasting five to seven days.

Keeping the straw bale moist is a must. A layer of nursery mix, garden soil or compost on top creates a planting medium for seedlings and seeds. One bale can host two tomato plants, six cucumber plants, or 12 bean plants.

Raised-bed Method

Planting in wood or masonry containers filled with compost or manufactured soils—known as raised-bed gardening—has been in practice for centuries. Like other no-dig methods, this approach keeps the soil aerated, allows more crops to grow in less space, reduces weeding, and requires less fertilizer than traditional row gardens.

Using raised beds that are 4-foot-wide puts the working space within easy reach from both sides, but beds can be narrower for

Required Reading



"Lasagna Gardening for Small Spaces"
Patricia Lanza
Rodale Press, Inc.



"No-Dig Gardening & Leaves of Life"
Esther Dean
HarperCollins Publishers



"All New Square Foot Gardening: Grow More in Less Space!"
Mel Bartholomew
Cool Springs Press



"Weedless Gardening"
Lee Reich
Workman Publishing

3 Easy Steps to Your Own No-Dig Garden

- 1 CHOOSE:** Pick a spot and mark it. Keep in mind that a garden should receive six to eight hours of sunlight and not be subject to strong wind.
- 2 PREPARE:** Cover the area with thick layers of wet newspapers, overlapped. Cover the paper with several inches each of peat moss, compost, grass clippings, chipped leaves, humus, spoiled hay, seaweed, aged manure or whatever is handy. Water the layers of organic material until they feel like a squeezed-out sponge.
- 3 PLANT:** Pull a section of the layers back, down to the paper. Put the plant on the paper, move the organic material back around the roots and press the soil to remove excess air and water. Try to use one part nitrogen-rich material (grass clippings, compost or manure) to four parts carbon-rich material (chopped leaves, peat moss, straw, spoiled hay or peat humus) for a perfect mix. Use what is readily available and free!

kids to help. Bed length can vary according to preference, and they can be elevated on tables or other platforms to ease accessibility for folks who find it uncomfortable to stoop or kneel.

Square-foot Gardening

This is a spin on the raised-bed method. A typical setup uses a framed 4-foot-square raised bed, divided into 16, 1-foot squares – ideal for limited space. Wooden strips divide the bed into a grid that provides plants in each square enough growing room and separation. Plant a different crop in each section. The number of seeds or seedlings per square varies according to plant size.

Upside-down Gardening

This is another limited-space, no-dig alternative. Start with 5-gallon buckets for tomatoes or cucumbers. Drill a 2-inch hole in the bottom, place a slit coffee filter over the hole, then insert an inverted seedling through the slit (root ball faces up). Fill the bucket with a compost-soil mixture and hang the bucket from a tall post in a sunny spot. Low-growing spices or flowers can grow in the top of the bucket. Kits are also sold for upside-down gardening.



Grow a Delicious Landscape

Tough economic times have spurred a comeback for fruit and vegetable gardening. More and more electric co-op members with little or no gardening experience are looking to their yards as a source of produce. And, the resurgence of using edible plants as ornamentals is reshaping the face of gardening. Planting produce in front yards and along walkways also adds convenience and accessibility.

Simply put, edible landscaping puts food-producing ornamental plants in the home landscape. Most edible plants need well-drained soil and a minimum of six hours in full sun daily, but some tolerate partial shade. Do some plant research to make sure you pick the proper locations, and examples of tasty landscaping plants and recipes follow.

Often described as a plant to deter squash bugs, beetles and aphids, **nasturtium** is an annual or perennial flowering plant. Its attractive, edible flowers and leaves are eaten in salads and dressings.

Nasturtium Salad Dressing

- 1 c. mayonnaise
- 2 T. lemon juice
- 2 T. honey
- 1 T. salad oil
- 1/4 t. dry mustard
- 4 nasturtiums flowers
- nasturtium leaves
- pinch curry powder

Place all ingredients in blender for 45 seconds. Makes 1½ cups.

Jerusalem artichokes, or sunchokes, can liven a landscape with their bright yellow blossoms. American Indians grew them for their edible tubers long before European settlers arrived. French explorer Samuel de Champlain found cultivated plants on Cape Cod in 1605. The sunchoke was

named “best soup vegetable” at the 2002 French cuisine festival in Nice. They can also be roasted.

Sunchoke Soup

- 1 lb. sunchokes
- 1 large shallot, diced
- 4 T. butter
- 4 c. chicken stock
- 1/2 t. dried thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- 1/2 c. heavy cream
- salt and pepper

Scrub sunchokes and peel off blemishes. Cube into 1-inch pieces. In a large pot, melt butter and sauté shallot until translucent. Add sunchokes, thyme, salt and pepper. Sauté 5 minutes, stirring frequently. Stir in stock with bay leaf and bring to boil. Reduce heat. Cover and simmer 20 to 30 minutes or until sunchokes are tender. Remove bay leaf. Let the mixture cool and purée in a blender. Return to pot and add cream. Salt and pepper to taste.

The first varieties of **Swiss chard**, a popular leafy vegetable, have been traced to Sicily. Fresh, young chard is good raw in salads; mature chard is usually sautéed. Bitterness in the leaves and stalks fades with cooking, and its refined flavor is more delicate than spinach.

Sautéed Swiss Chard

- 1 bunch Swiss chard
- 3 T. virgin olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 8-ounce can tomato sauce
- salt and pepper

Wash chard and remove stems. In a skillet, sauté garlic in olive oil. When garlic turns golden, add chard and sauté until wilted. Add tomato sauce and simmer 10 minutes. Salt and pepper to taste.

Continued on page 17

Energy Efficiency Doesn't Have to be Expensive

Energy Efficiency Shopping List

Planning energy efficiency upgrades at home? Take this handy shopping list with you to your local home improvement store.

CFLs (4-pack)	\$6
Caulk	\$2
Weatherstripping	\$4
Outlet sealing kit (10)	\$20
Attic door insulator kit	\$40
Programmable thermostat	\$40
Mastic	\$12
Water heater blanket	\$20

Investment: **\$144**

Potential Annual Savings:

\$700

Sources:

HomeDepot.com,
TogetherWeSave.com

It's easy to get overwhelmed by two words: energy efficiency. What should I do? How should I do it? Do I have to replace my entire heating and cooling system to see savings?

The easy answer is no, you can do a lot of upgrading with little money.

On your next trip to the home improvement or local hardware store, take this shopping guide with you. It lists five areas where a few simple energy efficiency investments will produce savings right away.

