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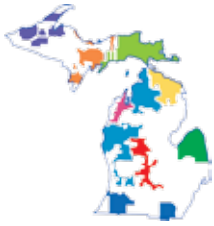
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See page 4 for contact information.

ON THE COVER*

Ofelia De Leon (far left), of Buena Vista, with his family and lineworkers when the lights came on in their home for the very first time. Ofelia had the honor of flipping the switch, and when the light came on the room radiated with happiness—lots of laughter, and tears. Linemen (L-R) Tom Ulatowski, Cherryland, Dan King, MECA, and Tony Reichle, Great Lakes Energy.

*Some co-op editions have a different cover.

Cover photo by Garrett Hubbard



IN YOUR WORDS

Question of the Month—We Asked, You Answered.

Last month, we asked electric co-op members a question: If you could have a lifetime supply of anything, what would it be? Thank you for all the responses. Here are some answers from our members...

"Love, good health, happy family & friends, great weather and a very large pay check to share."

"Burgers and fries from Clyde's Restaurant in Manistique, MI."

"If I could have a lifetime supply of anything, it would be free electricity. I am 90 years old, a World War II Veteran, and have a bronze star (along with many other medals). I've been a member of Great Lakes Energy most of my life. My wife and I have been married 70 years this coming July. God Bless."

"Wisdom."

"Unwavering Faith."

Our new Question of the Month is:

If you could only have one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Please submit answers to countrylines.com by Feb. 1.

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Brian Sloboda

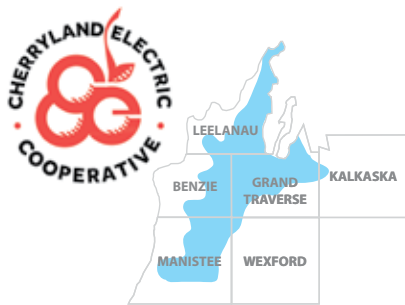
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Sticking To Our Message



Tony Anderson
General Manager

Sometimes it's easy to do what individual members ask and other times it's hard. Every time, there is a cost. Every time, the cost is paid by our membership. This fact has never been lost on the board, management and employees at your cooperative.

At Cherryland, however, our mission statement is a simple one: *Member focused. Safe. Reliable. Affordable.* I have now been managing your cooperative for almost 13 years. During this time, I believe everyone at Cherryland has been steadfastly behind this simple mission.

When it comes to renewable energy, it hasn't always been easy. I have been called the "coal guy" on more than one occasion. Candidates with a green agenda have campaigned against incumbent directors in an effort to unseat them for not being more forward-thinking in the area of clean energy.

In the face of past attacks in the media, YouTube videos and campaign literature, we have stood our ground and railed back with a message of "affordability, reliability and fairness to all members." To the credit of many, many supportive members, we always knew we were not standing alone. Even so, it is always difficult not to take any attack to heart.

Over the years, it began to pay off. In 2006, Wolverine Power Cooperative participated in the first ever commercial wind farm in Michigan, before any state mandate and at a price lower than what others were signing up for at that time. There was no rate increase involved. In 2013, Cherryland created the first community solar project in the state of Michigan. Again, no rate increase was involved.

A few years back, we fought against the 25 percent renewables by 2025 movement because we did not feel that mandates were an affordable way to promote any type of energy.

We were never against cleaner air. Many utilities did the same and this mandate was defeated. Again, your cooperative was looked upon as not being in favor of improving the planet. Again, we stood our ground and simply stayed true to our mission statement.

Now, 2015 proved to be a year to be proud of on all fronts. Not once, but twice, the dedicated people at our power supply cooperative, Wolverine Power, closed the deal on two separate wind projects. Without any state or federal mandates, Wolverine simply took advantage of market conditions to negotiate wind energy prices that are very affordable. These too will not be the cause of any rate increases.

Prior to 2006, Cherryland had less than 7 percent of its power supply portfolio coming from renewable resources. On Jan. 1, 2017, your power supply portfolio will be comprised of clean energy

Continued on page 13

The Greatest Generation

Paying honor to the heroes on TC's Honor Flight.

By Rachel Johnson

They are known as the greatest generation, the men and women of World War II. In October, I had the privilege of traveling to Washington, D.C., with one of them as a guardian with mid-Michigan Honor Flight.

I was excited and nervous.

I was prepared for the long day, which started at 5 a.m. and ended at midnight.

I was prepared for the physical part of helping a veteran the entire day.

What I wasn't prepared for were the emotions that washed over me as I watched these heroes remember.

When my veteran, Walter, told me about his experience as a marine in the Pacific I felt like I was reliving the war with him. From the beaches of Guadalcanal to the hills of Iwo Jima, we journeyed together through the memorials in D.C. and the memories in his mind.

