

# MICHIGAN COURT LINES



— small town to —

# CAPITAL CITY

Rural Michigan's Political Couple

Annual Meeting  
Is June 10

Alger Delta Contributes  
To Economic Development

Roasting In  
The U.P.

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for incredible comfort and savings



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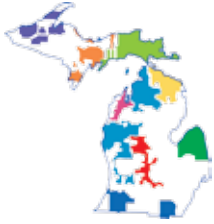
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Michigan's Electric Cooperatives  
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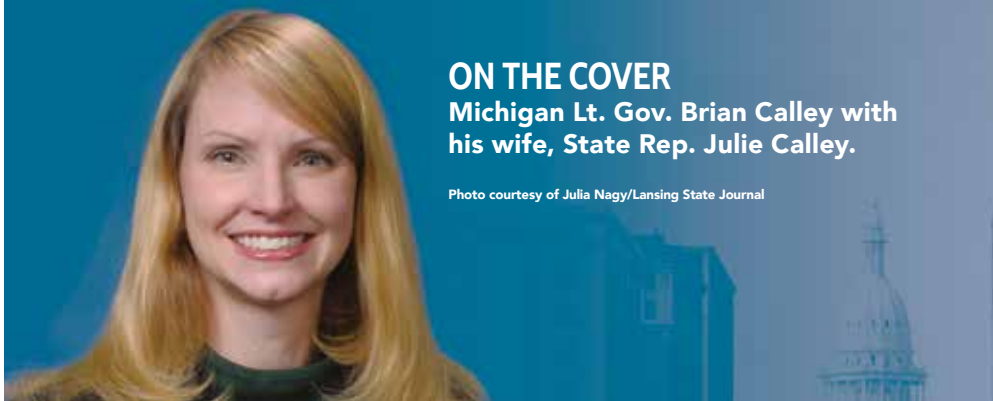


### Change of Address:

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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**Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley with his wife, State Rep. Julie Calley.**

Photo courtesy of Julia Nagy/Lansing State Journal

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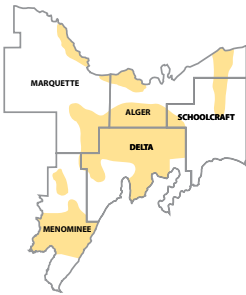
## *I Remember...*

**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



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## Office Hours

M–F, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. (ET)

*Alger Delta Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

**algerdelta.com**

# National Electrical Safety Month



**Tom Harrell**  
Chief Executive  
Officer

**M**ay is National Electrical Safety Month. Most folks know that some of our employees work on high-voltage electric lines and equipment—often while lines and equipment are energized. Those employees have years of technical training and are outfitted with special safety equipment to mitigate the hazards.

But what about in your home? Most homes have 120 and 240-volt circuits, and even though they are low voltage, by comparison, these circuits can also be hazardous. National Electrical Safety Month is a good time to talk about electrical safety at home and take steps to ensure your family is safe from common electrical hazards. You can use the checklist below to assess your home, garage or workplace.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Are all switches and outlets working properly?               | <input type="checkbox"/> Are any extension cords being used on a permanent basis?                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Are any switches or outlets warm to the touch?               | <input type="checkbox"/> Are cords kept tied up while being used?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Are any outlets or switches discolored?                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Are appropriate wattage light bulbs being used in all lights?                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do any switches or outlets make crackling or buzzing sounds? | <input type="checkbox"/> Are all appliance cords placed, so they will not come in contact with hot surfaces? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do plugs fit snugly into all outlets?                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Do you have recurring tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses?                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Are any cords cracked, frayed or damaged?                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Are electrical safety devices, such as GFCIs and AFCIs, tested every month?         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Are any cords pinched by furniture, doors or windows?        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Are cords attached to anything with nails or staples?        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Are cords placed under carpets?                              |  |

If you find any of the things listed above, you might have an electrical safety hazard that needs to be addressed. It is strongly recommended that electrical work is done by licensed electricians and that before doing any electrical work the following safety-related work practices be followed:

- Turn off the power by switching off the correct circuit breaker in the main service panel.
- Unplug lamps, appliances, etc. that are being worked on.
- Use a voltmeter or other approved testing device to confirm that the power has been turned off.
- Never touch metal pipes or other conductive surfaces while working on an electrical project.
- Never attempt a project that is beyond your skill level.