Lighting

Since lighting accounts for about 11 percent of home energy use, switch your traditional incandescent lightbulbs with compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs). An Energy Star®-qualified CFL uses about 75 percent less energy than a traditional bulb, lasts up to 10 times longer, and can save about \$40 in energy costs over its lifetime. A four-pack of 14-watt CFLs (equivalent to 60-watt incandescents) runs about \$6.

Filling the Cracks

A tube of caulk and a roll of weather stripping can go a long way toward saving money on your electricity bill. It's easy to find where cold air leaks in around doors and windows—simply hold your hand out and feel. Caulk around windows, dryer vents and fans for about \$2 a tube, and weatherstrip around doors for about \$4 a roll.

There are also some not-so obvious places for air to flow in and out of your home, notably outlets and behind switch plates. To see if you have air flowing through your outlets or switch plates, light a stick of incense, hold it in front, and watch for the smoke to be disrupted. You can find special sealing kits for outlets and switch plates for about \$2.

And don't forget about applying weatherstripping around your attic hatch or pull-down stairs. You may also want to install an insulator box to place over the opening. A kit costs around \$40.

Sealing these cracks can save you around \$200 a year, according to TogetherWeSave.com, a website by Touchstone Energy® cooperatives, the branding program of the nation's electric co-ops, that shows how little changes add up to big savings.

Programmable Thermostat

Beginning at \$40, a programmable thermostat is a larger investment, but you could save \$180

a year with the proper settings. For the biggest impact, program your thermostat to raise the temperature during summer and lower in the winter while you're out of the house. You can also program it to dip lower at night while sleeping. The thermostat can be set to automatically revert to a comfortable setting shortly before you arrive home or wake up.

While programmable thermostats are helpful, they're not for everyone. These gadgets are best for people who are away from home for extended periods throughout the week.

Sealing Ductwork

More than 40 percent of your home's energy use goes for heating and cooling, so it's important to keep that air in the home. Leaky ductwork remains one of the main culprits of hot and cold air loss.

If your home's ducts are exposed, inspect them for leaks and seal them. Look for holes and joints that have separated, and then seal them with foil-backed tape, about \$6 a roll, or mastic, a type of sealant that costs about \$12 a tub.

You can apply the mastic with a regular paintbrush. Make sure the tape is marked with the Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., "UL" symbol, which means it has been independently tested for safety.

Properly sealing ductwork can save about \$170 a year, according to TogetherWeSave.com.

Water Heater Insulation

Blankets aren't just for keeping people warm. A water heater blanket can save you 4 percent to 9 percent in water heating costs—a big ticket item since 12 percent of your home's energy use goes toward water heating. How do you know if your water heater needs more insulation? Touch it. If it's warm, wrap it. Choose a blanket with an insulating value of at least R-8, which runs about \$20.

TogetherWeSave.com also reports that you can save more than \$70 per year by keeping your water heater's thermostat set at 120 degrees F.

Larger Projects

If you want to make larger investments in your home, adding insulation or upgrading appliances are great starters. For more information on insulation, visit EnergySavers.gov. To learn about the most energy-efficient appliances, visit EnergyStar.gov.

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Dramatic artwork from wildlife master and tournament fisherman Al Agnew captures every angler's dream



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Full-color artwork from wildlife master Al Agnew across the jacket's back captures a trophy moment

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Game On!

A toy collector celebrates Michigan-made Carrom board games.

Paul Kruska simply loves toys, and he loves Michigan, too. That's why, even at his adult age, the Shepherd resident owns many antique Michigan-made toys and still wants more.

Kruska still has board games he played with as a child that were made by the Carrom™ (CARE-om) Company. These boards, on which kids can play up to 100 different games from bowling to checkers, are probably the oldest of all his antique toys, which he says is a testament to how well-made they are.

"I have the original Carrom board that I owned as a child, plus a few other games made by Carrom," Kruska says. "As kids, we all played Carroms. If you played too long, your 'flicking' finger would get sore." He recalls a mechanical shooter the company made to alleviate that problem. His Carrom collection also includes a golf game, skittles, and a bagatelle game.

Carrom is still making the same high quality games they have since 1890, plus some new ones that continue to earn them orders. Kruska says Carrom products are highly sought by toy and board game collectors who appreciate their uniqueness and durability.

With just 20 employees in Ludington, the company churns out about 10,000 Carrom board games a year, plus 40,000 other games such as Nok Hockey™, bowling, shuffleboard, skittles, and more (carrom.com). They also produce 3,000 table games such as basketball, foosball and stick hockey.

Following a few slower years in this poor economy, "Carrom experienced a great 2010 Christmas season," says operations director, Sharon McCumber. She credits excellent employees who "take real pride in the fact that Carrom products are still mostly handmade."

Kruska regards toys as more than playthings, and theorizes that toys we use as kids may shape what we become. For example,



This 100-year-old Carrom game board is from the company's historical collection. Admiring its condition are collectors Ben Nelson (L), a member of Great Lakes Energy from Scottville, and Paul Kruska, a member of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Co-op, who has 12 Carrom games in his antique toy collection.

he and his brother had fun with chemistry and erector sets. Kruska became a pharmacist and his brother is an engineer.

Dating back to the 1800s, Kruska has discovered 209 toy companies besides Carrom that made toys here, and this hobby connects him with fellow toy collectors who appreciate the history represented by their collections.

"The fun part of this is finding and visiting different towns that had toy manufacturers," he says. They include Wyandotte Toy Co. near Detroit (metal trucks and cars); an old building in Jonesville where they made Suzy

Goose play sets; and the Daisy® BB gun factory in Plymouth, which left in 1958.

Antique toys remind people of simpler times when they bonded during the friendly competition of a board game after dinner.

Kruska plans to share what he's learned by publishing a book about Michigan toy companies and is seeking more information and sources (contact pkruska@yahoo.com). His dream project, however, is to create a mini-museum in Shepherd featuring collectible toys made by Michigan companies and a few other manufacturers.

MADE IN MICHIGAN

Tell us about *your* favorite Michigan-made product and we may write about it. Please share why you like it, and if you have a unique story to go with it, please include that by **March 20 to czuker@countrylines.com or send to *Michigan Country Lines*, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. Thanks to Paul Kruska for telling us about Carrom games.**

Grow a Landscape, from p. 13

The violet blossoms of **chives** add a splash of color to any landscape. Chopped chive leaves are a delicate condiment for soups and other dishes, and the round tufted flowers are used as garnishes whole and broken apart in salads, cooked vegetables and casseroles.

