

# MICHIGAN COUNTRILINES



— small town to —

## CAPITAL CITY

Rural Michigan's Political Couple

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Board Election

Meet The  
Michigan Stiltwalker

Safe Haven  
Protects Families

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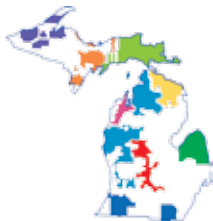
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Photo courtesy of Julia Nagy/Lansing State Journal

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## *I Remember...*

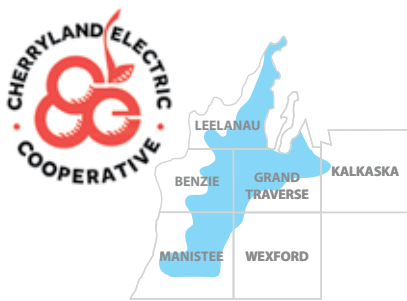
**We invite members to share their fondest memories.**

*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](http://countrylines.com)





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## Example Only

Find Your Personal Ballot ID and Election Passcode on the back cover in the lower left corner.

BARCODE



BALLOT ID

123456

PASSCODE

ABCD1234

# How To Vote Online

**W**ant a quick and easy way to vote in this year's Cherryland Board of Directors' election? Vote online! There are two ways to cast your ballot online:

## SmartHub Users

- Login to your SmartHub account via Cherryland's website.
- In the upper right hand corner of your screen, select "Vote Now."
- You are in! Follow the additional instructions provided on the board election website.

## Non-SmartHub Users

- Go to [www.directvote.net/cecmi](http://www.directvote.net/cecmi)
- Log in using your **Ballot ID** and **Election Passcode** located on the back of this magazine. (See picture above.)
- You are in! Follow the additional instructions provided on the board election website.

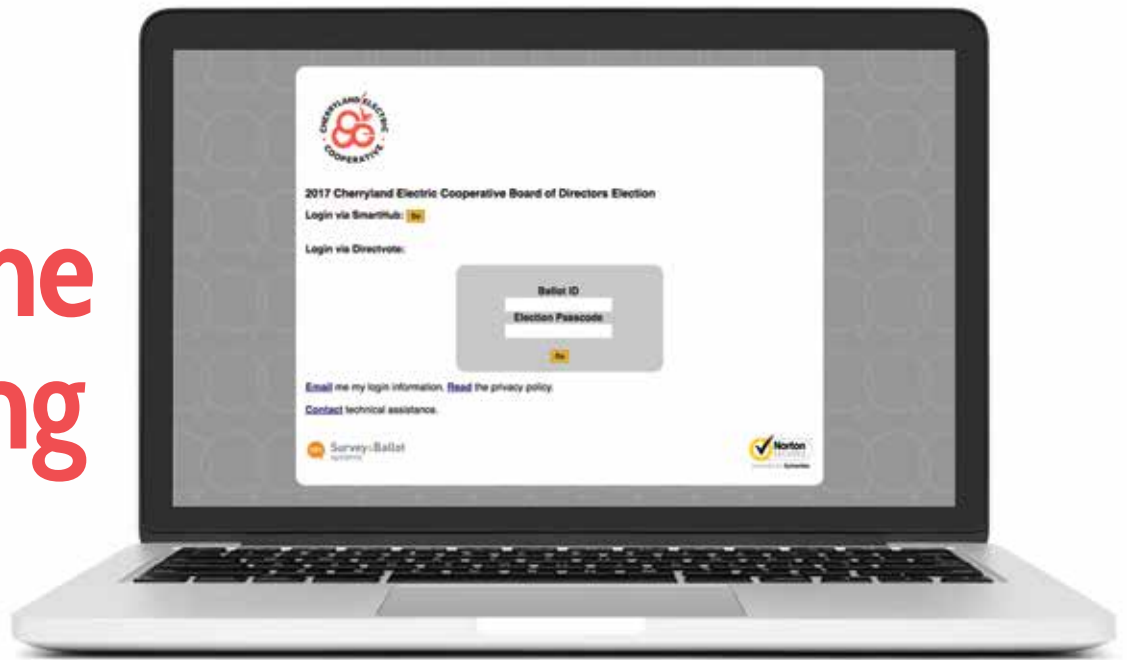
Candidate information is in the Cherryland Annual Report inside the center of this issue of *Country Lines* as well as on the board election website.

After you submit your ballot, you will be given an opportunity to receive an email confirmation that the ballot has been received and recorded.

For technical support (available Monday–Friday 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., excluding holidays), please call 952-974-2339 or email [support@directvote.net](mailto:support@directvote.net).

For other questions, please call 231-486-9200 or email [cec@cherrylandelectric.coop](mailto:cec@cherrylandelectric.coop). ■

# Online Voting



**Tony Anderson**  
General Manager

For decades, Cherryland Electric Cooperative members had to show up at the Annual Meeting to cast a vote in a board election. About one decade ago, members began to receive their annual ballot wrapped around the May issue of *Michigan Country Lines* magazine.

