

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

art
WINS HEARTS OF THE PUBLIC
Twice



Plus!

Meet Director Kimber Hansen

Sharing Success Helps Housing Services

District Meeting Wrap-Up



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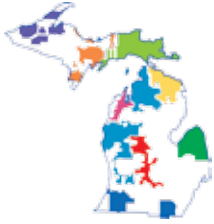
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Association officers are **Robert Kran**, Great Lakes Energy, chairman; **Mark Kappler**, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric, vice chairman; and **Eric Baker**, Wolverine Power Cooperative, secretary-treasurer. **Craig Borr** is president and CEO.

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Change of Address:

Please notify your electric cooperative.
See page 4 for contact information.

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

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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?

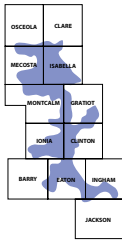
Please submit answers to countrylines.com by September 1.

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



Tri-County Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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3681 Costabella Avenue
Blanchard MI 49310
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Portland office:

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Portland, MI 48875
Open 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Friday

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517-647-7554 or 1-800-562-8232

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Find us on Facebook.

[facebook.com/HomeWorks.org](https://www.facebook.com/HomeWorks.org)

Great Turnout, Great Questions!



Mark Kappler

General Manager

As I write this, we have just finished the seventh of our annual District Membership Meetings. Each of the seven districts has its own personality, of course, but it's always a pleasure, and my privilege, to come visit your neighborhood, greeting old friends and meeting new ones.

There was a great turnout of members this year, with record crowds in three districts and larger-than-usual attendance in most others, even with the good weather distracting our farmers.

We saw the cooperative democratic process in action; with directors Phil Conklin, Cara Evans, and Dean Floria retiring this year, six candidates stepped up to run for the three board seats.

And, we had a wide range of questions from members during the Q&A session at the end of each program. Questions ranged from, "Where is our electricity generated?" to "What are we doing to prevent our systems from being hacked?" The latter question stemmed from what recently happened to the Lansing Board of Water and Light.

For the benefit of those members who could not make it to their District Meeting, or might be interested in knowing what's got other members curious, we're going to answer a few of them here in *Country Lines* (with more to come next issue)!

How low can wires hang over the water?

Engineering Manager Chris Jensen says there are National Electric Code specifications for clearances. He also suggested that if members have concerns about the height of any power line over the water to please call the office for a lineman or crew to come check it out. We will make any changes, if needed.

When you cut down trees, do you mulch the brush?

Nick Rusnell, our vegetation management coordinator, fielded this question. When we send a tree crew out to do circuit work, they will cut tree trunks and large branches into manageable lengths, and clean up any chippable debris into mulch. If the line runs in what we call "deep right-of-way," away from roads, we pile the debris into windrows that provide wildlife habitat.

Is it wise to replace surge protectors as they get old?

Manufacturers have different guidelines for surge protectors and the appliances they protect. That said, one surge will weaken a surge protector's ability to stop further power surges from damaging your electronics, so while you might not notice a problem after the first instance, your electronics will be more vulnerable. Surge protectors are pretty inexpensive, so you'll want to weigh the cost and inconvenience of replacing your electronics over the cost of replacing the protectors on a regular basis. (Note: we do sell energy-efficient surge protectors at our offices with an instant rebate. Stop in and check them out!) ■

Meet Your Cooperative's Board Of Directors

Kimber Hansen: "Everything Will Change"

Kimber Hansen is a farmer, responsible for the day-to-day running of the family farm near Edmore, growing seed corn for Pioneer.

A 1982 graduate of Montabella High School, he is a member of the Montcalm County Farm Bureau, serving on its board of directors, and has completed the Farm Bureau Leadership Training Program. He has been a member of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric since 1993.

He has already earned both the Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certificates through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and is in his second year representing HomeWorks on the board of MECA, our statewide association.

How did you become involved with the co-op?

"I basically grew up knowing about the co-op, especially with my dad (Laverne Hansen) on the board. I can remember my Dad talking about it; he said he learned a lot from being on the board and I thought it was something I would like to try."

"I've learned how vital electric co-ops were to the development of rural America. And we're still vital to the stability and security of our communities."

What does it mean to you to be on the board?

"I feel fortunate to be representing my district on the board, because it's such an exciting time with all the changes that are coming. I'm privileged to be a part of seeing that happen."

What are the highlights so far?

"Learning how cooperatives work, and discovering the ins and outs of the cooperative business. We're part of a much bigger cooperative network, as I've learned through the courses I've taken. Everyone supports everyone else, and it makes each of our organizations stronger."

What do you think of member self-regulation?

"I'm impressed that this co-op was a leader in returning to self-regulation. Members should be able to regulate their own non-profit business. Anytime we can get away from state regulation, it's a better way to go."



