

Michigan

COUNTRY LINES



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is Now (Boston)
Marathon Man**

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COUNTRY LINES

IN THIS ISSUE

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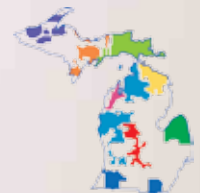


ON THE COVER*

HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative members John and Becky Schlatter have cruised Michigan's own Route 66 and written a book about it called, "Splittin' the Mitten: Get Your Kicks on Michigan's Route 66." Enjoy part of their ride on pages 10-11.

Photos Courtesy – John & Becky Schlatter

*Some co-op editions have a different cover



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MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Your Co-op is Another Year Older

What does it take to maintain a rural electric co-op that is nearly 76 years old?

There are many answers to this, but today I thought we could dive into talking about the budget necessary to maintain your electric co-op's 3,000 miles of line, 34,000 meters, and over 40 vehicles and pieces of construction equipment that are valued at over \$90 million *and*, most importantly, owned by all the members Cherryland Electric serves.

Your co-op is not only growing older, but growing larger. People are moving to our area. Maybe they aren't coming in the numbers we saw 10 years ago, but they are coming. In the next several months, we expect to install almost \$1 million in new overhead and underground lines.

We also have current members using more electricity, despite our ongoing conservation efforts. This requires upgrades to our existing power lines, new tie lines to provide different supply sources, line changes to maintain proper voltages, and line conversions from single-phase to three-phase to accommodate the larger demand. We will spend \$2.3 million on such projects in 2014.

New transformers are necessary in some of these cases, and service capacity upgrades are needed in others. Voltage regulators, capacitors and sectionalizing equipment has to be added and/or replaced regularly across all of our service area. We will see another \$1 million in expenditures for these items.

A wooden pole lasts a very long time, but when you have over 60,000 poles, there are always many that have reached the end of their useful life. We can easily spend \$350,000 per year on replacing poles.

In 2014, we will need to replace five vehicles. Two are the "large bucket" or "digger truck" variety, and the rest are common commercial trucks. We have budgeted \$348,000 for this.

Meters also age-out. While we enjoy all the benefits of the new electronic meters that help us provide more reliable service to everyone, they don't last forever either. We will replace or add 1,300 meters and associated parts across our six-county area this year at a cost of over \$400,000.

Looking at the internal workings of Cherryland's headquarters facility, we find the need for a new phone system, server replacements/additions, PC and tablet replacements, regulatory compliance issues involving IT equipment, fiber communication needs, and backup generation to keep the office operating in a storm situation. These items will total almost \$300,000.



Tony Anderson
General Manager

The office and shop buildings that house 54 employees on a daily basis are between 30- and 40-years old and also require a little more

"love and attention" each year. In 2014, we will buy some new furniture, fix some tile in the floors, improve the exhaust and heat systems in the shop area, upgrade the security system, and perform basic maintenance inside and out. This will total about \$100,000.

Where does all this money come from? Members requesting new services and upgrades specific to their individual needs will contribute about \$400,000 this year. The rest comes from cash generated by present rates and loans from financing institutions (Cherryland has outstanding loans of just over \$39 million).

What is the point of telling you all this? I simply wanted to give you an idea of what it takes to keep your electric co-op running on an annual basis.

Your co-op's employees are also looking ahead and trying to maintain a safe, affordable, reliable co-op for every member we serve, and it takes a significant investment to do so. The fact that this investment comes from our members is not taken lightly. Your co-op may be old, but it's our job to keep it operating like a youngster!



CEC Offers College Scholarships

High school seniors whose parents or guardians get their electricity from Cherryland Electric Cooperative and live in our service area have a shot at three \$4,000 college scholarships.

The three winning seniors will receive \$1,000 a year for four years.

Selection is based on GPA (minimum required is 2.75), extracurricular activities, community involvement and/or after school employment. 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 their high school guidance counselor; or contact Nick Edson, communications coordinator at Cherryland, as noted below.

The entry deadline is *April 11* at 4 p.m.

There will also be two scholarships awarded for post-high school college classes. You must also be a Cherryland member to apply for these adult education scholarships, worth \$1,000 each.

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, and the deadline is also *April 11*.

Members may request an application for either scholarship by emailing Nick Edson at 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.



