

MICHIGAN COUNTRY JUNKIES

Art
on
Ice



Plus!

A Farewell From Your CEO

Co-op Connections Discounts

GLE Solar Display Update



**Act now to receive a
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*Ultimate comfort
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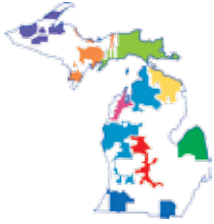
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Association officers are **Robert Kran**, Great Lakes Energy, chairman; **Mark Kappler**, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric, vice chairman; and **Eric Baker**, Wolverine Power Cooperative, secretary-treasurer. **Craig Borr** is president and CEO.

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See page 4 for contact information.

Cover photo by Dre Photography

IN THIS ISSUE

- 6 **OUR ENERGY**
Down Home Comfort With Geothermal Heat Pumps
Ted Clutter
- 7 **SAFETY**
Staying Safe In A Car Accident With A Utility Pole
- 10 **HOME COOKING**
Perfect Pasta Recipes!
Christin McKamey & Our Readers
- 14 **FEATURE**
Art On Ice With Stephanie Miller
Emily Haines Lloyd
- 18 **READERS' PAGE**
Surf's Up—In Michigan!
Jack O'Malley
Guess Our New Mystery Photo

IN YOUR WORDS

Question Of The Month—We Asked, You Answered.

Last month, we asked electric co-op members a question: What is the best compliment you have ever received? Thank you for all the responses. Here are some of your answers:

Something that I would have abhorred as a teenager but treasure now —“You remind me of your mom.”

The best compliment I ever received was, “You’re as pretty as a keeper rainbow trout on the end of the line on opening day.” James and I have been best friends for 40 years and married for over 38 years.

You are a good listener.

Our new Question of the Month is:

If you could be any age for a week, what age would that be?

Please submit answers to countrylines.com by April 1.



A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
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Don't forget to vote in the presidential primary on March 8. Visit vote.coop for more information.



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facebook.com/greatlakesenergy

A Farewell From Your CEO



Steve Boeckman
Great Lakes Energy
President/CEO

Whether it's a fishing yarn, a child's tale about school or another personal anecdote, a good story is something we all like to hear and share.

This month, my story at Great Lakes Energy comes to a close. I will retire as president and CEO on March 28 and a new chapter in my life begins.

With my retirement also comes a new chapter at your cooperative.

Bill Scott will become president and CEO of Great Lakes Energy on March 29. Bill has been with GLE since 2002, most recently serving as GLE's chief financial officer and chief operating officer. His leadership within the organization gave the board of directors confidence in appointing him to lead the cooperative.

As I prepare for retirement, I know my story has been a good one. It's been both challenging and rewarding to lead a member-owned organization. With employees spread out over eight offices, one of my main priorities has been the culture and work environment of this cooperative. I believe building and maintaining a strong culture is one of the most important roles a CEO has. The culture affects the employees' daily life, how they perform in their jobs, and how they treat our members.

At Great Lakes Energy, we've built a culture where employees are empowered and entrusted to achieve success in their jobs and provide outstanding service to our members. Cooperative employees are some of the most hardworking people you'll ever meet. Our employees work to restore power on holidays, weekends and in some really bad weather. They take the cooperative philosophy to heart and focus on member needs and service, not profits, every single day.

The culture at GLE is one of the things I'm most proud of and something I know will continue to grow in years to come.

Great Lakes Energy has a bright future, with a dedicated board of directors and supportive members who value our efforts to bring reliable and affordable service to rural Michigan.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve you for the past 15 years. Thanks for being part of my story. ■

Discounts Just For GLE Members

Shop and save with your Co-op Connections® discount card. Find bargains online or use your card at participating businesses that offer savings on dining, auto repair, fast-food takeouts, gardening, fishing, golf, baked goods, gifts 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, too. Visit healthysavings.coop for more information.

New discount offers are added regularly in addition to the many already available. Here are just a few new offers:

- Weathervane Terrace Inn & Suites, Charlevoix—20% off regular room rate
- La Belle de la Riviere Bed & Breakfast, Newaygo—10% off on stays of 3 days or less, 15% on stays of 4 days or more
- Boyne Country Antiques, Boyne City—10% off anything in the store (not valid on sale items)
- The Bistro at Charlevoix Country Club, Charlevoix—10% off your food order (Not applicable with other discounts, to alcohol, or to wedding/special event pricing)
- Porter Creek Fish House at Sommerset Pointe, Boyne City—10% off your food order (Not applicable with other discounts, to alcohol, or to wedding/special event pricing)
- Pointe Health Club at Sommerset Pointe, Boyne City—10% off a 10-visit pass
- Charlevoix Fitness at Charlevoix Country Club, Charlevoix—10% off a 10-visit pass

