

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



Plus!

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Media-Man

O'MALLEY

Joins Country Lines

Before a WaterFurnace
geothermal dealer makes a
commitment to you...



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Casey Clark

Editor
Gail Knudtson

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Unsolicited letters, photos and manuscripts are welcome. Country Lines, however, will not be responsible for their safe keeping or return.

The appearance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised.

Change of Address: Please notify your electric cooperative. See page 4 for contact information.



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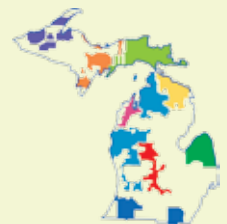
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Jack O'Malley's New Column, Mystery Photo

ON THE COVER*

Jack O'Malley, a Cherryland Electric Co-op member and host of a northern Michigan radio show and TV 9-10 broadcast called "Jack's Journal," is joining Michigan Country Lines magazine as a READERS' PAGE columnist.

Photo Courtesy – Beth Price / bethpricephotography.com

*Some co-op editions have a different cover.



Michigan's Electric Cooperatives
countrylines.com



Board of Directors

Richard Walsworth *Chairman*

3701 N. 48th Ave., Mears, MI 49436
231-873-2418 • rwalsworth@glenergy.com

Mark Carson *Vice-Chairman*

01950 Anderson Rd., Boyne City, MI 49712
231-582-0688 • mcarson@glenergy.com

Larry Monshor *Treasurer*

1541 Thumm Rd., Gaylord, MI 49735
989-705-1778 • lmonshor@glenergy.com

Paul Byl *Secretary*

9941 W. Buchanan Rd., Shelby, MI 49455
231-861-5911 • pbyl@glenergy.com

Richard Evans *Director*

11195 Essex Rd.
Ellsworth, MI 49729
231-588-7114 • revans@glenergy.com

Dale Farrier *Director*

1561 N. Selkirk Lake Road,
Kalkaska, MI 49646
231-564-0853 • dfarrier@glenergy.com

Robert Kran *Director*

7380 N. Tuttle Rd., Free Soil, MI 49411
231-464-5889 • bkran@glenergy.com

Paul Schemanski *Director*

5974 Stolt Rd., Petoskey, MI 49770
231-439-9079 • paul.schemanski@glenergy.com

Robert Thurow *Director*

819 W. Chauvez Rd., Scottville, MI 49454
231-757-3430 • rthurow@glenergy.com

President/CEO: Steve Boeckman

888-485-2537

Communications

Director/Editor: Dave Guzniczak

231-487-1316

Boyne City Headquarters:

1323 Boyne Ave.
Boyne City, MI 49712
Hours: 8 a.m.–5 p.m. M–F
Phone: 888-485-2537

To report an outage, call:

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Solar Demonstration Project Planned



Steve Boeckman
Great Lakes Energy
President/CEO

An educational solar display project intended to generate electricity and member interest will be installed outside Great Lakes Energy's (GLE) Boyne City office this spring.

The cooperative's board of directors approved the project to provide education about alternative sources of renewable energy.

The display will feature two working 5 kilowatt (kW) solar arrays, one with a fixed panel and the other tilting. The combined 10kW array is large enough to provide the energy needed for an average residential GLE member's home.

We will announce when the display is ready to begin operation, which will be later this year.

Sharing information for the benefit of all is one of the guiding principles of a member-owned electric cooperative. So, the solar array will be an excellent learning experience for Great Lakes Energy members and our directors, management and employees, too.

We will be able to observe how changing weather and climate patterns at our Boyne location affect the array's ability to generate power. Data collected will be shared with you in future issues of this magazine, on our website, and through a live monitor in our Boyne City office lobby. The panels will be located near the parking lot and available for public viewing.

Researchers with our national service organization for electric cooperatives say solar panels still can be effective in cooler climates with less sunlight. The panels actually become less efficient when the outdoor temperature begins to exceed 80 degrees. This means we should expect it to generate power on cool and cloudy days, too.

It will also be interesting to see how much energy it produces in the winter. Snow reflects sunlight, which helps the panels collect and convert more solar energy into electricity.