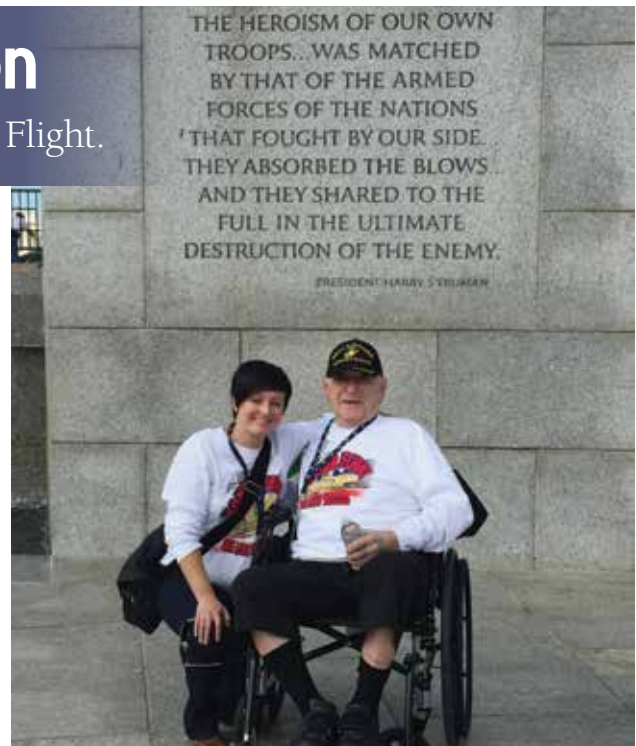
Our group of 62 veterans, guardians, and support personnel visited the World War II memorial, the Korean and Vietnam War memorials, the U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps memorials, and Arlington Cemetery.

Along the way, current service personnel and members of the public stopped to thank and honor the heroes in our group.

We left Traverse City early that morning with a send off from a full color guard and landed in D.C. to a fire department water salute. We returned home to hundreds of local residents with flags and banners. It was truly a trip meant to honor those on board.

Our final stop in D.C. was the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Changing of the Guard.

We were warned that the soldiers involved in the ceremony would not veer from their carefully choreographed ritual. We were also told that on rare instances, the relief commander might acknowledge or honor someone special in the audience by scuffing his heel as he walked by. It would be subtle. We would have to pay rapt attention or we might miss it.



Rachel and Walter at the World War II Memorial. Rachel Johnson is the member relations manager at Cherryland.

The ceremony was perfectly executed, appropriately solemn, and a fitting tribute to our unknown soldiers.

When the relief commander walked past our group for the final time as he installed the new sentinel, the only noise that could be heard was the scuffing of his heel.

As he passed, veterans of the greatest generation, slowly began to stand from their wheelchairs and salute. In that moment, I was reminded that respect, valor and honor cross all generational boundaries.

When we landed back in Traverse City, Walter reached for my hand and said quietly, "thank you for what you did for me today." I was astonished to be thanked for something so insignificant by someone who had given so much.

I burst into tears.

Maybe it was the emotion of the day. Maybe I was just tired.

Or maybe, I was just overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of what these veterans did and how humble they remain about it.

Learn more about mid-Michigan Honor Flight and how you can help support their work at midmichiganhonorflight.com. ■

Saving Energy In The Kitchen

By Brian Sloboda

Most of us spend a lot of time in the kitchen. Whether you are considering replacing an appliance or simply looking for ways to be more efficient, here are some tips to help you save energy—and money.

Most people don't think about their refrigerator that often—as long as it's working. Older refrigerators use more energy. Upgrading this appliance can bring a major return on your investment. Look for rebate programs, too!

Cooking also uses a lot of energy. To save energy while cooking, placing the lid on a pot of boiling water will trap heat and cause the water to boil faster. And there is no need to preheat the oven when cooking a large piece of meat, like a turkey or ham (you do need to preheat when baking, or cooking smaller dishes). If you are planning on using the oven for a long period of time, consider turning

down your home's thermostat. Cooking will add warmth to the home because the heat from the oven can raise the temperature in the kitchen and surrounding rooms.

Even after the meal is over, you can save energy. Make sure your dishwasher is full before it's started. Next, make sure you are using the right setting on your dishwasher. Newer models have sensors that detect how clean your dishes are. When these "auto" cycles are used, they will get dishes clean without wasting energy or water. The sanitize setting should rarely be used since it is energy intensive. It is also a good idea to make sure the filter at the bottom of the washtub is cleaned to help the washer work at its optimal level.

As you can see, there are many different ways to practice efficiency in the kitchen, and maybe even save enough money to have dinner out sometimes! ■

Be Prepared For Winter Storms

By Abby Berry

When winter temperatures drop and storms hit, it can be challenging to stay safe and warm. Your electric cooperative cares about your safety, and we want you to be prepared.



Heavy snow and ice can lead to downed power lines, leaving you without power. During a power outage, our crews will continue to work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power, but there are a few things you can do to prepare yourself.

- **Stay warm** – Use a safe alternate heating source, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove, during a power outage. Exercise caution when using, and never leave the heating source unattended.

