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Twice

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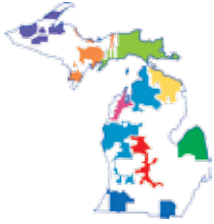
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Association officers are **Robert Kran**, Great Lakes Energy, chairman; **Mark Kappler**, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric, vice chairman; and **Eric Baker**, Wolverine Power Cooperative, secretary-treasurer. **Craig Borr** is president and CEO.

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See page 4 for contact information.

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IN YOUR WORDS

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

If you could spend the day with any celebrity, who would it be?

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

"Shirley Jones. I fell in love with that woman when she played Marian the Librarian in The Music Man. That face, that voice."

"The NCIS crew, Definitely! I could hang out with Gibbs, and his crew in DC to see all the monuments; Pride, and his crew in New Orleans for some of that Cajun cookin' and Dixieland jazz; then Hettie and her crew in LA for some California dreaming."

Our new Question of the Month is:

Where can you get the best burger in Michigan?

Please submit answers to countrylines.com by September 1.

ON THE COVER

Ann and Steve Loveless of Beulah, MI, stand in front of the winning panoramic landscape that they brought to life at the 2013 Michigan ArtPrize competition.

*Some co-op editions have a different cover.

Photo-Steve Loveless



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Elect GLE's Board Of Directors – Your Vote Counts!



Bill Scott
Great Lakes Energy
President/CEO

The presidential election has taken center stage for many months now, and soon it will be time to cast your vote. But voting for politicians is not the only way we, as co-op members, can practice democracy.

Voting is also something you can do as a member and owner of Great Lakes Energy. It's your right as a member to elect a board member in your geographic district.

Every co-op, whether it's your credit union or a farm co-op, follows the basic principle of *one member, one vote*. Most often you are asked to vote to elect fellow members who will represent you on the board of directors. These folks are your friends, neighbors and fellow residents of our community.

For members living in districts 6, 8 and 9, this is your year to vote for a board candidate. For all other members, your opportunity to vote will next come in 2017 or 2018. You can also view information on the board candidates online at countrylines.com.

Members vote for a director once every three years. In my case, I'm a GLE member from Emmet County. My next opportunity to vote will come in 2018.

Do you live in one of the following counties?

Allegan • Barry • Clare • Kent • Lake • Mason • Mecosta
Montcalm • Newaygo • Osceola • Ottawa

If you answered yes, you will find candidate profiles in this election issue and a ballot on the outer cover. Simply cast your vote from the comfort of your home and drop the postage-paid ballot in the mailbox. Voting is that easy and convenient. If you lose or accidentally throw away the ballot, contact us and we'll send you another one.

Part of the value of being a cooperative member is everyone's vote carries equal weight. Whether it's a business with several owners or a small home with a single owner, each has one membership and one vote. In the case of a husband and wife, their joint membership entitles them to one vote.

The nine directors on the board are elected from each district for a three-year term.

Co-ops believe in the power of human connection and encourage your participation in the board election. If you live in districts 6, 8 or 9, please exercise your right to vote. It's the cooperative difference. ■



GLE Director Earns Top Training Honor

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization for electric cooperatives, recently awarded Great Lakes Energy Director Larry Monshor (right) with a certificate for completing the Director Gold Program. Presenting him with the certificate is board Vice-Chairman Mark Carson. Monshor is one of two Great Lakes Energy directors to be certified at this level, which is the highest level of training that can be earned through NRECA's Director Education program. GLE Director Paul Schemanski also completed the program. ■



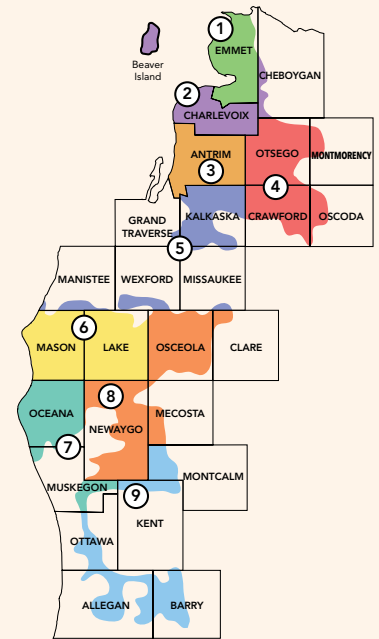
Help Keep Our Lineworkers Safe

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 him at risk of being electrocuted.