Member inquiries we receive about alternative renewable energy often focus on how much it will save them in energy costs. The payback period for a solar fixed panel system this size, according to the manufacturer, is 30 years. Using data we collect, we'll be able to provide an actual payback period as well as determine the benefits of a fixed versus tilting panel system.

Anyone interested in investing in solar should consider all the factors such as its location, size and cost, available incentives, application (space heating, water heating, power generation), and more. These are things best discussed with a professional solar dealer familiar with your area.

Our display is mainly for educational purposes, but it will also be net metered so that our office uses the energy generated. Net metering is available to members who wish to generate power through a renewable source. Any excess energy generated is then credited to your electric bill. More information about net metering is available by visiting our website at gtlakes.com/your-home/net-metering. Updates on the solar project will be posted on our website and Facebook page as they become available. ■

Containing Costs Is Always Our Goal

Cost containment is a company goal that shows Great Lakes Energy's commitment to being a well-run business.

We measure our increases in operation and maintenance (O&M) and administrative and general (A&G) costs against other electric cooperatives across the United States. The goal each year is to not exceed the average percent increase in costs of other electric cooperatives nationwide. Great Lakes Energy is one of over 800 electric co-ops in the United States.

We Meet Our Goal

In the last three years (2011–2013), GLE's average percent increases in A&G costs were less than the average percent increases of electric cooperatives nationwide. Our average percent increases in O&M costs were less than the other co-ops in two of the last three years. A rash of severe storms resulting in nearly \$4 million in power restoration expenses was primarily responsible for GLE's higher O&M costs in 2012.

The O&M expenses are related to the delivery of power to members. They include all line maintenance, member service and support department expenses necessary to efficiently operate your co-op.

The A&G costs are not directly tied to the operation and maintenance of GLE's electrical distribution system. Rather, they include administration, accounting, human resources, building and grounds maintenance, and other necessary support services. Our A&G expenses were just 4.4 percent of our total operating expenses in 2013.

Power Supply Costs

Total A&G and O&M expenses represent less than 40 percent of the average bill of a permanent residential member. The remaining share goes to GLE's power supplier to cover power generation costs and high-voltage delivery of the power across Michigan over transmission lines and through electric substations. Our power supplier is also committed to providing us with reliable energy at the lowest possible cost.

All our financial decisions hinge on keeping the cost of our service affordable. That's the cooperative difference. ■

Annual Average Percent Increases in Costs

Operation & Maintenance Expenses			
	GLE	Other Electric Co-ops	Met Goal (✓)
2013	-4.26%	4.19%	✓
2012*	9.80%	3.96%	-
2011	3.22%	3.91%	✓
Administrative & General Expenses			
	GLE	Other Electric Co-ops	Met Goal (✓)
2013	2.50%	3.64%	✓
2012	-1.36%	3.49 %	✓
2011	3.59%	3.72%	✓

*A rash of severe storms resulting in nearly \$4 million in power restoration expenses added to the higher O & M costs in 2012.

Nominating Petition Deadline Nears

Great Lakes Energy members are reminded that nominating petitions are still available for members who would like to seek election to the cooperative's board of directors.

Three board positions, each for three years, will need to be filled. Qualifying GLE members who reside in districts 3, 4 or 5 can seek election to the board. Districts by county are:

District 3—Antrim

District 4—Otsego, Montmorency, Oscoda, Crawford

District 5—Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford

The terms of directors Richard (Ric) Evans, of Ellsworth; Dale Farrier, of Kalkaska; and Larry Monshor, of Gaylord, expire this year. They reside in District 3 (Evans), District 4 (Monshor) and District 5 (Farrier).

To get their names on the ballot, qualifying member-owners of the electric cooperative who maintain a primary residence within its service area must file a nominating petition with the co-op secretary. Petitions must be signed by at least 50 active GLE members within the candidate's district.

Signed petitions returned by mail or in person must be received in the co-op's Boyne City office no earlier than Thursday, May 29, 2014, and no later than Friday, June 13, 2014.