If you are using gasoline, propane or natural gas-burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors. Remember that fuel and wood-burning sources of heat should always be properly ventilated. Always read the manufacturer's directions before using.

- **Stay fed** – Be sure to have several days' supply of food on hand. Crackers, cereal, canned goods, bread, and other foods that do not need to be cooked, are good options. Five gallons of water per person should also be available in the event of an extended power outage.
- **Stay safe** – When an outage occurs, it usually means power lines are down. Try not to travel during winter storms, but if you must, bring a survival kit along, and do not travel alone. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live and stay as far away from them as possible.

Winter weather can be unpredictable and dangerous, and planning ahead is important. For more winter safety tips, visit ready.gov/winter-weather. ■



Photo: Garrett Hubbard

Electric Cooperatives Donate Suitcases Packed With A Purpose

The recent Partners for Power team reached their goal to build an electric line extension in Guatemala that changed the lives of about 54 families in the small community of Buena Vista. But our team's work did not end there. The 10-person team distributed over 450 pounds of donated items sent over with the Partners For Power project.

The suitcases were filled by a team effort of employees from Cherryland Electric Cooperative, Great Lakes Energy, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric, Midwest Energy, Wolverine Power, and Cloverland Electric. The much needed items included school supplies, shoes, backpacks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, mouthwash, stuffed animals, sweatshirts/t-shirts of all sizes, small sewing kits, stocking caps, baseball hats, soccer balls, a basketball, a football, air pumps, soccer nets, and basketball nets. The electric cooperatives were eager to help out and make a difference for the villagers in Buena Vista.

To distribute the supplies fairly, the team of linemen divided the items into three stations, grouped by age, so that everyone received something. "The villagers have worked so hard on this entire project with us," said Wolverine Power safety coordinator, Matt Monroe. "It was fun to be able to give their



families one more surprise before we headed back home."

Partners For Power also sent a basketball backboard, rim and hardware, along with individual pieces of plexiglass, glass cutters, and caulk to replace broken school windows in the village.

Read the full story about how Michigan electric cooperatives teamed up to "turn on the lights" in Buena Vista, Guatemala, on page 14. ■

Hammond Beats Her Challenges With Hard Work

Cherryland scholarship recipient now has a good job with Hagerty.

As a high school senior at Traverse City West, Ashleigh Hammond was working a part-time job, participating in extracurricular activities, and studying hard to get into college.

Learning was not something that came easily to Ashleigh. She was diagnosed with dyslexia at a young age and school was a challenge at times.

"I owe so much to my fourth grade teacher, Jean Britten," said Ashleigh. "She spent six years tutoring me to help overcome my dyslexia. She was truly an angel in my life."

Ashleigh knew she wanted to attend college and her mom, being a co-op member, encouraged her to apply for one of Cherryland's student scholarships.

Ashleigh received one of Cherryland's \$4,000 scholarships. She started her collegiate years at Northwestern Michigan College but wanted to try living away from home, so she opted to move to Mt. Pleasant and attend Mid Michigan Community College.

Early on, Ashleigh decided she would dedicate her Cherryland scholarship money to books for each semester, a hefty expense many students overlook when budgeting for college.

She took several online courses and even some night courses to allow her to work full-time the entire four years she was enrolled in school.

"Online classes also allowed me the flexibility to work at my own pace," which, she explained, was key for her to succeed with her dyslexia and her tendency to be an auditory rather than a textbook learner.

Unlike many college students today, Ashleigh was able to graduate from college debt free, thanks to her hard work and determination. Armed with a degree in psychology, Ashleigh found a job with Hagerty Insurance right out of college that convinced her to move back to Traverse City.

Having worked since high school, first at Gill-Roy's Hardware in both Traverse City and Mt. Pleasant, and then in parts and services at an auto dealership in Mt. Pleasant, Ashleigh started at Hagerty with a mature work ethic and skill set that helped her become a licensed sales agent and underwriter in the little over two years she's been with the company.



Now a homeowner in Traverse City, Ashleigh is once again a Cherryland member and still recognizes what the scholarship did for her. She credits her work ethic and determination to her father and her street smarts and negotiating abilities to her mother.

"My Cherryland scholarship was such a big help to me," she said. "It was a difference maker."

Just like Ashleigh Hammond. ■

More About Scholarships Offered By Cherryland

Here at Cherryland, we know that one of the best investments a community can make is in education. So every year we help youth and adults in our service territory as they build the skills that our community needs to be ready to meet future challenges.

We are now accepting applications for this year's scholarships. Cherryland offers five scholarships: three worth \$4,000 (\$1,000 for four years) for high school seniors whose parents or guardians are current Cherryland members, and two \$1,000 scholarships to adults who are Cherryland members looking to further their education.

Members may apply by filling out an application at cherrylandelectric.coop or request an application by calling 231-486-9200.

