

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



Sculptor
Shares The
World
He Has
Shaped

Plus!

Interested In Running For The Board?

Meeting High Service Standards

Spring Energy Seminar

THOUSANDS
of **happy**
geothermal
owners.

MILLIONS
of **dollars** saved.



Real WaterFurnace owners

Thousands of happy homeowners have saved millions of dollars on heating, cooling and hot water thanks to the groundbreaking 7 Series geothermal heat pump. To celebrate, we're offering instant savings of \$2,000 on the most efficient unit on the planet. With the additional 30% federal tax credit, there's never been a better time to upgrade to WaterFurnace. But hurry, this deal ends June 24th¹, so contact your local dealer today—and join the SEVENbration!



WaterFurnace
Smarter from the Ground Up™

Your Local WaterFurnace Dealers

Bad Axe
B & D Htg
(989) 269-5280
bdheating.com

Berrien Springs
WaterFurnace
Michiana
(269) 473-5667
gogreenmich
geothermal.com

Big Rapids
Stratz Htg & Clg, Inc.
(231) 796-3717
stratzgeocomfort.com

Caro
AllTemp
Comfort, Inc.
(866) 844-HEAT (4328)
geo4less.com

Carsonville
Certified Temperature
Innovations
(810) 300-7748

Clifford
Orton Refrig & Htg
(989) 761-7691
sanduskygeothermal.com

DeWitt
S & J Htg & Clg
(517) 669-3705
geothermalservicesof
michigan.com

Grand Rapids
Total Comfort
Resource, LLC
(616) 406-3182
totalcomfortresource.com

Hart/Ludington
Adams Htg & Clg
(231) 873-2665
adamsheatingcooling.com

Indian River
M & M Plmb & Htg
(231) 238-7201
mm-plumbing.com

Jackson/Adrian
Comfort 1
Htg & A/C
(517) 764-1500
comfort1.net/geothermal

Kalkaska
Kalkaska Plmb & Htg
(231) 258-3588
kalkaskageothermal.net

Mt Pleasant
Walton Htg & Clg
(989) 774-1566
waltonheating.com

Muskegon
Adams Htg & Clg
(231) 873-2665
adamsheatingcooling.com

Kiessel Geothermal
Htg & Clg
(231) 747-509
kiesselsgeo.com

Portland
ESI Htg & Clg
(517) 647-6906
esiheating.com

Sunfield
Mark Woodman
Plmb & Htg
(517) 886-1138
mwphonline.com

Traverse City
Geofurnace
Htg & Clg
(231) 943-1000
watergeofurnace.com

D & W Mechanical
(231) 941-1215
dwgeothermal.com

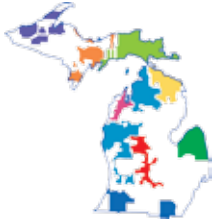


instant **\$2,000**
REBATE

IT'S A
SEVEN
bration

Learn more at waterfurnace.com/SEVENbration

1. Rebate ends on June 24th, 2016. Rebate available only to residential customers through participating dealers. WaterFurnace is a registered trademark of WaterFurnace International, Inc. ©2016 WaterFurnace International, Inc.



Michigan's Electric Cooperatives
countrylines.com

April 2016
Vol. 36, No. 4

Executive Editor
Casey Clark

Editor
Christine Dorr

Publisher
**Michigan Electric
Cooperative Association**

Design and Layout
Ciesa Design

Michigan Country Lines, USPS-591-710, is published monthly, except August and December, with periodicals postage paid at Lansing, MI, and additional offices. It is the official publication of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933.

Subscriptions are authorized for members of Alger Delta, Cherryland, Great Lakes, HomeWorks Tri-County, Midwest Energy, Ontonagon, Presque Isle, and Thumb electric cooperatives by their boards of directors.

POSTMASTER: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

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.

CONTACT US/LETTERS TO EDITOR:

Michigan Country Lines
201 Townsend St., Suite 900
Lansing, MI 48933
248-534-7358
cdorr@meca.coop
countrylines.com



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.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 6 **OUR ENERGY**
Co-ops Launch Voter Engagement Program
- 7 **SAFETY**
Help Celebrate National Lineman Day April 11
Plant The Right Tree In The Right Place
- 10 **HOME COOKING**
Complete Your Meal With Clever Side Dishes
Christin McKamey & Our Readers
- 14 **FEATURE**
Sculptor Shares The World He Has Shaped
Yvonne Whitman
- 18 **READERS' PAGE**
Jampot Bakery Offers A Divine Experience
Yvonne Whitman
New For Members—Share Your Favorite Memories

IN YOUR WORDS

Last month, we asked electric co-op members a question:

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

Thank you for all the responses. Here are some of your answers...

"I would like to be 17 again, when I met and dated my first girlfriend."

"I think of myself as 61 years old. I am really 82, and married 60 years. To be 61 again would be great...the kids are educated and married, our home and cottage are paid for, and we still have date nights!"

"My current age, 76. I'm healthy and can enjoy all the blessings provided by God."