Incredible Mo's to Host Annual Meeting June 19

There's a new look and location to the Cherryland Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting.

The 76th Annual Meeting will take place at Incredible Mo's in Grawn on Thursday, June 19. Registration will open at 4 p.m., the business meeting will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., and the festivities will come to a close at 8 p.m.

"We had a great six-year run at Wuerfel Park and now we're going to give another Cherryland member the chance to host our meeting," said General Manager Tony Anderson.

There will be an inside-outside look to the 2014 Annual Meeting. Inside will be food, bowling, laser tag and arcade games. The food will consist of pizza, salad and a soft drink or water. Outside will be Cherryland information tables, entertainer Kevin Reeves, and a big tent for the business meeting.

"We're looking forward to hosting this," said Chris Mohrhardt of Incredible Mo's. "There are a lot of fun things for individuals and families to do here."

The business meeting will start later (5:30 p.m.) to give more people time to attend. Incredible Mo's is located on U.S.-31 South at 1355 Silver Crossing Blvd., just down the road from Cherryland's office.



Cherryland Electric Cooperative's annual meeting will be June 19 at Incredible Mo's in Grawn. There'll be time for bowling, laser tag, and an outdoor tent with entertainment.

Best Deviled Eggs Ever (pictured)

Fresh eggs (amount you want to serve)
Marzetti's® coleslaw dressing
Salt and pepper
Paprika
Dash of Tabasco® sauce
2 T. or more minced capers

Place eggs in a pot and just cover with cold water. Bring to boiling, then shut off heat and cover with lid. Set timer for 15 minutes. Remove and cool eggs, shell and cut in half. Remove yolks and mix in bowl with Marzetti's slaw dressing, salt, pepper, hot sauce, and minced capers to taste, until the mixture is spoonable. Spoon mixture into chilled egg halves, sprinkle with paprika and serve on lettuce leaf.

—Pamela Newcomb, Charlevoix

Raisin Sauce for Ham

2 T. horseradish, drained
1 T. cornstarch
½ t. dry mustard
10 oz. jar red currant jelly
⅓ c. golden raisins

Since Easter dinner usually means HAM, here's a family recipe that we always make when we have ham...it's DELICIOUS! Heat all ingredients over medium heat. Stir constantly until mixture comes to a boil for 1 minute. Remove from heat and cover...serve!

—Marilyn Van Laan, Traverse City

Mrs. Appleyard's Patrician Potatoes

4 c. cooked mashed potatoes
3 c. cream style cottage cheese
¾ c. commercial sour cream
1 ½ T. finely grated onion
⅛ t. white pepper
1 t. salt (optional)
melted butter
½ c. chopped almonds (optional)

Mash potatoes thoroughly. Add cottage cheese and sour cream. Blend. Add onion, white pepper and salt. Mix well. Spoon into a shallow, buttered 2-quart casserole. Brush surface with melted butter. Bake 350° for ½ hour. Sprinkle with almonds. 8 servings. This was my mom's recipe. We always have it with ham at Easter and Christmas.

—Diane Russell, Traverse City

P.B. Graham Eggs

½ c. shortening
2 c. powdered sugar
¾ c. creamy peanut butter
1 c. graham cracker crumbs
½ c. semi-sweet chocolate chips
½ c. graham cracker crumbs, crushed



These are perfect for spring brunch, too!

peanuts or chocolate sprinkles

Combine shortening, powdered sugar and peanut butter in a large bowl. Beat at low speed of electric mixer until well blended. Stir in 1 c. crumbs and chocolate chips. Cover and refrigerate 1 hour. Form dough into 1-inch eggs. Roll in ½ c. crumbs, peanuts or sprinkles for a fancier cookie egg. Makes about 3 dozen eggs.

—Lorraine Green, South Boardman

Carrot Cake

4 egg whites
1 ¼ c. apple sauce
1 c. white sugar
1 c. brown sugar
2 t. vanilla extract
2 c. all-purpose flour
2 t. baking soda
2 t. baking powder
½ t salt
2 t. ground cinnamon
½ t. nutmeg
3 c. grated carrots

Frosting:

½ c. butter, softened, or Earth Balance®, made of all vegetable oils
8 oz. light cream cheese, softened
3 c. confectioner's sugar
1 t. vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease and flour a 9x13-inch pan. In a large bowl, beat together eggs, oil, white sugar and vanilla. Mix in flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt, nutmeg,

and cinnamon. Stir in carrots. Pour into prepared pan. Bake in preheated oven 40-45 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Let cool in pan for 10 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack and cool completely. To make frosting: In a medium bowl, combine butter, cream cheese, confectioners' sugar and vanilla. Beat until the mixture is smooth and creamy. Frost the cooled cake.