Follow these safety tips to make sure that electrical energy works for you, not against you, and that your home and workplace are free from electrical hazards. ■

# Alger Delta To Award \$1,000 Toward Economic Development

**A**lger Delta Electric Cooperative is accepting applications for a \$1,000 donation to be awarded this June. The utility encourages those organizations that are increasing economic development in the community to apply. These organizations could include: local economic development organizations; industrial park boards; revitalization/redevelopment authorities; business improvement districts and community action councils; and chambers of commerce.

Eligible organizations must be Alger Delta Electric Cooperative members. Recipients will be chosen based on upcoming projects and plans for economic development, as well as a variety of other criteria. "Part of being a locally-owned, not-for-profit utility is supporting the vibrant communities that support us. Economic development helps communities stay healthy by keeping funds local and bringing jobs to the area. We are pleased



to be able to make this small contribution to an organization fostering growth in one of our local communities," said CEO Tom Harrell.

Applications are due no later than May 10 and recipients will be announced on June 10 at Alger Delta's Annual Meeting. For application materials, call 906-428-4141 or visit [algerdelta.com](http://algerdelta.com). ■

## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ALGER DELTA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Pursuant to the bylaws, notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the members of the Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association shall be held on Saturday, June 10, 2017, in the Miracle of Life building at the Upper Peninsula State Fairgrounds—2401 12th Ave. North—Escanaba, MI. The Annual Meeting shall commence at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time. The business portion of the Annual Meeting shall be called to order at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Actions shall be taken on the following matters:

1. Seating of elected directors
2. Presentation and consideration of reports
3. New business:
  - a. Open meeting for members to comment on the following:
    - i. Increase in the Energy Optimization rate
    - ii. Creation of an Industrial Rate class
    - iii. Addition of LED lights to the Street Lighting Service—Schedule SL tariff
    - iv. Addition of LED lights to the Dusk to Dawn Lighting Service—Schedule DD tariff

Dated this 19th day of April, 2017.

Dave Anthony—President

## Alger Delta Annual Meeting Is June 10

Alger Delta's 2017 Annual Meeting is Saturday, June 10, at the Upper Peninsula State Fairgrounds in Escanaba. Our Annual Meeting will feature a cookout, activities for kids and adults, and lots of prizes! **FOOD AND FUN BEGINS AT 11 a.m. ET.** The business meeting begins at 1 p.m. The meeting is in the Miracle of Life building with plenty of room, a good sound system, bright lighting and clean washrooms. Frequent prize drawings will entertain everyone! RSVP by calling 906-428-4141 or online at [algerdelta.com](http://algerdelta.com). See you there!



## Choosing The Right Air Conditioner For Your Home

**D**o you have a central air conditioner (AC) in your home that is at least 15 years old that still works but is not very efficient? Replacing an inefficient air conditioner with a more efficient model could reduce your electric bill. A new AC unit is 20 to 40 percent more efficient than one from the 1990s—and ENERGY STAR®-certified systems are even more efficient.

How much money you save by replacing your current AC unit depends on how often your AC runs and your electric rate. The best way to determine possible savings is to have an in-home assessment conducted by a qualified heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) professional or a certified energy auditor. Electric co-ops are often interested in reducing peak summer loads and sometimes offer information, rebates or a list of qualified professionals.

Your contractor needs to size the system to your home. A unit that is too small will not cool your home to the levels you want. If it is too large, it may not dehumidify your home sufficiently, and it will cycle on and off more frequently, which can increase wear and tear on the system and shorten its life significantly. To size the system, the contractor will look at the efficiency of the home by checking insulation levels. If you add insulation where it's most needed, you may be able to install a smaller AC unit and enjoy greater comfort and lower cooling costs. The contractor should also assess your ductwork, which is often poorly designed, leaky or inadequately insulated.

It's good to know there are several air conditioning options suited to different situations. It may or may not be practical to change to a different type of system.

Central air conditioning is one of two types: either split or packaged. A split system, which has the cold coils inside the home and an outside unit exhausting heat, is the most common. Packaged systems, which are sometimes installed because of space constraints, combine these functions into one box located outside the home.

A heat pump can provide cooling and heating in homes with or without ducts. If you are currently using propane or natural gas as your fuel source, this may be a good option.

A ductless mini-split heat pump can be an efficient way to cool up to four zones inside the home. If your existing ductwork is in bad shape or poorly designed, this could be a good solution.