Petitions can be mailed to: Secretary of the Cooperative, Great Lakes Energy, P.O. Box 70, Boyne City, MI 49712. They can also be dropped off at the Boyne City office during normal business hours, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Petition forms are available by calling 888-485-2537, ext. 1331.



Photos – 831 Creative

GIVE YOUR TASTEBUDS A HAWAIIAN VACATION

These island-inspired recipes are perfect for any Hawaiian luau or just for fun.

Hawaiian Sweet & Sour Meatballs

3/4 lb. ground beef
3/4 c. fine bread crumbs
1/8 c. sesame seeds, toasted
1 small can pineapple chunks
1 small onion, minced
1 egg, beaten
1 t. salt
dash pepper
1 T. salad oil

Sweet and Sour sauce

2 T. cornstarch
1/2 c. sugar
2 T. shoyu sauce (soy sauce)
1/4 c. white vinegar
1/4 c. pineapple juice
1/4 c. water



Combine beef, bread crumbs, onion, egg, sesame seeds, salt and pepper. Shape meat mixture into balls and put a chunk of pineapple in center of each meatball. Heat oil in skillet; sauté meatballs a few at a time, browning well on all

sides. Cover and cook on low heat until meatballs are done. Combine ingredients for Sweet and Sour sauce in small pan. Cook about 5 minutes, stirring constantly till thickened. Pineapple chunks may be added to sauce, if desired. Pour sauce over meatballs and serve. Serves 4. This is a traditional Hawaiian recipe given to me by my daughter-in-law, who is Hawaiian.

Tanya Blackmer, Atlanta

Hawaiian Refrigerator Cake

1 1/3 c. sweetened condensed milk
10 maraschino cherries, quartered
1/4 c. fresh lemon juice
1/2 c. heavy cream, whipped
1 c. miniature marshmallows
Ladyfingers cookies, about 3 dozen
1/2 c. crushed pineapple, undrained



Combine milk and lemon juice; stir until thickened. Add marshmallows, pineapple, maraschino cherries and whipped cream. Line large loaf pan with separated ladyfingers, standing halves around edge and laying them across the pan bottom. Pour in filling and cover with ladyfingers. Chill at least 6 hours. Garnish with additional whipped cream and maraschino cherries, if desired. Serves 8–10. I received this recipe from friends who had just returned from Hawaii.

Janice Harvey, Charlevoix

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "All About Snacks" recipes by **June 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)!

Find more of our readers' recipes at countrylines.com

Cool Energy Bills with Metal Roofing

A **sphalt shingles** are still the norm in most regions, but the next roof over your head could be an energy-saving metal one made of stainless steel and painted to reflect hot sun rays. Thomas Jefferson chose metal roofing to shelter Monticello, his Virginia estate. Centuries later, historians say, Jefferson's "tin" roof "is in fine shape."

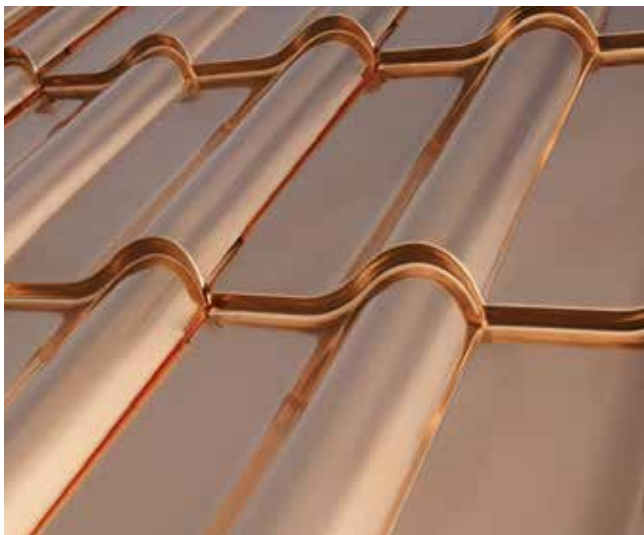
That kind of durability, say metal roofing retailers and manufacturers, is a strong selling point to a growing band of homeowners who want a building material that is not only sustainable, energy efficient, and cost-effective, but more aesthetically pleasing than asphalt. Today, consumers can select metals from copper to zinc, and roofing styles ranging from traditional vertical seams to those resembling wood shake, slate, shingles, and clay tiles. A multi-year study conducted by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Building Technology Center suggests that replacing conventional asphalt roofs with metal ones can reduce air conditioning energy use by up to 25 percent.