The best part about the Co-op Connections® card is it's free to Great Lakes Energy 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. ■

GLE Director Earns Top Honor

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization for electric cooperatives, recently awarded Great Lakes Energy director Paul Schemanski with a certificate for completing the Director Gold Program. He is one of only two electric co-op directors in the state to be certified at this level, which is the highest level of training that can be earned through NRECA's Director Education program. ■



Country Lines, Your Partner In Communication

For over 35 years, our co-op members have received *Michigan Country Lines* because it is the most effective and economical way to share information with our members. This is our most empowering communication tool to keep members up-to-date about everything going on within their electric co-op. Each issue contains information about our services, director elections, member meetings, and the staff and management decisions you need to know about as an owner of the co-op.

The magazine also includes legal notices that would otherwise have to be placed in local media at a substantial cost. And, sending *Michigan Country Lines* to you helps the co-op fulfill one of its important principles—to educate and communicate openly with its members.

The board of directors authorizes the co-op to subscribe to *Michigan Country Lines* on your behalf at an average cost of \$3.91 per year, paid as part of your electric bill. The current magazine cost is 48 cents per copy—less than the cost of a first class stamp. *Michigan Country Lines* is published for us, at cost, by the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association, in Lansing. As always, we welcome and value your comments.

Down Home Comfort

Using the earth for heating and cooling makes sense.

By Ted Clutter, The Geothermal Exchange Organization

There's a movement afoot, but don't worry—the ground isn't shaking. It is quietly heating and cooling tens of thousands of homes and commercial buildings across Michigan with ground-source—or geothermal—heat pumps.

Geothermal heat pumps are renowned by both the U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency as our most efficient and environmentally friendly heating and cooling technology for homes, businesses and institutional spaces of all sizes. Indeed, by tapping the free

renewable energy of the ground, geothermal heat pumps (GHPs) can save consumers up to 70 percent on their monthly energy bills.

Geothermal Benefits

Geothermal heating and cooling saves energy and reduces fossil fuel use, either on-site or at power plants. Geothermal heat pumps reap huge savings on ratepayer energy bills because they use less electricity than conventional equipment.

Geothermal heat pumps are a comfortable, "green energy" solution and an easy way to act locally, while thinking globally about the environment. Indeed, they shrink the average carbon footprint of a typical American home by nearly 50 percent. Best of all, geothermal heat pumps are "Made in the USA" by an innovative industry that is creating jobs all across America.

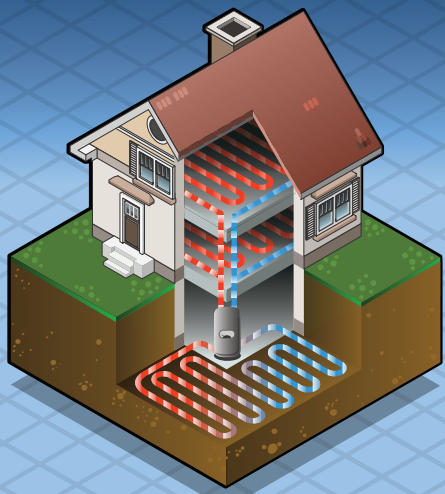
Geothermal Incentives

The federal government offers a 30 percent tax break for homeowners who install a GHP (10 percent for commercial jobs). Those credits expire at the end of 2016, but the Geothermal Exchange Organization (GEO) is working with Congress to extend them through 2022. For the time being, you can still take advantage of the credits if your project is in service before the end of the year.

And be sure to check with your electric co-op about any rebates they might offer for a geothermal system. Your trusted local geothermal heat pump contractor will be able to help you with that information.

For more information and member contractors in your area, visit the Geothermal Exchange website, geoexchange.org. ■

Please note this article focuses on one type of system, there are other types of energy-saving heat pumps, such as pond loop or air-to-air types. Discuss options with a trusted heat pump contractor.



How Geothermal Heat Pumps Work

Geothermal heat pumps use a series of plastic pipes—called ground loops—buried beneath the surface where temperatures are a constant 50° throughout the year (depending on where you live). The fusion-sealed pipes are connected to geothermal heating and cooling equipment inside the home or building.

Water circulating through the system carries heat to and from the ground, depending on the season. During the summer months, unwanted heat indoors is transferred outside to the ground for cooling by the earth. The cool water flows through the GHP system to provide air conditioning.