Lineworkers may not see a bird house, plant hanger or other object on the pole either 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.



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

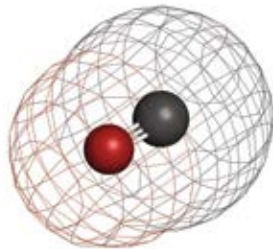


Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

You can't see, taste or smell carbon monoxide, but it can be deadly. Carbon monoxide, or CO, is a gas that is found whenever fuel is burned. Known as the "silent killer," CO causes an average of 430 deaths per year and more than 20,000 hospital emergency room visits according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Where does carbon monoxide come from?

CO is in fumes produced by items that burn fuel, including kerosene, propane, and gas space heaters, improperly working furnaces, gas water heaters and dryers, wood stoves and fireplaces. Car, truck and boat exhaust fumes contain CO as do fumes from fuel-powered generators and power washers.



How can carbon monoxide poisoning affect your health?

CO is dangerous because it blocks your body from absorbing the oxygen it needs. CO poisoning can occur suddenly or happen over a long period of time. Symptoms depend on the amount of CO a person is exposed to, the length of time exposed, and the general health and age of the person. Mild symptoms

may seem like the flu and include: mild headache and weakness, dizziness, sleepiness, shortness of breath, tightness in the chest, nausea and/or vomiting. High levels of CO or lower levels of CO exposure that last a long time can cause confusion, loss of muscle control, blurred vision, extreme headache, weakness, fainting, convulsions and even death.

Who is most at risk of harm to their health?

Anyone can be at risk for carbon monoxide poisoning. However, those most at risk are:

- infants,
- the elderly, and
- people with heart disease, lung disease, or anemia.

What should you do if you have symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning?

- Go outside and get fresh air immediately!
- Call 911 and tell them you think you have carbon monoxide poisoning, or go to the emergency room if you are able to get there without help.

A simple blood test done at the hospital can usually detect carbon monoxide poisoning. Medical treatment is available. ■

What can you do to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning?

- **DO** purchase and install carbon monoxide detectors that meet Underwriters Laboratories (UL) standard 2034-95. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper placement, use and maintenance. If the detectors plug into the wall, be sure they have a battery backup.
- **DO** leave the house if the alarm sounds on your CO detector. Go to a hospital emergency room or call 911 if anyone is feeling sick. If no one is sick, call the emergency number for your heating service or 911. Stay out of the home until your heating service or fire department says it's okay to go in.
- **DO** have a heating professional inspect, clean, and adjust your fireplace, wood stove, gas appliances including furnaces and water heaters, and chimneys/vents every fall—before the start of home heating season.
- **DO** purchase gas appliances that vent their fumes to the outside. Have them installed by a heating professional.
- **DO** read and follow all of the instructions for any fuel-burning devices.
- **DO** make sure that your car, truck, or boat has a working, airtight exhaust system. Repair exhaust leaks immediately.
- **DO** pay attention to symptoms (headache, dizziness, tiredness and/or a sick feeling in your stomach), especially if more than one person is feeling sick or if people and pets are feeling sick.



- **DON'T** operate fuel-powered machines such as generators, power washers, or mowers in buildings or semi-enclosed spaces.
- **DON'T** cook or heat with a grill indoors, even if you put it inside a fireplace.
- **DON'T** run vehicles in the garage, even if the door is open. Carbon monoxide can build up quickly and enter your vehicle and home.



- **DON'T** sit in a parked vehicle with the engine running for a long period of time, especially if your car is in snow.
- **DON'T** use gas stoves or ovens to heat your home.
- **DON'T** use an un-vented gas or kerosene space heater indoors.
- **DON'T** close the damper to the fireplace unless the fire is completely out and the coals are cold.
- **DON'T** ride in covered pickup truck beds or campers. Air moving around the vehicle can draw exhaust in.
- **DON'T** swim or play near the back of a boat where the motor gives off exhaust.
- **DON'T** ignore symptoms! You could die within minutes if you do nothing.

For more information, contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services by calling **1-800-648-6942** or visit **michigan.gov/carbonmonoxide**.