The metal roof on this log home features a standing seam design that reflects the sun's rays, making it both easier to cool in summer and great for shedding snow.

If you're wondering whether your house should be clad with a metal roof, ENERGY STAR® offers this guidance: homes that are hampered with high air-conditioning bills, have large roof surfaces, lower insulation levels, or located in hot, sunny climates benefit the most from metal roofing. Painted metal roofs, also known as "cool metal roofs," are designed to reflect more sunlight and absorb less heat than a standard roof. Special reflective color pigments make this possible. Whether white or a darker paint color is used, heat will still reflect well and help reduce cooling loads in summer and insulate homes in winter.

With metal roofs, there are additional ways for homeowners to save money over time, but the initial purchase price can be a factor. The cost for using metal roofing systems in home renovations or new residential construction is higher than most other materials, manufacturers say. But compared to traditional, dark gray asphalt shingles and other non-metal roofs that last an average of 17 years and require replacing about every decade or two, metal roofs last longer. A metal roof lifespan is about two to three times longer, says William "Bill" Hippard, chair of the nonprofit Metal Roofing Alliance, a coalition that educates consumers about the benefits of modern metal roofing, and the product is virtually maintenance-free. ■



Gleaming copper that is shaped like barrel tile forms this home's new roof.

Photos – Metal Roofing Alliance

Co-op Connections Card Offers Fun, Discounts Too



Take advantage of local recreational opportunities and receive discounts, too, with the Co-op Connections® card available free to Great Lakes Energy members.

If your interest is gardening, fishing or golf, use your Co-op Connections discount card and receive the following at participating area businesses:

- **Boyne Avenue Greenhouse, Boyne City** – 10% off any retail item except wire orders.
- **Stowaway Charters, Ludington** – 10% off. Charter season is from April through September. Discount does not apply Aug. 10–Sept. 10.
- **Yankee Springs Golf Course, Wayland** – 2-for-1 greens fees – some restrictions apply.

These and many other discounts are available through the Co-op Connections program. Take advantage of bargains online or use your Co-op Connections card at participating businesses that offer savings on dining, auto repair, fast-food takeouts, baked goods, hotels, gifts, car rentals, and more. Valuable offers from local and national merchants are available.

In addition, save up to 85 percent on prescription drugs and refills at participating retailers. Other healthy savings discounts are available by visiting healthysavings.coop for more information.

Welcome, New Businesses!

We've added more local businesses this year to our long list of participating retailers with discounts to offer. They are: Lappan's of Gaylord, Avalanche Bay Indoor Waterpark (Boyne Falls), Gerta's Draperies (Gaylord), Boyne Country Heating & Cooling (Boyne Falls), Grey Gables Restaurant (Charlevoix), Subway (Dorr), Café Sante (Boyne City), Skip's Boyne Country Glass

(Boyne City), Adams Painting Co. (Boyne City), Top of the Hill Taxi (Alanson), Mim's Mediterranean Grill (Petoskey), Harbor Springs Computers, Shaggy's Skis (Boyne City), Comfort Inn (Petoskey), Baymont Inn & Suites (Ludington), Wrights Bake Shop (Reed City), County Line Supply (Reed City), Bare Furniture (Big Rapids), Vic's Market (Reed City), Alpine Lodge (Gaylord), North Country Café & Catering (Scottville), The Book Nook Java Shop/Best Cellars Wine Bar (Montague), and Pajama Llama Ranch (Free Soil).

The best part about the Co-op Connections card is that it's free to GLE members. This is a discount card, not a credit card.

Review the discounts by visiting our website, gtlakes.com, and clicking on the Co-op Connections discount card. Or, use the Co-op Connections mobile app (visit the App Store and search for Co-op Connections).