—Christin McKamey, Royal Oak

Photography - 831 Creative

Submit your recipe! Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "Picnic" recipes by **May 10**.

Mail (handwritten or typed on one side, please) to: *Country Lines* Recipes, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864; or email recipes@countrylines.com. Contributors whose recipes we print in 2014 will be entered in a drawing and *Country Lines* will pay the winner's January 2015 electric bill (up to \$200)!



Visit recipe editor Christin McKamey's website, **veggiechick.com**, for healthy, vegetarian recipes and info!

Improving the Efficiency of Older Doors

Energy losses from inefficient entry doors can account for a significant part of your monthly utility bills. When leaky doors create drafts, people tend to set the furnace thermostat higher, which wastes even more energy.

There are ways to improve the efficiency of old doors, but don't eliminate the possibility of installing new ones. The cost of some well-insulated steel and fiberglass doors, especially those for a back door without glass, are very reasonable. And, a pre-hung door in its own frame is not difficult to install yourself.

Before deciding, carefully inspect the old doors. If they are in very bad condition, it will be difficult to improve their efficiency by a meaningful amount. First, make sure the wood door is not rotting, and then place a long straight edge across it to see if it is badly warped.

With metal doors, the most common problem is rust, not warping. Check along the bottom by the weather stripping on either side. Rainwater tends to collect there, and it is not always painted well. Try to determine why the water is collecting. If you find small holes rusted through, they can be repaired with car body filler and then painted.

If the doors are reasonably sound, check for the location of air leaks. At night, have someone shine a flashlight from outdoors around the seals while you check for light coming indoors. This will highlight significant leaks. On a windy day, move a stick of lighted incense around the seals and watch the smoke trail to locate minor leaky areas. Check the astragal (a half-round overlap that acts as a seal) between double doors.

Often with wood doors, especially ones with compression weather stripping, the main problem is simply the latch plate is not holding the door tightly closed against the weather stripping.

One solution is to reposition the latch plate, which requires filling in the old screw holes and drilling new ones. Chisel away some of the wood in the latch plate recess. Or, install an adjustable latch plate that you can reposition for summer and winter as the door and frame expand and contract from temperature and humidity.

Steel doors should feature magnetic weather stripping, so this is not a major issue because the stripping is drawn against the door edge. Just make sure the door surface and the weather stripping are clean and smooth. Paint on the door edge can also come



A new brass bottom seal and threshold save energy and are more attractive.

This replacement door threshold is made of durable aluminum and can be adjusted up and down.



LEFT: A door's threshold can be raised or lowered with a screwdriver so the weather stripping seals tightly. RIGHT: Stepped teeth in this strike plate allow the door to fit tightly. Notice the small dab of expandable foam insulation inside.

loose and create gaps that leak air.

Also check the condition of door hinges, and replace them if needed. If the hinges and pins are worn, the door will not hang square in the opening and not seal properly. There are many different hinge sizes, so take an old one with to the store for an exact match. Don't just buy the cheapest ones, because there are many to choose from and quality varies.

It is almost certain the door seal on the bottom is worn, but if not, adjust the floor threshold higher. There are several height adjustment screws across the threshold, but they may be filled in with dirt, so poke around to find them. If the seal itself is bad, there are many generic replacement seals you can install.

Another option is an add-on retractable threshold seal, which is effective if carpeting is near the door. This seal is mounted on the inside surface of the lower door edge and is easy to adjust and install. When the door opens, a pin against the door frame is released and the seal automatically lifts to

clear the carpeting.

Companies offering door improvement products include Duck Brand, 800-321-0253, duckbrand.com; M-D Building Products, 800-654-8454, mdteam.com; Pemko Manufacturing, 800-283-9988, pemko.com, and Thermwell, 800-526-5265, frostking.com. Also visit dulley.com for more information.



Replaceable vinyl weather stripping seals well on the door's hinge side because it gets compressed, with little rubbing and wear.