Our new Question of the Month is:

If you had to be trapped in a tv show for a month, which would you choose?

Please submit answers to countrylines.com by May 1.

ON THE COVER*

Tom Lakenen, creator of Lakenenland Sculpture Park in the Upper Peninsula, has created over 80 whimsical sculptures from bits of salvaged iron.

*Some co-op editions have a different cover.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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: Bill Scott

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:

1-800-678-0411

gtlakes.com

Change of Address:

888-485-2537, ext. 8924

Great Lakes Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Find us on Facebook.

facebook.com/greatlakesenergy



Bill Scott served as GLE's chief financial officer and chief operating officer prior to becoming president and CEO on March 29. He has also 25 years in other leadership positions (13 with GLE), including working with two electric utilities in Florida.

A Message From GLE's New CEO

As a "financial guy," I've always been interested in numbers and how they look at the end of the month. Controlling costs was an important part of my job as your co-op's chief financial officer. It will continue to be important to me as your new president and CEO.

There are other numbers about your co-op that I find interesting and would like to share:

- GLE has **242** full-time employees in **nine** service locations.
- The cooperative serves **123,000** members in **26** counties.
- We are led by **nine** board members with **three** directors elected each year.
- GLE has over **14,000** miles of line, more than most of the **800-plus** electric co-ops in the nation.
- Capital credit refunds totaling over **\$46.1** million have been returned to members since 2003.

I understand the impact numbers have on our members. Financial decisions made by your board of directors with management input reflects that. Fiscal responsibility involves being prepared to handle unexpected situations. Our financial strength allows us to weather major storms, like the August and December 2015 storms that cost over \$3.5 million, because we are a well-run business.

We strive to keep our annual average increase in costs below that of other electric co-ops in the country. As business expenses continue to rise each year, along with expensive weather events, this annual goal is becoming more difficult to reach. It is something we continue to monitor very closely.

Many of our expenses are similar to yours, such as insurance, fuel, utilities, interest and transportation. Electric co-ops pay taxes, too. In 2015, our total property tax expense was nearly \$4.7 million. These are some of the fixed costs covered by the monthly charge on your bill.

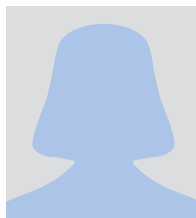
These facts and figures are just a few of the numbers that make Great Lakes Energy a well-run business. Other numbers, like our financial strength, our low average outage minutes, and the amount of money we invest in keeping our electric system healthy all contribute to our most important number—you.

Our members are number one. Providing you with reliable service and affordable rates has always been our focus and will continue to be under my leadership. ■

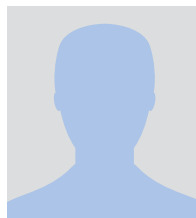
Three Openings On GLE Board



District 6
Robert Kran



District 8*
*No director currently represents the district.



District 9*

Nominating petitions are available in three districts for Great Lakes Energy (GLE) members who wish to seek election to the cooperative's board of directors.

New directors are expected to be elected in two districts (8 and 9) that currently have no representatives on the board.

In 2014, GLE members voted to establish voting districts by geographic region for director elections.

Three board positions, each for three years, will need to be filled. Qualifying GLE members who reside in districts 6, 8 or 9 can seek election to the board.

Counties by district are:

District 6 – Mason, Lake

District 8 – Osceola, Clare, Newaygo, Mecosta

District 9 – Ottawa, Kent, Montcalm, Allegan, Barry

The term of District 6 director Robert Kran, of Free Soil, expires this year. Districts 6 and 7 each have two directors on the board. Both districts will each lose one director this year due to the retirement of Robert Thurow in District 6 and Richard Walsworth in District 7.

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.

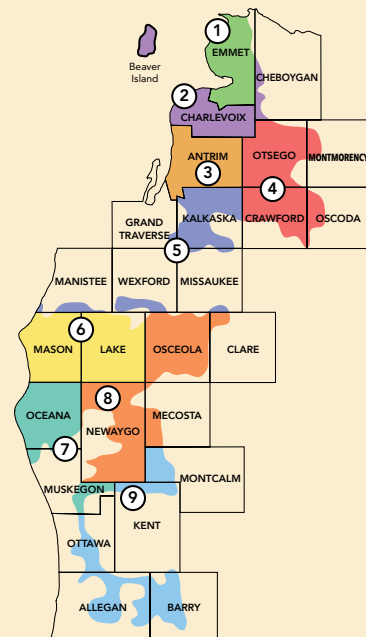
Petitions must be signed by at least 50 active GLE members within the candidate's district.

Petition circulators are advised, but not required, to collect well over 50 signatures because some may not be valid.

Signed petitions returned by mail or in person must be received in the co-op's Boyne City office no earlier than Thursday, May 26, and no later than Friday, June 10.

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

Great Lakes Energy members in each of the three districts will elect one candidate from within their district to fill the three positions on the board. Mail-in ballots will be sent with the July/August 2016 issue of *Michigan Country Lines*. Winners will be announced Aug. 24 at the annual business meeting. ■



When Do We Vote?

