

# Michigan

## COUNTRY LINES



*This year marks Cherryland Electric Cooperative's 75th anniversary of supplying power to northern Michigan.*

Norma Fretheim tells her story...

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And Some Cash!

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Is A Science

If the only thing bigger than your propane bill is your propane tank...



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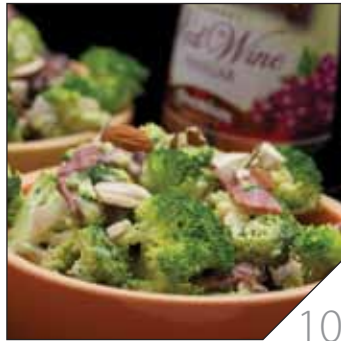
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Editor  
**Gail Knudtson**

Associate Editor  
**Doug Snitgen**

Design Editor  
**Cindy Zuker**

Publisher  
**Craig Borr**



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## On the Cover\*

Writer/photographer Julie McKay Covert is featured with the cover photo from her book, "A Photographic Essay: Art of Winter." The book's photos were taken near her home on Shelter Island, MI.

Visit [juliemckaycovert.com](http://juliemckaycovert.com)

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **TOM VAN PELT**

*President*

386-5234 • tvanpelt@cecelec.com

### **TERRY LAUTNER**

*Senior Vice President*

946-4623 • tlautner@cecelec.com

### **MELINDA LAUTNER**

*Secretary*

947-2509 • mlautner@cecelec.com

### **RICK DENEWETH**

*Treasurer*

929-4526 • rdeneweth@cecelec.com

### **BETTY MACIEJEWSKI**

*Director*

947-0463 • bmaciejewski@cecelec.com

### **JOHN OLSON**

*Director*

938-1228 • jolson@cecelec.com

### **JON ZICKERT**

*Director*

631-1337 • jzickert@cecelec.com

### **GENERAL MANAGER**

Tony Anderson

### **CO-OP EDITOR**

Nick Edson

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.

### **TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

231-486-9200 or 1-800-442-8616 (MI)

### **ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 298, Grawn, MI 49637

### **WEBSITE**

cherrylandelectric.com

### **PAY STATION**

Cherryland Electric office  
5930 U.S. 31 South, Grawn

## MANAGER'S MESSAGE

# No Rate Hike on 2013 Horizon

**T**his is the time of year for people to ask me, "What do you see ahead in 2013?"

Obviously, I have no crystal ball for the nation, state or Cherryland Electric Cooperative. However, I do have a few items on my desk that may affect co-op members in 2013.

The most important situation deals with your electric rates. I am happy to report that your cooperative's 2013 budget does not require a rate increase. We are seeing some growth and holding down costs as best we can. Therefore, our financial position is currently very stable.

We weathered the March storm, retired an all-time high \$2 million in capital credits in October, and did not charge the membership more than \$400,000 in power costs in December. Still, we hit all of our financial goals for the year and have your cooperative well-positioned for 2013.

What about renewable energy in light of the resounding defeat of Prop 3? We still have our 10 percent requirement that we will meet by 2015.

In 2013, I am hopeful that there may be some discussion about dropping the in-state requirement. There are cheaper sources of renewable energy outside Michigan's boundaries. I would not be opposed to purchasing a higher percentage of renewable energy if utilities were not restricted to where the source was located.

State mandate and location aside, I do think there is something more we can do locally with solar energy. At some point in 2013, I hope to bring a "solar garden" plan to the board.

The concept inside my head today involves Cherryland constructing a grid capable of holding many solar panels and then allowing members to purchase and own one or more panels.

There would be one master meter and the output would be credited on the bills of each participating member. I see this as a low-cost way to consolidate solar energy

for those members willing to own it, but who maybe don't have a good location or the technical ability to maintain the connection to the grid. The goal is simple, fair and affordable.

By July 2013, you will be able to check your hourly electric use on a smart phone. More importantly, you will be able to report an outage from your I-phone or Android device. We will never be able to answer 500 or 5,000 calls at once.

Using available technology however, we will be able to take hundreds of outage reports simultaneously. This will reduce the stress for employees and members during large outages

like we saw last March.

The great news is that 2013 will be the year that you hear more about successes in reducing our air pollutant emissions.

As Wolverine begins cleaning up the Presque Isle Power Plant in Marquette and continues operating other cleaner-burning baseload generation purchased previously, they will have a great story to tell.

I am confident our reduction of pollutant emissions will make Wolverine a leader in environmental improvements in the state and region. This has been a long journey that we haven't ever really talked about. This needs to change in 2013.

Want more detail? As the year progresses and these topics evolve, I will certainly provide it. Almost every item listed above is a column by itself and I look forward to writing more in the future.

I don't need a crystal ball to tell me 2013 will be a great year. I just need to keep showing up at work and helping everyone at Cherryland make it happen!



**Tony Anderson**  
General Manager



# When Electricity Came To Northport

This is the first story in a series commemorating Cherryland Electric Cooperative's 75th anniversary of supplying power to northern Michigan. **Nick Edson**

**W**hen 88-year-old Norma Fretheim of Northport was asked by neighbors last March how she possibly could survive without electricity for a week, she laughed.

"I told them I grew up without electricity until I was 17-years-old," she said. "I just put on more clothes and lit candles. I got by just fine. After the current (electricity) came back on and I took my layers of clothes off, one of the women thought I had lost weight."

While Norma weathered last March's massive storm better than most, she has a history with Cherryland Electric Cooperative that goes back to its start—75 years ago. Her father, Nels Fredrickson, was one of the first Cherryland directors, and her brother George was a board president.

"My father knew how life-changing electricity would be for our farm, so when his friend (and Cherryland general manager) Harry Hall called and asked him to be on the board, he jumped at the chance," she said.

The Fredrickson farm was west of Northport, close to the area where Norma lives today in a house her father built.

She remembers life without electricity. "Without current, we had to do a lot of things differently than we do them now," she said. "There were no electric refrigerators or freezers, so we had an ice box for food. In later winter, Dad would cut ice out of Kehl's Lake. Most of it would go into the village ice house, but the rest would be for our own ice box at home. In the summer, we'd pack the ice in sawdust so it wouldn't melt."

There were no electric lights, of course, so the Fredrickson family and everyone else used kerosene lamps.

"We used them to do our school work and all other things we had to do before sunup and after sundown," she said. "We also didn't have indoor plumbing. We took baths in a big wash tub next to the kitchen stove with the oven door open for heat. My mom used to warn us not to back up

when we got out of the tub or we'd burn our bottoms."

Norma's mother—the former Christine Garthe—did the family clothes by hand. And milking the family cows was also done by hand.

"There is no other place as peaceful on a cold winter night as in the barn after the cows have been milked and fed," said Norma. "They are so content."

Nels Fredrickson was not only a farmer, he was also a school bus driver. The school bus in Northport back in those days was a horse-drawn buggy that picked up children at the farms.

But then, in the early 1940s, life changed for the Fredrickson family. Electricity came to their farm.

"Oh my, it was so wonderful," Norma said, still smiling at the memory. "It was unbelievable. Dad just couldn't believe how wonderful electric current was. We bought milking machines and put a motor on the well pump so we could have indoor plumbing. We even bought adapters to convert our kerosene lamps to electricity. What a difference it meant doing homework and cooking. And we didn't have to wipe off our walls and curtains from the

dirty residue that the kerosene lamps left. It just changed our world completely."

Norma graduated from Northport High School in 1941 and soon after, her world also changed when she met and later married Lutheran minister Phillip Fretheim. They had two children—Karen and Paul—and raised their family in the small town of Vignes, 40 miles northeast of Green Bay, WI.

As the wife of a minister, she planned baptisms, weddings and funerals, and also ran the church office. When the family moved back to the Northport area, Norma went to work as a secretary at the school. Her work ethic, which began on her family's farm in Northport, never left her.

"My father always said, 'don't buy anything unless if you have the money for it,'" she said. "So that's the way it's always been for me."

Norma's husband passed away 11 years ago, but she stays busy keeping immaculate scrapbooks and writing about her life.

"I don't consider myself a writer," she said with a smile. "I just don't want things forgotten."

Like what it was like when electricity came to Northport over 70 years ago.



The Fredrickson family in the early 1930s, from left: father Nels, older sister Randa, brother George, mother Christine and seated in front, Norma.



# Governor Says 'Work Together On Energy, Environmental Issues'

Adaptability has to be the foundation of every energy decision we make," Gov. Rick Snyder said in his December message on energy and the environment. "First," he emphasized, "we need to make sure our energy supplies are reliable." Using the adaptability theme, he noted three pillars that every decision must stand on:

## #1 Reliable Energy

- Upgrade the transmission and electrical system to keep the economy growing.
- Michigan has growing reliability challenges, for example, the U.P. has 12 "yellow alerts" every year (meaning all it takes is for one more thing to go wrong and everybody's power could be out for days). Another is when the electrical grid went down in 2003, causing a widespread blackout in Michigan and the eastern U.S.
- The Wolverine Power/We Energies plan to save the

Presque Isle Power Plant (see p. 20) is a good start, but "let's connect the Peninsulas" with electricity.

- Use more of our natural gas assets; many are on state land, it's better than coal, and we have prime areas to store it.
- "Fracking" to retrieve natural gas. "It's been done here safely for over a decade because we're doing it the right way."

## #2 Affordable Energy

- Our electric prices are the highest in the Midwest because we have to import coal.

• Energy efficiency supports jobs, saves energy, money, and is good for the environment.

- Conserve more energy. Since 2010, over 1,700 Michiganders have used funds from the "Michigan Saves" program ([michigansaves.org](http://michigansaves.org)) to improve their homes and save about \$350 in yearly energy costs. The program is expanding to include businesses like small grocery and convenience stores.
- In 2012, private financial institutions statewide offered over \$68 million for efficiency improvements in buildings.
- Energy use in state buildings has been reduced nearly 25 percent; upgrades continue.
- Find steady funding to help low-income people with heating costs. Utilities must work closer with people before shutting the power off.

## #3 Protect the Environment

- Energy and the environment must be considered together in preserving land, water and trails. The DNR is to offer better land/trail use options by spring. Link our trails to other states.
- Aggressively educate, prevent and defend against over
- Merge scientific/economic/environmental practices into one water protection system. Invite Great Lakes Governors to a 2013 summit.
- Re-establish a Water Use Advisory Council. Strategize on inland lake and drought issues.
- Battle urban blight and plan for vacant land use (i.e., urban farming). Toughen landlord laws and bar property tax delinquents from land auctions.
- Help farmers and agribusinesses comply with environmental regulations.
- Improve recycling; create a plan by 2014. (Only 21 of 83 counties have strong programs.)
- Raise renewable energy use through legislation—not the Constitution; discuss this year.

**Ensuring Michigan's Future**

"There are things we can do today that benefit us right now and pay dividends tomorrow, no matter what the future holds."

180 invasive species threatening our waters (i.e., Asian carp).