Cherryland's 'Go To' Person

Kerry Kalbfleisch is one of the unsung heroes at Cherryland Electric Cooperative.

She is the human resources manager, party planner and “go to” person.

She has lived an interesting life, growing up in the St. Ignace area, attending college in Florida, and then coming back to raise a family in Traverse City with her husband Charlie.

Here are some questions we asked Kerry:

Q: What does your job entail at Cherryland and how is it different from other jobs you've had?

A: I am the human resources manager, which involves benefits administration, employee relations, recruiting, labor negotiations and pretty much anything else that is HR related. I also facilitate our board meetings and co-op employee events. I can sincerely say that my position with Cherryland is the best job I have ever had. The people here are awesome, and our management team is exceptional. The culture allows me autonomy and flexibility to do my job and I always feel that my opinions and suggestions are taken seriously. Cherryland is also very active in the community, and that is very important to me.

Q: Where did you grow up, and tell us about “the ranch” and what kind of effect it had on you?

A: I grew up in a very small U.P. town, 20 miles west of the Mackinac Bridge. My parents purchased Happy Hank's Dude Ranch when I was six, and we moved there from Detroit, where my dad was a banker and realtor. The Double H Ranch was an amazing place to grow up. All summer, guests would come from all over and spend a week's vacation, from Saturday-to-Saturday. We were right on Lake Michigan, with two lodges, stables with 16 horses, and a pool. From about age 12, I worked as a “kitchen kutie” and helped to cook and serve three sit-down, family style meals a day for up to 80 people at a time. We also cleaned all the guest rooms. The ranch also employed six wranglers every summer. We had planned activities every evening like hayrides and square dances. The ranch taught me so much about people, diversity and hard work. The



Kerry Kalbfleisch

customer service ethic was drummed into me at a very early age.

Q: Tell us about being a “head hunter.” How did it help with your current job at Cherryland?

A: Well, I prefer to call it “Executive Recruiter,” but yes, I was a headhunter. After obtaining a degree from the University of Central Florida in accounting and working

as an assistant controller for a manufacturing company and a controller for a cable company, I ventured into recruiting accountants with an executive search firm in Denver, Colorado. My specialty then evolved into recruiting HR professionals in the Boulder County area. It was a great experience, and helped me to hone my business development and communication skills. The experience has proven very helpful in identifying quality candidates that fit best into our culture here at Cherryland.

Q: Like many at Cherryland, you are actively involved in the community. Tell us about your volunteer roles.

A: I like giving back to the community that I live in. I am a mentor for Big Brothers/Big Sisters and a “Big Sister” to a beautiful girl named Charity. I am also on the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA board, and actively working with the rest of the YMCA board and staff to transition in a few months to the new “Y” facility. I am happily married to my husband Charlie, who is a self-employed electronics engineer that also plays in a Journey tribute band called “The Journey.” I have two beautiful daughters—one is a freshman at Northwood University, and another is a freshman at T.C. West.

Why We Send You Country Lines

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

The board of directors authorizes the co-op to subscribe to *Country Lines* on your behalf at a cost of \$4.48 per year, paid as part of your electric bill. The current magazine cost is 45 cents per copy—less than the cost of a first-class stamp. *Country Lines* is published for us, at cost, by the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association in Okemos.

As always, we value your comments about your magazine.



Anchor Man is Now (Boston) Marathon Man

The Anchor Man is now the Marathon Man. The Boston Marathon Man, that is.

Veteran TV 7&4 newsman Marc Schollett, a longtime Cherryland Electric Cooperative member, remembers living in Chicago and watching runners in the Chicago Marathon some 18 years ago.

“I was in my mid-20s and I was 90 pounds heavier than I am today,” says the 42-year-old Schollett. “I watched those runners and then made my goal right there that next year I would be among them.”

Now he is eyeing his 18th marathon this month and it’s the Super Bowl of running events – the Boston Marathon on Monday, April 21.

Qualifying for Boston isn’t easy. Marc had to run an impressive time of 3 hours, 12 minutes and 19 seconds at last year’s Bayshore Marathon in Traverse City to get in this year.

That’s a long way from his first training session years ago in Chicago.

“I think it lasted less than a mile, but I was hooked,” he adds with a smile. “Now, running is the most relaxing thing I do, but at the same time it’s the hardest. It’s a quiet time for me – no police scanners, no TVs, and no phones ringing...it’s just me and my thoughts. It improves my mood.”