Asiago-Chive Biscuits

2 c. biscuit mix
2/3 c. 2 percent or skim milk
1/4 c. melted butter
3/4 c. grated Asiago cheese
1/2 c. finely chopped fresh chives

Toss ingredients in a large bowl. Turn onto a floured surface. Roll to 1-inch thick. Cut into 12 squares. Space apart on a cookie sheet and bake at 400 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes.

Gardeners and gourmets are rediscovering the delicious **daylily**. Not to be confused with true lilies, daylilies grow from tuberous, fleshy roots rather than bulbs. Asians have enjoyed them for centuries, and the roots can be eaten raw or added to salads, soups and stews. The flavor is similar to asparagus. Raw or boiled, stir-fried or steamed, they are

good with other vegetables. The blossoms add a flowery zest to soups and vegetable dishes.

Stuffed Daylilies

1 c. diced cooked chicken
1/4 c. mayonnaise
1 3-oz. pkg. cream cheese (softened)
1/4 c. diced celery
1/2 t. lemon zest
2 t. ranch dressing

Mix well. Fills about 8 large or 12 small daylily blossoms.

More Edible Ideas

- Incorporate plants such as lettuce, radish or cabbage into your flowerbeds and borders.
- Plant herbs with flowers in a container.
- Use gooseberries instead of barberry for a good hedge, and train raspberries up a fence.
- Plant flowering cabbage in the fall as an alternative to mums.
- Design an edible flower garden using nasturtium, violas, borage and calendula.

Add food-producing plants to your landscape by simply replacing a strictly ornamental plant with an edible one. Or, add annual and perennial herbs and veggies into existing landscape areas to add interest.

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Say CHEESE!



© istockphoto.com/Colin & Linda McKie

This commonplace food never goes out of style, and the varieties are endless! Thanks to all who sent in their favorite cheese recipes. Find hundreds more recipes at countrylines.com.

Cup-a-Dip

1 c. finely chopped onion
1 c. Hellman's Mayo®
1 c. grated sharp cheddar cheese

Mix ingredients well; put in a pie pan. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Serve with crackers of choice. Keeps well and reheats well.

Joyce Runberg, Beaver Island

Gorgonzola Butter

8 ozs. gorgonzola cheese
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 stick unsalted butter, softened
1 T. fresh tarragon, minced
1 T. fresh basil, minced
1/2 t. ground pepper

Place all ingredients in a food processor; process until well blended. Serve on crusty bread or breadsticks or use as a steak topping. Serves 8-12.

Eva Braganini, Mattawan

Baked Cheese Grits

2 1/2 c. milk
3/4 c. uncooked regular grits
1/2 t. butter or margarine
1/2 t. salt
1/3 c. fresh-grated Parmesan cheese
1 5-oz. jar Old English cheddar cheese spread

In a saucepan, bring milk to a boil; add grits and cook until thick, about 10 minutes, stirring often. Stir in butter, salt and cheeses. Spoon into a lightly greased 1-quart casserole dish. Bake at 325° for 20 minutes. Yields 6-8 servings.

Jacqueline Muma, Hastings

Cream Puffies

1/2 c. softened butter
8 oz. shredded sharp cheese
1/2 t. Worcestershire® Sauce
dash of cayenne or Tabasco sauce
chopped pepperoni or sausage, optional
1/2 c. sifted flour
1/2 t. baking powder

In a large bowl, mix together butter, cheese, Worcestershire sauce, cayenne pepper, pepperoni or sausage, if using. Combine flour and baking powder; work into mixture in bowl, mixing well. Shape into a ball; wrap in wax paper and chill. Shape into balls the size of large marbles. Place balls on an ungreased baking sheet about 2 inches apart. Bake at 450° for 7 minutes. Serve warm.

Pam Schriener, Watervliet

Homemade Cheese Sticks

1 pkg. won ton wrappers
2 eggs
1/4 c. milk
1/2 lb. block mozzarella or pepper Jack cheese
Italian bread crumbs

wash. On a sheet of waxed paper, brush one side of wrappers with wash. Place one cheese stick on each wrapper. Roll wrapper up around cheese, folding in ends to seal. Dip each stick back in egg wash and roll in bread crumbs. Deep fry at 350° about 3 minutes until golden brown. Serve with dipping sauce. Leftovers can be frozen for later use.

Alden Argersinger, Elsie

Cut cheese into 1/2 x 1/2 x 5-inch-long strips. Whisk eggs and milk together to make an egg

Salmon and Cream Cheese Frittata

8 large eggs
1/2 c. milk
1/4 c. fresh chives or 1 t. dried salt and pepper to taste
2 t. olive or salad oil
2 oz. cold cream cheese, cut in 1/2-inch pieces
2 T. chopped red or sweet onion, optional
3 oz. thinly sliced salmon or smoked salmon, chopped

Whisk together eggs, milk, chives, basil, onion, salt and pepper. Heat oil in a 12-inch, oven-proof frying pan. Pour egg mixture into pan. Scatter cream cheese and onion over top. When eggs are set on bottom and top is almost set but still moist, remove from heat. Sprinkle salmon over top of frittata and press. Place frittata under broiler, about 6 inches from heat. Broil until set, slightly puffed and golden, about 1 1/2 minutes. Cool 5 minutes; slide onto platter and cut into wedges.

Diane & Ed Strzelinski, Boyne City

Send in your recipes! If published, you'll receive a kitchen gadget. Send in: **BBQ recipes by April 15**, **CASSEROLE & POT PIE recipes by May 15**, and **EGGPLANT recipes by June 15**. Mail to: Country Lines Recipes, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864; or email jhansen@countrylines.com.

Cheese Bread

1 3/4 c. milk, scalded
3 c. shredded cheddar cheese
1/4 c. sugar
2 t. salt
2 T. butter
1 pkg. dry yeast
1/4 c. warm water
5 c. flour

Combine hot milk, cheese, sugar, salt and butter; stir until cheese melts; let cool. Dissolve yeast in warm water; add to milk mixture; let stand 3 minutes. Add flour and

mix well. Turn dough onto a lightly floured surface; knead until smooth and elastic. Place dough in a large greased bowl; turn dough over to grease other side. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled in size, about 1 1/2 hours. Punch down; divide in half. Cover and let rest 10 minutes. Shape into two loaves; place in greased 9x5x3-inch loaf pans. Cover and let rise until doubled in size, about 1/2 hour. Bake at 350° for 35-45 minutes. Remove from pans and cool on wire racks.