Over the last decade, we have watched member votes climb from 500 a year to over 1,800 at the peak of mail-in balloting. With 35,000 members, an increase of 360 percent in voting members is still not good enough. So, in an effort to get more people involved in their cooperative, online voting will be available to everyone for the first time in 2017.

Your board and the Election and Credentials Member Committee have both approved the use of Survey and Ballot Systems (SBS). SBS has been working with electric cooperative elections since 1990. They employ third party audits, use best-in-class security practices and have industry-leading encryption and authentication measures.

The 2017 election will be a “hybrid” election. This means that members will still get a paper ballot wrapped around the May issue of *Country Lines*, as well as the new online option and the ability to vote in person at the Annual Meeting. The first vote received will be the one that counts. Online and mail-in ballots will be accepted from May 1 to June 14.

SBS will tabulate all the ballots, both paper and online. One member of the Election and

Credentials Committee, a Cherryland member, will serve as a liaison to SBS and the third party auditor.

Members will be able to access the online voting portal through SmartHub or a website (see page 4) by using a ballot ID and an election passcode.

For probably too long, we have gotten this complaint after a member tossed out their magazine and ballot: “What do you mean I can’t get another ballot?” We have been steadfast in “one member, one ballot” in an attempt to keep things simple and hold people accountable.

Now, members will have a 45-day window to vote without having to retain the paper ballot. We are hopeful that this will increase voter turnout, appeal to younger voters and eliminate complaints from busy members who have long desired another voting option.

The cost of online voting has been the biggest hurdle to its implementation. It will add several thousand dollars to our operating expenses. In the long run, we hope to lower costs in a few years if we feel like paper ballots can be eliminated or at least reduced to individual “as needed” requests.

I encourage everyone to take the time to review the candidate information in this issue and online. After that, please vote. To paraphrase Thomas Jefferson, “Cherryland is not a cooperative of the majority. We are a cooperative of the majority who choose to participate.” In the 78-year history of this cooperative, it has never been easier to cast your vote and make your voice heard. ■



# 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





# WALKING TALL

## For Cerebral Palsy Awareness

By Rob Marsh

**N**eil Sauter has held a marathon world record, appeared in Ripley's Believe It Or Not, and walked nearly 1,200 miles along Michigan's roads. But what makes him truly unique is that he did it all on stilts.

Better known as "The Michigan Stiltwalker," Sauter uses his talent for stilt walking to raise money for cerebral palsy awareness across Michigan.

Being born with mild cerebral palsy, Sauter qualified for a scholarship from Michigan Rehabilitation Services when applying for college. As a recipient of that scholarship, he was motivated to give back to the community in a meaningful way.

How he would give back came a few years later after an encounter with a stilt walker at a local

festival. "I was told that the stilts held your legs perfectly straight," said Sauter. "Normally my feet turn inward, making me rather clumsy. These acted a lot like the braces I used to wear."

Sauter used his philanthropic drive and a pair of stilts to walk across Michigan. In 2008, he walked 832 miles in eight weeks from Toledo, Ohio, to Ironwood, Michigan. In 2013, he walked another 360 miles over six consecutive weekends around different parts of the state.

Treks of this magnitude coupled with the challenge of stilts would have anyone feeling skeptical. "Before that first trip, my family thought it was foolish and wouldn't actually happen," chuckled Sauter. "But when I kept preparing for the trip, they bought into it."





Sauter walked 832 miles from Toledo, Ohio to Ironwood, Michigan on stilts in 2008.

**"Complete strangers invited me into their homes, or friends of friends would provide arrangements on my behalf. The friendliness I received was incredible."**

His family was very helpful in organizing aspects of both treks, including raising money and arranging places for him to sleep and eat. His wife even walked with him some days.

The success of Sauter's trips relied heavily on the kindness of others. When in need of a meal or a place to sleep, strangers lent him a hand. "Complete strangers invited me into their homes, or friends of friends would provide arrangements on my behalf," he explained. "The friendliness I received was incredible."

As he walked along, passersby would offer him

food, water, and even donations to the cause. "At times I had up to \$1,000 in donations with me from those who saw me walking. Often these same people would take my backpack for me and deliver it to my next resting spot."