Window units are much less efficient than other options, but they can still be effective for cooling a single room. It's worth paying a little more for a new ENERGY STAR-compliant unit, rather than the dusty \$80 unit from the yard sale.

Evaporative (or "swamp") coolers are an alternative in very dry climates. While they use a quarter of the energy and are less expensive to install than central air conditioning, they also require more frequent maintenance. ■

**Replacing an aging air conditioner is a great way to improve comfort, cut energy costs and reduce peak energy demand.**

# Thunderstorm Safety Tips

**W**hen thunderstorms are rolling your way, stay safe with these helpful tips from the American Red Cross:

- Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates. Watch for signs of a storm, like darkening skies, lightning flashes or increasing wind.
  - Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely to occur. Many people struck by lightning are not in the area where rain is occurring.
  - If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or in a vehicle with the windows closed. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds.
  - If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. If thunder roars, go indoors! The National Weather Service recommends staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.
  - Avoid electrical equipment and telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead.
  - Shutter windows and close outside doors securely. Keep away from windows.
  - Do not take a bath, shower or use plumbing.
- 
- If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.
  - If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground, water, tall and isolated trees, as well as metal objects such as fences and bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are also NOT safe. ■

## ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

**For your safety and for the protection of underground utility lines, always follow these steps before starting any digging project.**

1. Contact MISS DIG at 811 or [missdig.org](http://missdig.org)
2. Wait three business days for utility owners to mark their lines
3. Respect the marks
4. Dig with care



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**  
visit [missdig.org](http://missdig.org) for more information



# Is Your Central A/C Ready To Take The Heat?

Along with all the wonderful things summer brings comes the costly effort of keeping your home cool and comfortable. If your central A/C is due for an upgrade, or if a tune-up is enough to keep it running efficiently, the Energy Optimization program is here to help! We provide cash incentives to help make energy-saving improvements more affordable.

**New Central A/C:** If your central A/C system is more than 20 years old, it's time to upgrade! Install a new ENERGY STAR® central A/C and save up to 20 percent in cooling costs annually. Or, opt for a central air-source heat pump or mini/multi-split air-source heat pump system to save even more. **Energy Optimization program cash incentive: \$150-500.**

**A/C Tune-up:** Ensure your central A/C runs as efficiently as possible by scheduling a tune-up. A tune-up can help reduce energy usage,

prevent costly breakdowns, and will allow you and your family to enjoy cleaner, healthier indoor air. **Energy Optimization program cash incentive: \$50. ■**

## COMBO CASH INCENTIVES NOW AVAILABLE! Save even more when you purchase a combination of qualifying energy-saving equipment:

Cash Incentive	Equipment	Bonus Incentive	Maximum Total Incentive
HVAC Combo Bonus	New qualifying ECM blower motor AND new central A/C unit, air-source heat pump, or ground-source heat pump system at the same time.	\$100	\$800
Smart HVAC Combo Bonus	New qualifying ECM blower motor AND new central A/C unit, air-source heat pump, or ground-source heat pump system AND a WiFi-enabled or smart thermostat at the same time.	\$150	\$950

Visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) or call 877.296.4319 for additional energy-saving information and rebates.



## Cool off and save energy this summer!

Beat the heat without breaking the bank! Upgrade to a high-efficiency cooling system or tune up your existing system to save energy and money. Receive cash back from the Energy Optimization program for:

- New central A/C (\$150-\$500)
- Central or mini/multi-split air-source heat pump (\$150-\$500)
- Central A/C tune-up (\$50)

ONLINE: [michigan-energy.org](http://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](http://michigan-energy.org).



# Planes, Trains & Automobiles



Out of nowhere in the Upper Peninsula came a group of old Fords pattering along the sandy road. They posed for some photos among the red pines and sand dunes, then took off again. Talk about being in the right place at the right time! *By Nathan Miller*



Our son, Detective Tim Wood, purchased a four passenger Piper Cherokee. Last year, for Mother's Day, he flew to Atlanta, Mich. and took me for a ride around northern Michigan. We landed in Mio for lunch and then flew back to Atlanta. What a thrill that was for me! *By Marion Wood*



In the Upper Peninsula, school is NOT closed on a snowy day such as this. *By Karen Dault*



Our preschool class enjoyed learning about trains and the letter T! The electric train is a hit every year! *By Kati Ek*



John Garavaglia, Sr. inspects an F-16. *By John Garavaglia*

## Share Your Captured Moments!

Alger Delta invites members to share their amazing photos. Selected photos will be published in *Michigan Country Lines*. Upcoming topics and deadlines are: **The Art of Nature** due **May 20** for the July/August issue and **Birds and Feathers** due **July 20** for the September issue.