Maximize Energy Savings And Earn Bonus Incentives

When it comes to keeping your home cool, you may not realize that your A/C and furnace work hand in hand. In fact, the two pieces of equipment share the same handler/blower, and the same ductwork throughout the home—which means both systems should be upgraded at the same time in order to heat and cool your home properly and cost-effectively.

Mismatched Systems = Trouble

According to the Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute, “When improperly matched, the efficiency and longevity of these systems are significantly compromised.” When homeowners opt to replace only the A/C system and not the furnace, the following can occur:

Decreased lifespan: Mismatched levels of equipment efficiency cause systems to run at

different paces. Even if you install a high-efficiency A/C, an older furnace will cause the system to lag behind.

Premature breakdowns: Mismatched units create undue stress, resulting in the unnecessary, premature breakdown of equipment.

Possibility of no warranty: Many manufacturers are aware of the problems associated with mismatched systems, so they often won't provide a warranty when replacing an exterior A/C unit only.

Combo cash incentives now available!

The Energy Optimization program offers bonus cash incentives for upgrading an A/C and furnace at the same time. Install a new Wi-Fi or smart thermostat to efficiently manage your new systems, and save even more! ■

Incentive Name	Equipment	Bonus Incentive	Maximum Total Incentive
HVAC Combo Bonus	New Furnace + Central A/C unit	\$100	\$800
Smart HVAC Combo Bonus	New Furnace + Central A/C unit + Wi-Fi enabled or smart thermostat	\$150	\$950

Visit Michigan-energy.org or call 877.296.4319 for additional energy-saving information and rebates.



Good things come in threes.

Beat the heat and enjoy cool energy savings.

Earn \$150 in bonus cash incentives (plus regular rebates) when you install an energy efficient central A/C system, furnace, and Wi-Fi enabled or smart thermostat at the same time! These systems work together seamlessly, so upgrade all three to maximize savings.

ENERGY TIP: Install a new furnace and central A/C system together and receive a \$100 bonus incentive.

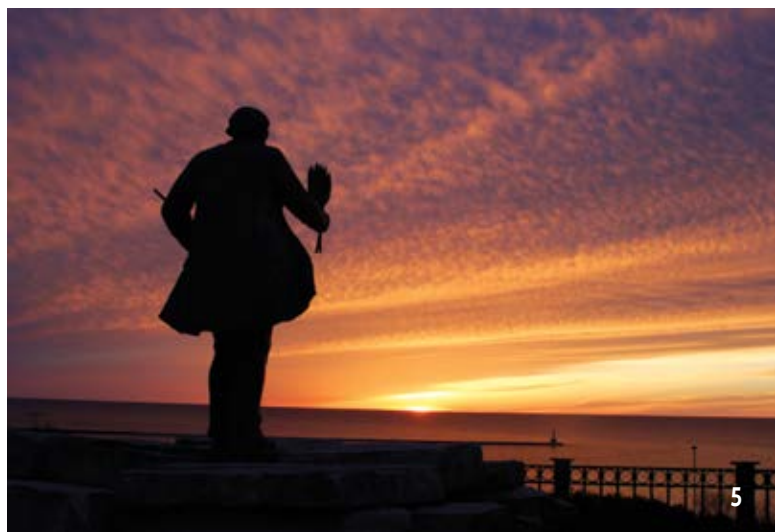
ONLINE: michigan-energy.org

PHONE: 877-296-4319



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

Amazing Michigan Photo Gallery



Enter Our 'Pay My Bill' Photo Contest!

Great Lakes Energy members whose photos we print in *Country Lines* will be entered in a drawing. One lucky member will win a credit up to \$200 on their December, 2016, energy bill!

Upcoming topics include: **Sports/Outdoor Recreation**, due **July 15** for the **September** issue, **Best Friends**, due **Aug. 15** for the **October** issue and **Country Roads**, due **Sept. 15** for the **Nov./Dec.** issue.