▶ See the Governor's full speech at: [michigan.gov/documents/snyder/EE\\_Message\\_FINAL\\_pdf\\_404563\\_7.pdf](http://michigan.gov/documents/snyder/EE_Message_FINAL_pdf_404563_7.pdf)



Thanks to all who helped electric co-ops support opposition to Proposition 3 on the November ballot. We also thank everyone who took time to write us a letter, whether pro or con, on the issue.

**HOW TO SEND A LETTER** Readers are encouraged to submit thoughtful, courteously-worded letters, and we print as many as possible in the space and time allowed.

Country Lines reserves the right to print letters at the publisher's discretion, based on length, space and content, and to edit slightly for space and facts. Please limit comments to 240 words or less. Submit by posting online at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com), email [gknudson@meca.coop](mailto:gknudson@meca.coop), or mail to: Editor, Country Lines, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864.

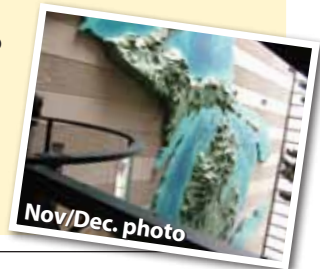


### ◀ DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS IS?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **Feb. 10** will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 credit for electricity from their electric cooperative.

**We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone!** Email [mysteryphoto@countrylines.com](mailto:mysteryphoto@countrylines.com), or send by mail to *Country Lines Mystery Photo*, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, 48864. Include your name, address, phone number and name of your co-op. Only those sending complete information will be entered in the drawing. The winner will be announced in the March 2013 issue.

The Nov./Dec. contest winner is Jeanne Moore of Gaylord, who correctly identified the photo from the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing.



# Electric Co-ops Choose New National Leader

**J**o Ann Emerson, a nine-term Congresswoman, was recently chosen as the new CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Emerson succeeds Glenn English, a former Democratic Congressman who served NRECA well for 19 years.

Coupled with her Congressional work, Emerson's earlier executive roles with the National Restaurant Association and the American Insurance Association, plus extensive knowledge of electric co-op issues, makes her the best choice to lead NRECA, said Mike Guidry, board president. "The respect she has from both sides of the aisle and her proven ability to bridge political and policy

divides to find common ground will serve NRECA and all member co-ops very well."

First elected in 1996, she is the first Republican woman from Missouri to serve in the U.S. House. She has served on the House Appropriations Committee and chaired the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee, which oversees the U.S. Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, and various independent agencies, including the Federal Communications Commission.

Besides leadership roles in agriculture, health care and government reform, she won recognition for her work on energy, including the 2006 NRECA Distinguished Service Award.

"Without reliable, affordable



Photo - Kyle Spradley, Rural Missouri Magazine

U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO), right, NRECA CEO-designate, meets with 2011 Rural Electric Youth Tour students from Missouri outside House chambers at the U.S. Capitol.

electricity delivered by electric cooperatives serving thousands of communities, millions of Americans would be left without the energy that brings economic opportunity, unsurpassed quality of life, and the promise of growth in the future," Emerson said. "NRECA is committed to the electric co-ops of this great nation, and works hard every day

to improve the quality of life for their consumer-members. I am very honored to join an outstanding organization to work on their behalf."

She assumes her new duties March 1, but will be introduced to NRECA members, which total over 900 co-ops, employees and directors from 48 states, at their annual meeting in February.

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**YOU ARE A LEADER.** In the classroom, on the team, and in your community, you guide and inspire others to contribute their best efforts. Join other young leaders like you from throughout Michigan at the **YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT (YLS)**, presented by Michigan's electric cooperatives. This unique, high-energy experience will help you develop your leadership habits, explore career opportunities in the electric industry, and learn how to be actively involved in the democratic process. You are a leader. **YOU ARE THE FUTURE.**

# We're Celebrating 75 Years

**C**herryland Electric Cooperative is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

So, you will be reading stories each month in this magazine about the early years of Cherryl-land and how we grew from six members at the start—our board of directors—to more than 34,000.

We will also be releasing a book in the early spring called “Lighting the Way.”

In *Country Lines* and “Lighting the Way,” we will tell our story through the eyes of people who lived it.

Those were the first members, the early linemen and people who paved the way for us to grow—literally and figuratively. They sat down to talk with us over the last three years.

We think their stories are fascinating, and they all come back to the same question: Why were cooperatives created?

Electricity has been lighting cities and towns around the U.S. for over 100 years. It was easy for the utilities that served them to service and maintain them, since all the houses and businesses were clustered together.

There wasn't money to be made, those utilities said, by serving two or three rural households per mile when you could serve dozens and even hundreds of homes and businesses per mile in urban areas.

But people who lived in rural areas—mostly farmers—weren't hooked up to electricity until after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the “New Deal” in 1935.

Roosevelt was determined to improve the quality of life for all Americans.

Why? Well, the wealthy Roosevelt family lived in the city—New York, and later Washington, D.C.—so they never had to worry about electricity. However, when they went to their vacation home in rural Georgia, electricity was scarce and young Franklin Roosevelt was struck by the difference in the quality of life between urban and rural America.



Nick Edson

When he was elected president, he had a chance to do something about that inequity... and he did.

The New Deal launched a new era in the U.S., and electric cooperatives were born. Cherryl-land Electric Cooperative was created in 1938.

When telling the story of Cherryl-land's 75 years, the common denominator is people—our members, employees and a board of directors that is elected by the co-op's members.

Over those 75 years, Cherryl-land has strung over 3,000 miles of line—long enough to stretch from New York to Los Angeles—as our 50 employees serve 34,000 members in six counties.

But those are just numbers. This book is about the people and their stories—about what it was like to have electricity for the first time and how employees weathered sometimes brutal conditions to keep the lights turned on.

It's the story of overcoming great odds and building lines and poles in remote areas, through steep hills and marshlands



and other major obstacles. Some barriers were Mother Nature, and some were man-made political hurdles.

Through it all, electric cooperatives in the U.S. persevered and prospered, and number nearly 900 today. This is a story of that long journey, that first 75 years.

We'll be telling these stories throughout 2013 and if you have a story to tell, please let me know.

It's the story of the blood, sweat and tears of people who molded Cherryl-land Electric Cooperative.

So, get on board—I think you'll enjoy this historical ride in 2013.

## Notice to Members of Cherryl-land Electric Cooperative

Case No. U-15815

### 2011 Renewable Energy Plan Annual Report Summary

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) requires all Michigan electric utilities to get approximately 2 percent of their power supply from renewable sources by 2012, and increasing to 10 percent by 2015.

Under this requirement, Cherryl-land Electric Cooperative (Cherryl-land) submits an annual report to the MPSC regarding its Renewable Energy Plan. In 2011, Cherryl-land acquired 17,875 renewable energy credits and 1,044 incentive credits from its wholesale power supplier, Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc. (Wolverine). Wolverine will continue to generate or purchase renewable energy and bank unused renewable energy credits for future use and compliance with statutory renewable portfolio standard requirements on behalf of all its members.

A full copy of the cooperative's Renewable Energy Plan annual report that was filed with the MPSC is available on the cooperative's website at [cecelec.com](http://cecelec.com) or by request at Cherryl-land's office.



## Get A Clue... And Some Cash!

For generations, families have been enjoying the game of “Clue!”

It’s a classic American mystery board game that features the likes of Colonel Mustard, Miss Scarlet, the conservatory, billiard room, pipe and rope. It brings back many memories, although I must admit, Clue was never my favorite game, probably because I seldom won.

If you do like playing Clue, or simply enjoy a bit of sleuthing, then Cherryland Electric Cooperative (CEC) has a “game” for you. Several months ago, CEC released a personal energy management tool. It’s online and simple to use. It slices and dices your historical electric use in ways that reveal clues to help you discover how to save energy and lower your monthly electric bill.

Unlike the original board game, in the CEC version of Clue, we already know the culprit. It’s all of us. Remember, as your electric utility, we just deliver electricity as you demand it. Also, unlike the original game, CEC is offering members who play our version of Clue the chance to win one of three \$100 gift certificates!

Now, knowing the where and how of energy use is a bit more challenging to figure out, and that’s where our game comes in. Here’s what you do: Visit our website at [cherrylandelectric.com](http://cherrylandelectric.com) and click on the “Account” tab. If you are already a registered user of our online account tools, you will breeze right in to a main menu page. If this is your first visit, simply provide the requested information and sign up. It’s free and easy to get started.

Next, you need to click on the link labeled, “Usage and Billing Analysis.” You might actually be asked if you want to launch an online tutorial. If you are asked, simply “dismiss” that and continue on with the instructions in this article. Your first clues to energy reduction can be found under the “Usage Explorer” tab.

Tabs are located at the upper-left of the screen. When you select that link, you should see monthly historical data for your account. Please note on a sheet of paper your answers to the 10 questions below (important to enter

the cash prize drawing):

- 1) your account number;
  - 2) which month you used the most electricity;
  - 3) which month you used the least.
- Next, click on the month—such as “Aug 2012”—with the highest usage to see a set of daily readings for that month. Now, record the following information:
- 4) what was the average temperature for the chosen month;
  - 5) Whether your usage track closely with the average temperature;
  - 6) on which date your peak usage for the month occurred.



**Unlike the original board game, in the CEC version of “Clue,” we already know the culprit. It’s all of us.**

Finally, you can drill down one more level by clicking on a particular day. Select any day you prefer, then figure the following:

- 7) Does your energy usage drop down throughout the night?
  - 8) What other daily usage patterns do your hourly readings reveal?
- Looking back up to the upper left, click on the “Analysis” tab. In the pull-down report box, select “Day of the Week.” Using a one-month date range,
- 9) Note which day of the week you use the most electricity (kWh).

Back up at the upper left menu, click on the “Billing Comparison” tab. From the monthly drop-down box, select the same two months for 2011 and 2012—such as Oct 2011 and Oct 2012—and record the following:

- 10) Did your usage go up or down? As a footnote, the monthly data only goes back to May 2011.

The second to last step in our Clue game, and the one that is necessary for you to enter our cash prize drawing, is for you to click on

the “Planning” tab at the upper left. Then, select “Add new.” Pick today’s date. For the note title, write—“Played Clue today” and submit the marker. If you then click on the blue hyperlink with today’s date, you will see the note you just created by hovering over the green and white check mark with your mouse. We will be looking for that note to enter you in our drawing. And how will we know to look for the note? For the final step of our game, you need to send us an email at [cec@cecelec.com](mailto:cec@cecelec.com). When we receive that we will look up your account and enter you into our drawing.

You have now completed CEC’s version

of “Clue,” but in reality the game has only begun for you. Study the information we asked you to collect. Look for patterns. Ask yourself what is running and when. Is it necessary? Can you change your routine just a little to save some energy?

By regularly using our online tool, you will become very aware of your electricity usage patterns and hopefully be able to make some positive changes. We will keep our contest open until Feb. 15 and will contact the winners immediately thereafter.