Staying Safe In A Car Accident With A Utility Pole

Winter wonderlands are beautiful, but they can be a driving nightmare. Snow, slush, ice and wind make driving more stressful and hazardous. If you are in an accident involving a utility pole, your vehicle may be charged with electricity. If this is the case and you step out of the car, you will become the electricity's path to the ground and could be electrocuted.

While downed lines sometimes reveal they are "live" by arcing and sparking with electricity, this is not always the case. Power lines do not always show signs that they are live, but they are just as lethal.

Stay in the car if you are in an accident with a power pole. Warn those who try to help that they must stay far away from the vehicle. Call 911 for help, and wait until a utility professional tells you it is safe to leave the car.

The exception to this rule is if your car is on fire. In that case, jump clear of the vehicle without touching it and the ground at the same time. Then "bunny hop" away with your feet together to safety. This way there will not be a voltage difference between your two feet, which would give electricity the chance to flow through your body. ■



ENERGY STAR: Your Best Defense Against Energy Waste

Looking for new ways to save energy, but not sure where to start? Team up with the Energy Optimization program and take your outdated, energy-wasting lightbulbs, appliances, and electronics out of the game. The Energy Optimization program helps you upgrade your home by providing rebates toward the purchase of highly-efficient ENERGY STAR products.

What is ENERGY STAR?

Established as a joint effort between the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), ENERGY STAR is a trusted brand for quality products that use significantly less energy than required by minimum federal standards. The ENERGY STAR label can be found on hundreds of items, including lightbulbs, electronics, major appliances, and even certified homes and buildings.

ENERGY STAR products provide the same features you're used to, but can use up to 75 percent less energy than

standard models. In order for a product to bear the ENERGY STAR label, it must:

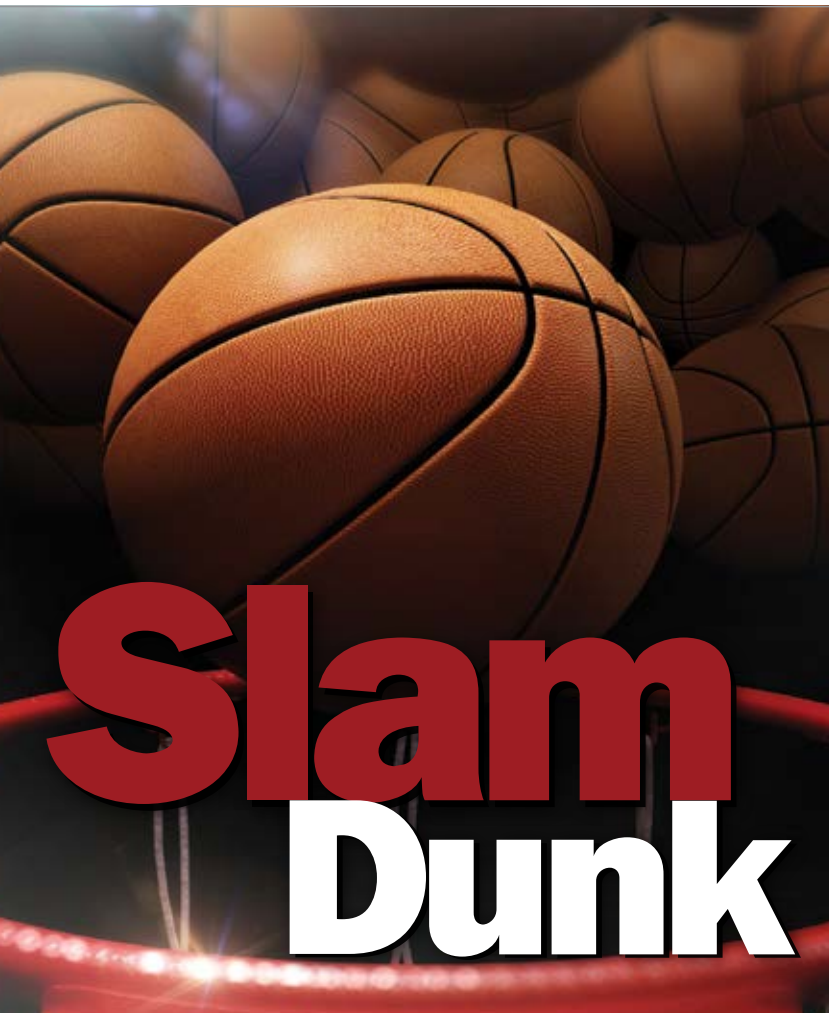
- Contribute significant energy savings.
- Deliver features and performance that customers demand.
- Back up energy savings claims with testing.