For more information on how you can apply for one of our scholarships, visit our website, cherrylandelectric.coop/co-op-programs/#member-scholarships.

Cherryland Members Share 'Best Of Selfies' Photos



Capture Your Favorite Moments And Share

1. Juli, Marley, and Asher Tiesworth enjoying an afternoon at Twin Lakes Park.
2. Bosco the dog and Joe Lachowski relax on the porch after a hard day's work.
3. Susan LaRose-Grover's multimedia selfie.
4. An unhappy Zander Pettengill, with mom, Jeanne, on the way back to school after a snow day.

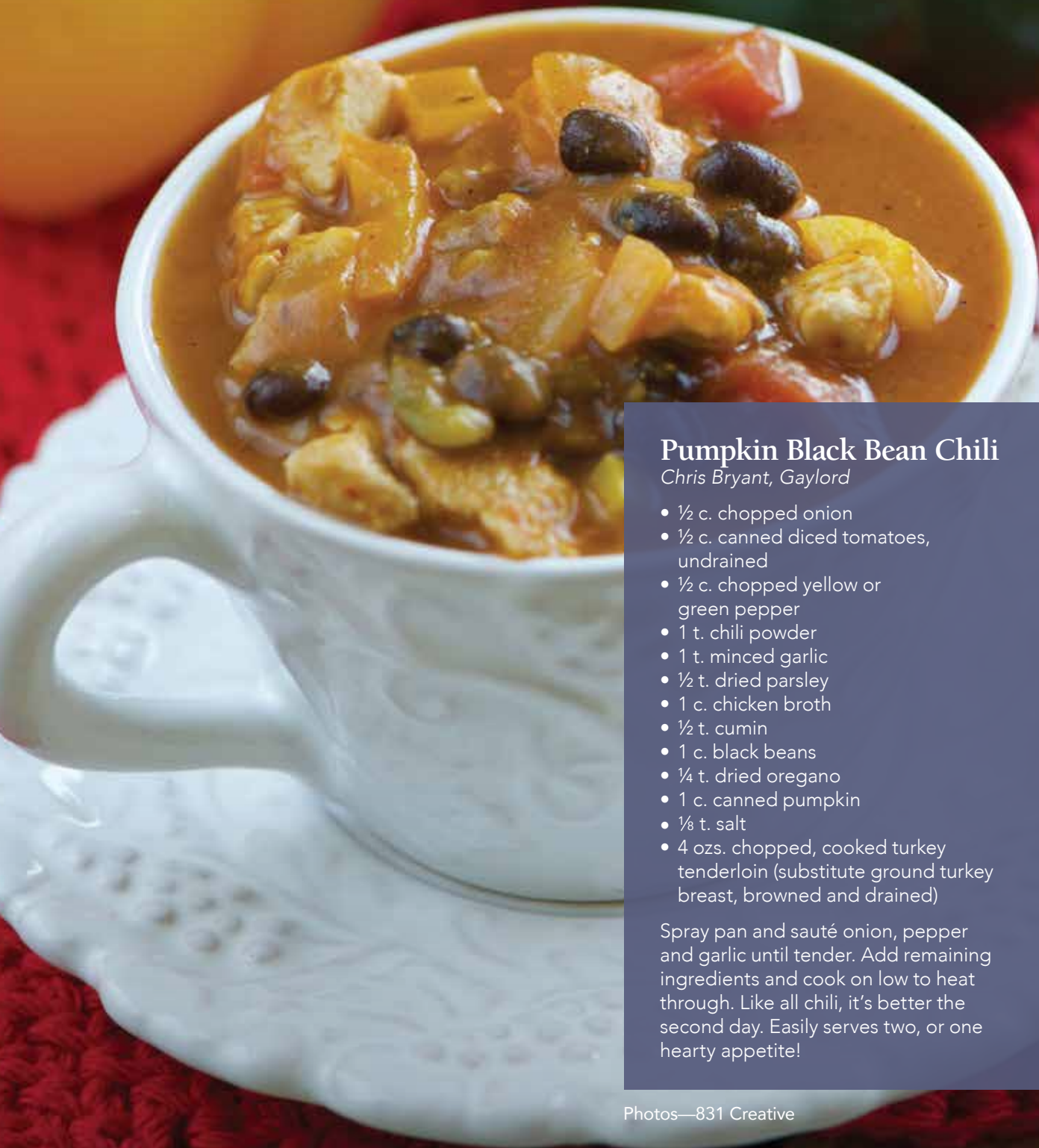
Enter Cherryland's Photo Contest And Win!

Enter the "Pay My Bill" Photo Contest! Cherryland members whose photos we print in *Country Lines* will be entered in a drawing and one lucky member will win a credit (up to \$200) on their December 2016 energy bill. Upcoming topics for 2016 and deadlines are: **"Winter Fun,"** due **Jan. 15** for the March issue and **"Birds of Beauty,"** due **Feb. 15** for the April issue. Visit cherrylandelectric.coop/photo-contest/ to submit your high resolution digital photo, read contest rules and see upcoming themes. It's fast and easy. We look forward to seeing your best shot!