Janice Harvey, Charlevoix

Three Cheese Enchiladas

1 1/2 c. shredded Monterey Jack cheese
1 1/2 c. shredded cheddar cheese
3 oz. cream cheese, softened
1 c. picanté sauce, divided
1 med. red or green bell pepper, chopped
1/2 c. sliced green onions
1 t. ground cumin
8 7-or-8-inch flour tortillas
shredded lettuce, chopped
tomato, sliced black olives

Combine 1 cup Monterey Jack cheese, 1 cup cheddar cheese, cream cheese, 1/4

cup picanté sauce, chopped peppers, onions and cumin; mix well. Spoon 1/4 cup of this mixture down the center of each tortilla; roll up and place seam side down in a well greased 9x13-inch baking dish. Spoon remaining picanté sauce evenly over enchiladas; cover with remaining cheeses. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes or until hot. Top with lettuce, tomato and black olives; serve with additional picanté sauce if desired. Yield 2-4 servings.

Janice Thompson, Martin

Spirited Apricot Brie

1/2 c. or more apricot jam
1 T. grated orange peel
1 T. brandy or orange juice
1 T. lemon juice
1/4 t. cinnamon
1 1/2 lbs. Brie

Mix jam, orange peel, brandy, lemon juice and cinnamon in a shallow microwavable dish just large enough to also hold

the brie. Cover and microwave 1-2 minutes until it starts to bubble. Add brie; return to microwave and cook, uncovered about 1 minute, being careful not to liquefy brie. Turn onto a plate and pour sauce over brie. Serve with crisp green apple slices, grapes, baguette rounds, crackers, etc.

Kim Jared, Petoskey



Warm Seafood Cheese Dip

8 oz. block Monterey Jack cheese
8 oz. block sharp cheddar cheese
8 oz. Velveeta Cheese®
1/4 c. milk
1 T. garlic powder
2 T. white wine
2 T. brandy
2 cans shredded crab meat
1 can tiny shrimp

Melt all cheeses in a saucepan over low heat. Add milk, garlic powder, wine and brandy; mix well. Stir in crab meat and shrimp; cook over low heat or transfer to a crock pot to keep warm. Serve with crackers or pour into a round bread bowl. Serve with assorted breads cut in cubes for dipping.

Barbara Alwine, Jones

Roasted Beet and Walnut Salad with Blue Cheese

8-10 med.-sized beets, about 2 lbs.
2 T. cider vinegar
1 1/2 t. Dijon mustard
1/2 t. sugar
salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
1/4 c. olive oil
1/2 c. coarsely chopped walnuts, toasted
4 oz. blue cheese, coarsely crumbled

Rinse beets; trim stem ends and roots to 1 inch. Wrap beets individually in aluminum foil. Place beets on a baking sheet and roast at 350° until tender, about 1 hour; remove from

oven and set aside until cool enough to handle. Wearing latex gloves, unwrap beets and remove skins. Whisk together vinegar, mustard, sugar, salt and pepper in a small bowl. Whisking constantly, slowly drizzle in olive oil; continue whisking until thickened. Set aside. Cut beets into 1/2-inch diced pieces; place in bowl. Add dressing; toss well to coat. Just before serving, toss beets with walnuts. Transfer to a shallow serving dish. Sprinkle with blue cheese. Serves 8.

Dianne Wittbrodt Keelan, Williamsburg

Specialty Cheese Cake

1 3/4 c. graham cracker crumbs
1/4 c. chopped walnuts or pecans, optional
1 1/2 t. cinnamon
1/2 c. melted butter
3 eggs, well beaten
2 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese, softened
1 c. sugar
1/4 t. salt
1/4 t. almond extract
3 t. vanilla
3 c. sour cream

In a 2-quart glass baking pan, mix together graham crumbs, nuts, cinnamon and butter. Pack firmly on bottom and up sides of pan. On medium speed, beat together eggs, cream cheese, sugar, salt, almond extract and vanilla. Stir in sour cream; mix well. Pour mixture into crust. Bake at 375° for 25-35 minutes. Top will begin to brown. Refrigerate until cool before serving.

Kathy Spalding, Thompsonville

Spring's Little Stinkers

Pest-control advice from an old friend backfires in the worst way.

The Skunk Files



Musk

The official name for that unmistakable “skunk smell.”

8-15 Feet

Distance a skunk is able to expel musk, creating a mist that extends even farther.

62-66 Days

The skunk's gestational period. Skunks mate in late February to early March. Females will deliver between two and 12 young.

Kit

A young skunk, born from early May to early June.

2-4 Weeks

Age at which a kit is able to spray musk from its glands.

You can get an early hint of spring's approach by sniffing the air. The clear and unmistakable scent of a skunk often confirms the season's change—but not in a way most prefer.

A member of the large family of weasels, skunks are armed with scent glands that should be classed as “weapons of mass disruption.” The common skunk is one of the first critters to shake off winter's torpor, making his presence known wherever his travels take him.

And, encounters between skunks and humans *will* occur. At such times, skunks hold the edge since getting sprayed with a little of their juice is a daunting thing, and sometimes there is no choice when one decides your home surroundings are a good place to hang out. From experience, I can attest that getting reliable advice on handling such situations is important, but choose your advisor with care.

A skunk found a garage door at my home that wouldn't close all the way down, and took up residence. I had to evict the intruder, but entering the garage and confronting the little stinker seemed not the best way to go. So, I turned to a local conservation officer for advice. Unfortunately, that was “Duff” Laubaugh, Michigan's only one-eyed C.O. (in a confrontation with a miscreant, the bad guy's gun discharged and Duff lost an eye). Duff passed on years ago, but left a memory about who to trust.

To get rid of the skunk, Duff advised putting

a trickle of garbage out at night and leading away from the garage to a deeper pile in the backyard. “Then, replace the backyard light with a red spotlight bulb, open the window, and put a sandbag or other brace on the sill, sit in the dark with a scoped .22 rifle and wait for the skunk to come out and follow the garbage trail.

“When he's busy eating on the pile, aim steady and shoot him in the head,” he explained. “A head shot will stop its brain from letting the tail come up to release the scent. And that will take care of it.”

I followed his instructions to the letter, and on the night of the skunk's assassination the critter did as predicted. A careful aim and steady squeeze put a .22 round through its head and it dropped on the pile of old food scraps...but not before it let out every ounce of pent-up stink juice it had.