Kimber Hansen preparing for spring planting at his family's farm near Edmore.

What challenges do you see ahead?

"Everything we do, and how we do it, will change in the next few years. How electricity is generated, for example, with the Clean Power Plan shutting down coal-fired generation plants. Possibly some aspects of our distribution business [will change], too, as more people put in their own solar systems. HomeWorks' Community Solar Garden at Portland is a big plus for us; we just need one up here [at the northern end of the service area] so all our members can see how a solar system works."

How can members get more involved?

"The first step is to attend District Meetings. There are volunteer positions to participate with, like being a delegate or a district officer. Second, ask questions, so we can answer them and respond to your concerns. Finally, attend the Annual Meeting in August as a delegate and become aware of the co-op's opportunities and challenges." ■



On your board of directors, Kimber represents District 4, which is Montcalm County, except Bloomer, Crystal, and Evergreen townships, which are part of District 5. He was elected to the board in 2014.

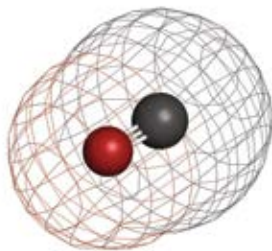


Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

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.

SnapSHOT

All About Michigan



Capture Your Favorite Moments And Share

- 1 Jody Strang of Vermontville says, "I took this picture of the Mackinac Bridge from our campsite while on vacation. It was a beautiful clear night and the bridge & water were just glistening. So beautiful!"
- 2 Barbara Abram of Big Rapids shared this photo of a rainbow at Youngs Lake.
- 3 Carol Brown of Stockbridge writes, "I love nature, and dearly love watching all the critters around our rural home. I had always longed for a picture of a fanning turkey, and when this happened in our front yard, I could hardly believe my eyes. We did not receive your prior *Michigan Country Lines* magazine about the bird photos, so I am submitting this turkey pic because my hubby and I truly believe these turkeys to be part of a segment 'All About Michigan.'"
- 4 Christine Loose of Lake sent in this photo of the Big Sable Lighthouse at Ludington.
- 5 Ed Schmidt of Mason shared this family favorite "from long before digital cameras. We couldn't think of anything that says Michigan more than our little 'Joe Cool' in his Michigan shirt in front of the Big Mac! Joe (Joey) Schmidt, age 4 in 1989!"

Submit Your Photo!

Contributors whose photos we publish in 2016 will be entered into a drawing and *Country Lines* will choose two winners for a bill credit of up to \$100 each on their December electric bill, due in January 2017!

Upcoming Snap Shot Contest Topics and Deadlines

Sports and Recreation, Deadline: **July 15** (September issue)

Best Friends, Deadline: **Aug. 15** (October issue)

Country Roads, Deadline: **Sept. 15** (November-December issue)

Go to homeworks.org/content/snapshots to submit your high-resolution digital photos and see additional themes. It's fast and easy. To send by mail: Include your name, address, phone number, photographer's name, and details about your photo. Mail to Attn: *Country Lines* Snap Shots, 7973 E. Grand River, Portland, MI 48875. Photos will not be returned. Do not send color laser prints or professional studio photos.

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





Dan Fredricks was named a crew leader at our Blanchard Operations Center. Dan joined HomeWorks Tri-County in December, 2002.



Sara Nartker of Mt. Pleasant recently joined our customer service team at Blanchard. She most recently worked for the Isabella County Farm Services Agency.

How to Apply for a Grant

The Tri-County Electric People Fund provides grants to individuals and organizations in the co-op's service area for food, shelter, clothing, health, and other humane needs, or for programs or services that benefit a significant segment of a community.

Write to 7973 E. Grand River Avenue, Portland, Mich. 48875, for an application form and grant guidelines, or visit homeworks.org.

Note: Applications must be received by August 15 for the August board meeting, and by Sept. 26 for the October board meeting.

To learn more about the Tri-County Electric People Fund visit the People Fund tab at homeworks.org

Pay Your Bill 24/7



By Internet*:

- Go to homeworks.smarthub.coop/PayNow.html (URL is case sensitive)
- Key in Amount to Pay
- Select "Pay Now"
- Select your Payment Option
- Select "Make Payment"
- Key in Payment Information
- Select "Continue"
- Wait for Payment Confirmation (Note your confirmation number)