See more great members' photos at Cherryland's Facebook page.

CHILI

Warm up this season with these comforting chili recipes.



Pumpkin Black Bean Chili

Chris Bryant, Gaylord

- ½ c. chopped onion
- ½ c. canned diced tomatoes, undrained
- ½ c. chopped yellow or green pepper
- 1 t. chili powder
- 1 t. minced garlic
- ½ t. dried parsley
- 1 c. chicken broth
- ½ t. cumin
- 1 c. black beans
- ¼ t. dried oregano
- 1 c. canned pumpkin
- ⅛ t. salt
- 4 ozs. chopped, cooked turkey tenderloin (substitute ground turkey breast, browned and drained)

Spray pan and sauté onion, pepper and garlic until tender. Add remaining ingredients and cook on low to heat through. Like all chili, it's better the second day. Easily serves two, or one hearty appetite!

Congratulations



to Ann Brown of Niles. Her name was drawn from all readers whose recipes we printed in 2015 and *Country Lines* will pay her January electric bill (up to \$200) as a prize.

Ann and her family have been Midwest Energy Cooperative members since her father built their home back in 1940. Her winning "Campfire Chicken" recipe was an original created by her mother. "My dad liked to grill and camp. When we couldn't go camping he would cook out in the backyard and this was a favorite recipe." Ann is a home healthcare nurse and enjoys cooking, sewing and knitting.



White Chicken Chili (pictured)

Donna Theriault, Petoskey

- 3 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 T. olive oil + extra for drizzling on chicken
- 2 lg. onions, sliced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 c. chicken broth
- 1 c. dry white wine
- 2 cans Navy or cannellini beans, drained and rinsed
- ½ c. lime juice
- 1 small can green chilies
- 1 T. ground coriander
- 1 t. ground oregano
- ½ t. ground cumin
- ¼ t. cinnamon
- 1 c. Monterey Jack

Drizzle olive oil, and sprinkle salt and pepper on chicken. Roast seasoned chicken on cookie sheet at 350° for 40 minutes, or until cooked through. Cool chicken and shred with fingers. Put 1 T. oil in large pot. Add onions and garlic and stir until onions are golden, about 20 minutes. Add broth and remaining ingredients, except cheese. Simmer for 15 minutes. Add cheese to melt just before serving.

Angie's Chili

Mary Scodeller, Lansing

- 1 ½ lbs. 80/20 ground beef
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 28-oz. cans whole tomatoes
- 2 15.5-oz. cans kidney beans
- 15.5-oz. can mild chili beans in chili sauce
- Spartan chili mix envelope
- 1 pkg. French's original chili seasoning mix
- ¼ t. salt
- ¼ t. pepper
- ¼ t. seasoning salt
- ¼ t. garlic powder
- ¼ t. chili powder
- ¼ t. ground cumin

Brown meat with the chopped onion. Drain fat, crush tomatoes and add to meat. Add all beans, seasoning mix, and other seasonings. Simmer on medium to high heat for 20 minutes, stirring constantly. Reduce heat and simmer another 30 to 45 minutes. Very good and great for a crowd.

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all our readers who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "Side Dish" recipes by **Feb. 1** and "Snacks and Appetizers" recipes by **March 1**.

A RECIPE WINNER EACH MONTH IN 2016!

Contributors whose recipes we print each month will be entered in a drawing and *Country Lines* will pay the winner's electric bill with a \$50 bill credit! A winner will be selected every month!

Enter your recipe online at countrylines.com or send to (handprinted or typed on one side, please): *Country Lines Recipes*, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Please note the co-op from which you receive your electric service.

Embrace The Snow And Exercise Outdoors This Winter

We are a little over a week into January and surveys show a quarter of us have already quit our New Year's Resolution to lose weight or be more active.

Whatever your resolution is, don't give up just yet. Whether you're losing that extra Christmas cookie weight, trying to beat the "winter blues" and get outdoors, or just looking for a new, fun weekend activity, northern Michigan offers a winter arena for outdoor activities galore. So, bundle up and give one of these snow activities a try.

Cross-Country Skiing

Not only is cross-country skiing a means of transportation in the winter, it's a great total body workout.

Simultaneously pushing and pulling, working your upper and lower body burns more calories than boxing, swimming or biking. Essentially traveling across a snow covered terrain on skis, it is easily learned by most anyone, young and old.

Speed can be controlled at your own pace, making for a fun, social activity with friends. Low impact on joints makes this sport a therapeutic, healthy option for winter workouts.

Snowshoeing

Snowshoeing, like cross-country skiing, is easy to learn, safe and inexpensive.