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

1. Took this on the 4th of July, right place right time! By *Pat Lippe, Kalkaska*
2. One of our favorite places to visit is Isle Royale National Park on Lake Superior. We will return this summer for our fourth visit. One morning, as we were refueling our friend's boat, this moose swam by the dock. She was totally uninterested in us as she was on a mission foraging for food. By *Terry Euper, Hersey*
3. Beautiful Pier Cove. By *Elsie Jones, Allegan*
4. Point Betsie Lighthouse in Frankfort. Established in 1858 it is still an active navigation aid today. In the winter its landscape changes daily when ice formations add to the beauty of the picturesque Michigan icon. By *Lori Gelinas, Rapid City*
5. A silhouette of the statue of Chief Ignatius Petoskey at sunset overlooking Little Traverse Bay of Lake Michigan in Petoskey. By *Mary Jane Ulrich, Petoskey*

BBQ FAVORITES

These Great Recipes Make Summer Sizzle!



Shredded BBQ Beef

Esther Maginity, Thompsonville

- 1 lean boneless beef chuck roast (about 5 lb.)
- 3 T. cooking oil, divided
- 2 large onions, chopped
- 1 c. ketchup
- 1-2 small cans beef broth*
- $\frac{2}{3}$ c. chili sauce
- $\frac{1}{4}$ c. cider vinegar
- $\frac{1}{4}$ c. packed brown sugar
- 3 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 T. prepared mustard
- 2 T. molasses
- 2 T. lemon juice
- 1 t. salt
- $\frac{1}{8}$ t. pepper
- $\frac{1}{4}$ t. cayenne pepper
- 1 T. liquid smoke, optional
- 12-16 hamburger buns

In a Dutch oven, brown roast on all sides in 1 T. oil. Meanwhile, in a large saucepan, sauté onions in remaining oil until tender. Add remaining ingredients to the saucepan. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Pour sauce over roast. Cover and bake at 325° for 2 hours, turn roast and continue to bake 2 more hours until roast is very tender. Remove roast from oven, shred with fork and return to Dutch oven with sauce. **If too stiff, add more beef broth to the right consistency. If there is extra, just freeze in containers.*

Photos—831 Creative

Chicken BBQ

Cora Kuiper, Grand Rapids

- 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. cooked chicken, shredded
- 2 T. butter
- $\frac{1}{2}$ c. chopped onion
- $\frac{1}{2}$ c. chopped celery
- $\frac{1}{2}$ c. chopped green pepper
- 1 c. ketchup
- 1 c. chicken broth
- 3 T. vinegar
- 2 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 t. prepared mustard
- 2 T. brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ t. salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ t. pepper

Cook onion, celery and green pepper in butter until tender. Add chicken and remaining ingredients. Simmer 20 minutes. Serve on buns.

BBQ Chicken Pizza

Mindy Aves, Charlotte

- 1 refrigerated pizza dough or your favorite dough mix
- ¼ c. Sweet Baby Ray's BBQ sauce
- ½ c. shredded, cooked chicken (leftovers work great)
- ¼ c. thinly sliced red onion
- ½ c. fresh sliced baby portobello mushrooms
- 1 c. mozzarella cheese
- 1 c. sharp cheddar cheese

Prepare crust according to package directions. Spread crust on a 12-inch pan and brush with olive oil. Add BBQ sauce, chicken, red onions and mushrooms, followed by cheese. Bake at 375° for about 14-18 minutes or until crust is golden brown and cheese is melted.



Gather Round The Co-op Kitchen Table

A **NEW** and **EXCLUSIVE** online cooking community for our electric co-op members.

Members can submit recipes online for a chance to win a \$50 electric bill credit; plus there's more! We will print the winning recipe in *Country Lines* with a photo of the dish and create an instructional "how to" video for micoopkitchen.com.

Ready to pull up a seat?

GREAT! Go to MICOOPKITCHEN.COM and register.

Please submit your favorite "World Cuisine" recipes by August 1 and "Casserole" recipes by Sept. 1.

Enter your recipe online at micoopkitchen.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.

micoopkitchen.com



Board of Directors Candidates

DISTRICT 8 CLARE, MECOSTA, NEWAYGO, OSCEOLA COUNTIES



HOWARD BOWERSOX

Home: Stanwood

Occupation:

Retired Engineer/Manager

Co-op Member: 5 years

1) Why are you seeking a board seat?