Great Lakes Energy members elect a candidate from within their district to the cooperative's board of directors once every three years.

Find the district you reside in below to determine when you will receive a mail-in ballot that is mailed in July with the annual election issue of *Michigan Country Lines*.

2016 election

District 6 – Mason and Lake counties

District 8 – Osceola, Clare, Newaygo and Mecosta counties

District 9 – Ottawa, Kent, Montcalm, Allegan and Barry counties

2017 election

District 3 – Antrim County

District 4 – Otsego, Montmorency, Oscoda and Crawford counties

District 5 – Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Manistee, Missaukee and Wexford counties

2018 election

District 1 – Emmet County

District 2 – Charlevoix and Cheboygan counties

District 7 – Oceana and Muskegon counties

Co-ops Launch Voter Engagement Program

Michigan electric cooperatives have joined a national initiative for a non-partisan effort to promote civic engagement and voter participation in the communities they serve.

Through this program, we want to help our members know when elections are, what's at stake, and how to make their voices heard. Who folks vote for isn't really as important as the fact that they do vote.

In keeping with its non-partisan goals, the initiative will not be endorsing specific candidates for office. It's about real people in real places facing real challenges. It's about our co-ops living out the principles of our movement: Concern for community and democratic control.

Visit vote.coop to learn more. ■



Don't forget to vote in the state primary election on August 2 and the general election on November 8.

I'M A CO-OP VOTER



A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
WWW.VOTE.COOP



Thank A Lineworker On April 11

As the “first responders” of the electric co-op family, lineworkers perform around-the-clock in dangerous conditions and challenging situations to keep power flowing and protect the public’s safety, going above and beyond to restore power to their communities. That’s why electric co-ops have designated a National Lineman Appreciation Day. This year, April 11 is the day we honor the hard-working men and women who keep the lights on.

Resolutions adopted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) explain it best:

“Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on; Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure; Whereas there would be no electric co-ops without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of lineworkers.”



Lineworkers everywhere deserve this special day of recognition. As a co-op member, please take a moment to “thank a lineworker” for the job they do and show support for those who help light our lives. ■

Plant A Tree In The Right Place

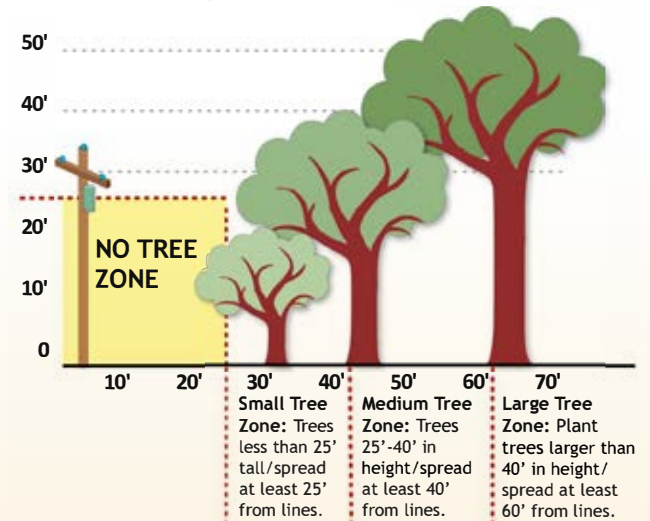
Earth Day is April 22. Show the earth some love, and plant a tree. Choose the right tree for the right place and avoid future problems with power lines.

To avoid future electrical hazards, planting tips include:

- Consider the mature height of trees. Any tree that can grow to 25 feet tall or more should not be planted near overhead power lines. A mature height of less than 15 feet is recommended.
- Do not plant near underground utility services. Tree roots can grow and interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires. Future repairs to these facilities could also damage the health and beauty of nearby plants and trees.
- Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.

- Before digging, call 811, the local underground utility locator service so that accidental contact, damage and injuries can be avoided. ■

Tree Planting Guide





Shop And Save

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.

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.

Beware Of Other Online Payment Sites

-paying your Great Lakes Energy bill online is fast, easy and free when you use our website—my.gtlakes.com. Beware of hidden fees from other payment websites.

Pay your GLE bill online at any time by using this address: my.gtlakes.com. If you accidentally select another payment website to make your bill payment, you risk possible extra charges and payment processing delays. Make sure our website with the address above appears before making a payment.



Some websites allow visitors to pay their local utility bills with the utility's name and company logo appearing on the site. Great Lakes Energy is not affiliated with any third party website that offers utility payment service. If you pay your GLE bill on a third party website, you risk:

- Extra charges levied by the third party for each transaction on their website.
- Delays up to two days or more before the payment is actually posted to your GLE account.

For some GLE members, the delay could result in the account being disconnected for nonpayment if payment is not received in time to avoid shut-off. Even if late payment does not result in a shut-off, late payment fees could be charged to the account.