Making it another great way to take advantage of all the snow we get in northern Michigan. Burning more than 600 calories an hour (45 percent more than running or walking at the same speed), many runners take to snowshoeing as an alternative winter workout.

You can go almost anywhere there is snow, no specific trails are required. Just put on some snowshoes and head outdoors. Looking for a higher endorphin rush? Snowshoe races are becoming increasingly popular. Timber Ridge draws in over 500 people a year to participate in their Big Foot 5K and 10K Snowshoe Race every January.

Fat Biking

Fat bikes have proved to be more than just a fad, as many had predicted it would be when it became the hottest trend of winter in early 2000.

Rentals, races and fat tire bike trails are everywhere now. Dec. 7 is even recognized internationally as Global Fat Bike Day. A fat bike, for those of you who are not familiar, is a bike with over-sized tires, typically 3.8 inches or larger and rims 2.6 inches or wider, designed for low ground pressure to allow riding on surfaces like sand and snow.

Many commuters use fat bikes during the winter months as an alternative to their traditional commuter road bikes. Others choose fat biking as form of exercise in winter months. Fat bikes cost anywhere from \$1,700 to \$3,000 but can be rented at several bike shops around Traverse City. If you haven't tried fat biking yet, add this to your list of winter workout fun this year. ■



Some Popular Trails:

- TART Winter Sports Single Track
- Timber Ridge
- VASA
- Ranch Rudolf

Races:

- Snowshoeing – BigFoot Snowshoe 5k – runsnow.com Jan. 23
- Fat Bike – Fat Chance – Crystal Mountain shortsbrewingfatbikeseries.com Jan. 23
- Cross Country Skiing – White Pine Stampede – whitepinestampede.org Feb. 7
- Cross Country Skiing – North American Vasa King – Timber Ridge vasa.org Feb. 12–14
- Fat Bike – Beard of Zeus Timber Ridge – shortsbrewingfatbikeseries.com March 5

Rentals:

- Crystal Mountain – crystalmountain.com
- Grand Traverse Resort – grandtraverseresort.com
- Timber Ridge – timberridgeresort.net
- Brick Wheels Traverse City – brickwheels.com

Cherryland Expands Renewable Portfolio To 30%

Cherryland Electric Cooperative is a renewable energy leader in the state because of the work of its power supplier, Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative based in Cadillac.

Wolverine began leading Michigan's renewable future by adding the first commercial-scale wind farm to its supply mix in 2007 with the 50 megawatt (MW)* Harvest Wind Farm, located in Huron County, ahead of any renewable mandate. Harvest enabled Cherryland to meet the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

Wolverine continued to monitor the market for additional renewable opportunities, and as wind turbine technology improved, prices dropped. Early in 2015, Wolverine announced a new supply agreement with RES Americas for its 150 MW Deerfield Wind project, also in Huron County. Finally, in October 2015, Wolverine announced the execution of a supply agreement with Exelon Generation for the 150 MW Michigan Wind 3 project to be constructed in Sanilac County. The Deerfield Wind and Michigan Wind 3 projects are expected to be complete by the end of 2016, bringing Wolverine's total wind capacity to about 350 MW, far exceeding the RPS mandate.

"Wolverine is excited about the addition of clean and affordable energy to its portfolio," stated Eric Baker, president and CEO of Wolverine. "These projects position Wolverine favorably with significant renewable generation. When the projects are complete, Cherryland and our other member cooperatives will achieve a 30 percent renewable level."

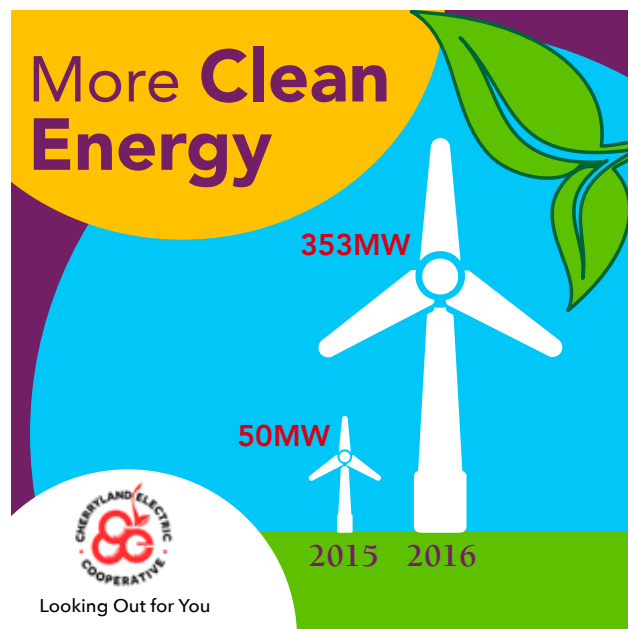
Wolverine's commitment to clean energy also means the amount of electricity Cherryland

members receive from coal-fired generation continues to decline. Based on fuel mix data, coal is expected to account for 45 percent of our electricity in 2018 compared to 81 percent in 2008.