Skunk stink began wafting in the windows and under the doors, producing a gagging reflex that was beyond belief. I scrambled to stuff towels under the door jambs, packed every sill with more cloth, and used up four cans of odor spray while trying to see through eyes filled with skunk-activated tears.

It was then I remembered that old Duff also had a notorious reputation for practical jokes, and I had been the star of his latest. Right about then I would have shot his other eye out if he had dared to put in an appearance.

It is this prelude to warmer spring that gets the skunk to move out from its winter quarters—unfortunately, it's often under the crawl spaces or unintended entryways into or near homes. When you add that this is also breeding season for many skunks, their return to a more active stage is heralded by that unmistakable calling-card scent.

The best advice of all is to keep your yard clean, crawl spaces and garages closed tight, and hope the little stinkers don't decide they like your neighborhood.

Skunk Smell Remover

- 1 pint 3% hydrogen peroxide
- 1/8 c. baking soda
- 1 T. grease-cutting dish soap

Should you (or your pet) have the misfortune of getting sprayed by a skunk, measure ingredients critically, mix all together, and use at once—the formula's reaction lasts a limited time.

Don Ingle is an avid outdoorsman and award-winning outdoors writer that submits regularly for Michigan Country Lines.



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Balance Your Home's Efficiency with Comfort

You are wise to think about the livability of a house in addition to efficiency measures.

While building a small, simple house with thick insulation and very few windows would save energy, it likely would not suit most typical American families. You should balance a home's energy efficient aspects with comfort and convenience. Often, by making minor lifestyle changes, your family can dramatically reduce utility bills even in a less efficient house.

The typical "to-code" stick-built house—a home constructed entirely or largely on-site—is not very energy efficient, but this does not necessarily mean all stick-built homes are inefficient. With adequate (more than to-code) insulation, high-quality windows and doors, and attention to construction details, a typical lumber-framed house can be very efficient. Attention to detail, such as sealing all the vapor/air barriers, is particularly important as it relates to the airtightness of a house.

Several new construction methods are much more efficient than a rectangular lumber stick-built house. These include round panelized, geodesic dome, steel-framing, foam block/concrete, structural insulated panels (SIPS), and post-and-beam houses.

A round house is particularly energy efficient for several reasons. A circle provides the greatest amount of indoor floor space with the least amount of exterior wall surface area. Since heat loss (or gain) from a house is directly related to wall surface area, less wall area results in less potential loss. Also, wind tends to flow smoothly over the exterior, resulting in fewer air leaks into and out of a house.

A circular panelized house, such as ones made by Deltec Homes (deltechomes.com), uses a series of 8-foot wide flat panels to create the round house. These panels are made specifically to your house plans and delivered to your building site ready to assemble. A

combination of insulation inside the hollow panels and thick foam sheathing on the exterior results in a high level of insulation. Being manufactured in a controlled factory environment, the panels fit perfectly together for an airtight house.

The roof is self-supporting using trusses. This provides the opportunity to have a open



These insulated concrete forms use webs between the foam side to create the width of the gap for the concrete.

floor plan which is an efficiency advantage with solar or other alternative heating methods. Many house manufacturers have energy efficiency experts on staff, such as Deltec's "Green Team," to help you design a super-efficient round house. These companies also offer pre-designed green home packages and super-insulated wall designs.

Geodesic dome houses are the ultimate in circular design for the least overall exterior surface area, but the interior living space is quite different from a typical house. The most efficient and strongest ones are made of a combination of triangular foam pieces covered with concrete. Because of their shape, both circular panelized and dome houses are inherently resistant to damage from severe weather such as hurricanes.

Although it seems counterintuitive because metal conducts heat, steel-framed houses provided by folks like Kodiak Steel Homes

(kodiaksteelhomes.com) are very energy efficient. Since the steel members replace the lumber in the walls, these houses can look identical to a standard stick-built lumber house. The only difference is the walls may look thicker, only noticeable at the window and door openings.

The most efficient steel-framed houses use large steel-framing members (called red iron) spaced very far apart. This greatly reduces the amount of thermal bridges (no insulation at studs) inside the walls. The steel members are very strong and stable, so the house stays airtight without the settling typical with lumber framing.

Foam block houses are assembled somewhat similar to hollow Legos. The lightweight foam blocks are stacked on top of one another to create the walls. When stacked together, open channels are created throughout the blocks. A concrete truck pumps concrete into the top of the wall and it flows throughout the wall. When it sets up, the wall is extremely strong. The foam blocks provide superhigh insulation levels. This construction method offers much architectural design flexibility and the homeowner can easily help with the basic construction.

SIPS are very strong panels with thick insulating foam in the center. They are also called stress skin panels because the interior and exterior skins provide the structural strength for the house. These long panels

are factory-crafted to fit your house plans. With the high insulation level and few joints needed between the panels, these houses are efficient.

Standard form core wall panels are similar except the skins are not strong enough to be self-supporting. These panels are often attached over attractive post-and-beam framing which supports the house.

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

James Dulley is a nationally recognized mechanical engineer writing about home energy issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Truly Unique



Time travel at the speed of a 1935 Speedster?

The 1930s brought unprecedented innovation in machine-age technology and materials. Industrial designers from the auto industry translated the principles of aerodynamics and streamlining into everyday objects like radios and toasters. It was also a decade when an unequaled variety of watch cases and movements came into being. In lieu of hands to tell time, one such complication, called a jumping mechanism, utilized numerals on a disc viewed through a window. With its striking resemblance to the dashboard gauges and radio dials of the decade, the jump hour watch was indeed "in tune" with the times!

The Stauer 1930s Dashtronic deftly blends the modern functionality of a 21-jewel automatic movement and 3-ATM water resistance with the distinctive, retro look of a jumping display (not an actual



True to Machine Art esthetics, the sleek brushed stainless steel case is clear on the back, allowing a peek at the inner workings.

jumping complication). The stainless steel 1 1/2" case is complemented with a black alligator-embossed leather band. The band is 9 1/2" long and will fit a 7-8 1/2" diameter wrist.