Marc, in fact, jokes that’s why his wife Val and sons Andy (13) and Ben (10) – along with his parents, Frank and Jan – are his biggest backers.

“Sometimes when I’m crabby around the house, they’ll tell me to go out for a run,” he notes. “I have to admit, I do come back in a better mood.”

Marc wasn’t a runner growing up, he stuck to traditional sports like football, basketball and baseball. But once he put on the running shoes, his dream became qualifying for Boston.

“That’s been my goal since I entered my first race,” he says. “Now that it’s growing closer, I have decided I’m not going to even wear my race watch that day. I’m not going to worry

about my time. This is going to be my victory lap.”

While viewers know about Marc’s quest to run Boston, most of them don’t know he never started out to be a TV anchorman.

“My background is in freshwater ecology,” he explains. “I spent four years doing undergrad work and three years of grad school hoping to have a career where I wore flannel and waders every day and never had to shave. Instead, I have a career where I wear a tie and make-up every day. That’s the polar opposite of what I intended.”

He didn’t intend to have a career in TV news when he sent out resumes in 1997, looking for a job that was “interesting.”

What he landed was a gig as a morning show host at Traverse City’s ABC 29&8, now a sister station to 7&4.

“I asked my wife to record the shows because I figured I would get fired within six weeks, but at least I would have the tapes to prove I was on the air,” he recalls.

Seventeen years later, he’s one of the senior newsmen in the Grand Traverse area.

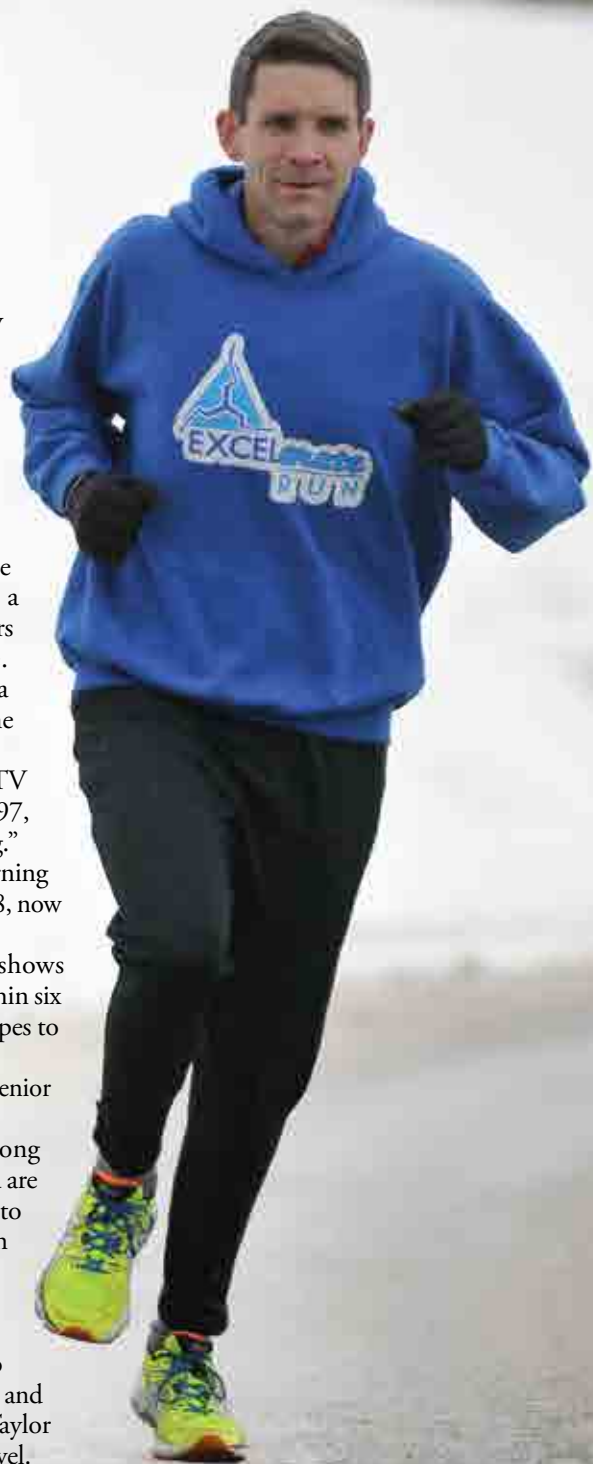
“When you are on the air for a long time, viewers almost treat you like you are one of the family,” he says. “So, I have to admit I felt a little pressure when I ran the Bayshore last year because I was so intent on qualifying for Boston.”