To submit photos go to <http://bit.ly/countrylines>  
We look forward to seeing your best photos!

# BREAKFAST AND BRUNCH

These sweet and savory breakfast or brunch ideas are sure to please.

## Orange Cranberry-Carrot Muffins

*Luise Bolleber, Cherryland*

- ⅓ cup butter, melted
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- Juice and zest from 1 orange
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1¾ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 cups finely shredded carrots
- 1 cup fresh or frozen cranberries, coarsely chopped

Heat oven to 350 F and place paper cups in a muffin tin. Whisk sugar and butter together in a medium bowl until blended. Beat in eggs, orange juice and vanilla. Combine the flour, orange zest (peel), baking soda, baking powder and salt in a separate bowl. Add to creamed mixture just until combined. Fold in carrots and cranberries. Fill muffin cups three-fourths full. Bake 25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

 Watch a video on this recipe at <https://goo.gl/HN697I>

Photos—831 Creative





## Peggy's Stolen Stuffed French Toast

Jessica Waite, Great Lakes Energy Cooperative

- 1 loaf Italian bread
- 1 stick butter, melted
- ¼ teaspoon cinnamon
- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 8 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- ¼ cup maple syrup

Preheat oven to 375 F. Tear half of bread loaf into ¼" cubes and place in bottom of 13×9 greased pan. Cube cream cheese and place evenly throughout. Top with the remaining loaf in ¼" cubes. In a separate bowl combine remaining ingredients. Pour over bread mixture. Pat down with a spatula, so bread is soaked. Cover with tinfoil and let sit overnight. Bake for 45 minutes covered. Serve immediately with extra maple syrup.



## All-In-One Breakfast Bake

Mary Ellen Seguin-Adomat,  
Cherryland Electric Cooperative

- 1 pound plain pork sausage
- 6 eggs
- 2 cups milk
- 1 cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
- 6 slices bread, torn into pieces
- 1 tablespoon dry mustard
- 1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms

Preheat oven to 350 F. Butter a 13×9 glass baking dish. Brown sausage and drain on paper towels; set aside. In a large bowl, beat eggs, then add milk and beat again. Stir in remaining ingredients, including sausage. Pour into baking dish. Bake for 45 minutes. This can be prepared the night before and refrigerated; pop it in the oven in the morning.



Submit your favorite recipe for a chance to win a \$50 bill credit and have your recipe featured in *Country Lines*:

- "All About Apples" due July 5

Go to [microopkitchen.com](http://microopkitchen.com) for more information and to register.

## Raspberry Pie (pictured above)

Rep. Julie Calley

If you're as busy as Rep. Julie Calley, you'll appreciate this simple, but scrumptious, pie recipe that's a favorite in the Calley home.

- 1 pie crust, store bought or homemade
- 1 3.4-ounce package vanilla instant pudding
- 2 cups milk
- 3 ounces cream cheese
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 3-ounce package raspberry Jell-O
- 1 cup boiling water
- 9 ounces fresh raspberries
- ¼ cup chopped nuts (optional)

Prepare and bake pie shell for open face pie. Let the pie shell cool. Combine pudding, milk, cream cheese and almond extract. Beat for 2 minutes. Pour into pie shell and chill until firm. Mix Jell-O with boiling water and chill until partially set. Gently stir in the raspberries and nuts. Pour over vanilla filling and chill until set.

Read the full story about the Calleys on page 14 and visit [microopkitchen.com](http://microopkitchen.com) for this recipe and others.

# ROASTING IN THE



By Yvonne Whitman



**F**or Escanaba residents Jake and Julia Cass it is hard to imagine a day without coffee. Married for only two years, brewing tasty treats seems to come naturally to these young entrepreneurs who co-own Up North Roast with Jake's parents.