Great Lakes Energy members can avoid these risks by taking advantage of payment options offered directly from their cooperative. Use our "Pay Your Way" system with one of the following options:

AutoPay: Your payment is automatically deducted each month from either your checking account, credit card or debit card.

ePay: Pay online at my.gtlakes.com. Make a one-time payment with a check or credit card. Enroll in e-billing to stop receiving paper bills.

PhonePay: Either speak to a GLE representative or pay at any time by using our automated pay-by-phone service. We accept payment by credit card or check over the phone.

Pay Stations: Visit any of the local participating businesses that will accept payments for Great Lakes Energy bills (no past due amounts).

FlexPay: Pay for your electricity in advance and manage your electricity use on a daily basis. No late fees, no reconnect fees and no deposits involved with this plan.

You can also visit any of our eight GLE offices and make your payment in person or use our drop-box.

For more information visit gtlakes.com or contact us at 888-GTLAKES. ■

Birds Of Beauty Photo Gallery



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

1. Snowy owl, taken in Traverse City this winter.
Photo by Lori Gelinas, Rapid City
2. A pelican along the Atlantic shore in Central Florida.
Photo by Heike DeWolf, Grayling
3. Bald eagle in winter.
Photo by Gaye Hott, Ellsworth
4. A beautiful blue heron in the river behind our house.
Photo by Kayleigh Martin, Ludington
5. An oriole at our hummingbird feeder.
Photo by Edward Garabedian, Grayling
6. Hungry goldfinches.
Photo by Barry Cole, Petoskey
7. This little female hummingbird visited our garden daily in late summer. She really liked the purple flowers in the hanging basket!
Photo by Sharon Hemme, Petoskey
8. This drake wood duck caught me taking his picture while he rested on a branch in the back yard.
Photo by Kathy Miller, Gowen

Enter Our '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 on their December 2016 energy bill, up to \$200! Upcoming topics include **"Fishing,"** due **April 15** for the June issue and **"All About Michigan,"** due **May 15** for the July/August issue.

Visit gtlakes.com/photocontest to submit your high resolution digital photo, read contest rules, and see upcoming themes for 2016. Thank you to everyone who sends in photos. We always look forward to seeing all the photos our talented members submit.

CLEVER SIDE DISHES

Complete your meal with these simple sides.



Spicy Roasted Brussels Sprouts

Cynthia Hodges, Calumet

- 1 ½ lbs. brussels sprouts
- 2 T. extra-virgin olive oil
- ¼ c. white wine vinegar
- ¼ c. honey
- 4 T. Sriracha, or more to taste
- kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Cover a baking sheet with foil. Trim the base away from the brussels sprouts and discard. Cut the sprouts in half. In a large bowl, whisk the olive oil with the vinegar, honey and Sriracha to combine. Add the brussels sprouts and toss until fully coated. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Spread the brussels sprouts on the foil-lined baking sheet, cut sides down. Pour any extra olive oil mixture onto the pan and tilt the pan around to distribute it. Roast until the sprouts are crispy on the outside and golden and caramelized on the cut sides, 20 to 30 minutes. Serve immediately.

Broccoli Salad (pictured)

Karen Armstrong, Webberville

- 1 head broccoli, cut into bite size florets
- ½ red onion, chopped
- ½ c. crumbled bacon
- 1 ½ c. shredded cheese
- ½ c. mayo
- 1 T. cider vinegar
- ½ c. sugar (or to taste)

Mix all ingredients together; toss with broccoli. Serve.

German Potato Salad

Joan Nachtman, Ellsworth

- ½ lb. bacon, cut into small pieces
- 1 medium onion
- 2 T. flour
- ½ c. sugar
- ⅔ c. white vinegar
- 1½ c. water
- salt and pepper, to taste
- 6–8 large potatoes, peeled and cubed

Fry bacon and remove from pan; leave the fat from bacon in the pan. Add the onion and fry in the bacon grease for 3 to 4 minutes. Add flour and cook for a couple minutes, stirring. Mix in sugar and white vinegar. Boil the potatoes in water until done. Drain and add potatoes with bacon and sauce. Best made one day ahead, cover and refrigerate.

Sauerkraut Salad

Lorraine Hartley, Wolverine

- 16 ozs. sauerkraut, drained and rinsed
- 1 med. green pepper, diced
- 1 c. celery, diced
- 1 med. onion, diced
- ¾ c. to 1 c. sugar
- ½ c. apple cider vinegar
- 2-oz. jar diced pimentos, drained

Combine all ingredients. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Stir and serve.

Apple Slaw

Robin Musselman, Charlotte

- 2 c. chopped apples
- 2 c. shredded red cabbage
- 2 c. shredded green cabbage
- 1 med. carrot, finely chopped
- 1½ c. Miracle Whip
- 2 T. honey
- spiced or sugared pecans, optional

Mix Miracle Whip and honey; set aside. In a large bowl, combine apples, carrot and both cabbages. Mix in Miracle Whip/honey mixture. Chill. Serve as is or with pecans on top.