Don't have a card or internet access to the list of discounts? Simply call us at 888-485-2537, ext. 8957, and start saving today. ■

Business Owners Benefit, Too

Local business owners are invited to join us in the Co-op Connections® program. It's your opportunity to offer our co-op members valuable discounts. In exchange for your participation, we will promote your business and discount offers to our members at no cost in our magazine, bill inserts, website and other advertising. The program is designed to benefit your business and offer added benefits to our members. Visit the Co-op Connections section of our website at gtlakes.com/products-services/co-op-connections/ for more information.



Herrygers Historic Farm Honored

Congratulations to Nedra Herrygers, of Hart, whose Oceana County farm received state centennial farm certification.

Great Lakes Energy is a sponsor of the Michigan Centennial Farm Program that honors GLE members whose farms have been owned and operated by the same family for 100 years. Once a farm is certified through the program, the owners receive a certificate as well as a display marker for their farm.

Co-op members can request an application or receive more information about the program by contacting The Historical Society of Michigan, 517-324-1828, or by visiting the Programs section of their website at centennialfarms.org.

Easy Ways To Pay

Great Lakes Energy offers many convenient ways to pay your monthly electric bill.

Pay in person. Bring your payment to any of our locations in Boyne City, Waters, Kalkaska, Reed City, Newaygo, Scottville, Hart, or Wayland, with convenient drive-through windows in Hart, Newaygo and Scottville. We accept cash, check, money order, credit or debit card (processed as credit) payments.

Several local businesses also accept payments for GLE bills that are not delinquent. Visit gtlakes.com or contact us for the location of the pay station nearest you.

Pay by phone. Call 888-485-2537. Member service representatives are available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday to take your payment over the phone. They can use your bank account information to debit your checking account or will accept a credit or debit card payment.

Automated pay-by-phone. Pay by phone at any time with our automated service. Call 888-485-2537, use the options menu, and follow the payment prompts. Have your electric bill handy, as you will need to enter your account number before completing the process. You will receive a confirmation number to verify your payment was received and applied to your account.

Pay online at gtlakes.com. Click on the “Account Login” box and follow the instructions. Enroll in e-billing while you’re there.

Automatic payments ensure your bills are always paid on time. Payments are automatically deducted each month from a checking or savings account, or charged to your credit or debit card.

Budget billing offers nice, even monthly payments. Monthly bill amounts stay the same and are adjusted annually based on your previous year’s usage. To enroll, a member must have 12 months of usage history and a zero balance at the time of enrollment.

Late payment. Call as soon as you realize your payment will be late and our member service reps will work to help you.

Payment assistance. Dial 2-1-1 for a free community health and human services information and referral service that connects eligible residents with energy payment assistance help, and much more.

Call 888-485-2537 or visit gtlakes.com for additional information on ways to pay your GLE bill. ■

YOUR SMALL CHANGE MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE



Meals on Wheels
Friendship Centers of Emmet County

Can you give a few cents a month to help your community? The People Fund program works because there is power in numbers. A contribution of less than \$1 each month adds up fast when thousands of Great Lakes Energy members get involved.

The needs of our local communities continue to grow, and you have the power to give the People Fund a bigger role in meeting those needs. We round up your electric bill to the next dollar and the amount, which averaged just 44 cents a month in 2013, goes into the People Fund. There are no administrative costs. All donations are returned to our local communities.

We Need Your Help!

Enroll in the People Fund today.