Thanks for playing!

*Kevin Cragg is the member services manager at Cherryland Electric and oversees the Energy Optimization program*





# The Art of Island Living

Julie McKay Covert likes to sit at her dining room table, cradling a steaming mug of hot chocolate and looking out over the treetops at Lake Huron. Two sides of the dining room are windows, and from this vantage point on the second story of her snug, 1,200-square-foot house, she has a bird's-eye view. Depending on the season, the daily show includes cedar waxwings, warblers, snow buntings, ravens, and even bald eagles.

The variety and abundance of wildlife on Shelter Island is just one of the trade-offs that Julie, and her husband Hugh, embrace in their life as the only people living on the 40-acre island they own in Lake Huron. The island is located just off

the southeastern tip of Drummond Island, in the far eastern Upper Peninsula. Hugh works as a captain of tall ships, among other pursuits, and bought the island nine years ago and built a home and lifestyle that reflect his love for sailing the Great Lakes. He designed the open-plan house to withstand the rigors of wilderness living.

The first story of their house is used for storage and utility areas, in order to be thoroughly bear-proof—the second story is their living space.

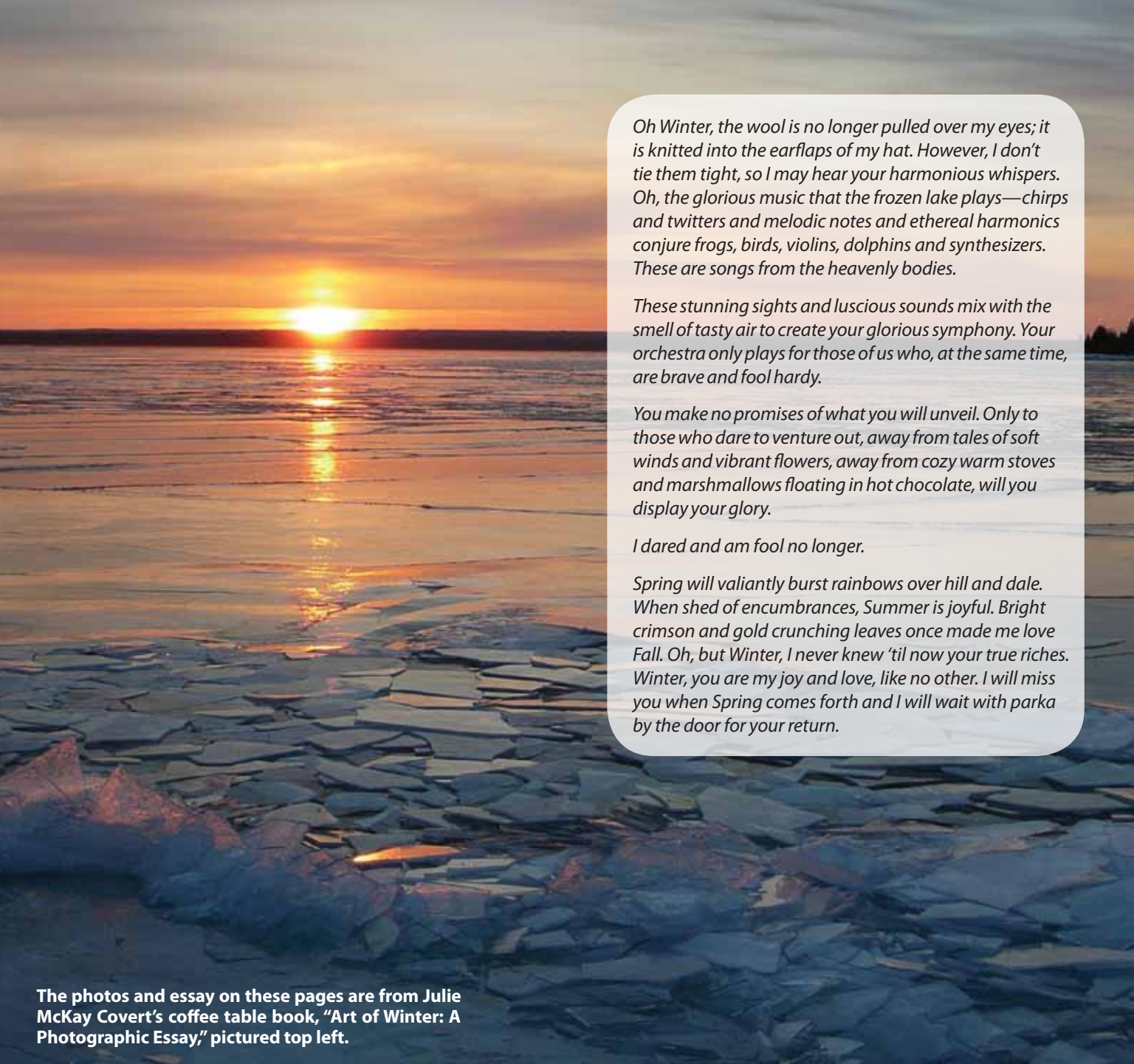
“We enjoy all of our fuzzy, furry friends that live out in the woods with us,” Julie says. The thin topsoil cover precludes gardening, and the wildlife and isolation make the idea of owning pets or farm

animals like chickens or pigs impractical for the Coverts. “How do you ask someone to come out and care for animals when you live where we do?” she laughs.

A massage and bodywork therapist, and book author of “The Insightful Body,” Julie spends much of her time traveling to conduct classes for her business, Island Wellness Center, located on Drummond Island. At work, she is a member of Cloverland Electric Cooperative, but at home, the Coverts live “off the grid.” Three years ago, as a bride, Julie moved into an island home that uses wood and propane for heating, cooking and refrigeration, and solar panels for electricity.

“I loved it immediately,” she says. Her new husband encouraged her to explore all





*Oh Winter, the wool is no longer pulled over my eyes; it is knitted into the earflaps of my hat. However, I don't tie them tight, so I may hear your harmonious whispers. Oh, the glorious music that the frozen lake plays—chirps and twitters and melodic notes and ethereal harmonics conjure frogs, birds, violins, dolphins and synthesizers. These are songs from the heavenly bodies.*

*These stunning sights and luscious sounds mix with the smell of tasty air to create your glorious symphony. Your orchestra only plays for those of us who, at the same time, are brave and fool hardy.*

*You make no promises of what you will unveil. Only to those who dare to venture out, away from tales of soft winds and vibrant flowers, away from cozy warm stoves and marshmallows floating in hot chocolate, will you display your glory.*

*I dared and am fool no longer.*

*Spring will valiantly burst rainbows over hill and dale. When shed of encumbrances, Summer is joyful. Bright crimson and gold crunching leaves once made me love Fall. Oh, but Winter, I never knew 'til now your true riches. Winter, you are my joy and love, like no other. I will miss you when Spring comes forth and I will wait with parka by the door for your return.*

**The photos and essay on these pages are from Julie McKay Covert's coffee table book, "Art of Winter: A Photographic Essay," pictured top left.**

four seasons of the wilderness outside their door. "Go play in the 'big room,' Hugh would tell me. I saw absolutely beautiful sights that the snow, the ice, and the light were creating," she recalls.

Struck by the fleeting quality of the winter beauty surrounding her, she would see a breathtaking arrangement of ice and light and hoarfrost, but passing the same spot 10 minutes later it would all have changed. A long-time photographer, Julie began to carry a camera on all of her

walks in order to capture the changeable winter scenery for family and friends. "I would put pictures on my blog to show people things they'd never see otherwise," explains. She collected enough photos in her wanderings to self-publish a small book as a gift for guests and family. They urged her to seek out a wider audience, and the result is her second book, "Art of Winter," which was published this year.

"I started this for fun," Julie says. "Living like this has always been a dream."



Writer/photographer Julie McKay Covert and her husband, Hugh, enjoy winter on Shelter Island.

Learn more about Julie McKay Covert's books and businesses at [JulieMCovert.com](http://JulieMCovert.com) or call 443-604-1981, e-mail [Julie@JulieMCovert.com](mailto:Julie@JulieMCovert.com), or write to her at 38300 S. Shelter Island, Drummond Island, MI 49726.



# SALAD!

Salads can be a great addition to a meal, or even the main event. If you're bored of the same old salads, try one of these.

## Pear Salad with Gorgonzola Dressing

(Pictured above)

1 12-oz. bag spring mix lettuce  
1 fresh or canned pear, peeled and chopped  
dried cherries  
candied walnuts

### Dressing:

1 fresh or canned pear, peeled and finely diced  
1 t. olive oil  
1/3 c. white vinegar  
1/4 c. lemon juice  
1 T. dijon mustard  
3 T. agave syrup or honey (add more for sweeter)  
3 T. crumbled gorgonzola cheese  
dash salt  
dash pepper

Mix all dressing ingredients together. Layer lettuce, pear pieces, cherries and walnuts on a plate. You can also add grilled chicken. Serve with dressing and french bread.

Christin McKamey

## Tasty Tree Salad

2 bunches broccoli, trimmed and chopped  
8 strips bacon, cooked and crumbled  
1 c. raisins  
1/2 c. chopped onion  
1/2 c. slivered almonds  
1 c. mayonnaise  
2 t. red wine vinegar  
3 t. sugar

Mix all ingredients and chill salad in refrigerator overnight before serving. For a lower fat version, use only 4 strips of bacon and substitute plain yogurt for the mayonnaise.

Toni Monton, Custer

## Spinach Strawberry Pecan Salad

2 bags spinach, rinsed and dried  
1 pint strawberries, sliced  
1 c. toasted pecan pieces (toast for 15 min. at 300°; watch closely)

### Dressing:

1/3 c. white vinegar  
3/4 c. sugar  
1 t. dry mustard  
1 t. salt  
1 1/2 t. minced onion  
1 c. vegetable oil  
1 1/2 T. poppy seeds

Mix dressing ingredients in blender. Place spinach, strawberries, and pecans in large bowl. Toss with dressing just before serving.

Marianne O'Neill, Dryden

## Dill Tuna Salad

4 c. small shells or penne pasta, cooked  
1 large can white tuna in water  
1 c. celery, diced small  
1/2 c. chopped green onions, including tops  
1 c. frozen peas  
1/4 c. fresh parsley, minced  
10 ozs. plain greek yogurt  
1 c. mayonnaise  
1/4 c. fresh lemon juice  
2 T. fresh dill, snipped  
1/2 t. salt  
1/4 t. white pepper

In a large bowl, combine pasta, tuna, celery, onions, peas and parsley. In a small bowl, combine yogurt, mayonnaise, lemon juice, dill, salt and pepper. Pour sauce over pasta and toss gently. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours.

Mary Babcock, Port Austin

## Snicker Salad

6 large delicious apples, unpeeled, chopped  
6 2-oz. Snickers® candy bars, chopped  
1 12-oz. carton whipped topping  
1/2 c. pecans, chopped (optional)

In a large bowl, combine apples, candy bar pieces and pecans. Mix well. Mix in whipped topping. Refrigerate. Best served the same day. It's a unique salad that the entire family will love!