View all rebates at michigan-energy.org or call 877-296-4319 for details. ■

Below are just a few ENERGY STAR products eligible for Energy Optimization program rebates:

Product	Efficiency comparison (vs. a new standard model)*	Energy Optimization program rebate**
Clothes washer	Uses 35% less water and energy	\$100
Computer	Uses 60% less energy	\$50
Dehumidifier	Uses 15% less energy	\$75
Dishwasher	Uses 5% less energy and 15% less water	\$75
Chest Freezer	Uses at least 10% less energy	\$50
Refrigerator	Uses 9% less energy	\$50
Television	Uses at least 25% less energy	\$50-100
Room air conditioner	Uses 15% less energy	\$50

*All data according to energystar.gov. **Rebate amounts are subject to change.



Slam Dunk

The ball's in your court.

Your game plan for 2016: Start saving energy. Get off the bench and score big when you purchase ENERGY STAR® lighting and appliances! The Energy Optimization program provides rebates on bulbs, smart power strips, ceiling fans, dishwashers, TVs, and more.

ENERGY TIP: For the fastest way to receive your rebate, use our new online application.

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org
PHONE: 877.296.4319



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.

Shutterbugs Share 'Winter Fun' Photos



Pay My Bill Photo Contest!

Enter The 'Pay My Bill' Photo Contest! Great Lakes Energy 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 include **"Saluting Our Armed Forces,"** due **March 15** for the May issue and **"Fishing,"** due **April 15** for the June issue.

Visit gtlakes.com/photocontest to submit your high resolution digital photo, read contest rules, and see upcoming themes for 2016. We look forward to seeing your talented photos.

1. Our sled dogs at rest after cresting a hill.
Photo by Sherry Sutherby, Mancelona
2. My nephew, Tony, with a catch of bluegills through the ice.
Fun day together. *Photo by Joe Wojciakowski, Trufant*
3. Family fun! Taking the kids, Riley, Gemma and Julia out on their first-ever ride in Montague. *Photo by Julia Lorson*
4. Meet Minnie Rose, our Boston terrier rescue. She's enjoying a ride in the snow in our front yard!
Photo by Connie Trabold, Kalkaska
5. Our granddaughter, Layla, sledding at grandma's house.
Photo by Gaye Hott, Ellsworth
6. My grandson, Oliver, creating his first snowman of the year.
Photo by Barb Imel, East Jordan

PERFECT PASTA!

Try these inspiring pasta recipes full of flavorful ingredients!



Pasta Bacon Toss

Joy Frazee, Portland

- 1 lb. bacon, cut up
- 4 c. chicken broth
- 2-14.5-oz. cans Italian-style diced tomatoes
- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, minced (or more, if desired)
- ½ t. crushed red pepper flakes, optional
- 16 oz. box uncooked linguine pasta
- 4 ozs. cream cheese
- 5 ozs. parmesan cheese, shredded

Cut bacon into 1-inch pieces and fry; remove from skillet. Put approximately 1 T. of bacon grease in a pot. Add minced garlic and pepper flakes; cook for 10–20 seconds. Add onion; cook 2–3 minutes or until onion is tender. Add broth, diced tomatoes and about a handful of fried bacon pieces, reserving the rest for later. Add uncooked pasta, simmer for 9–10 minutes stirring occasionally, covered, or until pasta is cooked. Mix in the cream cheese until blended well with the pasta and the sauce is thickened. Serve and top with some bacon and shredded Parmesan. This is great for two nights; for the second night, top the remaining pasta with mozzarella and/or Parmesan cheese and bake at 350° until heated through and cheese is melted. Top with cooked bacon.

Greek-Style Scampi (pictured)

Patrick Simmer, Dewitt

- 6 oz. uncooked angel hair pasta
- 1 t. olive oil
- ½ c. chopped green bell pepper
- 2 t. bottled minced garlic
- 14.5 oz. can diced tomatoes with basil, garlic, oregano; undrained
- ⅛ t. black pepper
- 1 lb. peeled & deveined medium uncooked shrimp
- ⅛ t. ground red pepper
- 6 T. crumbled feta cheese

Cook pasta according to package directions, omitting salt. Drain pasta and keep warm. Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add green bell pepper to pan; sauté 1 minute. Add garlic and tomatoes; cook 1 minute. Add black pepper and shrimp; cover and cook 3 minutes or until shrimp is done (don't overcook). Stir in red pepper; remove from heat. Place 1 c. pasta on each of four plates. Top each serving with 1 c. shrimp mixture and 1 ½ T. feta cheese.