Jake's dad initially became interested in roasting coffee beans nine years ago. As a hobby, he began roasting green coffee beans in a popcorn popper. The hobby grew and they began to give samples to family and friends. Soon, as Jake recalls, "The word got out that The Cass' have really good coffee at their house." The enthusiastic reviews from fellow coffee lovers in their local community resulted in the family initially opening a home-based business and then exploring the option of opening their own brick and mortar store. "We had no experience in business," Jake says. "But we had a passion and a drive to succeed. We did a lot of research and we learned gradually." But, as with any start up, there was the usual trial and error. As Julia explains, "In the beginning there were a lot of beans that got thrown away."

Their dedication and tenacity paid off. In October 2014, they opened their downtown storefront on Ludington Street. Since then the

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To learn more or to order coffee, please visit their website at [upnorthroast.com](http://upnorthroast.com) or call 906-233-7310.



Julia stocks the shelves of the store.



Jake monitors a batch of beans in the roaster.



The best quality and the freshest beans are used to make an unrivaled taste within all their packages.

business has steadily grown. Green coffee beans are shipped in from coffee plantations all over the world, but primarily from Central America and Africa. The beans arrive in bags weighing about 150 pounds and are then roasted in 25-pound batches. The Cass' use profile roasting, a precisely measured roasting style that 'customizes' each batch of coffee to bring out a certain set of characteristics, yielding a coffee with a specific balance of body and acidity.

Roasting time for each batch varies due to the profile of the roast. The beans are then left to rest for a minimum of eight hours to ensure that the flavor fully develops. Packaged beans are sold in the store and are also shipped throughout the United States and as far away as Australia. The holiday season is the busiest time of year as their coffee is purchased as a component of many holiday gift packages.

Up North Roast coffee is also available at select local restaurants. According to Jake, "One of the things that makes us unique is that we can create a custom or signature coffee blend for a customer that will complement their cuisine." As for future expansion, "It's a dream of ours," says Julia. To learn more, visit their website at [upnorthroast.com](http://upnorthroast.com) ■



## Coffee Bonbons

- 1 cup butter, softened
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup confectioners' sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon instant coffee granules
- $1\frac{3}{4}$  cups all-purpose flour

## Chocolate Glaze:

- 1 tablespoon butter
- $\frac{1}{2}$ -ounce unsweetened chocolate
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 2 tablespoons milk

In a bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add vanilla. Combine coffee and flour; stir into creamed mixture and mix well. Chill. Shape into  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch balls and place on ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 350 F for 18–20 minutes.

Meanwhile, for the glaze, melt butter and chocolate together. Add melted mixture to sugar, along with the milk; beat until smooth.

Frost cookies while still warm.

**Yield:** 5 dozen

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**“I orchestrate my mornings to the tune of coffee.”**

**– Terri Guillemets**

# — small town to — CAPITAL CITY

## Rural Michigan's Political Couple

By Emily Haines Lloyd



Rep. Julie Calley with her husband, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and children Collin, Reagan and Karagan.

Down a country road in Ionia County, not too far from where she grew up on a sesquicentennial farm, Julie Calley lives a fairly normal life. Julie is a wife, mother of three and devoted public servant. Of course, she's also married to the lieutenant governor of Michigan, Brian Calley, but her career takes her to Lansing as the representative for the 87th District in the state's House of Representatives.

The pair are a rare commodity in Lansing, with Brian serving his final two years as the lieutenant governor of Michigan while Julie began a two-year term in January. She now holds the seat that her great-grandfather Herbert Powell, grandfather Stanley Powell and her husband have all held. Both Calleys also have served as Ionia County commissioners.

One wouldn't think of small-town Portland as a hub of Michigan politics, but for Representative Julie Calley, it's sort of the family business.

"My family has a legacy of public service," said Calley. "My mother has served at the township level for almost as long as I've been alive. She just retired last



“It boils down to making government work better for the average citizen. Politics can overcomplicate things. It has to center back on the community we’re serving—a person-centered approach.”

year as a township trustee. My grandfather and great-grandfather both served in the state legislature, so public service is definitely in my blood.”

Julie notes that one doesn’t need to have a long heritage of politics in the family in order to serve. “There are usually a number of local boards which need more interest and participation. There are numerous empty roles on the county level that sometimes have only one candidate or sometimes not even one. There is a definite need for public servants.”

It may have been that desire to serve that drew Julie and Brian together. High school sweethearts, the Calleys married as she was finishing a degree at Northwood University and Brian at Michigan State University.