Denise Halgren, Niles

## Cauliflower Salad

1 small head lettuce, broken up  
1 small head cauliflower, cut up  
1 small red onion, finely diced  
1/4 lb. bacon, fried and crumbled  
1/2 c. slivered almonds  
8 ozs. mayonnaise  
1 small can parmesan cheese  
1/4 c. sugar

Prepare veggies and mix with bacon and almonds. Mix together the mayonnaise, parmesan and sugar. Dress veggies with mayonnaise mixture just before serving.

Marlene Pitts, Farwell

## Chinese Coleslaw

2 packages chicken flavored ramen noodles (uncooked)  
1 c. sunflower seeds  
1 small package sliced almonds  
4 green onions, chopped  
1 bunch fresh broccoli, chopped  
1/2 c. oil  
1/3 c. red wine vinegar  
3/4 c. sugar

Crunch ramen noodles in the bag before opening and set seasoning packets aside. Put noodles in a bowl and add sunflower seeds, almonds, onions, and broccoli. In a separate bowl, mix the seasoning packets, oil, vinegar and sugar together, making sure sugar dissolves. Pour dressing over the noodle mixture and chill 8 to 12 hours or overnight.

Deborah Buck, Cassopolis

## Pasta Veggie Salad

2 c. cooked tube pasta, drained and rinsed  
1 zucchini squash, cubed  
1 yellow summer squash, cubed  
1 sweet red pepper, cut into bite-size pieces  
1/2 green pepper, cut into bite-size pieces  
1 cucumber, cubed  
3 to 4 green onions, chopped

### Dressing:

1/2 t. black pepper  
1/2 t. salt  
3/4 t. garlic powder  
3/4 t. dried minced onions

## Congratulations to our 2012 Recipe Contest Winner!

Paula Brousseau's name was drawn from all those whose recipes we printed in 2012 and *Country Lines* magazine will pay her January electric bill as a prize.

Paula, a Great Lakes Energy member from Bellaire, has been an electric co-op member for over 50 years and tried many recipes printed in *Country Lines* before she decided to start sending hers in, which she has now been doing for years.

Thank you, Paula, and all of our readers who shared their great recipes in 2012!



*3/4 t. dry mustard*  
*1/4 c. sugar*  
*1/4 c. white wine vinegar*  
*1/4 c. vegetable oil*

Add all vegetables to pasta. Keep salad chilled. For dressing, combine dry spices then add sugar, vinegar and oil. Pour dressing over salad an hour or two before serving.

*Michele Jewell, Alba*

### Mandarin Chicken Salad

*2 c. macaroni rings, cooked, rinsed and chilled*  
*2 c. cooked chicken (about 4 breasts), chopped*  
*1 T. minced onion*  
*1 t. salt*  
*1 1/2 c. green grapes*  
*1 c. mandarin oranges*  
*1/2 c. sliced almonds*  
*1/2 c. chopped celery*  
*1 c. mayo*

*1 c. whipped cream*

Combine chicken, onion and salt. Chill. Mix macaroni, grapes, celery, oranges, almonds and mayo; combine with chicken mixture. Just before serving, fold in whipped cream.

*Suzanne Hammerstrom, Hancock*

### Quick Taco Salad

*4 c. iceberg lettuce, shredded*  
*1 c. taco cheese*  
*1 c. tomatoes, diced*  
*1 c. nacho Dorito chips, crushed*  
*1 c. uncooked ground beef*  
*1 package taco seasoning*  
*1/4 c. diced green peppers*  
*thousand island dressing, to taste*

Dice all veggies and place into a large bowl. Cook ground beef over medium heat and add taco seasoning. Allow to cool before adding to the salad. Toss with thousand island dressing. Add Dorito chips and serve immediately.

*Danielle Cochran, Grayling*

### Grape Salad

*2 lbs. red grapes*  
*2 lbs. green grapes*  
*8 oz. cream cheese*  
*8 oz. sour cream*  
*1/2 c. sugar*  
*1 t. vanilla*  
*1 c. brown sugar*  
*1/2 c. chopped pecans*

Wash and dry grapes. Beat cream cheese, sour cream, sugar and vanilla. Add grapes and stir. Before serving, sprinkle with brown sugar and pecans.

*Marcia Rosa, Chase*

### Tortellini and Veggie Salad

*2 bags refrigerated cheese tortellini*  
*3 jars olives (each different), drained*  
*1 whole red onion, cut into chunks*  
*3 colored sweet peppers, cut into chunks*  
*1 package cherry or grape tomatoes*  
*1 c. celery, cut into chunks*  
*1 c. carrots, sliced*  
*2 cucumbers, with peel, cut into chunks*  
*1 small zucchini squash, cut into chunks*  
*1 package pepperoni slices*

#### Dressing:

*1/2 c. balsamic vinegar*  
*1 bottle Kraft Sun-dried Tomato Dressing*  
*2 T. McCormick Salad Supreme seasoning*  
Cook tortellini as directed and cool. Mix dressing ingredients with tortellini then combine and add the rest of the ingredients 2 hours before serving. Garnish with fresh basil or parsley.

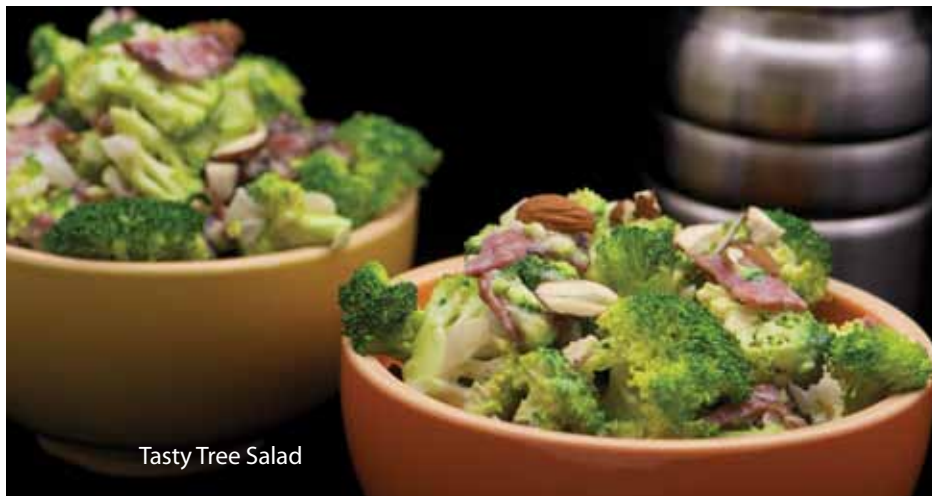
*Jan Vaughn, Vestaburg*

### Swiss Cashew Toss Salad

*1/3 c. white vinegar*  
*3/4 c. sugar*  
*2 t. prepared mustard*  
*1 t. grated onion*  
*dash of salt*  
*1 c. vegetable oil*  
*1 t. poppy seeds*  
*1 medium bunch romaine lettuce, torn*  
*1 c. salted cashew halves*  
*4 oz. swiss cheese, julienned*

In a blender, combine vinegar, sugar, mustard, onion and salt. Cover and process until well blended. While processing, gradually add oil in a steady stream. Stir in poppy seeds. In salad bowl, combine romaine, cashews and Swiss cheese; serve with dressing. Serves 8 to 10.

*Julie Grulke, Cheboygan*



Tasty Tree Salad

**SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!** Contributors whose recipes we print in 2013 will be entered in a drawing to win a prize: *Country Lines* will pay their January 2014 electric bill (up to \$200)! The 2013 winner will be announced in the Jan. 2014 issue.

Thanks to all who sent in recipes! Upcoming: Please send in **ASIAN INSPIRED** recipes by Feb. 10 and **MEXICAN** recipes by March 10. Mail to: *Country Lines Recipes*, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864; or email [recipes@countrylines.com](mailto:recipes@countrylines.com).

Photography by: 831 Creative

# Making Strides with Clean-Coal Technology

The Cooperative Research Network pursues new solutions that help Michigan electric co-ops deliver safe, reliable and affordable power to you.

Despite the recent “green” energy revolution and the rapid expansion of natural gas drilling rigs across America, our nation’s primary fuel for producing electricity is coal—as it has been for over a century.

Electricity generated by coal fell from 42 percent in 2011 to 37.5 percent in 2012, largely because of low natural gas prices, the retirement of older coal-fired power plants due to new emissions regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and uncertainty about further regulations.

But coal is far from dead. Electricity from coal is predicted to rise about 3 percent this year while the natural gas contribution drops from 30.5 percent to 27.4 percent, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration’s (EIA) Short-Term Energy Outlook. And, natural gas prices are forecasted to rise this year due to higher demand and a slow-

down in production.

“Coal still has a future as a source of electricity,” says Craig Borr, president/CEO of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association. “Whether you are for or against the use of coal to generate electricity, the fact is the United States remains home to the world’s largest coal reserves. That’s why electric co-ops are fully behind efforts to explore and test clean-coal technologies.”

One driver is the EPA’s Mercury and Air Toxics Standards rule, designed to significantly curb emissions of hazardous air pollutants (i.e., mercury and arsenic) from coal- and oil-fired plants 25 MW or larger by 2016. Some coal-fired plants will be shut down, rather than retrofitted, because the needed changes would be too costly to implement.