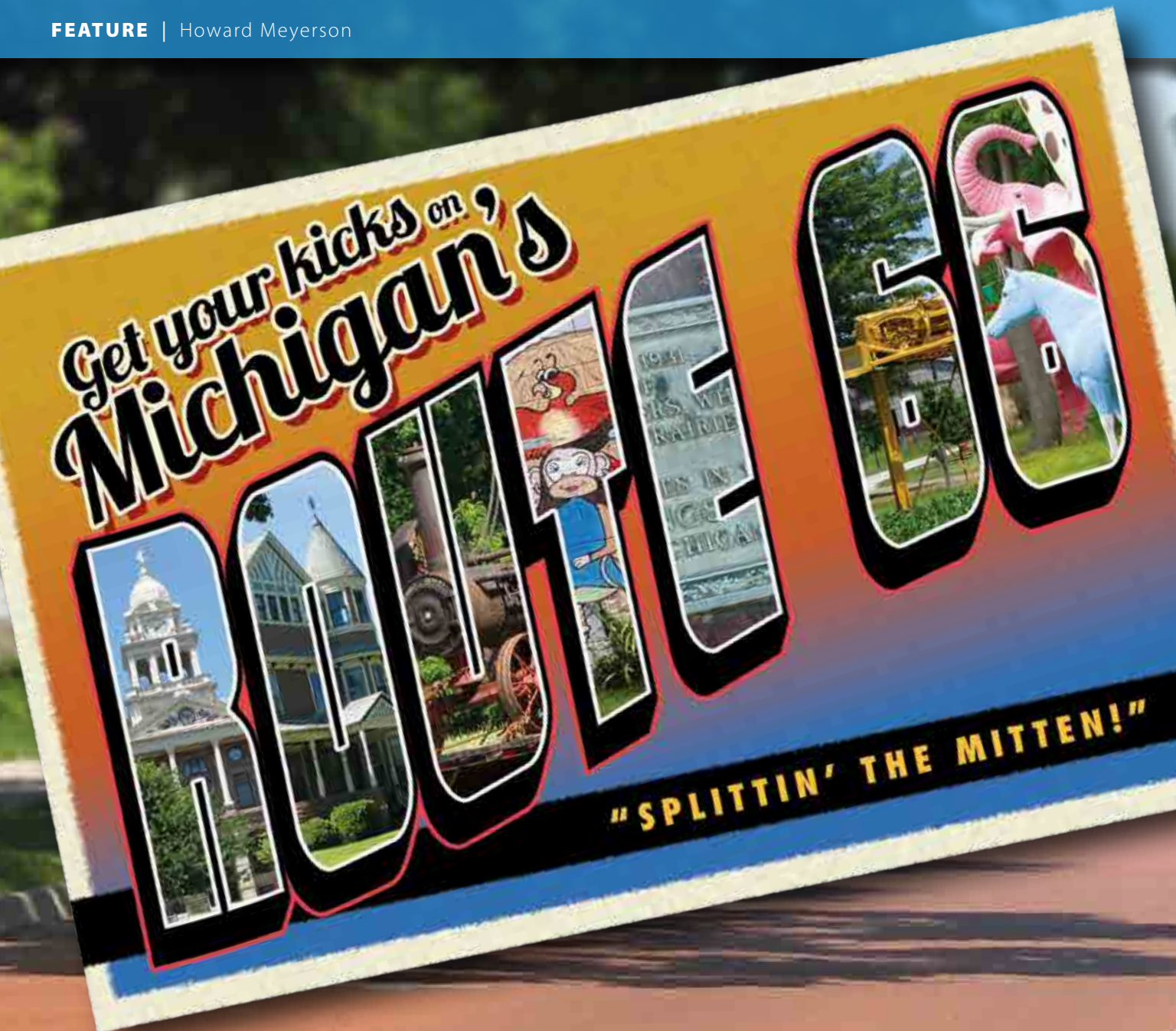
Schollett, who has also completed two Ironman triathlons, is quick to credit not only his family, but his coach and long-time Traverse City mentor Lisa Taylor with taking his running to another level.