After college, the Calleys moved back to Ionia County. Julie had worked in commercial real estate while her husband made his mark in the state political scene, but Julie always stayed involved in local politics. Calley was chairwoman of the Ionia County Board of Commissioners and chairperson of the Michigan Community Service Commission. She also served two terms on the Republican State

Committee. Now, as Julie is still in the early part of her two-year term in the Michigan House of Representatives, she is taking her local experience to the state level.

“It boils down to making government work better for the average citizen. Politics can overcomplicate things. It has to center back on the community we’re serving—a person-centered approach.”

Julie’s experience living in a rural setting has actually driven her work approach. While she notes that the jump from roughly 9,000 constituents to approximately 90,000 constituents is daunting, she is utilizing the same relationship-building skills she used on the local level in her new role. Her experience in small-town Michigan is an inspiration as she moves forward, building relationships in the state’s House of Representatives.

“Those who choose to live in the country tend to have a certain independence and yet reliance on one another,” Julie concluded. “So when a problem arises, it’s typical for neighbors to band together and take care of one another. Identifying a need and taking care of it—I wish we could see more of that.” ■

# Alexander Steps Down From Board



**D**istrict 7 Director Sue Alexander is stepping down at the end of her current term on the Alger Delta board of directors. Alexander chose not to run for re-election. Alexander was elected in May 2014 and took her seat on the board at the co-op's Annual Meeting that year. During her tenure, she served on several committees and occupied the position of secretary/treasurer for one year.

When asked what accomplishment she is most proud of while serving on the board Alexander said, "My platform when running for office was to make things more open to members and to increase transparency at the co-op. I feel I was successful in that endeavor. Board meeting minutes, for instance, are now published on the website."

"Sue had an impact on the governance of the cooperative," said Alger Delta CEO Tom Harrell. "She was passionate about policy and procedures and ensuring things were done correctly. She really cared about the employees, too. She understood the conditions our linemen had to work in, and knew how tough it could be for them," Harrell added.

Alger Delta Electric Cooperative thanks Sue for her years of service to the cooperative and the community and wishes her well in her future endeavors. ■



## Did You Know Cooperative Information Is Available Online?

Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association maintains certain information online for access by members at their convenience. Information can be found at **algerdelta.com** and includes our annual report, board meeting minutes for the past 12 months, the bylaws, our IRS Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax (Form 990), a list of the board of directors with their contact information and much more. If you do not have internet access, you can get a printed copy of these documents upon request. Printing and postage fees may apply.

**Call Alger Delta at 906-428-4141 to request a copy and for information on reproduction and mailing costs.**



# Board To Consider Changes To Energy Optimization Charge

The Michigan Energy Optimization (EO) program was enacted by the state legislature in 2008. The idea behind the EO program is simple: the cost of energy efficiency and conservation is less than the cost of building new power plants. Michigan's EO program mandates that utilities develop and file plans with the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) for conserving energy and improving efficiency. But, since these programs cost money to develop and implement, the law also mandates that utilities charge a rate called the Energy Optimization, or "EO" charge, to help pay for the conservation, renewable energy and efficiency projects, and other activities necessary to achieve the program goals.

The money collected through EO rates cannot be used to pay for construction, maintenance or for general operating purposes. The law requires that EO money be kept separate from other funds and can only be used to fulfill the requirements of Alger Delta's EO plan. Currently, Alger Delta's EO charge for residential consumers is \$0.00262 per kilowatt-hour (kWh). So, a consumer who uses

1,000 kWhs per month pays \$2.62 for energy optimization. Small commercial and large power accounts pay a flat monthly fee for EO.

The current EO rates took effect approximately five years ago, on January 1, 2012. Since then, costs for the EO program have increased. Alger Delta is faced with increasing the EO rate in order to fulfill the requirements of the program without using general funds.

An open meeting of all members of the cooperative will be held prior to implementing a rate change. The open meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2017, beginning at 1 p.m. and will be held at the Miracle of Life building at the U.P. State Fairgrounds. At the open meeting, members shall be provided an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the EO rate. Any member may attend and comment.