Average time: 1 minute, 50 sec

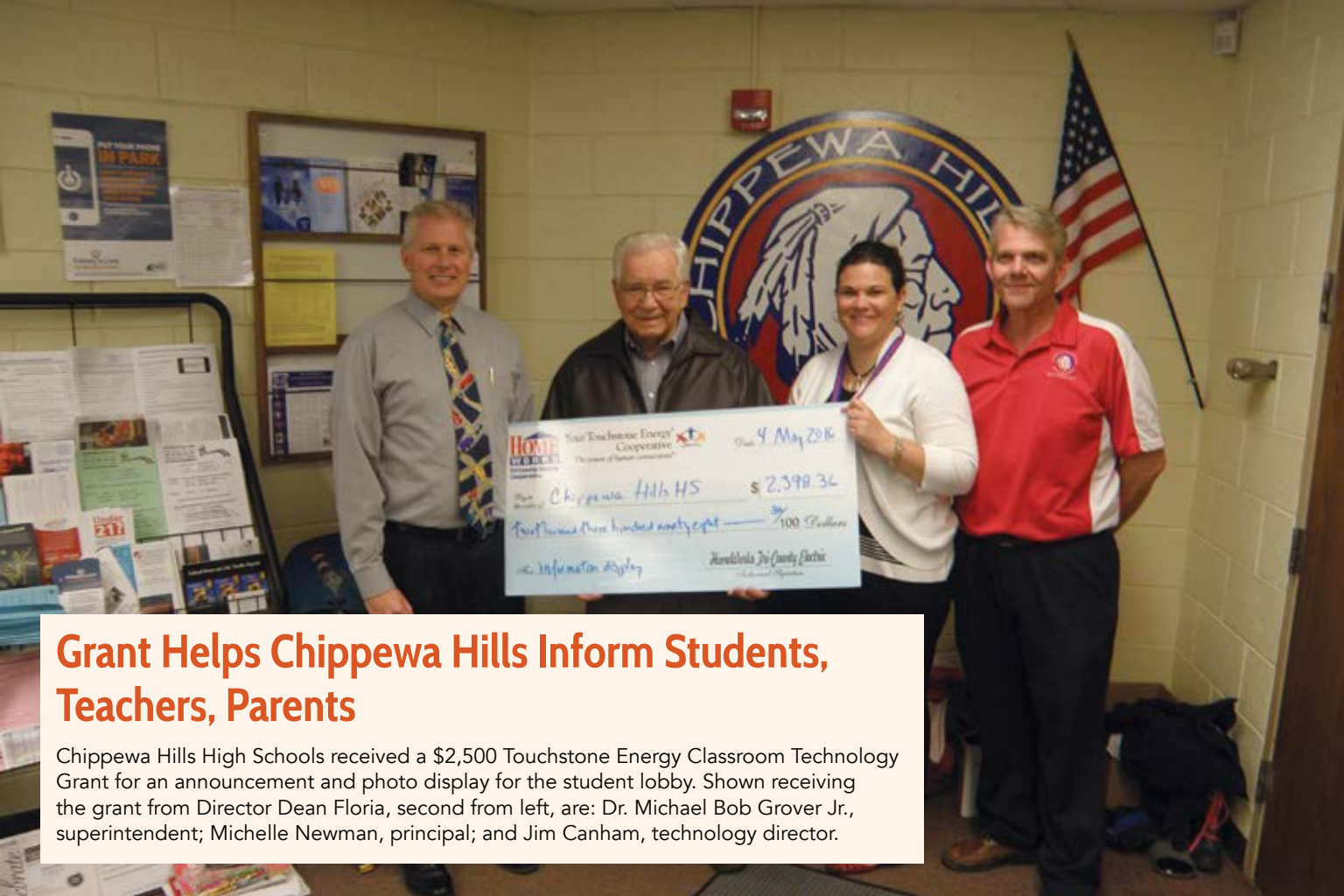
By Phone:

- Dial 1-877-999-3395
- Select "Make Payment" Option
- Key in Account Number, followed by #
- Listen to your Current Balance
- Key in Amount to Pay
- Key in Payment Information
- Wait for Payment Confirmation (Note your confirmation number)

Average time: 2 minutes, 45 sec



*SmarHub is your online and mobile gateway to managing your HomeWorks account. The mobile app is available through Google Play or iTunes.



Grant Helps Chippewa Hills Inform Students, Teachers, Parents

Chippewa Hills High Schools received a \$2,500 Touchstone Energy Classroom Technology Grant for an announcement and photo display for the student lobby. Shown receiving the grant from Director Dean Floria, second from left, are: Dr. Michael Bob Grover Jr., superintendent; Michelle Newman, principal; and Jim Canham, technology director.



Maple Valley Grant Buys Graphing Calculators

Director Phil Conklin presents a 2016 Touchstone Energy Classroom Technology Grant to Stacy Leiby, mathematics department chair at Maple Valley Jr./Sr. High School. The \$2,500 grant will purchase 31 graphing calculators for students to check out for classroom and homework use.



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

2016 District Meetings Were A Success!



1.



2.



3.