Electric co-ops and their trade association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), are exploring new

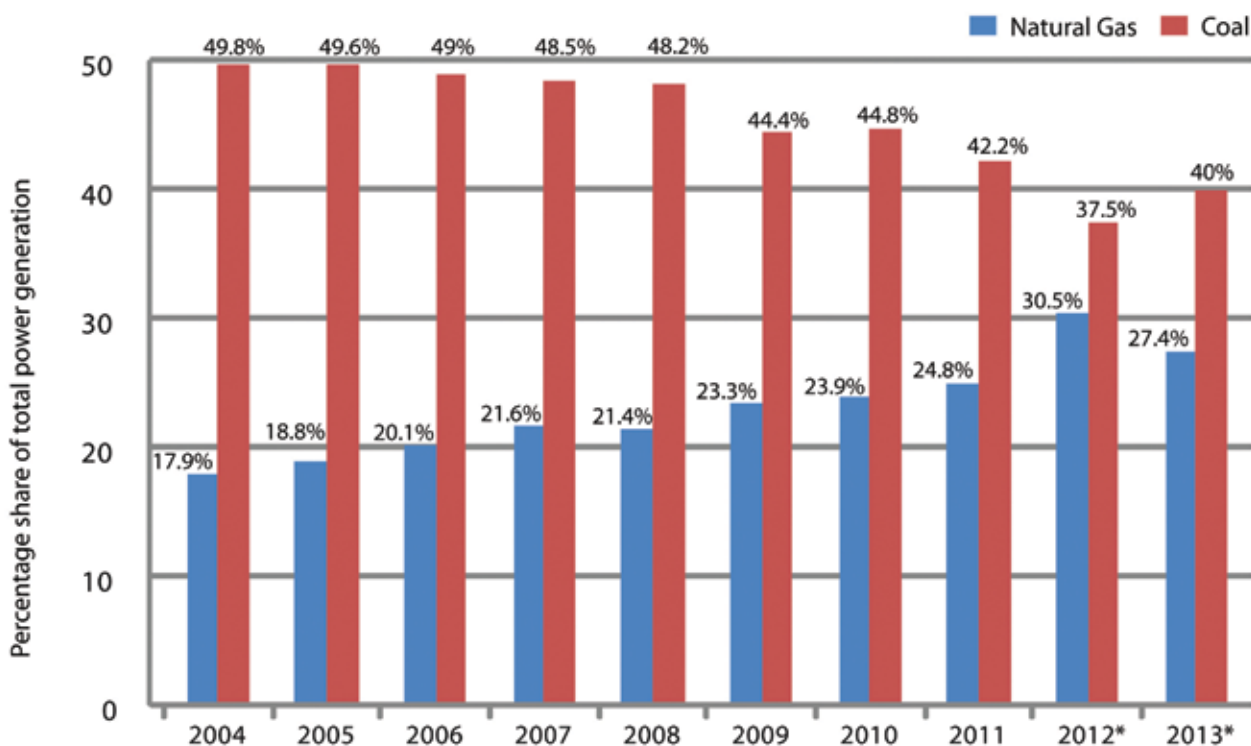
approaches to burn coal more cleanly. NRECA’s Cooperative Research Network (CRN) recently finished demonstrating an innovative new multi-pollutant control system that shows promise for helping coal-fired power plants meet stringent EPA emissions standards at a fraction of the cost of traditional measures.

The demonstration was conducted in July 2012 at an Arizona generation and transmission co-op (G&T). The results showed significant emission reductions by combining mercury controls—which CRN successfully tested earlier at a Texas G&T—with trona (a naturally occurring mineral similar to baking soda). The tested technologies also cut the cost of meeting new environmental rules by a factor of five to 10.

Results for these full-scale power plants were very encouraging, but based on short-term runs, says John Hewa Jr., NRECA vice president of engineering, research & technical services. “To verify long-term performance, the results need to be confirmed with extended trials.”

Electric co-ops support the multi-pollutant control technologies CRN is studying because they can learn how to best use one of our most abundant natural resources, coal, to continue providing safe, reliable and environmentally responsible power at the lowest possible rates.

**Coal Versus Natural Gas Use in the United States**



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration Short-Term Energy Outlook, October 2012

\* Forecast

# Your Guide to the Michigan Legislature

Please pull out this guide and use it as you get to know the legislators in your co-op service area.

## Who's Your Senator?

The state senators on this page represent districts that overlap electric co-op service areas. Although electric co-op issues are but a small part of their overall responsibilities, they have generally been supportive of the co-op agenda, which rests on the premise that as self-governed, member-owned and not-for-profit utilities, co-ops and their members ought to be treated differently than for-profit utilities.

► **Find Your State Senator** at [senate.mi.gov](http://senate.mi.gov)

### Alger Delta & Ontonagon



38th District (R)  
**Tom Casperson**  
1st Term  
517-373-7840

### Thumb



31st District (R)  
**Mike Green**  
1st Term  
517-373-1777

### Cloverland



37th District (R) **Howard Walker**  
1st Term  
517-373-2413

38th District (R) **Tom Casperson**  
1st Term  
517-373-7840

### Cherryland



35th District (R) **Darwin Booher**  
1st Term  
517-373-1725

37th District (R) **Howard Walker**  
1st Term  
517-373-2413

### Presque Isle



36th District (R) **John Moolenaar**  
1st Term  
517-373-7946

37th District (R) **Howard Walker**  
1st Term  
517-373-2413

### HomeWorks



22nd District (R) **Joe Hune**  
1st Term  
517-373-2420

23rd District (D) **Gretchen Whitmer**  
2nd Term  
517-373-1734

### Great Lakes



24th District (R) **Rick Jones**  
1st Term  
517-373-3447

28th District (R) **Mark Jansen**  
2nd Term  
517-373-0797

30th District (R) **Arlan Meekhof**  
1st Term  
517-373-6920

33rd District (R) **Judy Emmons**  
1st Term  
517-373-3760



34th District (R) **Goeff Hansen**  
1st Term  
517-373-1635

35th District (R) **Darwin Booher**  
1st Term  
517-373-1725

36th District (R) **John Moolenaar**  
1st Term  
517-373-7946

37th District (R) **Howard Walker**  
1st Term  
517-373-2413

### Midwest



16th District (R) **Bruce Caswell**  
1st Term  
517-373-5932

20th District (R) **Tonya Schuitmaker**  
1st Term  
517-373-0793



21st District (R) **John Proos**  
1st Term  
517-373-6960



24th District (R) **Rick Jones**  
1st Term  
517-373-3447

32nd District (R) **Roger Kahn**  
2nd Term  
517-373-1760



33rd District (R) **Judy Emmons**  
1st Term  
517-373-3760

35th District (R) **Darwin Booher**  
1st Term  
517-373-1725

**Find Your State Representative** ►

# Who's Your State Representative?

Every 10 years, the Michigan Legislature goes through a redistricting process based on census information. Depending on population numbers, some districts were redrawn and some remain the same. Thus, there is a possibility that you may have a new legislator because of changed district lines or, due to term limits, someone new was elected.

In the House of Representatives, Republicans continue to hold the majority of 59-51. There will be 28 new faces in Lansing. Of the 28, 19 are Democrats and 9 are Republicans.

The state representatives on these pages represent a cross-section of Michigan. Whatever their background, most represent districts with large rural populations—areas where electric co-ops serve. In fact, several legislators are electric co-op members themselves.

Legislation affecting cooperatives and their owners most likely originates in those committees covering utilities, energy, technology, transportation, environment, land use, safety and taxes.

► **Find Your State Representative**  
at [house.mi.gov](http://house.mi.gov)





## Ontonagon REA




110th District (D)  
**Scott Dianda**  
1st Term  
517-373-0850


## Cherryland Electric


101st District (R)  
**Ray Franz**  
2nd Term  
517-373-0825




102nd District (R)  
**Phil Potvin**  
2nd Term  
517-373-1747




103rd District (R)  
**Bruce Rendon**  
2nd Term  
517-373-3817




104th District (R)  
**Wayne Schmidt**  
3rd Term  
517-373-1766




## Alger Delta Electric



108th District (R)  
**Ed McBroom**  
2nd Term  
517-373-0156

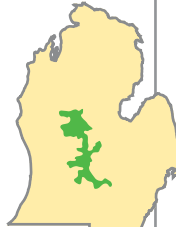



109th District (D)  
**John Kivela**  
1st Term  
517-373-0498




110th District (D)  
**Scott Dianda**  
1st Term  
517-373-0850


## HomeWorks Tri-County


65th District (R)  
**Mike Shirkey**  
2nd Term  
517-373-1775




67th District (D)  
**Tom Cochran**  
1st Term  
517-373-0587




70th District (R)  
**Rick Outman**  
2nd Term  
517-373-0834




71st District (D)  
**Theresa Abed**  
1st Term  
517-373-0853




86th District (R)  
**Lisa Posthumus Lyons** • 2nd Term  
517-373-0846




87th District (R)  
**Mike Callton**  
2nd Term  
517-373-0842




93rd District (R)  
**Tom Leonard**  
1st Term  
517-373-1778



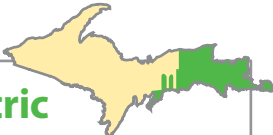
97th District (R)  
**Joel Johnson**  
2nd Term  
517-373-8962




99th District (R)  
**Kevin Cotter**  
2nd Term  
517-373-1789




102nd District (R)  
**Phil Potvin**  
2nd Term  
517-373-1747




## Cloverland Electric



107th District (R)  
**Frank Foster**  
2nd Term  
517-373-2629



108th District (R)  
**Ed McBroom**  
2nd Term  
517-373-0156



109th District (D)  
**John Kivela**  
1st Term  
517-373-0498



## Presque Isle Electric & Gas



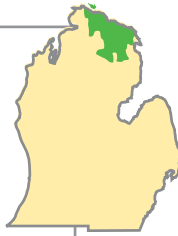
105th District (R)  
**Greg MacMaster**  
2nd Term  
517-373-0829



106th District (R)  
**Peter Pettalia**  
2nd Term  
517-373-0833



107th District (R)  
**Frank Foster**  
2nd Term  
517-373-2629



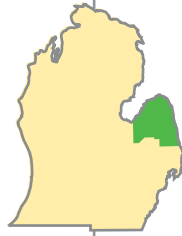
## Thumb Electric



83rd District (R)  
**Paul Muxlow**  
2nd Term  
517-373-0835



84th District (D)  
**Terry Brown**  
3rd Term  
517-373-0476



## Midwest Energy



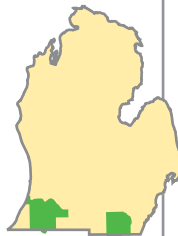
56th District (R)  
**Dale Zorn**  
2nd Term  
517-373-2617



57th District (R)  
**Nancy Jenkins**  
2nd Term  
517-373-1706



59th District (R)  
**Matt Lori**  
3rd Term  
517-373-0832



61st District (R)  
**Margaret O'Brien**  
2nd Term  
517-373-1774



63rd District (R)  
**Jase Bolger**  
3rd Term  
517-373-1787



65th District (R)  
**Mike Shirkey**  
2nd Term  
517-373-1775



66th District (R)  
**Aric Nesbitt**  
2nd Term  
517-373-1784



78th District (R)  
**Dave Pagel**  
1st Term  
517-373-1796



79th District (R)  
**Al Pscholka**  
2nd Term  
517-373-1403

## Great Lakes Energy



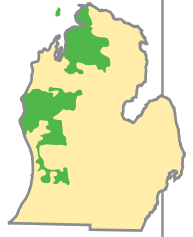
70th District (R)  
**Rick Outman**  
2nd Term  
517-373-0834



72nd District (R)  
**Ken Yonker**  
2nd Term  
517-373-0840



73rd District (R)  
**Peter MacGregor**  
2nd Term  
517-373-0218



74th District (R)  
**Robert VerHeulen**  
1st Term  
517-373-8900



80th District (R)  
**Bob Genetski II**  
1st Term  
517-373-0839



87th District (R)  
**Mike Callton**  
2nd Term  
517-373-0842



88th District (R)  
**Roger Victory**  
1st Term  
517-373-0836



89th District (R)  
**Amanda Price**  
2nd Term  
517-373-0838



90th District (R)  
**Joseph Haveman**  
3rd Term  
517-373-0830



91st District (D)  
**Collene Lamonte**  
1st Term  
517-373-3436



97th District (R)  
**Joel Johnson**  
2nd Term  
517-373-8962



100th District (R)  
**Jon Bumstead**  
2nd Term  
517-373-7317



101st District (R)  
**Ray Franz**  
2nd Term  
517-373-0825



102nd District (R)  
**Phil Potvin**  
2nd Term  
517-373-1747



103rd District (R)  
**Bruce Rendon**  
2nd Term  
517-373-3817



104th District (R)  
**Wayne Schmidt**  
3rd Term  
517-373-1766



105th District (R)  
**Greg MacMaster**  
2nd Term  
517-373-0829



106th District (R)  
**Peter Pettalia**  
2nd Term  
517-373-0833



107th District (R)  
**Frank Foster**  
2nd Term  
517-373-2629



# Be a Fam With a Plan

Resolve to be emergency-ready this year by making an easy plan that can save lives and property. Following these simple steps can help your family, home, business and community prepare for a fierce winter storm or other disaster...