“But now that I’ve made it to Boston, I decided to reward myself,” he says. “I’m going to observe everything that’s going on around me during the race. It will be almost like I’ve rented the course for the whole day.”

A day that took 18 years, thousands of miles running, and One Big Dream to accomplish.

–Nick Edson



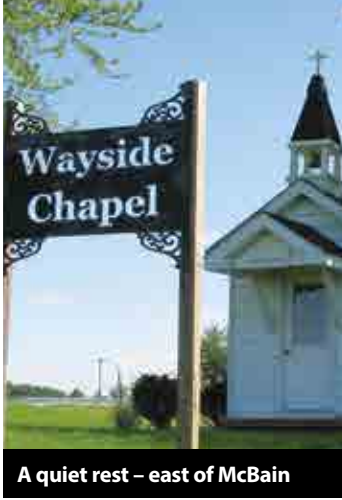


Jazz pianist Nat King Cole immortalized driving the open road with his 1946 hit song, “Route 66,” a swinging rendition about traveling the fabled route from Chicago, Ill., to Los Angeles, Calif. But authors John and Becky Schlatter, think the Michigan highway that bears the same name is just as appealing and has its own quaint charms. To prove it, they take readers for a 237-mile ride from Sturgis to Charlevoix in a new book called “Splittin’ the Mitten: Get Your Kicks on Michigan’s Route 66.”

“To say it’s just as scenic as the route from Chicago to L.A., might be a bit of hyperbole, but beauty is in the eye of the beholder,” notes John Schlatter, a retired corporate communications professional and HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Co-op member. “But when you drive [Michigan’s] Route 66 and see a field of sunflowers in late summer, or cows grazing in a field and modern wind turbines in the distance,



John and Becky Schlatter are the authors of a new book that travels some sites along Michigan's Route 66



A quiet rest – east of McBain



Robinson Scenic Gardens – Kalkaska/Mancelona



Drink from an artesian well – Barryton



Hot Spot Tanning & Hair Salon – Remus



Visiting 'Back to the Bricks' car show – Flint



Photos courtesy of John and Becky Schlatter

or a pretty old church, those are all very scenic in their own way.”

The Schlatters’ book, with 250 photographs, is an account of their trip through our rural heartland. It’s a route full of history, small towns and farm life—the backbone of our mitten state. Theirs is a story of pastures and cows, grange halls where farmers meet, ice cream parlors where families gather, and the overlay of modern times and change.

“We thought this might be a fun project,” shares Becky Schlatter, who refers to herself as a “Michigan girl” and Flint native. “I get excited by stuff like this.”

The Schlatters spent five days touring M-66. Gathering material for their book required driving it twice and three shorter trips to shoot photos. One of Becky’s favorite stops is Mancelona, where a downtown mural depicts the life of author Ernest Hemmingway. Other favorite stops are Ionia’s brick-lined Main Street and Charlevoix’s “two waterfronts” and unique old homes.

“The worst part of the trip was not being able to stop and talk to people at length,” says John, a Mississippi native who retired

from Bechtel Corp in 2012 after years of moving around the country. “If we had, it would have taken three years to get it done.”

John admits he didn’t know much about Michigan until 2007. That’s when the couple bought their Chippewa Lake cabin in Mecosta County. It’s not far from M-66, a route they use to come and go.

“As a kid growing up in the south, all I knew about Michigan was Bo Schembechler, Detroit car factories, and Motown,” John exclaims. “When I got here I was amazed by how rural the state is, which is why we like Route 66.

“I can’t say that there was an ‘aha!’ moment when I knew to write the book, but I am old enough to remember the ‘Route 66’ television show from the 1960s,” he adds. “We saw signs at Barryton saying, ‘Thanks for Visiting’ and ‘Route 66 Keep on Cruising,’ and realized we’re not the only ones who think Route 66 is pretty cool.”



Find “Splittin’ The Mitten: Get Your Kicks on Route 66” on Amazon.com (paperback listed at \$12.47; e-book is \$2.99); at the Old Pioneer Store and Emporium (231-796-2502 or oldpioneerstore.com) in Big Rapids; or order through Charlevoix’s Round Lake Bookstore (231-547-2699).