Pasta Salad

Becky Beard, Portland

- 1 lb. tri-color spiral pasta
- ¼ c. red or green pepper, chopped
- ¼ c. green olives
- ½ c. cucumber, chopped
- ¾ c. cherry or grape tomatoes, cut in half
- ½ c. feta cheese
- ¼ c. red onions, chopped
- ¼ c. pepperoni slices, cut in quarters
- 1 c. Zesty Italian dressing (or more if needed, to taste)

Cook the pasta according to package directions. Drain and rinse with cool water. Mix with remaining ingredients in a large bowl. Refrigerate until chilled.

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all our readers who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "Quick and Easy" recipes by **April 1** and "BBQ" recipes by **May 1**.

Enter your recipe online at countrylines.com or send to (handprint or type 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.

A RECIPE WINNER EVERY MONTH!

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



Pistachio Pesto Pasta

Christin McKamey

- 8 oz. pasta (gluten free, if desired)
- 2 c. fresh baby spinach, packed
- ½ c. shelled pistachios, roasted and unsalted
- 2 c. fresh basil leaves, packed
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- ¼ c. extra virgin olive oil
- 1 T. white wine vinegar
- 1 T. fresh lemon juice
- ½ t. ground sea salt, or to taste
- ¼ t. freshly ground black pepper

Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain and set aside. In a food processor or high powered blender, add the remaining ingredients. Blend until chopped and thoroughly combined. Mix the pesto with the hot pasta and stir to combine. Serves 4. Will last in the fridge about four days.

Creamy Ranch Pasta Salad

Karen Beard, Portland

- ½ box shaped pasta
- 1 head broccoli, chopped
- 1 c. frozen peas, thawed
- ½ pkg. mini pepperoni slices
- 4 oz. Monterey Jack cheese, chopped into small pieces or shredded
- 12 small carrots, chopped
- Ranch dressing (we use the packet and make our own...tastes much better)

Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain and run cold water over pasta to cool it. Combine rest of ingredients, except the ranch dressing, into a bowl. Pour cooled pasta into the bowl, then stir in dressing (as much as you like).

Helping Rebuild Lives

Nehemiah Project receives People Fund grant.

“**T**his place changed my life,” says Mike Walker, “And I’ve seen many other lives changed.”

He would know.

Now executive director of The Nehemiah Project in Petoskey, Mike once lived in one of the Project’s residences after a long period of homelessness and addiction, sleeping on the streets in a neighboring community.

On his first visit to the Hospitality House, he knocked on the door to have it opened by a volunteer, who simply asked, “Are you hungry?”

“I felt I mattered just by walking through that door,” Mike recalls. His aim as executive director is to bring that feeling to all who visit. The only criteria for becoming a guest here is a declaration of homelessness.

According to the organization’s mission statement, the Project promotes “spiritual and personal growth by providing shelter, hope and prayer to those in need.” Guests are encouraged to seek employment and try to achieve financial independence during their stay. They are connected with organizations to assist them with other needs as they work toward a successful transition back into the community.

How long a guest stays depends on an individual’s motivation, ability and effort to accomplish set goals. While the average stay is around 60 days, those determined to better their situation may stay up to 90 days as they rebuild their lives.

Mike’s own journey with The Nehemiah Project began when he arrived at Hospitality House in early 1993. There, while battling and succeeding against alcohol and drug addiction, he reconnected with his ex-wife Gail. Together, they grew in their spiritual faith and trust in each other, in large part through helping others at the Project. They remarried in November 1993.

Mike found a new career as a painter and planned to buy the business from his employer. That changed when he was asked to become executive director of The Nehemiah Project, where he and Gail had remained involved as innkeepers at the Project’s residences.



Mike and Gail Walker help run The Nehemiah Project in Petoskey, which received a People Fund grant.

Initial doubts about whether this would be the right move made him reluctant to accept the offer. Eventually, he says, he “trusted the calling” and accepted the position as executive director in 2003. Gail works with her husband as manager of the womens’ Mary-Margaret House, which opened in 2000.

Four buildings make up The Nehemiah Project. Hospitality House and Mary-Margaret house offer separate shelters to homeless men and women. Grace House offers a transitional program for those preparing to move back into the community soon.

Dedicated last year, Hope Hall fills another need by providing space for offices, training, computer access, and storage. A \$1,000 People Fund grant helped purchase computers and computer desks for the building.

In 2014, The Nehemiah Project volunteers logged 12,755 hours to provide 7,085 bed nights to 204 guests and served 14,410 meals.

With help from the People Fund and other organizations and individuals, Mike hopes to eventually free The Nehemiah Project from the government funding they depend on today. Either way, he and Gail remain committed.