1. Our employees serve a District 3 member at the Energy Optimization table. The table had nearly record sales this year in all districts. 2. An overview of the District 5 meeting 3. Our employees preparing the meal to be served at the meeting in District 1. 4. A member in District 1 picks up her Energy Optimization deals from our employees. 5. Members were full of smiles and laughter as they visited with their neighbors during the meeting. 6. Neighbors enjoyed a meal together. 7. Three of our lucky grand prize winners.



4.



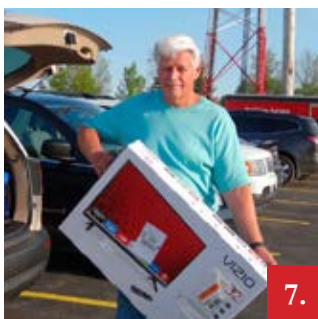
6.



5.



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5.

Housing Services Receives \$10,000 Gift From HomeWorks

HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative presented a \$10,000 gift to Housing Services of Mid-Michigan (formerly Housing Services of Eaton County) recently.



General manager Mark Kappler, center, presents the grant check to Housing Services, represented by, from left, Assistant Director Christie Harry, Director Denise Dunn, Treasurer Jim Dexter, and Trustee Dar Benjamin.

The gift was made possible by a \$5,000 matching grant from one of the cooperative's lenders, CoBank, as part of CoBank's Sharing Success program. This \$3 million charitable fund was designed to benefit cooperatives and the charitable groups they support throughout rural America. CoBank first launched the program in 2012 in conjunction with the International Year of Cooperatives.

"We were pleased to work with CoBank to support an organization like Housing Services. Even people in our small, rural communities sometimes need help with safe, affordable housing. This gift will

help provide funds and other support to make that possible," said Kappler.

Community service is an essential part of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric's mission to provide its members and customers with energy, comfort, and communications solutions that will enhance their quality of life.

Housing Services of Mid-Michigan assists low-income individuals and families with housing payments to prevent homelessness. They also work to help households attain self-sufficiency by providing intensive case management and support services. Funds are used to make direct payments to landlords, mortgage holders, and the county treasurer to prevent evictions, foreclosures and tax foreclosures. Housing Services also helps relocate people from sub-standard, overcrowded, or unaffordable housing, which promotes stability.

CoBank provides loans, leases, export financing and other financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water and communications providers in all 50 states. It's also a member of the Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of banks and retail lending associations chartered to support the borrowing needs of U.S. agriculture and the nation's rural economy. CoBank is headquartered outside Denver, Colorado. ■

Your Board In Action

Meeting At Portland May 23, Your Board of Directors:

- Learned the results of the recent Cost of Service Study, showing revenue requirements of \$1,090,521 over current revenues to meet the co-op's obligations, along with proposed class realignment and tariffs for review and approval at the June 27 special Open Member Meeting.
- Discussed results of the 2015-2016 winter protection program, including current write-off balances, and service disconnects/reconnects made since April 15 when winter protection ended.
- Read and approved Board Policy 316 – "Prevention of Identity Theft."
- Authorized a donation of \$2,500 to the NRECA International Foundation, and a donation of \$2,000 from 2016 CFC capital credits to the CFC System Integrity Fund.
- Reviewed the first week of District Membership Meetings; attendance is up and LED sales have been very strong.
- Learned there were 106 new members in April.
- Acknowledged the May safety report, listing employee training and minor employee incidents.

Time Set Aside For Members To Comment Before Cooperative Board Meetings

The first 15 minutes of every board meeting are available for members who wish to address the board of directors on any subject. The next meetings are scheduled for July 25 at Blanchard and August 22 at Portland. Call 517-647-7554 for directions to the office or to suggest an item on the board's upcoming agenda.

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.

I Remember...

We invite members to share their fondest memories.

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

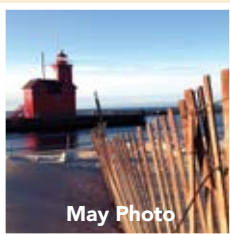
Guidelines

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



«« 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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Thanks For Another Great Year!

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to ALL our co-op leaders who came out to this year's District Meetings. In total, we had 1,357 members and 107 kids, 16 or younger attend. Some other fun facts about this year's District Meetings:

- You bought 2,251 LED bulbs and other Energy Optimization deals.
- You dined on 504.5 pounds of sloppy joes.
- You snacked through 72 jars of pickles.
- And you polished off 1,704 cups of ice cream.

You also helped us to say thank you to our three retiring directors and asked some great questions. You really know how to make us smile!

Thanks again for coming out — we hope you had as much fun as we did!
See you next year!

*If you were in a district where we ran out of LED bulbs or our other Energy Optimization deals before everyone could buy their limit, we sincerely apologize and invite you to stop by either office (Blanchard or Portland) to take advantage of this great instant rebate on quality LEDs!



Today's Winners - Tomorrow's Co-op Leaders!