Serving on the board of directors of Great Lakes Electric Cooperative will be a continuation of my nearly life-long commitment to community service all while employed in a variety of industries in technical and leadership positions. Community service has been important to me in each of my geographical moves. My life creed has been: Service to humanity is the best work of life. How better to serve my community than to be committed to safely providing my neighbors with a reliable, affordable supply of electricity. Now that my wife, Janet, and I have decided to return to northern Michigan for our retirement, my hope is that my uniquely broad technical and leadership experience, ability to learn quickly, focus on problem resolution, ability to listen and interact with my neighbors and GLE leadership, and commitment to service will benefit all the members of our electric cooperative.

2) Do you have energy industry experience, including work as a Great Lakes Energy employee, electric utility contractor or at another energy service provider? If yes, please list employer(s), years of experience and brief details.

Indirectly, in that, as plant engineer and later plant manager of the Hardy Salt Company facility in Manistee from 1979 to 1988, I had responsibility for the cogeneration of steam and electricity for this large salt manufacturing facility.



TIMOTHY BRECHON

Home: Paris

Occupation:

Retired Electrical Engineer,

Retired Math Teacher

Co-op Member: over 4 years

1) Why are you seeking a board seat?

I believe my 17 years as an electrical engineer, 12 with Commonwealth Edison, the electric utility for northern Illinois including Chicago, will allow me to better serve Great Lakes Energy with any challenge it may face. I want to serve on the board of directors to ensure that Great Lakes Energy continues to provide reliable electric service at the lowest rate possible for its customers. Consideration of future growth and preservation of resources and the environment must also be considered.

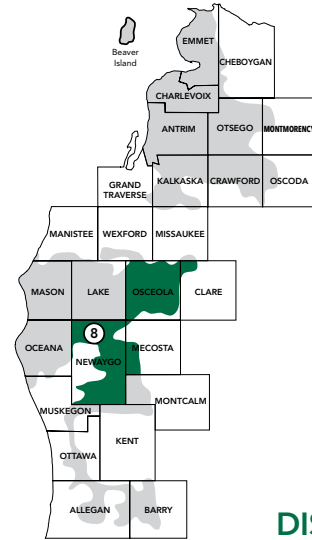
2) Do you have energy industry experience, including work as a Great Lakes Energy employee, electric utility contractor or at another energy service provider? If yes, please list employer(s), years of experience and brief details.

I have 12 years of electrical utility experience working for Commonwealth Edison in Illinois. This work was in both generation and distribution. The generation experience was the construction and testing of Unit One of the Byron Nuclear Power Plant in Byron,

Please Vote!

3) List other qualifications and relevant information.

- BS Chemical Engineering
- Process/Project Engineer, Plant Engineer, Plant Manager
- Leadership positions in 950 residence property owners association
- Independent small business owner
- President of local credit union
- President White Lake Area Jaycees
- Board of Directors Michigan Jaycees
- President Junior Achievement of Manistee County
- Current Chairman Mecosta Township Planning Commission
- Current Chairman Mecosta Township Zoning Board of Appeals



DISTRICT 8

As a member and owner of an electric cooperative, you decide who will represent you on the Great Lakes Energy Cooperative Board of Directors.

Illinois. The distribution work was in the testing of equipment including substations and transmission lines. Later work involved contract engineering jobs throughout the United States. I have never worked for Great Lakes Energy nor any of its contractors.

3) List other qualifications and relevant information.

I have a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from Southern Illinois University. I also have a master's degree in the art of teaching mathematics from Rockford College, now Rockford University in Rockford, Illinois. I love living in Michigan as I think it is a great place to live.



Vote!

See the back cover to cast your ballot for one candidate in District 8.



art

WINS HEARTS OF THE PUBLIC

Twice

Artists are often seen as “rule breakers”—bumping up against the norm and defining new and different ways of both viewing and doing things. Few artists have been called “rule makers,” but that’s exactly what husband and wife duo, Steve and Ann Loveless, have become.

In 2013, Ann won the prestigious Public Vote Grand Prize at ArtPrize with her unique landscape quilt art piece “Sleeping Bear Dune Lakeshore.” Her unique collage and quilting technique dazzled visitors from around the globe with its 20-by-five-foot tall stature. The piece, inspired by her husband’s landscape photograph, put both Ann and northern Michigan on the map.