“Until God tells us what to do next, we’re here,” Mike says. ■

Solar Project Update



Great Lakes Energy's 10 kW educational solar array generated enough electricity to power an average residential home in 2015. All of the energy was used at GLE's Boyne City office.

SOLAR ENERGY GENERATED



The 10 kW array includes a 5 kW fixed set of panels and a 5 kW tilting set of panels.

12,870 kWh in 2015

Highest Day: 74.7 kWh on May 22



Lowest Day: 0 kWh on Jan. 9

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



GLE's Solar Panels reduced emissions* equal to:



1.4 passenger cars



767 gallons of gasoline



16,236 miles driven



7,324 pounds of coal burned

*Source: EPA Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator

Visit gtlakes.com

Average residential member used 791 kWh/mo. as of Dec. 2015



Art on Ice

By Emily Haines Lloyd

When she was younger, Stephanie Miller wanted a career in education—art, to be exact. She never became an art teacher, but she most definitely became an artist and a teacher.

For over 25 years, Miller has built her life around one of her true passions—ice skating. Spending many years at ice rinks around Metro Detroit, Miller became a successful competitive skater and an impassioned stylist. Bored with the uninspired costumes available to her, she started beading her own skating outfits. Before she knew it, other skaters were begging her to help them spruce up their costumes.

"I'm the unlikely story. I got my 'degree' in skating," said Miller. "I was a skater who had an artistic eye and before I knew it, I had a career."

Accident or not, the trajectory of Miller and her partner, Luanne Williams' business is nothing short of impressive.

Once a week, Miller leaves her small town of Kingsley, just 15 miles outside Traverse City, and travels to the Detroit Skating Club, where she and Williams (from Grass Lake) take over the rink's Club Room. There, skaters wait in line to meet with the designers about upcoming competition costumes and what will make them stand out on the ice.

The two have created costumes for an impressive list of world-renowned skaters, including Olympic gold medalists Meryl Davis and Charlie White. Davis wore one of Miller's designs when the duo won their gold medal in Sochi. She has designed Davis' costumes for nearly 20 years—a testament to the trust and respect the skating community has for Miller and Williams.

"I am always on the skater's side," said Miller. "I listen to their music, to what they like or don't like



and I encourage them to listen to their gut. They are the one that has to go out and perform in this costume. They have to love it."

While many have recommended that Miller collaborate with an apparel shop to mass-produce her designs, the costume veteran can't fathom it.

"My heart is in custom, original designs," she explains. "I love having a new piece of artwork to focus on. Otherwise, I would be bored out of my mind."

When she's not creating fresh designs and meticulously adhering stones, Miller is a coach at the Traverse City Skating Club. She's become the teacher she always wanted to be—grooming a new generation of skaters and possibly even clients.

When she drives home at the end of a day of coaching, she's inspired by any number of things, a billboard or the pure aqua blue of Traverse Bay. Before she knows it, there's a new idea for a costume for the artist/teacher who always seems to be working.

"I see something like the water in the bay and all I can think is how great that color will look on the ice." ■