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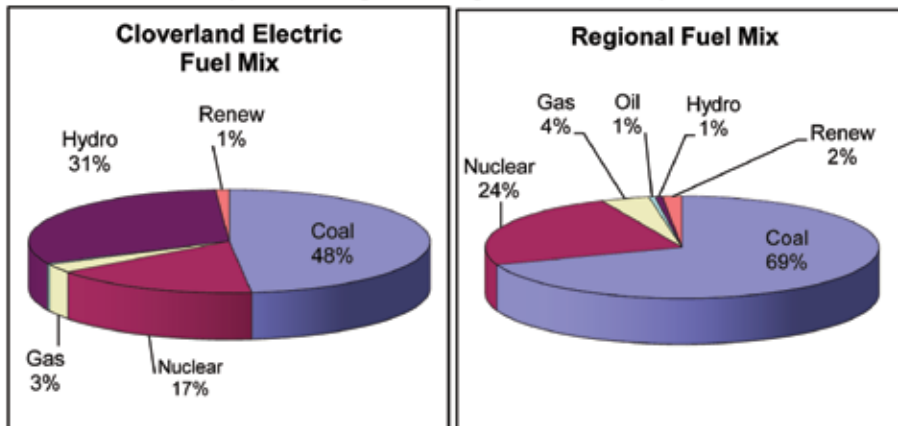
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Comparison of the Fuel Sources Used to Generate Electricity

Cloverland Electric Cooperative vs. regional average for the 12-month period ended 12/31/10



Fuel Sources	Percentage of fuel types used to produce Cloverland Electric Cooperative electricity.	Percentage of fuel type used to produce electricity in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin (12/31/2008).
Coal	48.3	69.4
Nuclear	16.6	23.9
Gas	2.8	4
Oil	0.3	0.5
Hydroelectric	31.0	0.6
Total Renewable Fuels	1.1	1.6
Biomass		0
Biofuel		0
Solid Waste Incineration		0.6
Wind		0.3
Wood		0.7
Solar		0

Airborne Emissions and High-Level Nuclear Waste Comparison

Cloverland Electric Cooperative vs. regional average for the 12-month period ended 12/31/10

Type of emission/waste	Cloverland Electric average lbs/MWh	A regional average of all generation in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin
Sulfur Dioxide	6.6	10.4
Carbon Dioxide	1,295	2,049
Oxides of Nitrogen	2	3.1
High-level nuclear waste	0.005	0.0083

Note: Purchased electricity accounted for 64.6% of the electricity supplied by Cloverland Electric during the period. Cloverland percentages based on the regional averages.

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SAFETY Matters

When cleaning up around your yard or neighborhood this spring, chances are you will not be thinking about overhead power lines, but you should. It is easy to overlook their presence, as these lines can reside high above your roof and run along property lines, or in and near trees. Power lines can present serious electrical hazards if ignored.

Here are some tips to consider for power line safety in your neighborhood:

- Always look up before you begin to cut down any tree or trim branches. If a tree falls into a power line, contact us at 800-562-4953. Do not attempt to remove it yourself, and please keep others away.

- Treat all power lines as if they are energized. Never climb or attempt to handle a tree that has a limb caught on a line. You may not see any visible evidence that the tree is electrically energized, but it may be.

- Keep required clearances between any equipment and the power lines.

- If a fire starts from a fallen power line, notify the fire department and call us. Stay away from the site, and do not use water on or near the fallen line. Make sure others stay clear of the line and treat it as if it were energized.

In addition to taking the necessary steps to respond to an electrical emergency, you can help prevent problems before they start by practicing these safety measures:

- If you notice anything, including trees or branches, that might interfere with power lines, call us. We will take care of it safely at no cost to you.

- If you are planning to plant trees on your property, make sure not to plant them directly under or near power lines. Shrubs and other plants should be kept clear of electric poles and green transformer boxes. Always call Miss-Dig (811) before doing any digging.

Together, we can keep our neighborhoods safe. Safety always matters. Look up and live!

Jim Mackie is Cloverland's Safety and Loss Prevention Coordinator. 906-632-5152, jsmackie@cloverland.com



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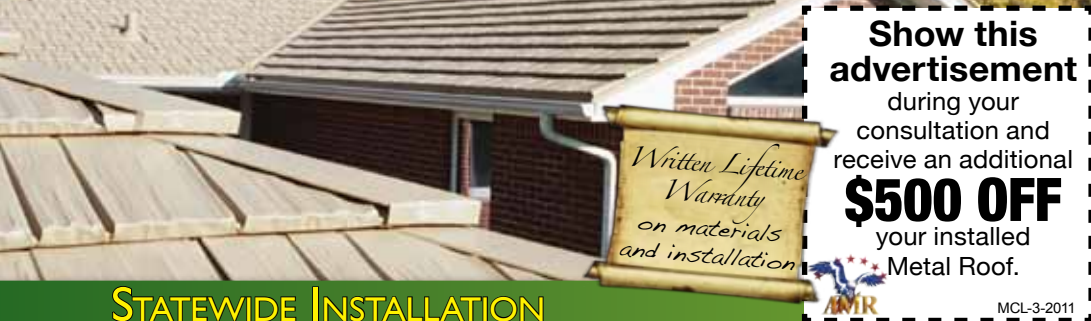
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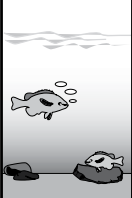
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Meet Your Director Candidates

As a member-owner of your cooperative, you decide who will represent you on the Cloverland Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. Cloverland is governed by nine directors elected by and from the members of their district to a three-year term of office.

Each district is served by three directors. One seat is up for election in each district, every year. Elections take place at the annual district meetings, April 26-28, 2011. You must attend the meeting in your district to vote.



District A

Ronald Gilmore

Kincheloe



My wife Karen and I have lived in Kincheloe for five years. We also lived in Marquette County for 30 years. We have six children and a delightful granddaughter. You will see Karen and I at many high school sporting events during the year across the U.P., for we are avid fans!

I am employed as a food service leader 9 at the Chippewa West Correctional Facility. I have also worked for SEMCO Energy for 19 years as a marketing and sales representative.

America is headed for an electric crisis and times are hard. The downturn in the economy will increase the number of Americans who cannot afford to pay their electric bills. I feel that utility companies need to help the under-employed, unemployed, or those on fixed incomes. I would like to be involved in the changing climate that Cloverland has embraced with its purchase of Edison Sault Electric.

Gerald Nettleton

DeTour Village



I am self-employed and the owner of Nettleton Wood Products Inc., in DeTour Village. My wife Diane and I are both supporters of all community activities.

I would like to continue as a director for District A under the newly expanded Cloverland Electric Cooperative. I have completed all director

certification classes offered to me and will continue to do so.