In 2015, Ann and Steve set out to create a piece together—melding Steve’s panoramic photography and Ann’s collage quilting techniques. The result? *Northwoods Awakening*—a huge quilt and photographic print hybrid that depicts a woodland panorama.



“Northwoods Awakening” earned the 2015 Public Vote Grand Prize at ArtPrize.



Ann's 2013, "Sleeping Bear Dune Lakeshore" quilt won the prestigious Public Vote Grand Prize at ArtPrize.

"Our creation begins as a traditional photographic print on the left," says Ann, "Then blends various fabrics and textiles to metamorphose into an entirely quilted textile on the right."

The two spent more than 1,100 hours on the piece, which assembles at an impressive 25 feet wide by 5 feet tall.

The ArtPrize crowds fell in love once more and awarded the couple the Public Vote Grand Prize—again.

Ann and Steve, whose art gallery is in downtown Beulah and who live near Crystal Lake in Benzie County—are never short on inspiration. Surrounded by water, woods and natural treasures like Sleeping Bear Dunes—there is always a new scene to capture.

"We've learned never to take our surroundings for granted," said Steve. "It's one thing to look at a scene, but another to actually see it."

While inspiration is plentiful, the artwork itself is quite technical. Steve's multi-row panoramic

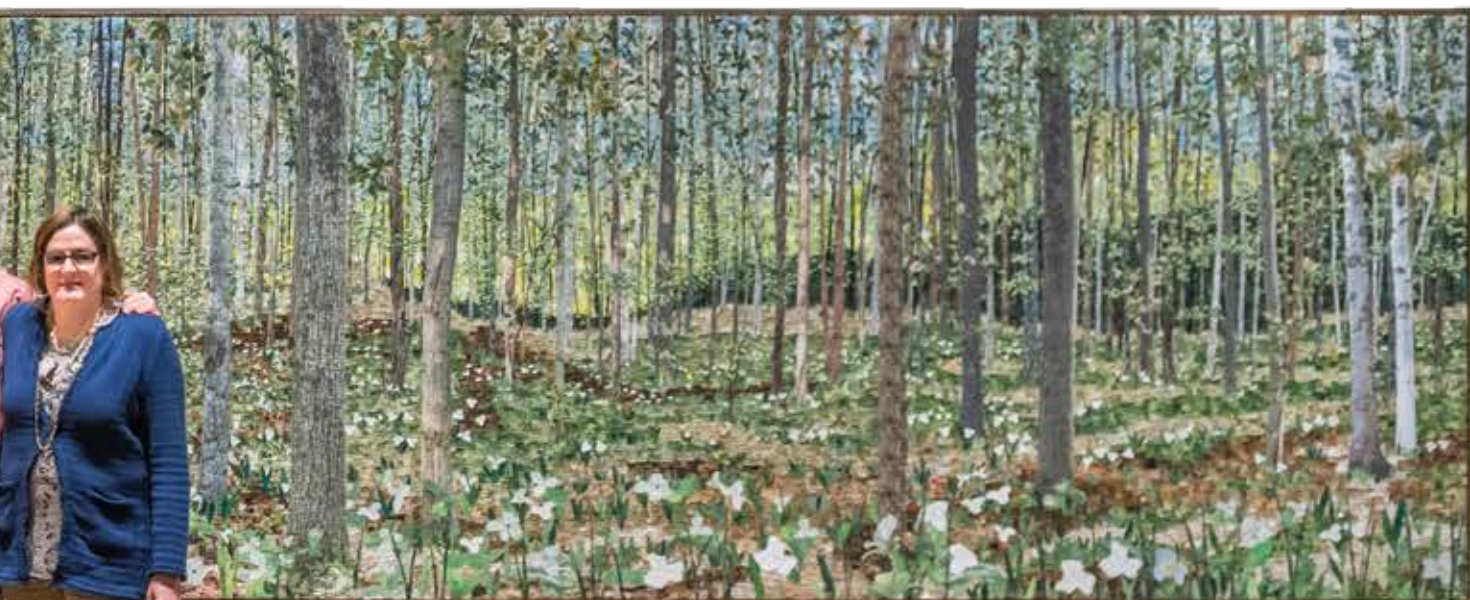
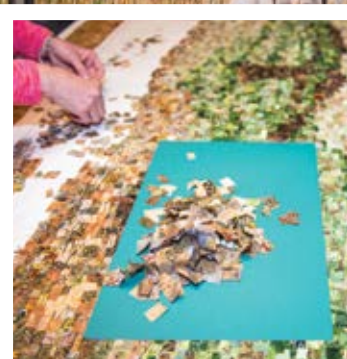
photography process can include capturing as many as 50-60 close-ups panning rows and columns.