## BEFORE

**Communicate.** Talk with your family about who to call, where to go, and what to do during an emergency. Talk with neighbors about how to work together if disaster strikes.

**Educate.** Plan different strategies for different situations. Map out a fire escape route from all areas of your home, and establish a safe place to go during threatening weather. Make sure all family members know their full name, address and phone numbers. Agree on an out-of-town relative or friend to call if everyone gets separated, and have an ICE (In Case of Emergency) contact in your cell phone that first responders can call. For example, if you had to evacuate, where would you go? How would you reach your kids at school or your spouse at work? Also consider being an educator for safety and emergency preparedness in your community by calling your local Citizen Corps.

If you are a parent, or guardian of an elderly person with special needs, including kids and adults with disabilities, make sure schools and care providers have emergency plans. Ask how they will communicate with families during a crisis, whether they store adequate food, water and other basics, if they are prepared to “shelter-in-place,” and where they will go if they must evacuate.

**Prepare.** Use technology to help, for example:

- Learn how to send updates by text and internet from a cell phone to contacts and social channels in case voice communications become unavailable.

- Store important documents such as personal and financial records in the cloud or on a USB stick that can be kept ready and accessible from anywhere;

- Visit [ready.gov](http://ready.gov) or call 800-237-3239 (text 800-462-7585) or [ready.gov/michigan](http://ready.gov/michigan) to stay informed and get free templates for creating emergency documents and plans for homes and businesses;

- Make sure fire detectors and carbon monoxide alarms are working by installing fresh batteries annually. Use a battery-

operated weather radio for advance storm warnings, and subscribe to your local Office of Emergency Management alerts by text or email, if available.

- If you have a land-line phone, it will work without electricity; keep emergency numbers next to it.

### Keep an emergency supply kit:

- Five days worth of non-perishable food and water, first aid supplies, phone numbers (including your electric co-op and other utility outage numbers), medicines, and cleaning supplies.

- Include items for meeting unique needs, such as:

- Prescription medications and glasses;
- Infant formula and diapers;
- Food, extra water, and a leash and collar for your pet;
- Important documents, such as copies of insurance policies, identification, and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container;

- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for kids;

- Keep an emergency kit in the car, too, including water, food and first aid supplies in the event you lose power or get stranded in the car during a winter storm. (Consider including a cell phone charger that works in the car outlet).

## DURING & AFTER

**Keep calm.** Think clearly and follow your plan. Use the resources you prepared.

**Be patient.** Wait for all danger to pass. If an area is evacuated, never re-enter without permission, and remember to use caution when you go back into your home—you can't always see danger, such as a ruptured gas line.

**Avoid delayed danger.** Do not approach downed wires or power lines, watch for rising waters, and see the box on this page for more electrical safety tips.

Practice your emergency plan, and encourage friends and community members to take these simple steps, too. — Kelly Trapnell

## Winter Storm Electrical Safety Tips

- ▶ Never touch a fallen power line and report it immediately to your local electric co-op. Assume all downed wires are electrically charged. Avoid contact with overhead lines during clean-up and other activities.

- ▶ In an outage, an alternate fuel or wood-burning heating source—such as a fireplace, propane space heater, or wood stove—may be used, but use extreme caution by following the manufacturer's directions and venting them properly.

- ▶ Do not use a gas oven for heating—it may go out or burn inefficiently, leading to carbon monoxide poisoning.

- ▶ Make sure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly.

- ▶ Do not use a gas or charcoal grill inside the home, and do not use charcoal briquettes in the fireplace.

- ▶ If using a portable generator to power a heating source, be sure the generator is located outside your house for proper ventilation. Do not use a generator in an attached garage, and follow the manufacturer's operating instructions.

- ▶ Do not overload a generator. Use properly-sized extension cords that have a grounded three-prong plug and are in good condition. Never run cords under rugs or carpets.

- ▶ Never connect generators directly to power lines—the reverse flow of electricity can electrocute an unsuspecting utility worker.

- ▶ Watch the elderly and young kids for signs of hypothermia, which include shivering, drowsiness, and mental and physical slowness. Call 911 immediately.

— Chris Grammes

# A Blizzard of Kindness

**N**o one will forget the “big one” of March 2nd, 2012. Over 2 feet of heavy, wet snow fell overnight throughout northern Michigan, and left thousands of people without power. Some weren’t prepared and needed food and water. Cars were left vacant in ditches on the roadside. Others were stuck at home because the snow was too heavy and deep to shovel. Fallen trees canvassed the landscape and roadways, making it hard to navigate and dangerous to even walk your dog. But the blizzard, in all its fury, couldn’t match the warm generosity and overflowing kindness that began to grow...

## Love Thy Neighbor

After waking up to a gorgeous view of trees blanketed in snow it was time to dig out and get households in order. Snowplow trucks, snow blowers, and the occasional front loader quickly turned a serene, quiet morning into a full war on snow removal.

Amy Rose of McBain was one of those who felt blessed when her driveway was suddenly cleared. “A young man with a front loader showed up on my street and just started clearing driveways, expecting no money in return. He helped so many people that day!”

Mark Gabrick of Lake Ann and Trevor McClain of Traverse City logged in 36 hours clearing driveways and roadways of snow and fallen trees. Amy and Kyle Rosa were one of the first recipients of Gabrick’s generosity. “My husband Kyle is a deputy for Benzie County and needed to get his patrol car out for work. Mark came over with his loader right away and wouldn’t take any money for it,” says Rosa. “It was just another day in the work of the Lord,” says Gabrick. “We saw the need and answered the call.”

## Feeling Good in the Neighborhood

Tom and Laura Phillips of Traverse City felt guilty about having a generator while others went without power, but they didn’t sit selfishly by and watch their neighbors muddle through. “Tom helped neighbors turn on their gas fireplaces and pitched in shoveling



**Snowed Under:** A shovel could only clear what snow blew under the covered patio at the writer’s Platte River home. **Right:** Mark Gabrick (driver) and Trevor McClain worked long hours helping their neighbors clear snow and downed trees and branches after the historic March 2012 storm.



driveways,” says his wife, Laura. Laura did her part by using her generator-powered kitchen to make large pots of chili and goulash, and distributed them to the neighbors so they could have a warm meal.

Gary and Lori Florip, of Lake Ann, were just coming off a 12-hour EMS shift, but instead of going home to sleep they continued to help their friends and neighbors. Tera and Scott Konchek, also of Lake Ann, and their three children weren’t able to get out of their driveway and were low on food. Scott suffers from Devic’s disease, a disorder of the central nervous system involving inflammation of the optic nerves and spinal cord, so Tera wasn’t going anywhere anytime soon. “They brought us food and cleared my driveway. They are two amazing people that went out of their way to help our family and many others without stopping to think of themselves,” Konchek says. “People helping people—that’s why we moved to Northern Michigan.”

## Unplugged and Loving It

Why is it so frustrating when our internet or cable service is temporarily interrupted, yet when the power was out for days most

of the people have fond memories of rediscovering family time and connecting with neighbors? Perhaps it’s because we were all in the same predicament. We had a good “excuse” not to be tied to our cell phones and constantly checking email messages.

Linda Snow, of Traverse City, fondly recalls passing the time with her grown children. “We played cards, had fun melting snow on our gas stove, and my daughter Torre made bracelets,” Snow says. They even brought out the old “I Spy” books from the kids’ younger days. “We were all playing cards when the power came back on. I was actually disappointed our ‘Little House on the Prairie’ days were over.”

In a chaotic world where criminals and corruption sometimes take center stage, it was heartwarming to witness the human spirit at its best. The kindness and generosity of compassionate people and the fun and creative ways we passed the time brought us all closer together. Even though March came in like a lion last winter, the spirit of goodwill left an impression in our hearts that will get us through another winter and perhaps encourage us to have a little creative fun with any down-time caused by bad weather.

Here's What About

50¢

Will Get You...



**About 50¢ a Month Makes a Difference to Your Northern Michigan Neighbors in Need.**

So far, 4,000 of you have signed up for Operation Round Up, rounding your electric bill up to the next dollar. That generosity provided much-needed funding to dozens of local organizations in the last year. Plus, just for signing up you'll be entered to win \$50!

**♥ Share the Love and Win \$50**

Sign up at: [facebook.com/cherrylandelectriccoop](https://facebook.com/cherrylandelectriccoop) or on our website at: [cherrylandelectric.com/cherrylandcares](https://cherrylandelectric.com/cherrylandcares).



**I'm so glad we  
have food tonight.**

Your donation  
made the difference.  
Thank you!

**Cherryland Electric Cooperative** 



## Cherryland Offers Scholarships

Cherryland offers two scholarships each year—one worth \$4,000 for a high school senior and another \$500 for an adult scholarship (post high school).

**HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:** High school seniors whose parents or guardians currently receive monthly electric service from Cherryland and live in our service area may apply for the \$4,000 college scholarship (\$1,000 for each of four years).

Selection is based on grade point average, extracurricular activities, community involvement and/or after school employment. A minimum required GPA is 2.75 on a 4.0 system. To continue receiving the scholarship, a student must maintain a minimum college course load of 12 credits per term or semester, and receive a 2.5 GPA or higher. Students may apply by contacting your high school guidance counselor; or contact Nick Edson, communications coordinator at Cherryland, as noted below.

**ADULTS:** You must also be a Cherryland member to apply for the \$500 Adult Education Scholarship.

The scholarship goes toward covering the cost of a course or courses taken in a calendar year, and will be awarded on the basis of need, grades and community service. It is a one-time award.

Members may request an application for either scholarship by emailing Nick Edson at [nicke@cecelec.com](mailto:nicke@cecelec.com) (please include your name and address), call him at 486-9222, or write him at Cherryland Electric Cooperative, 5930 U.S.-31 South, Grawn, MI 49637.

## You Can Serve on Cherryland's Board

Any qualified Cherryland Electric Cooperative member can be elected to serve on the co-op's board of directors.