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helps



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WHAT IS IT? Marathon 4 Kids is a fundraiser developed by Cherryland General Manager Tony Anderson to raise money for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Michigan.

HOW DOES IT WORK? Tony's goal is to complete 50 marathons, one in each state. So far, he has run marathons in 20 states.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO? 100 percent of the money goes towards serving kids in northwest Michigan through Big Brothers Big Sisters.

MORE INFORMATION? Contact Tony at 231-486-9214 or marathon4kids@gmail.com, or visit marathon4kids.com.



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Protect Your Equipment Against Power Surges

Power surges cause millions of dollars in damage each year to TVs, computers, stereos, or anything plugged into an outlet. Here are some keys to choosing the best surge protection.

“A surge is a boost in the electrical charge over a power line,” explains Joe McElroy, safety director for the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association. “This can be caused by lightning, but it’s more commonly caused by motor-driven electrical devices, such as air conditioners and refrigerators, that require a lot of energy for starting and stopping compressors. Surges can also be caused by faulty wiring.”

Frequent, small power surges shorten the life of appliances and electronics, and come in all shapes and sizes. “The most extreme is a lightning strike, because it can destroy equipment and sometimes set your house on fire, but less severe ones are rooted in many different causes,” adds Alan Shedd, residential/commercial energy programs director for Touchstone

Energy® Cooperatives, the national brand for America’s electric co-ops. Surge severity depends on the voltage, current, and how long the event lasts. Most surges are very short, but can happen through any wire connected to your equipment.

A surge protection device mounted at the main electrical panel, or at your meter base, protects equipment from surges coming through entry ports such as outside electric, telephone, and cable TV or satellite dish lines.

Point-of-use devices do not suppress or arrest a surge, but divert it to the ground. They’re made to protect sensitive electronics, like a computer, and resemble a regular plug strip. But don’t assume your plug strip offers surge protection unless it specifically says so. “My computer is plugged into an uninterruptable power supply with surge protection,” Shedd notes. Installing special surge protection electrical outlets can also help, especially near places like kitchen countertops.



The best protection is two-tiered. A service entrance device reduces surges to a level that protects large appliances (stove or clothes dryer), while point-of-use protectors defend sensitive electronics.

Be cautious when shopping for protection devices, as some claim to save energy, but this is generally false, Shedd says. “Surge protection is a valuable tool for protecting your home or business, but not for saving energy.”

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Got Toast? Trenary Toast is a Beloved Treat



My grandmother always had Trenary Toast in her house - my brothers and sisters and I grew up on it," said the woman on the phone, as she ordered bags of the toast for her brother and sister-in-law's 70th wedding anniversary.

As she hangs up the phone, Maureen Webber, owner of the Trenary Home Bakery, laughs and says, "I hear these stories from people all the time." And, even though Webber bought the shop back in 2011, the U.P. native still loves being what she calls the "new face" behind Trenary Toast, Inc.

The bakery, located just moments off U.S.-41 on M-67 in Trenary, specializes in "from scratch" traditional Finnish breads from original family recipes passed down over the last century. Old Country Rye, a dense Scandinavian bread, is especially popular.

Their best seller, however, is the iconic Trenary Toast, which is distributed regionally and has been shipped to every state. Trenary Toast starts out as a sweet bread which is baked, sliced, coated, then baked again.

"That's what gives it that famous 'crunch' and dunk-a-bility," Maureen explains. "Trenary Toast is unique because we're the only toast that has the cinnamon sugar on the top-we hand-coat it."

Next door to the bakery is the Trenary Toast Café, which serves breakfast sandwiches, subs, pizza bread, coffee, and, in the summer, hand-dipped Jilbert's ice cream. Their giant cinnamon rolls and cinnamon bread are available exclusively in the Café. Webber also stocks local gift items, such as maple syrup, "Yooper" shirts, sweatshirts, and Saykly's candy, which is homemade in Escanaba, Mich.

"Last summer, a lady came from Washington State to see where Trenary Toast was made because it was on her bucket list," Maureen smiles. "How great is that?"

— Linda Sirois

Have A Story Idea? *Michigan Country Lines* is always looking for unique stories about Michigan people, places and things. If you have a story idea for us to consider, please email gknudtson@meca.coop with a short paragraph describing the story and why you think Michiganders would like to read about it. Include your name, address, and note which electric co-op you belong to.

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