They eventually combine to make one panoramic photograph. It's not dissimilar to the collage stitching that Ann does on the quilting end.

"The hardest part of working together isn't the long hours," said Ann. "It's trying to combine the idea that's in Steve's head with the idea that is in my head. Communicating your vision is the challenge."

The two certainly have overcome the communication challenge. So well, in fact, that ArtPrize has amended their rules—which no longer allows an artist to win the Grand Prize more than once, making Ann the only artist in ArtPrize history who will ever have won twice.

Just when you thought breaking the rules was pretty cool, it turns out that being responsible for the making of rules is the real artist's way. ■



Photos-courtesy of Steve Loveless

Helping Others

The White Cloud United Methodist Church food pantry is just one of many community help organizations that have benefited from the Great Lakes Energy People Fund. The food pantry received a \$500 People Fund grant last year. Visit gtlakes.com to see the complete list of recent People Fund grant recipients.



JOIN



INTRODUCING PEOPLE FUND PLUS

Now you can make a greater impact in your local community with People Fund PLUS.

Choose a People Fund donation level in addition to your rounded-up amount.

Your donations are awarded in the form of grants to local community nonprofit groups.

All People Fund contributors have the chance to win a \$100 bill credit twice per year. In 2015, the People Fund awarded \$206,294 in grants to local nonprofits. Visit gtlakes.com to see the list of grant recipients in your area.

JOIN TODAY!

Working together, we can help enhance our local communities and meet the needs of so many.

Example:

With People Fund: Bill Amount \$65.42 + \$.58 for People Fund = \$66.00

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Call 888-GT-LAKES today to join People Fund PLUS.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

What Is The Right-Of-Way?

Motorists should be familiar with the term “right-of-way,” but it has a different meaning to your electric cooperative.

The right-of-way is the strip of land that electric utilities, through an easement or other mechanism, are granted access to use for specific purposes. A typical Great Lakes Energy right-of-way is 30 feet wide for single-phase (two overhead wires) lines and 40 feet for three phase (more than two wires) lines. The power line is usually centered within the right-of-way.

Easement agreements give GLE access rights to private property for the purpose of constructing, inspecting and maintaining its power line distribution system. The easement is typically a written agreement between the utility and property owner.

Who owns the right-of-way?

The property owner is the owner of the land that the power line crosses. Please remember that GLE’s rights-of-way are often on private property. They must be treated like any private land and only be used with the owner’s permission. If the right-of-way crosses state forest or other public land, rules on allowable uses of the property still need to be followed. In addition, the use of motorized vehicles (especially ATVs and snowmobiles) in the power line right-of-way can be dangerous and should be avoided. A collision with a utility pole or guy wire is a personal hazard that can also result in outages.

Please remember that Great Lakes Energy’s rights-of-way are often on private property. They must be treated like any private land and only be used with the owner’s permission.

How does GLE use the right-of-way?

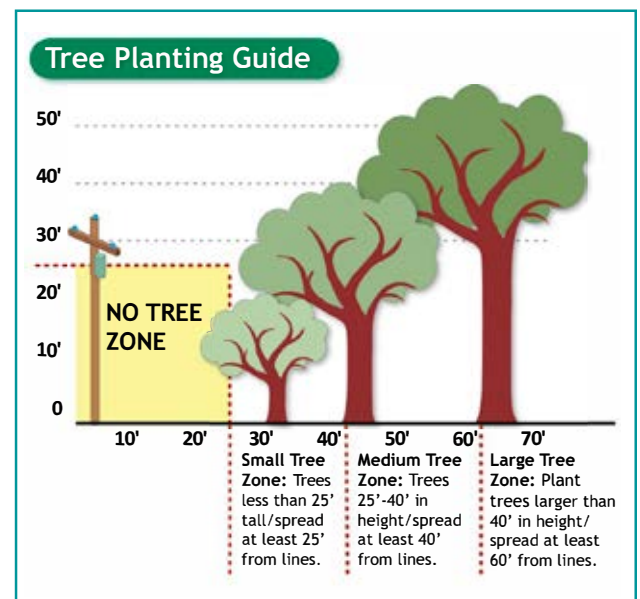
Access to the right-of-way allows the co-op to service and repair its power line distribution equipment, manage vegetation growth within the right-of-way that threatens electric service reliability and safety and extend new lines to meet growth.