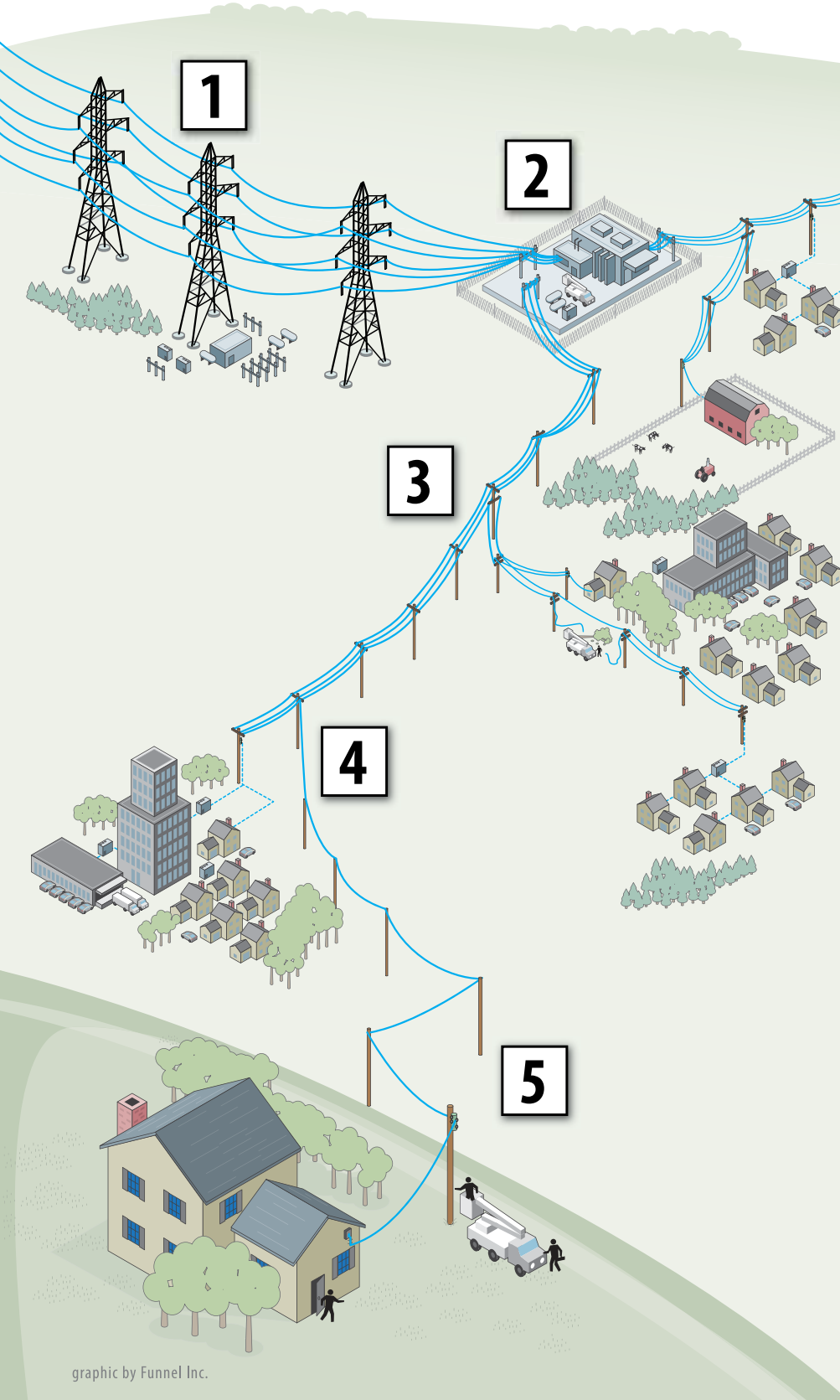
Above: Wearing costumes designed by Miller, are Frances Rossiter (left), 12, a national skater from MI, and Anna Rossiter, 11, a top regional skater who started at age 3.

Photos—Dre Photography



Powering up at Great Lakes Energy

When electricity goes out, most of us expect power will be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm, like the one in December 2015, causes widespread damage, longer outages may result. The numbers below show the route electricity takes to reach your home. It's the same route our repair crews follow to restore service safely to the greatest number of Great Lakes Energy members in the shortest time possible. In a big storm, damage at all five points in the delivery system is possible.



1 High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission line sections that supply power to transmission substations (and an estimated 10,000–20,000 GLE members per section) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

2 Distribution Substation

Each substation serves an estimated 1,000–5,000 GLE members. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist down the line.

3 Main Distribution Lines

If additional problems remain, main lines from the substation are checked. Each line serves an estimated 500–2,000 members.

4 Tap Lines

If local outages persist, tap lines that branch off the main lines are inspected next. Each tap line feeds power to an estimated 15–250 members.

5 Individual Homes

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Small, scattered individual outages (normally groups of less than 10 members) are repaired after problems in the areas above are corrected.

Heat Pump Discounts

A lower kilowatt-hour (kWh) rate is available for qualifying ground or air-source heat pumps.

The rate rewards Great Lakes Energy members who have an efficient electric heating system with a 3 cents per kWh credit for energy used by their heat pump. Credit is available year-round for qualifying ground-source heat pumps. Qualifying air-source heat pumps will receive the credit only during the heating season (bills rendered November through May).

Electric heat pump must meet minimum standards below to qualify for the lower rate:

Geothermal System—minimum requirements of EER 17.1 COP 3.6 for closed loop water-to-air; EER 21.1 COP 4.1 for open loop water-to-air; EER 16.1 COP 3.1 for closed loop water-to-water; EER 20.1 COP 3.5 for open loop water-to-water; EER 16 COP 3.6 for direct geexchange.

Air-Source Heat Pump—minimum requirements of HSPF 8.5, EER 12.5, & SEER 15 for split systems and HSPF 8, EER 12 & SEER 14 for package systems.

The heat pump must be wired to a second meter to receive the kWh discount.