To be nominated in 2013, candidates can file a petition with the cooperative's administrative assistant beginning the first day of March and up until 4 p.m. on the last business day of March.

Nominating petitions shall be signed by at least 25 active members of the cooperative, in good standing, and all signatures must be obtained within 60 days prior to the date the petition is filed.

Nominating petitions shall be in the form prescribed by the board and are available at Cherryland's headquarters in Grawn. The nominating petitions must specify the geographic service area for which the candidate is being nominated.

The term of office is three years. Three directors will be elected at this year's annual meeting, which will be held Thursday, June 6, at Wuerfel Park. This year's directors will represent Benzie, Wexford and Manistee counties, plus two at-large positions.

Nominees must meet the director qualifications set forth in the bylaws under Section 2 of Article III. Any member interested in becoming a candidate is invited to visit the cooperative's office and learn about the duties performed by directors.

In the event no qualified candidate is nominated to fill the vacancy of a director whose term has expired, the newly elected board will appoint sufficient directors to fill the vacancies. The election will be by majority vote of the board and must be done within 60 days of its first meeting.

Directors elected in this manner will serve until the next annual meeting, when the members will be given an opportunity to fill the balance of the regular three-year term.

*The term of office is three years.*

## Cherryland Cares Seeks Grant Applications



Area nonprofit agencies who are seeking financial help can apply for a grant through the Cherryland Cares Program.

Cherryland Cares is a five-member board, made up of Cherryland Electric Cooperative members, who distribute money from Operation Round Up to area nonprofits. The deadline for applications is Friday, *March 8*. The next quarterly meeting of Cherryland Cares is Monday, *March 18*.

Operation Round Up money comes from Cherryland members who elect to "round up" their bills to the nearest dollar every month. This amount averages \$6 per year.

To receive a grant application or join Operation Round Up, contact Nick Edson at 231-486-9222 or by email at [nicke@cecelec.com](mailto:nicke@cecelec.com).

## Pay Your Bill Online

You can pay your electric bill online and set up your accounts to get only an email bill—no more paper bills.

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

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

All scholarship applications are due by Friday, April 5.

# Wolverine, We Energies Agree to Joint Ownership of U.P. Power Plant

Wolverine will fund a new air quality control system.



Aerial view of the Presque Isle Power Plant in Marquette.

**W**olverine Power Cooperative and We Energies agreed in late November to pursue joint ownership of We Energies' Presque Isle Power Plant. In exchange for an approximate one-third ownership interest in the facility, Wolverine will fund construction of a state-of-the-art air quality control system for the plant.

The plant, located along the shore of Lake Superior in Marquette, consists of five coal-fired units capable of generating approximately 344 megawatts of electricity. In October 2011, We Energies announced the plant's potential retirement, targeted for 2017.

"We met with executives from We Energies in November 2011 to discuss opportunities for working together," explains Eric Baker, president and CEO of Wolverine. "The discussion led to a proposed joint venture that would keep the Presque Isle plant open and meet new air quality requirements."

Wolverine will invest between \$130 million and \$140 million to retrofit the plant's units. In return, the cooperative will own approximately 30 percent of the plant's output to serve its members, including Cherryland Electric Cooperative, Great Lakes Energy, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Midwest Energy Cooperative and Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op.

We Energies and its employees will continue to operate the plant, as well as the air quality control system.

The two companies must first obtain approvals for joint ownership, as well as installation of the air quality control system, from state and federal agencies, including the Michigan and Wisconsin public service commissions, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

"The Presque Isle Power Plant provides needed baseload power supply for our members, in addition to protecting grid reliability in northern Michigan," Baker says. "We are pleased to have a quality operating partner in We Energies."

## Governor Joins Wolverine, We Energies to Announce Power Plant Opportunity

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder was in Marquette in late November to express his support for the continued operation of the Presque Isle Power Plant.

"The partnership of We Energies and Wolverine Power Cooperative to keep the Presque Isle Power Plant open is good news for the current and future availability of a reliable electric supply for businesses and residents in the Upper Peninsula," Snyder said. "The agreement will also be good for the economy with more than 100 workers remaining on the job, and for the environment with the plant's new state-of-the-art emissions equipment. This is a great example of how, through relentless, positive action, we can come together to make Michigan a better place to live and work."



# Insulate Cracks, Gaps for Maximum Efficiency

**Q:** *The wall and blown-in attic insulation in my fairly new house are at recommended levels, but my utility bills are still too high. What other areas should I check for inefficiency?*

**A:** You are correct that the walls and ceiling are the areas of the greatest heat loss from a house—proper insulation in those areas is of utmost importance. But it's also possible that many other areas in the exterior “thermal envelope” of your house have insulation voids or air leakage which can contribute to unnecessarily high utility bills.

First, check your walls and attic. As your house is “fairly new,” you can probably rest easy that the walls are adequately insulated, most likely with faced batts that fit tightly between wall studs. “Facing” refers to a material that acts as a vapor barrier.

**ATTIC INSULATION** – Since you have blown-in attic insulation, check its depth. Depending on how it was blown in, it may have settled and no longer reaches the required depth and R-value for your climate.

The U.S. Department of Energy has a calculator that figures the amount of insulation you need for your climate zone at: [ornl.gov/~roofs/Zip/ZipHome.html](http://ornl.gov/~roofs/Zip/ZipHome.html)

Also, using a rake, make sure it's level across the attic floor. Wind coming in the attic vents can blow it around, creating high and low spots.

**WALL OUTLETS** – Where there's a break in the thermal envelope of your home, there's potential for energy loss. One common spot is electrical wall outlets and switches on outside walls. Often, they are completely uninsulated and the vapor/air barrier is not taped tightly to them.

Switch off the circuit breaker to these outlets and switches. Remove the faceplate. If you can get the tube from the urethane foam spray can into the wall around the conduit box, shoot some expanding foam in there. This should fill insulation voids and seal it.

Even if you were able to shoot in insulation, and definitely if you could not, install

foam draft sealers behind the faceplates. They add only a slight amount of insulation, but they will improve the overall seal to reduce air infiltration.

**RECESSED CEILING LIGHTS** are another typical area of energy loss. These are particularly bad because they get hot, which creates a natural upward draft. The most efficient option is to replace your old canister recessed lights with new, efficient sealed models.

Don't just pour or pack insulation against recessed lights in the attic. This can cause older styles, which were not designed to be insulated, to overheat. You can caulk around the hole in the attic floor and the canister, but some room air will still leak out through the canister itself.

**CEILING PADDLE FANS** are another place to check. If you installed them yourself after the house was built and added support blocking, the insulation level will be less there. There may also be air leakage where you cut the hole to run the wiring. Push the insulation away and caulk the attic floor hole around the wire, then cover it with additional insulation.

**DOOR AND WINDOW FRAMES** – Next time you are painting the trim around doors and windows, pry off the decorative molding. You may find quite a large uninsulated gap between the rough opening and the door or window frame. Apply low-expansion foam in the gap—but use it sparingly because it can deform the frame as it expands.

**SILL PLATES AND RIM JOISTS** – The sill plate is the piece of lumber that rests on the top of the foundation. The rim joist rests on top of the sill plate, and your house walls rest

If you have a question for Jim, please email [jdulley@countrylines.com](mailto:jdulley@countrylines.com), or mail to James Dulley, Michigan Country Lines, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. Be sure to let us know which electric co-op you receive service from.

Visit [dulley.com](http://dulley.com) for more home improvement and do-it-yourself tips.



Seal gaps around recessed light fixtures, but keep attic insulation away from direct contact with canister, unless you have newer models that have been approved for insulation.



Make sure the hole cut in the ceiling for fan wiring is sealed on the attic side.



Apply expanding foam insulation in gaps between foundation top and sill plate.

on the rim joist. The rim joist, often 2x10 feet or larger lumber, typically is not insulated.

Buy kraft paper-faced fiberglass batt insulation and cut it into short lengths to fit against the rim joist between the floor joist. Standard wall insulation batts are effective. With their short length and the floor joists, they should stay in place without stapling.

**FOUNDATION WALL INTERFACE** – While you are looking at the rim joist and sill plate, you will probably see a gap between the top of the foundation and the sill plate in spots. The top of a concrete foundation wall is seldom perfectly level and smooth. Apply urethane foam insulation from a can all along the sill plate/foundation wall interface. This will block outdoor air leakage and add some insulation value to that area.

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



## Neighbors Create New Plow to 'Bully' Winter



Paul Starner demonstrates an eco-friendly, easy-to-use snow plow that he and his neighbor, Jerry Schichtel, developed and call the "Snow Bully." Their website is [TheSnowBully.com](http://TheSnowBully.com).

**T**ired of being "bullied by the snow," Paul Starner and Jerry Schichtel, of Traverse City, decided to fight back.

They created the Snow Bully, a four-wheel steel shovel with a 34-inch blade that clears snow easily.

"It was an invention of necessity," says Starner, a Cherryland Electric Cooperative member who's in charge of marketing the product that Schichtel created.

"I have a lot of physical challenges and I don't move around very well. I needed something to move snow with that didn't take very much effort," Starner explains. "That's what the Snow Bully is."

Five years ago, Schichtel watched neighbor Starner struggle as he attempted to use his snow blower. That gave Schichtel an idea. He and his brother had already created the prototype for the Snow Bully back in the 1940s when they were growing up on a farm. It was made out of wood.

After watching Starner finish up that day, Schichtel walked over and told him about his idea to re-create his wooden snow remover.

Starner listened, and then asked Schichtel to make a modern version. It took five attempts, but they finally came up with a product both liked, and so they shook hands and became partners.

The next step was finding someone to produce the Snow Bully. Starner, who has spent his career in the real estate business, searched the state and found Mark Goodman of MDG Welding in Blissfield.

"Last winter was our first selling the Snow Bully, and wouldn't you know it, we didn't get much snow," Starner laughs. "Still, we sold 161 of them."

It sells for \$249, plus \$29.95 shipping in the U.S.

"We market our product on the internet," Starner says. "People can go to our website and do it all—read about it, see pictures and videos of it in action, and then order it. The orders go directly to Mark Goodman in Blissfield and UPS ships them from his business."

Starner not only likes the ease of using the Snow Bully, he calls it "eco-friendly."

"You use calories, not gasoline," he says. "It is very friendly to the environment,

and we're in the process of creating attachments for the Snow Bully. We're working on a scraper blade, a garden cart basket, and we're also looking at an eco-mower. That would make this something you can use year-round and not use any gasoline."

So far, the Snow Bully has been an internet hit.

"We've sold it to as far away as Newfoundland," Starner explains. "And in the states, from Washington to Maine and then from New York to North Carolina."

"Social media is the new way to market. Not only do we have our internet site, we post videos on YouTube," Starner adds.

"Jerry and I really don't see the product after we give the okay to have it made. People agree to buy it online, pay for it through their PayPal account, and then it's shipped from Blissfield. It's all pretty clean."

And it's all pretty satisfying to Paul and Jerry.