Swiss Vegetable Medley

Terry Baxter, Alanson

- 1 bag (16 oz.) frozen vegetables (broccoli, carrots, cauliflower), thawed and drained
- 1 can (10 ¾ oz.) condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 1 c. (4 oz.) shredded Swiss cheese
- ⅓ c. sour cream
- ¼ t. pepper
- 1 can (2.8 oz.) French fried onions

Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, combine vegetables, soup, ½ c. cheese, sour cream, pepper and ½ can of French fried onions. Pour into shallow (1 qt.) rectangle baking dish. Bake covered for 30 to 40 minutes. Sprinkle remaining cheese and onions in diagonal rows across top; bake uncovered 5 minutes or until onions are golden. Makes 6 servings.

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

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

Enter your recipe online at countrylines.com or send to (hand print 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.



Meeting High Standards

Great Lakes Energy exceeds most state performance standards.

Great Lakes Energy met nine of 10 state-mandated standards for electric service and reliability in 2015.

limit tree damage to power lines are all helping us get the lights back on safely and more quickly for our members during storms.

Thousands of Great Lakes Energy members are benefiting from our continuous improvements in reliability and service. These efforts have led to our success in meeting all 10 state performance standards in seven of the last nine years. The addition of more line protection devices, use of new technologies, improvements to major power line circuits, and ongoing vegetation management to

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) requires state-regulated electric utilities to annually report how well they were able to meet standards established to protect consumers from unacceptable levels of electric service and reliability. Standards to help measure utility performance in emergency outage situations are included. ■

2015 ANNUAL STANDARDS AND RESULTS

Complaint Response. Utility must respond in three business days or less to at least 90 percent of any formal complaints filed against it with the MPSC.

GLE score: 100 percent.

Call Blockage. No more than 5 percent of incoming calls should receive a busy signal.

GLE score: Results could not be determined because call blockage numbers were not available from GLE's phone line carrier for all months in 2015. A change in the way data is collected is being made which should prevent this from happening again.

Meter Reading. At least 85 percent of the meters must be read within the approved time period.

GLE score: 99.37 percent.

Wire Down Relief Factor. At least 90 percent of the time, a utility must respond within four hours to non-utility employees, such as firefighters, who request relief from guarding a downed power line.

GLE score: 100 percent.

New Service Installation. At least 90 percent of new services must be installed in 15 business days or less. Great Lakes Energy handled 706 new service installations last year, excluding those installed in combination with primary lines.

GLE score: 98.9 percent.

Average Call Answer Time. Calls must be answered on average in less than 90 seconds. In 2015, the cooperative handled nearly 350,000 calls through its Call Center, outage and operator queues.

GLE score: 33 seconds.

Outage Restoration (Normal Conditions). At least 90 percent of the customers should have their power restored in eight hours or less.

GLE score: 99 percent.

Outage Restoration (Catastrophic Conditions). At least 90 percent of the customers should have their power restored in 60 hours or less.

GLE score: 98.7 percent.

State rules define catastrophic conditions as either severe weather conditions that result in service interruptions to at least 10 percent of a utility's customers or events of sufficient magnitude that result in a government issued state of emergency declaration.

Outage Restoration (All Conditions). Power should be restored to at least 90 percent of the customers in 36 hours or less under normal and catastrophic conditions.

GLE score: 96.93 percent.

Same Circuit Repetitive Interruption. No more than 5 percent of the utility's electric circuits should experience five or more outages in a 12-month period.

GLE score: 0.11 percent.

Getting the lights back on quickly is another way Great Lakes Energy looks out for you.



Supporting Our Natural Resources

The Mason County Walleye Association raises young walleyes in their rearing pond for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). A \$5,000 People Fund grant helped fund fish transfer tanks and equipment/pond repairs that will help the group continue its annual fish rearing

project. Once baby walleyes, called “fries,” grow to the right size, they are removed from the pond (as workers prepare to do in photo above) and stocked in area lakes by the DNR. The group’s work helps support area sportfishing and tourism. ■

(Photo courtesy Ludington Daily News)

YOUR SMALL CHANGE MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE

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 49 cents a month in 2015, goes into the People Fund. There are no administrative costs. All donations are returned to our local communities.