1-888-485-2537 • gtlakes.com



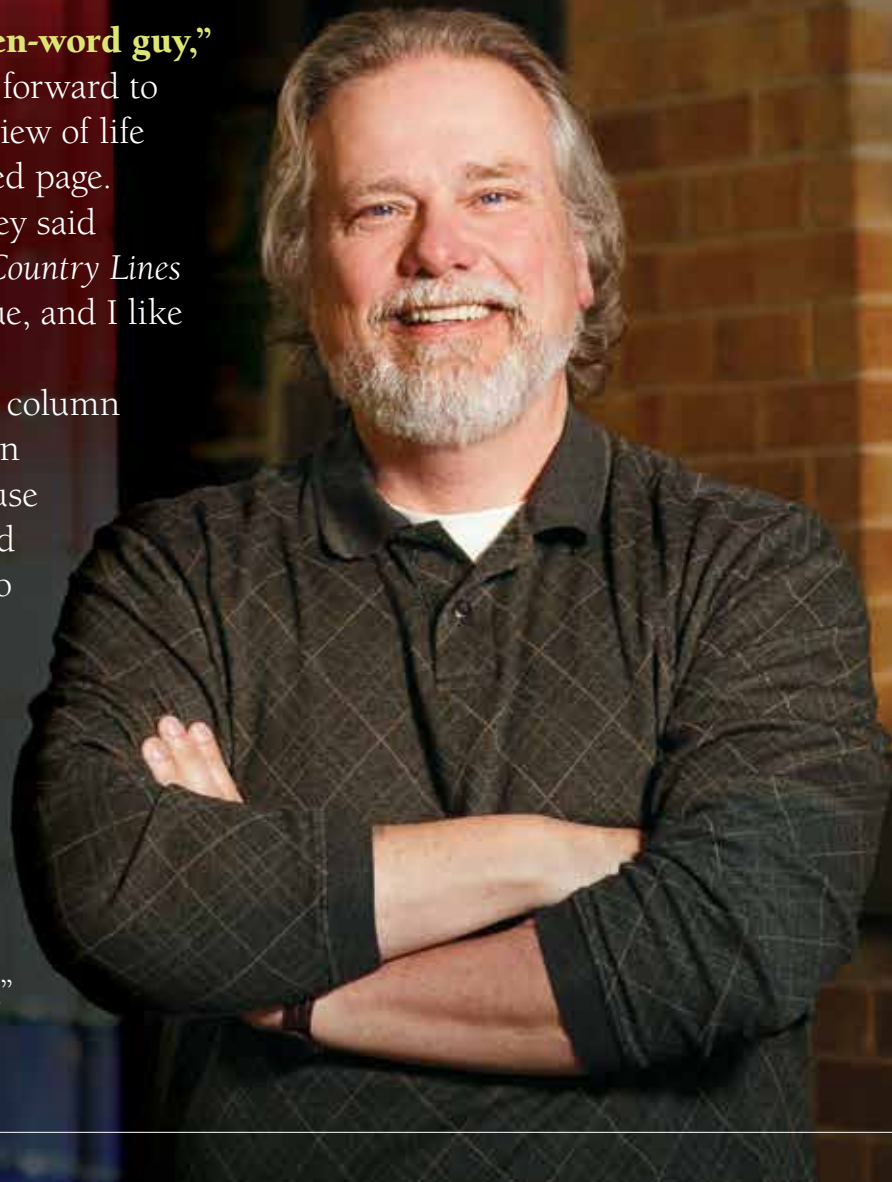
Media-Man O'MALLEY Joins *Country Lines*

A self-proclaimed “spoken-word guy,” Jack O'Malley is looking forward to transferring his upbeat view of life in Michigan to the printed page.

“I'm thrilled about this,” O'Malley said about his new gig with *Michigan Country Lines* magazine. “It's a whole new avenue, and I like a challenge.”

Beginning with this edition, his column on the Readers' Page will appear in alternating issues. O'Malley will use the hallowed space, once occupied by Jim Hough, then Mike Buda, to expand on what he already does on northern Michigan radio and TV: celebrate the great and quirky people and places of his home state, filtering the stories through the lens of his buoyant personality.

“People get enough bad news,” he says. “They want a little good news.”



O'Malley, 54, relishes the role of good-news messenger. To Traverse City area people, his voice is as familiar as cherry pie. He's hosted the WTCM Radio Morning Show since 1984, making it the longest-running morning radio show in northern Michigan. O'Malley describes the program, which airs from 5 to 9 a.m. Monday through Friday as "full-service," meaning a complete package of music (country), news, weather, traffic reports—everything listeners need to start their day, except the coffee.

"People waking up want to know the world is still here and that all is well," O'Malley explains. "The idea is to be happy and fun, and keep people informed."