"There's nothing more frustrating to me than moving snow," Starner says. "That's why the 'Snow Bully' is great...it's just simple. You don't need to have much upper body strength to move snow."



# Making Snow Is a Science

**E**ven in frosty northern Michigan, Mother Nature doesn't always make enough snow for eager skiers and snowboarders.

As a result, Cherryland Electric Cooperative members like Crystal Mountain, Timberlee, Hickory Hills and Mt. Holiday have to help her out. Not only do these businesses create snow to increase quality and volume, they do so to help extend the winter recreational season.

Man-made snow is denser and less fluffy than the real stuff, according to Michael Call at Crystal Mountain.

It is often referred to as a "pellet" rather than a flake. To be clear, machine-made snow is *real* snow. It's frozen water, the same as nature produces. In essence, moisture condenses as it cools until it becomes too heavy for the atmosphere to support and begins to fall, Call explains. Additional moisture adheres to the snowflakes as it descends, creating a unique snowflake shape.

Snowflakes, man-made or natural, begin with a nucleus. In nature, dust or pollen in the air helps to form a crystal and gives water droplets something to which they can adhere. Some ski areas, like Crystal Mountain, use a commercially produced snow enhancer to assist in this process. This compound helps to form a solid nucleus and a healthy snowflake.

Snowmaking is part art, part science, part business. The best environment for snow creation involves low humidity and consistent temperatures in the 20s. Because temperatures are cooler at night (and skiers are absent from the slopes) this is when the snow guns are most active.

When the conditions are at their prime, water and snow enhancer are pumped into snow guns with special nozzles that finely atomize water, making it easier to freeze. This water particle helps to form the snowflake's nucleus.



Snowmaking machines shoot pellets, also known as snow flakes, on the Cheers hill at Crystal Mountain in Thompsonville.

At the same time, another gun mixes additional water with compressed air. These nozzles have a "super-cooling" effect when pressure is released. This is similar to the cooling effect felt on your hand when using compressed air to clean your computer keyboard. A blower is then used to pile the freshly formed snow sky-high. At that time, grooming machines or "snow cats" spread the snow piles evenly across the slopes.

Snow-making machines have come a long way in the last 25 years. At full capacity, Crystal Mountain could potentially cover the whole ski area (45 trails) with one foot of snow using 13 million gallons of water in just 37 hours. Water is pumped from non-potable wells to ponds in order to allow for additional cooling before snowmaking. While the resort uses about 70 million gallons a season, most of it evaporates or melts and soaks into the ground and recycles through the Betsie River Watershed.

The premier snow gun maker in the country (and arguably, the world) is Snow Machines, Inc. (SMI). This company, based in Midland, not only manufactures snowmaking equipment used in Northern Michigan, but holds the contract for the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. Crystal Mountain purchases its snow guns from SMI, keeping business local and therefore boosting our state economy.

Even if the dew point is ideal, there is still more than weather that has to be taken into account. Crystal Mountain is one of eight Cherryland Electric Cooperative members that have what are called "coincident peak demand" charges. This means that during peak-usage times, usually evenings, the resort pays a much higher rate for their electricity.

As a result, a cost/benefit analysis is needed before turning on their 125-130 snow guns. To help snowmaking professionals on our lines, Cherryland Electric and Wolverine Power Cooperative, its power supplier, have developed an online tool that tracks and predicts both weather and peak patterns to assist members in making sound snow-making business decisions. Over the past several years, Crystal has successfully used this tool to avoid higher peak charges while continuing to maintain excellent skiing conditions.

So next time you're on the slopes, go ahead and impress your friends with your behind-the-scenes knowledge and appreciation of the work and science needed to create the perfect base under your skis ... or snowboard.

*Kim Crockett is a member service representative at Cherryland Electric Cooperative.*



# Tortured Text

I recently wrote a note in a card. It was a simple note in a simple card for my wife Barbara's birthday. The card was bought years ago, but never given for one reason or another. (I have cards, bought for immediate use, stashed away for happy and sad occasions that haven't seen a stamp yet. I'm not a big fan of cards, paper or digital, which is a different animal and doesn't deserve to be called a card. I don't like shopping for cards, and the novelty of digital cards wore off after about two.)

But this is not about the card, it's about the note and how awful it looked after I finished writing it. "Writing" isn't the right word, because I couldn't read the note after I finished. I even butchered her name. At first glance, it looked like "Bondt," which isn't really close to "Barb."

I used to laugh-off my handwriting. Now it embarrasses me. I have to warm up just to sign my name; otherwise, my hand muscles won't follow my brain signals in any recognizable pattern. My signature is worse than any doctor's. At least a doctor mangles his or her name in the same way consistently. Their signature is a mark that the pharmacist knows on sight; it doesn't matter that the name isn't readable.

Some say our signature is important because it's our legal mark, without which we couldn't enter into contracts, cash checks or approve credit card payments. I think those digital signature pads in grocery and other stores must have some other way of verifying who I am because they certainly can't tell by my signature. It's different every time. Who can write on those things, anyway?

It wasn't always so. I once had decent handwriting. It flowed, one letter to the next, in an unbroken line, with recognizable letters and little upturns at the ends. This skill was taught, almost religiously, in grade school, following the precepts of popular programs, such as the "Palmer

Method," a rigorous set of rules for hand and arm control of a pen that swooped and swirled on lined paper until pages and pages were filled with the same whirly strokes. It was pretty, but not many of us write like that anymore.

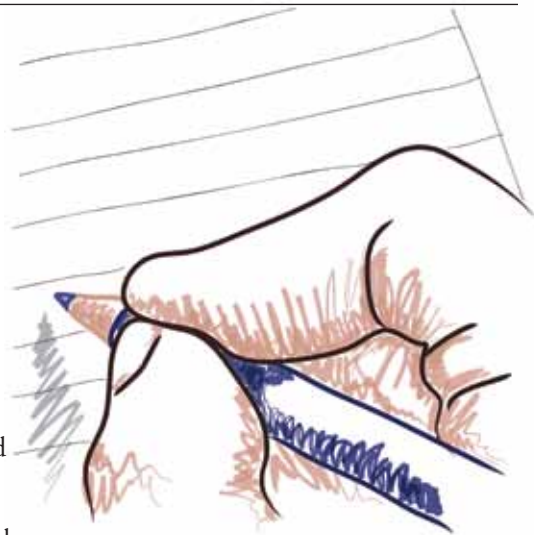
My mother's writing is beautiful, and so is Barbara's Aunt Jeanette's. They spent a lot of time practicing in the 1930s. Since then, the teaching of handwriting skills has steadily disappeared from many school curriculums.

The likely cause of all this is that we don't have to write much anymore. Now we have mechanical messaging, with keyboards and texting, even voice recognition software that takes dictation. It's easier to use a phone than a pen. It's quicker to text than write. We can reach more friends on Facebook than we can with a card. No wonder the Post Office is in trouble—but that's another issue.

The point is, handwriting—that is, "cursive" writing—seems doomed. Once our kids learn how to print, they get little instruction in cursive penmanship before they move on to computers. It's not out of the curriculum yet, but penmanship as a skill is in sharp decline. As with most states, penmanship is still required to be taught in Michigan schools, but it is not included in national curriculum guidelines set for 2014.

Before you bemoan the loss, consider that handwriting for the masses is a relatively recent phenomenon. Its use grew in 17th century Britain along with the Industrial Revolution and the growth of business, which sought to standardize writing to make it faster and more legible. Our Declaration of Independence, rewritten in impeccable longhand by a professional writer, from Thomas Jefferson's original cursive, is a prime example of connected writing at its best.

Austin Palmer introduced his method in 1894 to compete with the typewriter.



At its peak, the Palmer Method was promoted by certified instructors who emphasized regimentation. They suggested that the Method would improve discipline and character, change lefties to right-handers, and even reform delinquents. In its early years, advanced penmanship was seen as the way to a job, even after 8th grade.

The schools doing away with cursive instruction say time is better spent on other skills – those needed in today's job market. But cursive instruction has its defenders, too. They say penmanship practice improves kids' motor skills, eye-hand coordination, and artistic aptitude. Plus, they ask, if kids are not taught cursive, how will they read historical documents like the Declaration of Independence?

Barbara's Aunt Jeanette sends us handwritten notes that are models of penmanship. The letters flow into each other like waving fields of grain. They're easy to read and look good on the page. My writing, however, looks like I'm a tortured soul. Our sons, who had cursive instruction, are also converts to the dark side.

It turns out, though, that we're not alone. Studies have shown that my tortured script is commonplace. In fact, most people abandon the strict cursive writing they learned in school in favor of a more casual combination of cursive and block print that has the advantage of being a more natural, and faster, way to write.

Still, it would be nice if you could read it.

*Mike Buda is editor emeritus of Country Lines. Email Mike at [mike.f.buda@gmail.com](mailto:mike.f.buda@gmail.com) or comment on his columns at [countrylines.com/column/ramblings](http://countrylines.com/column/ramblings).*



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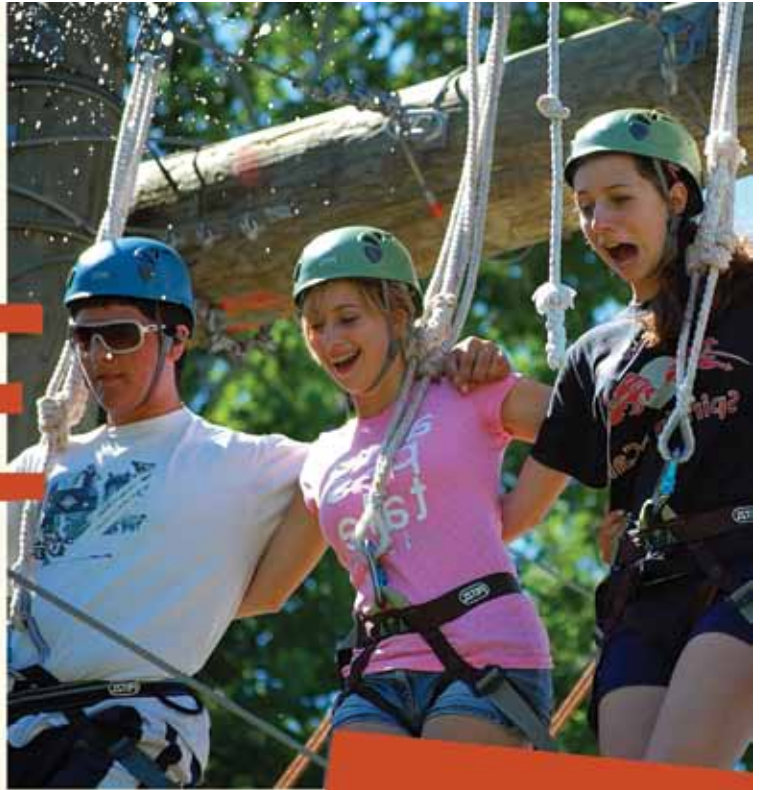
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