The chart below shows the current rate, the proposed rate, the difference per kilowatt-hour (kWh) and per month for a consumer who uses 300, 600, and 1,000 kWhs. ■

Class of Consumer	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Difference	Difference per ___ kWh(s)		
				300	600	1000
Residential / Seasonal (per kWh)	\$0.00262	\$0.00402	\$0.00140	\$0.42	\$0.84	\$1.40
Commercial Small Power (per month)	\$2.48	\$3.29	\$0.81			
Commercial Large Power (per month)	\$48.26	\$63.99	\$15.73			
<b>Lighting</b>						
100 HPS / 150 MV (per month)	\$0.15	\$0.25	\$0.10			
150 HPS / 250 MV (per month)	\$0.21	\$0.35	\$0.14			

# Disability 101: A Lesson in Respect

By Jack O'Malley, WTCM 103.5 FM Traverse City and host of Jack's Journal on 9 & 10 News

"Well, Jack," said the doctor, examining my foot while studying X-rays of my heel. "If that tendon tears, it's going to be a bear to fix. You need foot surgery." Not one to argue, I took his advice.

In the days prior to surgery, I prepared for my recovery: two to four weeks off my feet, hobbling unsteadily on crutches and learning how to steer my scooter, followed by a week or two walking with a cane.

"Easy enough," I thought. With a foot brace, prescriptions and disability parking permit in hand, I was feeling confident!

After a relatively pain-and-incident-free first few weeks, I had mastered the dance—juggling my brief case, foot brace, scooter and crutches, jostling them in and out of the car, all while balancing on one leg. Lugging everything through a near freezing parking deck at least twice per day, I quickly tired of the hassle. But the end was near! Soon the doc would give me the all-clear, and it would be just me, my brief case, and my intricately-carved, walnut-stained Beechwood walking cane, which was an accessory I hoped would offer an air of distinction (unlike my scooter).

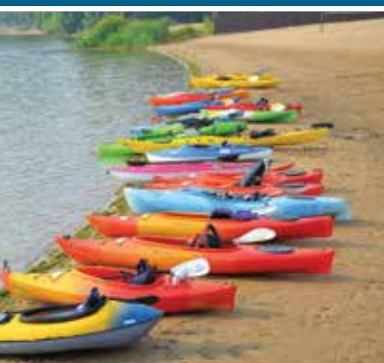
But then, a complication—a complication setting my recovery back at least two weeks. And then another setback.

In mid-December, with mobility still dependent on the knee scooter and crutches, my wife and I attended a music program in search of some much-needed holiday cheer. Entering an auditorium brimming with families, grandparents and students, we noticed all handicapped-accessible rows were full, many seats occupied by young children. While obvious I couldn't use the stairs, no one moved. Dismayed, I found a folding chair by the entrance while my wife took a seat elsewhere in the auditorium.

Initially frustrated at being separated from my wife, I paused. Since surgery, folks had repeatedly grabbed doors, held elevators and carried bags for me. While some were oblivious, the vast majority of those I "bumped" into kindly offered assistance. Plus, I had a light at the end of the tunnel. I would recover. Eventually.

Yet this situation forced me to ask a tough question. What about those people suffering permanent disabilities, many of whom regularly experience these types of situations? What about people discouraged from going out because of limited parking and seating, who feel uncomfortable asking for help, overburdened with medical equipment, and just overwhelmed with the situation in general?

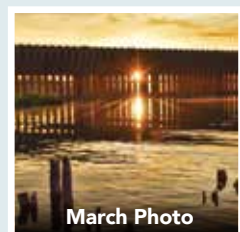
Though I'm still not 100 percent, doctors assure me I'll make a full recovery. In the meantime, my respect and appreciation for those with a permanent physical or cognitive disability has only deepened. My hope now is to encourage others to think twice when in public. Save those reserved parking spaces and seating sections for those people and families who could really use it. Open a door, offer a seat, and give a smile to someone who genuinely needs it. I know I will. ■



## «« Where In Michigan Is This?

Identify the correct location of the photo on the left by June 10 and be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 electric bill credit. Enter your guess at [countrylines.com](http://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 the name of your co-op.

Our Mystery Photo Contest winner from the March 2017 issue is Walter Seavoy, an Ontonagon County REA member, who correctly identified the photo as the Lower Harbor Ore Dock in downtown Marquette, Mich. Winners are announced in the following issues of *Country Lines*: January, March, May, July/August, September and November/December.



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**ALGER DELTA COOPERATIVE  
ANNUAL MEETING**

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**Saturday, June 10, 2017  
11 a.m.–1 p.m.**

**U.P. State Fairgrounds  
Miracle Of Life Building**

**This year's Annual Meeting will feature  
something for the whole family!**

**For more information and to RSVP, call  
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