Brief interviews with various guests are also part of his routine—a local librarian offering a glimpse of what Traverse City folks are reading, an outdoor writer discussing what's biting in the Bay, or a city official discussing a development project.

A true multi-media man, O'Malley also turns up every Monday on the northern Michigan CBS affiliate WWTV (TV 9&10), in the form of "Jack's Journal," a 2-minute human-interest feature that airs during the 6 p.m. news.

The subjects?

"Gosh, it's everybody and everything," O'Malley says, tossing out a few recent examples—a hidden gem known as the Manton Military Museum, a one-man band, a funky little "Up North" tavern...

O'Malley describes the drill: "I get a cameraman and travel all over northern Michigan—from Alpena to the eastern Upper Peninsula, to the Ludington area—I follow the subject around, do an interview, put it all together."

Now and then O'Malley spends the 2 minutes musing about one of modern life's marvels—the overwhelming number of options, for example, in a supermarket cookie aisle.

O'Malley gleans ideas from his viewers and listeners, production team members, and his own observations. For *Country Lines*, O'Malley, who grew up in Detroit, will continue working Michigan's fertile human-interest soil, but on a broader, statewide field.



Jack O'Malley says his WTCM Radio Morning Show is a complete package of music, news, weather and everything listeners need to start their day, except the coffee.

"I'm a Michigan boy," he says. "My heart is in Michigan." O'Malley and his wife Robin are, by the way, Cherryland Electric Co-op members. O'Malley has two grown daughters and a 12-year-old son. As this *Country Lines* edition went to press, a first grandchild was also expected.

A veteran hunter of human-interest stories, O'Malley knows that the eyes and ears of his listeners, viewers, and now, readers, are his best bush-beaters. If you have an idea for a column, he wants to hear from you.

"I'm always open to ideas and suggestions," he says.

On column writing, as well as on grandfathering. ■

That Old Fridge or Freezer is Too Costly to Keep

Recycle now and get a \$50 rebate.

Do you have an old refrigerator or chest freezer taking up valuable space in your basement or garage? While you may not think much about these secondary appliances that are typically out of sight, refrigerators or freezers that are over 10 years old are most likely costing you hundreds of dollars per year.

You can eliminate unnecessary energy use and costs by recycling old appliances with the help of Great Lakes Energy and the Energy Optimization (EO) Appliance Recycling program! Simply call us at 877-296-4319 and we will come and pick up your old refrigerator or freezer—and you will earn a \$50 rebate! (Rebates are limited to two refrigerators or freezers per home.)

What qualifies for a recycling rebate?

The appliance(s) must be in your home or garage and in working order. Sorry, but rounding up trashed or curbside refrigerators or freezers won't earn you rebates.

A few other things to note:

- To be eligible for pick up and a rebate, the refrigerator or freezer must be a secondary unit.
- The refrigerator or freezer must be between 10 and 30 cubic feet.
- Side-by-side refrigerators count as one appliance for recycling.

Have any other old appliances lying around?

While we're at your home, we can also pick up your outdated (yet functioning) air conditioning units or dehumidifiers for free recycling. By acting now, you can receive a \$15 bonus rebate for each!

With these EO rebates, you now have a great reason to finally get rid of your old appliances. If you have any questions about appliance recycling or residential, business or farm rebates, call 877-296-4319 or visit michigan-energy.org. ■



Get \$50 for your old refrigerator or freezer.
Have an extra working refrigerator or freezer? Don't let it sit there wasting energy. Turn it in. You'll receive a \$50 rebate from the Energy Optimization (EO) Appliance Recycling program and we'll recycle it. Schedule your FREE pick-up today.

ENERGY TIP: Turn in your old room air conditioner or dehumidifier with your refrigerator or freezer and get a \$15 bonus rebate per unit.

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org **PHONE:** 877.296.4319

 **Energy Optimization**  **Great Lakes ENERGY**
“Your Traditional Energy” Cooperative

Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit michigan-energy.org.



SAIDI Says

Your Co-op's First Quarter Reliability is Good

Great Lakes Energy finished the first quarter of 2014 with fewer average outage minutes than for the same period last year, says SAIDI (pronounced SAY-DEE), an industry standard index for determining average outage minutes.