The project of expanding Cloverland Electric has been a large challenge for all management, employees and directors of the cooperative and is a large asset to our membership.

I thank co-op members that have supported me in the past and I am asking for continued support from members in our newly formed districts.

District B

Leanne Barnes Deuman

Sault Sainte Marie



Cloverland Electric is the sole provider of electric services in our community. Therefore, it is

important that all members are well-served by their board of directors.

Electric rates and service concern us all. With more than 25 years of experience as a local attorney, I am very familiar with the challenges and demands faced by Cloverland's members during these trying economic times. As a director, these concerns will be foremost in my mind.

I have served on various boards, and have also worked with other boards in advisory and representative capacities. I am well aware of the duties of a board to set policy and make decisions but not to micromanage daily operations. I know how to ask questions and exercise independent judgment in coming to conclusions on issues before the board.

My life and legal experience make me uniquely qualified to serve as a director.

Linda Hoath

Sault Sainte Marie



My objective is to participate as an active and dedicated member of the board of directors. It is my

goal to ensure the achievement of the board's mission and objectives and to serve the members. I have nine years of professional experience as a full-time executive director of a nonprofit organization with cooperative and team spirit for the defined good of the organization.

I am a member of the Michigan Association of Conventions and Visitors Bureau, and advocate for its members through education and communication, while representing their legislative interests.

I also serve the following organizations: The Sault Events Inc., is a collaboration of Sault Ste. Marie business, government and nonprofit organizations to create events and economic efforts that provide jobs, economic stability and an improved quality of life in our region. Great Waters is a five-county initiative to promote tourist and industry revenue during shoulder seasons by creating jobs.

William Munsell

Sault Sainte Marie



Edison Sault member-owners have their first opportunity for representation on the Cloverland

board with the April board of directors election.

The most critical issues facing the board are financial. My solutions include: increasing

efficiency by integrating Edison and Cloverland employees; keeping rates low by balancing Edison and Cloverland rates; and planning for future increases in wholesale power prices resulting from increased fuel costs.

My experience in budgeting, labor negotiations and personnel management would be an asset to the board.

My qualifications include: 31 years as LSSU's financial aid director (\$13 million budget); eight years as a realtor, including E.U.P. Board of Realtors president; E.U.P. United Way treasurer, campaign chair and president; chair of MI Municipal League Worker's Compensation Board (\$100 million fund); city commission budget process leader; local Community Foundation board; and Sault Lions Club president (three terms).

Your concerns are my concerns.

Samuel White

Sault Sainte Marie



I retired from Edison Sault Electric after 33 years. I am president of the U.S.S. Epperon Association with 700 members. I was VFW District 14 commander in 2002 and 2004; and was appointed national aide-de-camp by the VFW national commander in 2010 and 2011. I have been the quartermaster of the Brimley VFW Post 9023 for 15 years.

I was Soo Township zoning and building inspector for 17 years, and building inspector for Chippewa County for two years. I am on the Chippewa County Building Board of Appeals, Michigan Veterans Trust Fund and Soo Township Board of Review. I am the

chairman of the Algonquin United Methodist Church Administration Board (20 years), and serve on the pastor-parish relations board.

The reason I am seeking a position on the board is I have knowledge in many phases of the electric cooperative, and I think I would be good for the cooperative.

District C

Ivan Darling

Engadine



I am retired, and have time to serve my community and interests.

I graduated from Michigan Technological University with a bachelors degree in electrical power engineering and Texas A&M University with a masters degree in mechanical heat-power engineering. I also graduated from the military Command and General Staff College, Industrial War College and Army War College.

I retired as a colonel from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I served as an associate professor at MSU and manager of engineering for MIDREX Corp., that designed and built plants worldwide for the direct reduction of metal ores.

I became founder and president of GEM Industrial Contractors, which was maintenance contractor for Davis-Bessie Nuclear Power Plant for over 10 years and built and modified industrial manufacturing, petro-chemical and fossil power facilities.

I was founder, board chairman and CEO of Industrial Power Systems, involved with building and modifying industrial manufacturing, petro-chemicals and power plants.

Ronald Ford

McMillan



If elected, I would engage management and all stakeholders to improve and reduce cost of services to cooperative members.

The retired chairman of a publicly traded company, I have the skills to solve difficult problems and establish focus groups to enhance our cooperative.

Additionally, I would strive for more transparency of operations, to include letting the member-owners know that directors get \$800 per meeting and other monies for special meetings, training and mileage. I believe that their total cost to members are above \$80,000 per year. What happened to the cooperative idea of being willing to volunteer? If elected, I would motion for these fees to be eliminated.

I have served on financial institution, health insurance, civic and state-appointed boards. We the owners, need to oversee our cooperative better and I will willingly serve as your eyes. Thank you for the opportunity to bring my concerns to you.

James Lemaster

Manistique



I have been a member of Boilermaker's Local 169 for 40 years. I have managed construction projects for

paper mills and powerhouses through most of the U.S. I am a retired boilermaker craft superintendent. I currently work part-time for CR Meyer and Sons doing consulting and quality control. I also hold a Michigan Boiler Repair Class IV license.

Virgil Monroe

Manistique



I was raised in Curtis, MI. I am a graduate of Newberry High School, and hold an associates degree from

North Central Michigan College. I have held a master electrical license with the state of Michigan for 38 years. While operating Monroe Electric, I was hired as an electrical inspector with the state of Michigan, Bureau of Construction Codes, in 1986. In 2000, I was promoted to the first senior electrical inspector position, then to chief electrical inspector.

I have worked very closely over the years with local code enforcement authorities, local governmental officials, state senators and representatives and the state Attorney General's office.

After retiring in 2008, my wife Deloris and I settled in Manistique.

I am ready to commit to the members of District C my knowledge, experience and ability to work with people by representing them on the board of directors.

Carmen Pittenger

Curtis

My husband and I own Pitt's Trails End Resort in Curtis, MI. I am also the executive director of the Luce County Economic Development Corporation. Prior to being promoted to executive director in 2001, I

was the revolving loan fund administrator for the EDC.

I am a graduate of Manistique High School and Davenport College of Business. I completed the Michigan Economic Development course sponsored by Western Michigan University in 2001 and completed the Michigan Economic Developers Association Practitioners Training Program in 2002. I also received my CECD certification in 2010.

I serve as a secretary on the Upper Peninsula Economic Development Alliance and am a member of the Michigan Economic Developers Association, National Professional Women Association, World Economic Development Alliance, International Economic Development Council, and served several years on the E.U.P. Workforce Development Board.