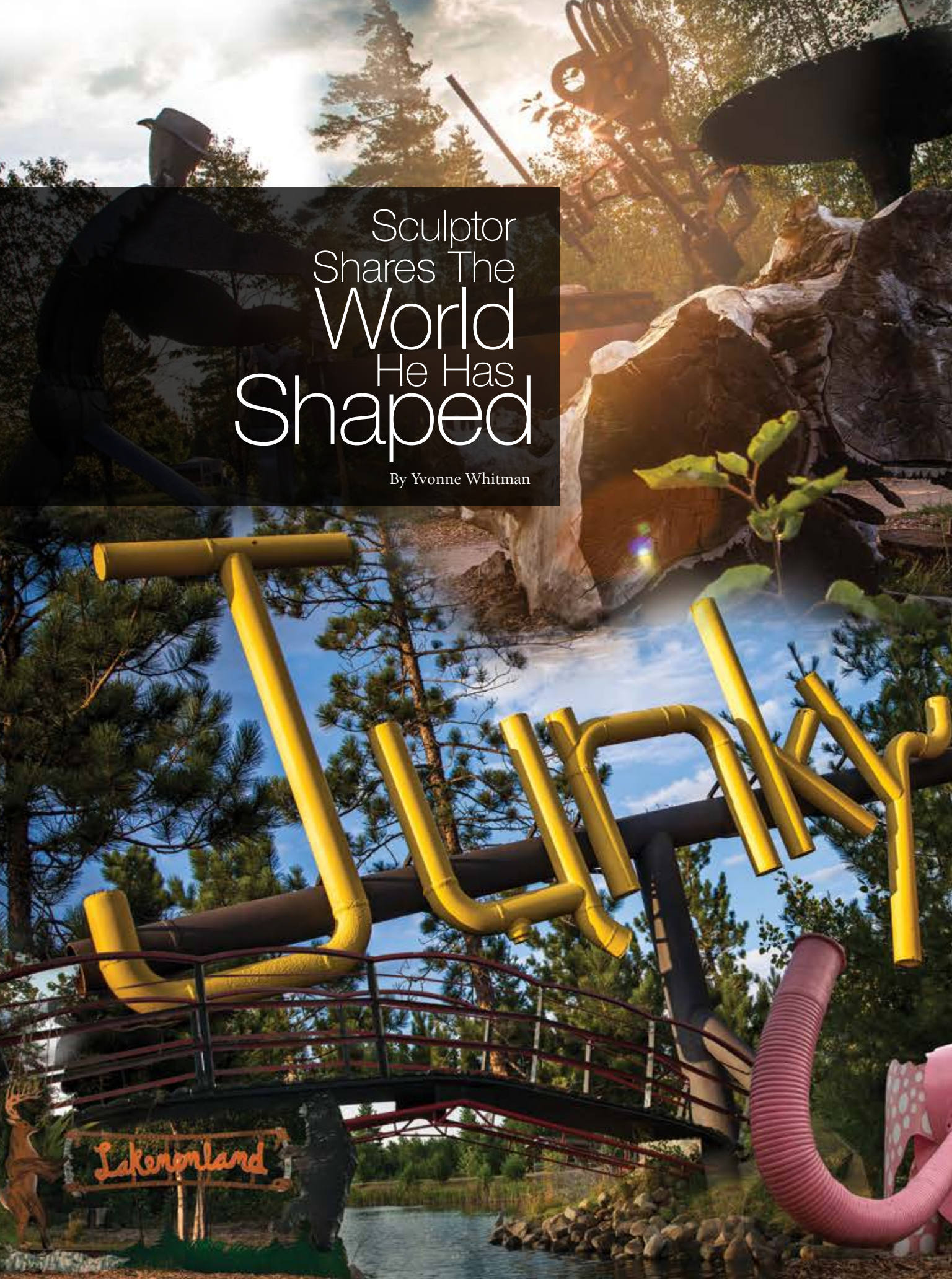


Bellaire Public Library
Children's Literacy Station Computer

We Need Your Help!

Enroll in the People Fund today: 1-888-485-2537 • gtlakes.com



The image is a vertical collage. The top half features a dark, semi-transparent rectangular area containing white text. Behind this text, a sculptor wearing a hat is seen working on a large, dark sculpture. To the right, a large, abstract sculpture of a hand is visible against a bright, sunlit background. The bottom half of the image shows a water park slide with yellow and black pipes, set against a backdrop of pine trees and a blue sky. A sign for 'Lakemontland' is visible in the lower-left corner of this section.

Sculptor
Shares The
World
He Has
Shaped

By Yvonne Whitman

Lakemontland



Highway M-28, east of Marquette, is a typical stretch of U.P. road—until you notice the startling, out-of-place objects emerging from the nearby woods. Some say the experience is like stumbling upon a north woods “Jurassic Park.” In truth, you have entered the fantastical and far-friendlier world of Lakenenland Sculpture Park.

Yes, you will find a dinosaur or two roaming the nearly 40-acre woodland park. But they’re gentle giants—over 80 whimsical sculptures created by a single artist from bits of salvaged iron. Each of the works scattered throughout the park are the creation of a local iron sculptor, Tom Lakenen, 53.



Pat Lakenen putting the finishing touches on another one of her son’s creations.

The park is the result of a major lifestyle change and grew from a single project. “I traded beer drinking and bar stools for metal sculpting,” Lakenen says with a wide grin. Working in his garage, he first crafted “Eight Dancing Wolves,” which he hesitantly displayed in his front yard. “No one threw eggs at my house, so I decided to make something else,” says Lakenen, a boilermaker by trade. These were soon joined by a motorcycle-riding skeleton and other imaginative creatures. His neighbors didn’t appear to mind his installations, but his output soon overflowed his yard. And thus was born the Lakenenland Sculpture Park.