The impact of Wolverine's leadership on renewables will benefit its members well into the future. "These new projects will serve Cherryland and our other member co-ops beyond 2030 with clean energy at certain and affordable prices, a true win-win," stated Baker.

Wolverine is a generation and transmission electric cooperative committed to delivering reliable, affordable, and clean energy to its seven members. They include five distribution electric cooperatives and two licensed alternative electric suppliers. ■

*MW or megawatt is 1 million watts.



Sticking To Our Message *Continued from page 4*

resources that exceed 30 percent of its total. Add this to the 14 percent nuclear piece and your portfolio gets very close to 50 percent carbon-free.

We have come a long way in the past decade. Everyone at Cherryland is proud of our partners and co-op family members at Wolverine Power

Cooperative. Together, we all remain *member focused* in order to bring each and every member *safe, reliable, affordable* electricity.

I have no idea what the next decade will bring but I do know we will stick to our mission. It's what we do. It's what we have always done. ■

It Really Does Take A Village

Partners For Power

By Emily Haines Lloyd

Photo: Garrett Hubbard



In rural Guatemala, not far from the border with Mexico, is a tiny village called Buena Vista and it is just that—a “good view.” Set amongst the mountains, with peaks poking through the clouds—it’s a magical sight. At least during the day.

At night, the small town disappears into the fog banks and darkness due to a simple reality—Buena Vista did not have electricity.

Which is why in early 2015, Michigan electric co-ops partnered with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International, an organization that helps developing countries gain access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity, to bring power to approximately 54 families in Buena Vista. Lineworkers from five electric co-ops in Michigan packed over 1,500 pounds of luggage, equipment and tools and traveled to Buena Vista to do just that.

“On the day we arrived, we realized that all of the villagers—men, women and children—had gathered there to greet us. It was humbling to see so many smiling faces, all filled with such joy and gratitude, because they knew we had come to help bring them electricity,” said Brad Parkhouse, HomeWorks



Photo: Garrett Hubbard

Tri-County lineworker. “They expressed how grateful they were to us for coming, and we told them how happy we were to be there. It was emotional, really.”

The Michigan lineworkers discovered that local residents had already hand-dug and set all of the electric poles. With the mountainous terrain, the lineworkers remarked how difficult that task was, particularly without the power tools that would have been used stateside for such an undertaking.

Over 12 days, the Michigan lineworkers and their unofficial team of about 40 local residents prepared poles (by climbing them the old fashioned way, no bucket trucks here) and hanging wire.

“I thought I was a hard worker until I met these people,” said Trevor Stratton, Wolverine Power lineworker. “They’re pulling wire into the valleys where the elevation drop is incredible...I don’t know how we could ever do this job without them.”

While electric power is taken for granted by those in the United States, it is seen as nothing short of a lifeline to this community—which is likely why the local people were so committed to making it happen

in their small town. It promises improvement in health care, safety, education and economic growth. Power is the spark that changes communities, provides opportunities, and ignites imaginations. While the social and economic impact is nothing short of staggering—the experience for the team of 10 linemen did not lie in the metrics, but the experience itself.

“One of the locals, Ofelia De Leon, invited several of us to be with his family when the lights came on in their house for the very first time,” said Dan King, Michigan Electric Cooperative Association safety instructor. “You could feel the anticipation in the air as we all gathered together inside their small mountain home. Ofelia had the honor of flipping the switch, and when the light came on everyone began clapping. The room radiated with happiness—there was plenty of smiling, laughter, and even some tears. It was a very emotional experience, and by far my proudest moment in 26 years of linework.” ■

For more information about Partners for Power and to see more amazing photos please visit partnersforpower.org.



Cherryland Is Looking For The Next Generation Of Leaders

What do 1,500 high school students, our nation's capital, and electric cooperatives have in common? The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, of course!

Since 1964, Youth Tour was established with one thought in mind—to inspire our next generation of leaders. It all takes place in June, when hundreds of electric co-ops across the country send participants to Washington, D.C., for a chance to learn about the cooperative business model and a full week of sightseeing.

While in D.C., participants have a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important back home. Without a doubt, Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives young Americans an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

In the next few months, Cherryland will begin the interview process to select local students to

attend Youth Tour 2016. If you are a high school junior interested in traveling to Washington, D.C., to experience the trip of a lifetime, please contact Cherryland for more information.

Youth Tour is so much more than a sightseeing trip. Students have repeatedly shared that this experience has helped them grow into successful professionals. It has also benefited our local communities. Youth Tour participants return home with a deeper understanding and skill set of what it takes to be leader, and as a result, they put these skills to use right here in our community.

Help us find the next generation of leaders by sharing the Youth Tour experience with a promising student. For more information about Cherryland's Youth Tour program, call 231-486-9200 or visit cherrylandelectric.coop or miYLS.com. ■

Representing Cherryland in 2015 were, left to right: Grace Olson, Nicole Jarvis, Ben Dierking and Nolan Wurm.