I reside in Curtis with my husband Tim, and our two children, Shelby and Joshua.

Joseph Van Dyck

Manistique



Since you have bought out Edison Sault and now cover a bigger area and have more members, I have

the opportunity to represent District C in an area I'm familiar with—the electrical industry. I am a retired journeyman lineman, welder and cable-splicer from IBEW Local #17, Detroit, MI.

Membership Districts



Who's Got Mail?

We lost our mailbox this winter. In early January, someone snapped the post with the front end of their vehicle. (New and dark blue, based on the piece of plastic bumper left behind.)

I tried to drive a temporary metal post in the ground to hold a new box, but this winter even the ground in the Lansing area seems as impenetrable as it is in the Keweenaw Peninsula. There's no driving *anything* into it.

So, we make a daily postal run. The folks at the Mason Post Office are friendly and understanding. "Do you want to start up your mail?" they ask after retrieving the bundle left behind by our carrier, who has to contend with other route customers who lost their mailboxes to errant drivers or snowplows. "When the ground thaws," I usually respond.

Though not quite a relic, that mailbox doesn't seem as necessary as it once did. It was, with the phone, our lifeline to the wide world. Important things were found there: cards and letters from far-flung family and friends, gifts for birthdays and anniversaries, bills from utilities and banks, draft notices, school reports, and magazines with fresh news and comment.

Obviously, we still get and send mail, but not much of any value. Like many people, we pay our bills online and most of our written correspondence is by email. Catalogs and junk mail seem to make up the bulk of our mailbox stash now.

This pattern of disuse is repeated all over America, which is why this once vital and venerated service is in a death spiral. Plummeting mail volume leads to a chronic revenue shortage, which leads to increasing rates to raise revenue, which leads to an additional reduction in mail volume. The Postal Service says mail traffic peaked in 2006 at 213 billion pieces, then fell 20 percent by 2010.

The result is the announcement in January that the Postal Service might close up to 2,000 post offices nationwide to help stem losses of \$23 million a day. But this is not new. You might be surprised to learn that post offices have closed every year,

but two, since 1901, when their number peaked at 76,945. Today, there are less than 34,000.

Many of the post offices under closure review are in rural or smaller suburban areas. Michigan will have its share. This means some of you will be driving farther to do business with your no-longer-local post office.

Are we watching the slow death of one of our country's most iconic institutions? Starting with Benjamin Franklin, the first postmaster general, the Post Office gave us universal service at a simple rate, made mail-order possible, enabled business expansion, and provided rural delivery. (Some of this information is from "The United States Postal Service—An American History 1775–2006," which is available on usps.com, but apparently not through the mail.)

In 1890, 65 percent of Americans lived in rural areas. Although many city dwellers had enjoyed free home delivery since 1863, rural citizens had to pick up their mail at the Post Office, leading one farmer to ask: "Why should the cities have fancy mail service and the old colonial system still prevail in the country districts?"

Does this sound familiar? This cry was repeated for electricity in the 1920s and '30s (think electric co-ops), and is repeated again today for broadband internet service.

Even the arguments sound the same. Postmaster General John Wanamaker, who led the Post Office Department from 1889 to 1893, "thought it made more sense to have one person deliver mail than to have 50 people ride into town to collect their mail." He cited business logic and social philosophy as reasons to give rural dwellers free delivery. Businesses could expand their markets. Rural people needed the important information provided by newspapers but did not always have time to walk or ride to the Post Office. And, young people might stay on the farm if correspondence and magazines eased their isolation.

Although one Kansas farmer expressed concern that "rural people would become lazy if they did not have to pick



up their mail," more typical were reactions such as those of the Colorado woman who was "glad to have our mail fresh instead of stale."

"Farmers helped by putting out boxes for the rural carriers—everything from lard pails and syrup cans to old apple, soap and cigar boxes." In 1901, postal officials decided a standardized box would improve service, and so we ended up with today's mailbox.

When the Post Office offered package delivery in 1913, it triggered an economic boom, spurring the growth of the great mail-order houses: Montgomery Ward, in 1872, and Sears, Roebuck and Company in 1893. The year parcel post began, Sears handled five times as many orders, and five years later their revenues doubled.

By 1963, 80 percent of all U.S. mail was business mail. The development of the computer brought centralized accounting and sent a growing mass of utility bills and payments, bank deposits and receipts, advertising, magazines, credit card transactions, mortgage bills and payments, and Social Security checks through the mail.

Now, the internet is taking away more business than it's adding.

Some mail is bad. On Oct. 15, 2001, a letter containing deadly anthrax was post-marked in Trenton, NJ, and delivered to the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C. I was in the building then, along with Mike Peters, former CEO of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association, visiting Sen. Debbie Stabenow's office. We were among the last to leave the building, but it wasn't clear until later what a close call that really was.

Of course, some mail is good, like this magazine, which depends on the Postal Service to get it to your mailbox.

Thanks for joining us.

Mike Buda is editor emeritus of Country Lines. His wife, Barbara, uses the mail much more than he does. Comment on Mike's columns at countrylines.com/column/ramblings/ or email him at mbuda@countrylines.com





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Join us at your 2011 Cloverland district meeting.

Official District Meeting Notice

The secretary of the board of directors of Cloverland Electric Cooperative, Richard Newland, has directed that official notice of the District Meetings of the Members be given at this time, per provisions of Article II, Section 3, and Article IV, Section 3, of the cooperative bylaws. All members of Cloverland Electric Cooperative are hereby notified that the District Meetings of the Members will be held according to the schedule outlined on this page. These meetings are held for the purpose of electing one director from each district and conducting any business which may legally come before the membership.

Meeting Highlights

- Director Elections
- President's Message
- Business Report
- Election Results
- Cash Prizes
- Scholarship Drawing
- Refreshments



You can only vote at the meeting in your designated membership district.

*If you have any questions, please call our office at 800-562-4953
For more information, visit cloverland.com*

5-7 p.m.

Meeting Opens with Registration/Voting

Polls Open 5 p.m. / Close 7 p.m.

7 p.m.

Business Report & Program

District A

April 26, 2011
Cedarville High School
Beach St./Gym Entrance, Cedarville

District B

April 27, 2011
Sault Area High School
904 Marquette Ave., Sault Ste. Marie

District C

April 28, 2011
Manistique High School
100 N. Cedar St., Manistique

Candidate Profiles

See pages 28-29!