“In 2003, I remortgaged my house for the next 100 years!” Lakenen jokingly exclaims about buying 37 acres “to scatter my ‘junk art’ around.” After years of clearing trees and building roads by himself, the park has evolved to include a visitor pavilion, band shell, two fishing ponds and a lean-to warming shack for the many winter visitors arriving by snowmobile. The park is open year-round and there is no admission fee.

Most winter weekends find Lakenen stoking the bonfire for snowmobilers and offering free hot chocolate, coffee and snacks to upwards of 150 people. (Snowmobile Trail #417 runs through the park). His generosity is matched by his resourcefulness, since he’s become adept at bartering. In fact, Lakenen traded sand from the property with both a neighbor and a road crew, who removed enough earth to create the two large craters that became the ponds he now stocks with fish.

Lakenenland and its contents are financed solely by the sculptor himself—with one fine exception. An area doctor, Ken Buran, once left a \$2,000 donation. Buran subsequently asked Lakenen if there were any other improvements he wished to make in the park. “A pavilion,” Lakenen told him, “so guests can eat their lunch in shade.” The pavilion arose from a \$10,000 second donation. “Tom and his wife, Lisa, are good people,” Buran says. “They do a lot for the community. His park is unique, and I thought it worth preserving and building upon. Communities need these places as a cultural heritage and identity.”

And indeed, Lakenenland represents more than a sculpture park. It stands as a testament to creativity, determination, generosity and—above all—community. And you can’t put a price on that. ■

Visit lakenenland.com for more information on the park.



Spring Clean Your Way To Energy Savings

Spruce up your spring cleaning routine by adding a few extra activities that will keep your home spotless and help you save energy, too.

- Vacuum air registers and vents to keep air flowing as efficiently as possible.
- Wash or replace air filters and consider installing a timer switch on your bathroom fan.
- Dust electronics and lightbulbs thoroughly to ensure they operate at maximum capacity.
- Vacuum refrigerator coils to remove dust and dirt, which can force the fridge to work harder.
- Clean the track on your sliding glass door to maintain a tight seal. A dirty track can create gaps where heat or cold air can escape.

Take a quick break from cleaning and prep your home for energy savings by doing the following:

- Redirect ceiling fans to spin counterclockwise. This helps move air downward, cooling the room and maintaining constant airflow.
- Purchase a smart or programmable thermostat to control the temperature in your home, even when you're away.



- Open windows to create a cross-wise breeze, cooling your home without switching on the A/C.
- Seal air leaks to prevent cool air from seeping out. Up to 30 percent of heating and cooling bills are consumed by air leakage!
- Schedule a professional tune-up for your cooling system to ensure it runs at peak efficiency. Regular tune-ups can also help prevent costly breakdowns.

REBATES ARE NOW AVAILABLE toward the purchase of many energy-efficient products and appliances. Visit michigan-energy.org or call 877-296-4319 for additional energy-saving information and rebates. ■



Out with the old

It's the season of change! Now is the perfect time to identify opportunities to upgrade outdated, inefficient lighting and equipment at your office or facility. The Energy Optimization program helps businesses save energy—and improve their bottom line—by providing cash incentives toward the purchase of:

- HVAC equipment
- Food service equipment
- Energy-efficient lighting
- Industrial process equipment
- Commercial refrigeration equipment

ENERGY TIP: Rebates are available for custom projects tailored to meet unique business needs.

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.

How To Figure Operating Costs

Follow these steps and find out how much it costs to operate your appliances by the hour:

1. Find the wattage rating on the back or bottom of your appliance. If there is an amperage rating instead, multiply the *amps* times the *volts* to calculate the watts.
($amps \times volts = watts$)
Example: A microwave oven rated at 6 *amps* and 120 *volts* would use 720 *watts* of electricity. ($6 \text{ amps} \times 120 \text{ volts} = 720 \text{ watts}$)
2. Divide the appliance wattage by 1,000 to convert to *kilowatts*.
Example: 720 *watts* divided by 1,000 = .72 *kilowatts*
3. Multiply the *kilowatts* by our kilowatt-hour (kWh) rate for residential, seasonal and general service single-phase services, plus the Power Supply Cost Recovery (PSCR) charge.
8.64 cents + 1.65 cents PSCR = 10.29 cents/kWh
Example: .72 *kilowatts* x .1029 = .074

The cost to use a 720-watt microwave oven for one hour is 7.4 cents.

Keep in mind that:

- Appliances with a thermostat will not run 100 percent of the time.
- Electric motors use approximately 750 watts per horsepower.
- The \$0.00198/kWh Energy Optimization (EO) surcharge is not included. The Michigan Public Service Commission states that members should be able to recoup the EO surcharge by participating in EO programs.

Find more information on gtlakes.com. For more on our energy-saving EO programs, visit michigan-energy.org or call 877-296-4319. ■



Help Keep Our Lineworkers Safe

Nails and staples left from signs hung on a utility pole may seem harmless, unless you're a lineworker working in darkness to restore power who doesn't see them. They can easily rip protective gloves, putting the lineworker at risk of being electrocuted.

In addition, lineworkers may not see a bird house, plant hanger or other object on the pole that could cause them to slip and fall.