Net Metering Meeting Set for Jan. 12

Heard rumors about changes in our net metering program?

Join us on Tuesday, Jan. 12, to set the record straight. We will discuss a board-approved net metering rate tariff for commercial-sized solar arrays. We'll also discuss how these changes might affect our residential net metering members.

Learn more about how we are working to avoid subsidization, make sure all members pay their portion of the cost to maintain our power grid, and compensate solar producers fairly for the electricity they sell back to us.

Tuesday, Jan. 12, at 6 p.m.
Cherryland Electric Cooperative
5930 U.S.-31 S.
Grawn, MI 49637

You Can Serve On Cherryland's Board

Any qualified Cherryland Electric member can be elected to serve on the cooperative's board of directors.

To be nominated in 2016, candidates can file a petition with the cooperative's human resources administrator starting the first day of March 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 23, at Incredible Mo's near Grawn. This year's directors will represent Benzie/Manistee/Wexford counties and 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 members will be given an opportunity to fill the balance of the regular three-year term.

Cherryland Offers Five Scholarships

Cherryland offers five scholarships—three worth \$4,000 (\$1,000 for four years) for high school seniors and two for \$1,000 each for adult learners (post high school).

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: High school seniors whose parents or guardians currently receive electric service from Cherryland and live in our service area may apply for the \$4,000 scholarships.

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, students 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 filling out an application at our website: cherrylandelectric.coop; or by contacting Shannon Mattson. Her direct line is 231-486-9234 or e-mail her at smattson@cherrylandelectric.coop.

ADULTS: You must also be a Cherryland member to apply for one of the \$1,000 Adult Education Scholarships.

The scholarships go 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 Shannon Mattson at smattson@cherrylandelectric.coop (please include your name and address), call her at 231-486-9234 or write her at Cherryland Electric Cooperative, 5930 U.S.-31 South, Grawn, MI 49637. ■

The Quilt Lady

By Jack O'Malley

Eleanor Howard's story began when she was eight years old and asked her mother how to quilt. As a team, they pieced together Eleanor's first quilt and 87 years later, she still has it. "I've used that quilt on all my children's beds. I pert near wore it out!"

Speaking of children, Eleanor has five. And 15 grandchildren, along with 20 great-grandchildren. Each one has a quilt lovingly stitched by grandma. In addition, Eleanor donates many of her quilts to charity. How many has she made? "Oh, too many to



count!" Of the dozens of quilts assembled in her 95 years, one in particular stands out.

She made the quilt for her son, Albert, carefully patching each piece over two years. The result? A quilt depicting the state of Michigan, including all 83 counties, each painstakingly cut to its exact shape and featuring the product or service it's



Jack O'Malley

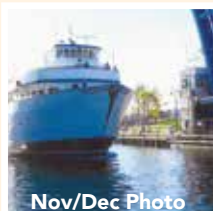
known for. Using appliques, stenciling, embroidery and hand painting, Eleanor had no pattern. She bought the biggest map she could find and went to work on figuring scale. The detail of Eleanor's Michigan quilt catches everyone's eye and has won multiple medals and ribbons. ■



«« Where In Michigan Is This?

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

We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone. Enter your guess at countrylines.com or send by mail to: *Country Lines* Mystery Photo, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Include the name on your account, address, phone number, and name of your co-op.



Nov/Dec Photo

Our Mystery Photo Contest Winner from the November/December 2015 issue is Brian Thompson, an Alger Delta co-op member who correctly identified the photo as "U.S.-31 Outlet Bridge in Charlevoix with the Emerald Isle boat."

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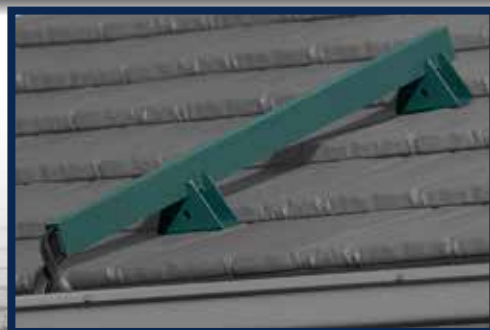


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ELEVATE YOUR FUTURE

YOU ARE A LEADER. Whether it's in the classroom

or in your community, you guide and inspire others to contribute their best efforts. Your electric cooperative has two **FREE** programs to help students like you develop strong leadership habits, explore career opportunities in the electric industry, and engage in the democratic process. Learn more about the **Youth Leadership Summit** and **Washington, D.C. Youth Tour** at miYLS.com. You are a leader. **YOU ARE THE FUTURE.**



WANT TO LEARN MORE? Watch the videos and apply online at miYLS.com.



Youth Leadership Summit
April 27-29 | SpringHill Camp, Ewart, MI



Electric Cooperative Youth Tour
June 11-16 | Washington, D.C.