Ask us about the 3 cents/kWh credit and rebates up to \$500 that are available for qualifying heat pumps. Call 888-485-2537, extension 8957, for more information or email us at glenergy@glenergy.com.

Additional rebates up to \$500 are available through our Energy Optimization program. Visit michigan-energy.org or call 877-296-4319.

Great Lakes Energy does not sell or install heat pumps.

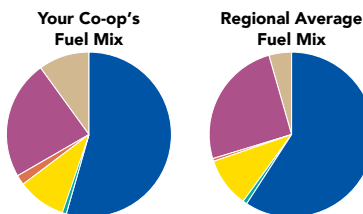
Visit earthcomfort.com sponsored by the Michigan Geothermal Energy Association for more information about heat pumps and dealers in your area. ■

Fuel Mix Report

The fuel mix characteristics of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ended 12/31/15.

COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
FUEL SOURCE	Your Co-op	Regional Average
Coal	53.0%	55.0%
Oil	0.5%	0.6%
Gas	16.1%	12.8%
Hydroelectric	1.3%	0.7%
Nuclear	21.6%	25.7%
Renewable Fuels	7.5%	5.2%
Biodiesel	0.9%	0.7%
Biomass	0.4%	0.5%
Solar	0.1%	0.1%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.1%	0.0%
Wind	5.6%	3.4%
Wood	0.4%	0.5%



EMISSIONS AND WASTE COMPARISON

TYPE OF EMISSION/WASTE	lbs/MWh	
	Your Co-op	Regional Average*
Sulfur Dioxide	5.9	7.6
Carbon Dioxide	1,637	2,170
Oxides of Nitrogen	1.9	2.0
High-level Nuclear Waste	0.0070	0.0083

NOTE: Biomass above excludes wood; solid waste incineration includes landfill gas; and wind includes a long-term renewable purchase power contract in Wolverine's mix, but does not include renewable energy credits (RECs) that bring the total for renewable fuels above 10%.

*Regional average information was obtained from MPSC website and is for the twelve-month period ending 12/31/15.

Great Lakes Energy purchases 100% of its electricity from Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc. which provided this fuel mix and environmental data.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Surf's Up!

While most of us prepare for a snow storm by stopping by the gas station or grocery store, one Northern Michigan native is waxing her surf board. Her surf board? Yes, and a few adventurous souls like Ella Skrocki, 21, catch waves on the Great Lakes year-round.

A student at Northern Michigan University majoring in environmental studies, Ella grew up in the small coastal town of Empire where her parents own Sleeping Bear Surf and Kayak Shop. Brought up with the heart of a surfer, Ella attended surf camps in California where fellow students found the idea of surfing the Great Lakes far-fetched.

But there's nothing improbable about it, and many seasoned Great Lakes surfers prefer the winter waves because of their size and frequency. Ella caught a few 30 footers during a recent storm, describing the experience as "very rewarding." Put in perspective, the waves on Lake Superior that



sank the Edmund Fitzgerald in 1975 reached heights of up to 35 feet.

Waves big enough to sink a freighter present additional challenges including frostbite, dirtier water, and shorter wave periods (7 seconds between crests versus an average of 20 seconds on the ocean). So, why does Ella do it? "When I find the motivation to get out there during a blizzard and catch that one wave, it's so empowering!"

Sure, winter surfing can be brutal but Ella has the proper gear to stay warm and though she admits her "face will get a little numb" on occasion, a touch of grease on her cheeks takes the sting out of winter's icy chill.

If surfing the Great Lakes sounds like an activity worth exploring, Michigan's surfing community is a great place to start. A tight-knit group, they are happy to offer encouragement, tips and lessons. And while we're grumbling during the next



Jack O'Malley

winter storm warning, a small contingent of extreme sports enthusiasts will be gearing up for a wave even the most seasoned ocean surfer would be stoked to catch.

Visit Sleeping Bear Surf and Kayak Shop at sbsurfsandkayak.com. ■



«« Where In Michigan Is This?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **March 18** 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.



January Photo

Our Mystery Photo Contest winner from the January 2016 issue is John Stocki, a Cherryland Electric co-op member who correctly identified the photo as the Marilla Museum and Pioneer Place.



AMERICAN METAL ROOFS Customer Stories...



“It was a great experience...”

Sharon Somers is talking about her roof. Yes, her roof.

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Fifteen years and over 3,000 roofs later, American Metal Roofs is still creating great roofing experiences all over the state of Michigan. Permanent, beautiful and guaranteed, our roofs offer you peace-of-mind not available with a temporary roofing solution. Whether in one of our showrooms, on our website or talking with one of our experts, we invite you to look into an American Metal Roof for your home.

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