For their safety, please don't attach anything to a utility pole.

The Great Lakes Energy lineworkers who help keep your lights on thank you.



Attend A Free Energy Seminar

A free energy seminar for Great Lakes Energy members will be held Friday, June 10, at the Mason County District Library in Ludington.

Learn about home heating and cooling options with geothermal and air-source heat pumps and energy optimization (EO) programs that offer incentives to help co-op members save energy. They include rebates for the purchase of furnaces with variable speed blower motors, heat pump water heaters, Wi-Fi-enabled or smart occupancy-sensing thermostats, refrigerators, televisions, lighting, and more. In addition, information on free online audits will be provided.

Local heating and cooling companies and Great Lakes Energy staff members will be on hand to answer questions related to heat pumps.

Co-op members will learn about other incentive programs offered by Great Lakes Energy, too.

Door prizes will be awarded. Winners will receive energy-saving gifts.

Register Now

Call 888-485-2537, ext. 8958 or email events@glenergy.com. Space is limited.

Friday, June 10, 10 a.m. to noon.
Mason County District Library
West Shore Bank room
217 East Ludington Ave. (U.S.-10),
Ludington

I Remember...

We invite members to share their fondest memories.

Country Lines will pay \$50 for stories we publish.

Guidelines

1. Approximately 200 words
2. Digital photos must be at least 600 KB
3. Only one entry per household, per month
4. *Country Lines* retains reprint rights
5. Please include your name, address, email, phone number and the name of your electric co-op
6. Submit your memories online: countrylines.com



Jampot Bakery Offers A Divine Experience

By Yvonne Whitman

For area residents and tourists alike, no drive along the Keweenaw Peninsula's scenic lakefront is complete without a stop at The Jampot. The shop is operated by a small order of Byzantine monks and well-known for everything homemade, from jams and jellies to fresh-baked goods. The signature thimbleberry jam is heavenly.

Monastery founders Frs. Basil and Nicholas arrived in the area in 1983, seeking a place for quiet prayer and peace. Hearing that the Upper Peninsula was "a place of small towns and wilderness," noted Basil, they purchased a quaint lakeside resort. "The Holy Spirit led us here. The first winter our business was just finding a way to survive," Basil explains. In order to support themselves, they quickly became familiar with the tradition of harvesting a local fruit—the thimbleberry—long used to make jam for winter sustenance. They decided to try jam-making by default, as there wasn't much else in the rugged, sparsely-populated land.

Welcoming area residents helped the monks as they worked to establish their business. "Community members embraced us and that made all the difference," Basil says. "They shared the best locations of berry patches and the local grocer sold us the jars at cost." That first year, they produced 120 cases of jam, selling them to a local distributor for use in gift baskets. In 1986, they opened the



Photo courtesy of The Jampot

doors of The Jampot, adding unique bakery items to their product line that receive rave reviews.

However, the main focus of their lives remains prayer, to which they devote every possible waking hour, and The Jampot exists to support a place of religious devotion. Visit societystjohn.com to learn more about the monastery's fascinating story. ■

The Jampot is located on M-26 between Eagle Harbor and Eagle River. The store's season is late April through mid-October. Products are also available year-round by online mail order. Store hours are Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit store.societystjohn.com for more details.



AMERICAN METAL ROOFS President, Frank Farmer



“Your new roof, from purchase through installation, should be an outstanding experience.”

I have been selling home improvements across Michigan since 1986. Over the years, one thing always worried me about what I saw in my customer's eyes - no matter what I said or did, deep down, I could tell that many of them just didn't trust me.

And I understood that lack of trust.

After all, home improvement companies have a long history of deceptive practices, shoddy workmanship and spineless warranties and I was just another salesman from another home improvement company who might be there to rip them off.

I knew things had to change.

So, in the winter of 1999, I sat down to plan the perfect home improvement experience - *from the homeowners perspective*. Armed with a cup of good coffee and a legal pad, I went to work. Several hours and several pages later, the plan for American Metal Roofs was born.

The Result: The best roofing product, installed by skilled craftsmen backed by warranties with real teeth. I believe that's what every homeowner deserves. If you agree, let's get together and talk about a beautiful, permanent American Metal Roof for your home.

You deserve nothing less.

VISIT OUR SHOWROOMS:

FLINT - 6140 Taylor Drive • CHARLOTTE - 1875 Lansing Road

Call Today! 844.638.2576 844.METAL.ROOFS

Read More Customer Stories and Watch the Video at:

AmericanMetalRoofs.com

See Dozens of Pictures • Enter to Win a Metal Roof • Request a Quote




Can We Use Your Home In Our Advertising?

You Could Save Thousands On A New American Metal Roof!

CALL TODAY to find out if your home qualifies for a **Showcase Home Discount**



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

gtlakes.com

 facebook.com/greatlakesenergy



THANK YOU

Let's honor the heroes
that keep the lights on
365 days a year.

We celebrate the
hard work, innovation
and dedication of
electrical lineworkers.

April 11 is
National Lineman
Appreciation Day

#thanklineman