On April 1, 2014, average outage minutes totaled 16.96 compared to 21 minutes reported on the same date a year ago. We remain on track to reach our 2014 reliability goal, which is to not exceed 182.1 average outage minutes.

The reliability goal is based on average outage minutes recorded during normal conditions. Typically the outages are due to weather, animals, equipment failures, vehicle accidents, and other causes.

The cooperative uses SAIDI, or System Average Interruption Duration Index, as an indicator of the average amount of time a GLE member could be without power in a given year. Since it represents an average,

some members actually experience no outage times while others experience more than the SAIDI number.

Weather-related outage events are factored into the SAIDI calculations, with the exception of major event days (MEDs). Storms that create MEDs occur infrequently and are the most damaging.

Great Lakes Energy will continue working to limit the weather's damaging impact on its distribution system. Investments in distribution automation equipment, the addition of more line protection devices, the use of new technologies, correcting problems with major power line circuits, and continued intensive vegetation management activities within power line rights-of-way are all helping to get the lights back on safely and more quickly for members during storms.

Watch for SAIDI goal updates in future issues of *Michigan Country Lines*. ■

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

For your safety and for the protection of underground utility lines, always follow these steps before starting any digging project.

1. Contact MISS DIG at 811 or missdig.org
2. Wait 3 days for utility owners to mark their lines
3. Respect the marks
4. Dig with care



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

visit missdig.org for more information

Winter's in the Rear View

Whew! Winter is finally in our rear view mirrors. All of Michigan's 83 counties experienced a humdinger, didn't they? Persistent cold, high accumulations without a traditional mid-season thaw, an abundance of snow days, and the Great Lakes nearing an ice-cover record made the Winter of 2013 one for the books! Yowsers!

I'm as ready for spring as the next guy, but let's be honest about winter in Michigan, too. We all love it! Winter is as much a part of who we are as the DNA that determines our eye and hair color.

We love seeing how southern towns react when hit with an inch or two of snow. Schools close, YouTube videos of garbage trucks pirouetting down the interstate are circulated, and news crews are on the scene! Why do we find such humor in our southern neighbors' response to what we consider a "light dusting"?

Bragging rights, pure and simple. We Michiganians are a tough bunch—enduring months of snow and frigid cold, driving to and from work (uphill both ways), and sending kids to the bus stop on days when the slightest breeze can leave cheeks raw and chapped. And, when warm weather friends call to complain about an inch of snow or temperatures below freezing, we can let loose! "Heck, we got a foot last night! It's minus 8 with wind chills at 35 below and schools have been closed all week!"

Not for the faint of heart, winter gives folks true grit, an identity. Anybody can do sunny and 75, but it takes seasoned Michiganians to handle negative temperatures and snow up to their backsides! Floridians have lawn mowers. A rake or two. But look in any Michigan garage and you will find all that plus an assortment of snow blowers, shovels, ice choppers, snow scoops...an arsenal for the war with winter we secretly enjoy waging year after year.



"Winter gives folks true grit... Anybody can do sunny and 75."

Jack O'Malley pictured using a snowblower during this infamous "Winter of 2013."

Enjoy the warm months ahead. You've earned 'em! And while boating, camping or lazing on the beach this summer, pay attention to the number of times you catch yourself bragging about how you survived the infamous "Winter of 2013." Because you will. And, you should. The seasons make us who we are. And we are from Michigan, home of the real winter!



P.S. I am looking forward to talking with you through this column (every other issue), so if you have a topic idea to share about unique Michigan people, places and things, give me a shout to jack@countrylines.com or write: J. O'Malley, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI. ■



«« Do You Know Where This Is?

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

We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone. Enter your guess at countrylines.com; or send by mail to *Country Lines Mystery Photo*, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, 48864. Include your name, address, phone number and the name of your co-op. Only those sending complete information

will be entered in the drawing. The winner will be announced in the July–August 2014 issue.

The March contest winner is **Deborah Dunlap**, a Cherryland Electric Cooperative member from Traverse City, who correctly identified the photo as Lakenenland Sculpture Park in Marquette.



March Photo

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