Trees are the most common cause of power outages for our members. Routine maintenance of trees and other vegetation on more than 11,000



Great Lakes Energy uses the right-of-way to build and maintain its power lines and to manage trees and other vegetation within it that could pose a threat to your electric service.

miles of GLE overhead line is a large undertaking, but one that improves reliability for our members. Routine tree maintenance in the right-of-way is completed on a regular, rotating basis. GLE power line rights-of-way in 21 counties are on the tree trimming schedule for this year. Members served by the lines scheduled for maintenance are contacted by phone, e-mail and postcard mail prior to any work being done. Please visit gtlakes.com or contact us for more information. ■



The Glamping Trend

By Jack O'Malley

glamping \glamp-in\ verb glamorous camping

If your idea of roughing it means finding the ice machine on another floor of your hotel, glamping might be for you!

Glamping or "glamorous camping" combines the intimacy of camping with the perks of a luxury hotel. Amenities can include everything from bath and laundry facilities to clubhouses and recreation halls. Accommodations will vary, but typically includes Airstreams and other trailers, barns, farmhouses, cabins, huts and teepees. You can even go glamping in a tree house!

Perfect for the vacationer who wants to enjoy nature without getting dirty, Michigan's first glamping eco-resort opened recently, with limited facilities, in Antrim County. Bella Solviva (Swedish for beautiful hope) covers more than 200 acres on the western edge of the Jordan River Valley, and will offer glamping grounds with restrooms, a fitness center, free firewood, and ice, as well as catered meals.

The owner, Brad Carlson, believes glamping will be a fun trend in the very traditional world of vacationing in Michigan. "Glamping will appeal to those who want to rejuvenate in nature but prefer doing so comfortably," said Carlson.

In the plans are several different-themed getaways. For the most adventurous traveler, Neverland Escapade offers hobbit huts and tree dwellings to stow-away yachts and authentic teepees. Vacationers who prefer a more nostalgic experience will enjoy Bella Solviva's Route 66, featuring vintage RVs and tent sites for the do-it-yourself glamper. Bella Solviva will even offer a replica of the M*A*S*H unit complete with swamp tents, a supply hut and mess tent for larger gatherings.



The eco-chic resort embraces environmental stewardship by finding the perfect balance between recreation and sustainability. Bella Solviva uses nontoxic cleaning agents, organic sheets and towels, bulk amenities and non-disposable dishes, on-site transportation with green vehicles and meals prepared with locally-grown food. Future plans include reliance on solar, wind and hydro power.



Jack O'Malley

They say seeing is believing and "Five billion stars beat a five-star hotel any day," Carlson says. ■

Visit bellasolviva.com for more information on availability.

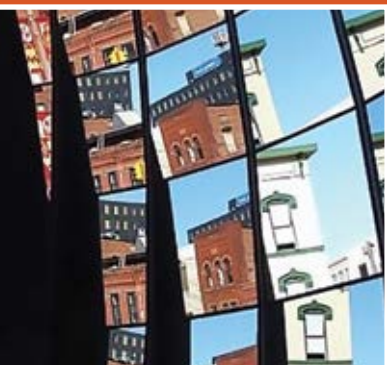
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We invite members to share their fondest memories.

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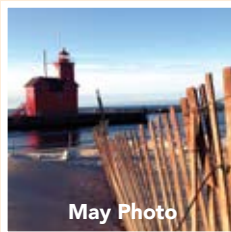
Guidelines

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



«« Where In Michigan Is This?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **August 18** will be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 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.



May Photo

Our Mystery Photo Contest winner from the May 2016 issue is Arthur Kuznicki, a Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op member who correctly identified the photo as the Holland Harbor Light, more commonly known as Big Red, located at the channel connecting Lake Michigan and Lake Macatawa at Holland State Park.



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