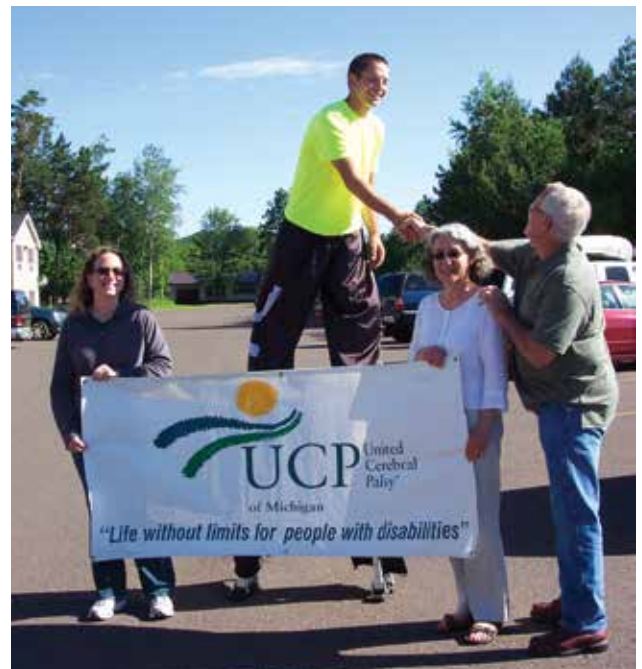
In all the miles Sauter's walked, one of his favorite moments was on his final approach toward Ironwood in 2008. Sauter spent that last stretch of road with Joe Bowen. Forty years earlier, Bowen walked 3,000 miles on stilts to raise money for charity.

"I really appreciated him celebrating the trip with me," says Sauter. "It was fun to share and compare our unique experiences."

After his last walk in 2013, Sauter stepped away from stilt walking. He took the time to be a stay-at-home dad with the birth of his son.

It wasn't until recently that he jumped back on the stilts to entertain at festivals, fairs, and other special events, including this year's Cherryland Annual Meeting in June.

After walking nearly 1,200 miles solo and raising more than \$90,000, Sauter sees another trip in his future, but not alone. "Perhaps, when my son is a teenager, I will pursue something similar with him," said Sauter. "But for right now, I am very happy spending most of my time with my son and wife at home." ■



"The Michigan Stiltwalker" raised more than \$90,000 for cerebral palsy research and awareness.

# 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 [micoopkitchen.com](http://micoopkitchen.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 [micoopkitchen.com](http://micoopkitchen.com) for this recipe and others.



# Cherryland Employees Volunteer Monthly At Munson Manor



Cherryland employees and their families love preparing and serving meals for the guests of Munson Manor Hospitality House.

Munson Manor Hospitality House is a “home away from home” for family members of out-of-town Munson patients who face added stress of traveling during a loved one’s hospitalization. The graphic on the right shows what Cherryland employees have contributed in the past four years to Munson Manor.



Learn more about Munson Manor at [munsonhealthcare.org/munsonmanor](http://munsonhealthcare.org/munsonmanor).



No one can help everyone, but everyone can help someone.

Extend a helping hand to those who need it by rounding up your monthly electric bill to the nearest dollar. Investing your small change into our Cherryland Cares program brings about big change in our community.

Sign up for Cherryland Cares today and support local nonprofit organizations doing good in your community.



Sign up by June 15 and be entered to win a **\$100 bill credit.** Visit [cherrylandelectric.coop](http://cherrylandelectric.coop) to learn more.

# Local Nonprofit Provides Safe Haven For Broken Families

By Rob Marsh

About two years ago, a Grand Traverse County mother and grandfather were assaulted during a custody-related child exchange in a McDonald's parking lot. The public place did not keep them from danger, nor did the young mother bringing her father prevent injuries.

Safe Haven, a branch of Child & Family Services of Northwestern Michigan, offers a comfortable and safe environment for child exchanges and supervised visits while parents deal with issues of physical or emotional abuse, stalking, return of an absent parent, and more.

"This program is the largest of its kind in the state," says Erin House, Safe Haven's program and fundraising coordinator. "At any given time, we are serving anywhere from 65 to 90 families."

Since 2004, Safe Haven's staff has facilitated approximately 25,000 supervised visits and exchanges.

Walking through the doors of Safe Haven is a carefully choreographed event. For a visit or exchange to occur, parents must park in two different parking lots, use two different entrances on two different floors, arrive at two different times, and leave at two different times. This procedure ensures that the parents will have no contact with one another.

Upon arrival, all bags and purses are searched prior to any interaction. "One parent may try to send a threatening note or object to the other parent using the child," explains House.

From video surveillance to staff supervision behind two-way mirrors, visits and exchanges at Safe Haven are monitored to ensure the safety for all involved. Staff members diligently listen to conversations between the parent and child to ensure they are appropriate. They also watch for signs of a child's discomfort or fear, sometimes using predetermined words or hand gestures to signal for help.



Between these intricacies and other potential conflicts, scheduling and facilitating visits and exchanges is a logistical feat; one that occurs on average of 12 times per day.

After all the distractions are removed, Safe Haven's goal is to have parents focus on being good mothers and fathers to their children. "The events that lead families to us have a profound effect on the kids, both mentally and physically," says House. "These visits and exchanges are a chance for their family to work towards a better future."

Regretfully, Safe Haven's future is unknown. Due to changes in grant structure and increased competition for funds, they were unable to secure the federal funding they relied on for more than a decade.

"Through other grants and donations, we can keep our doors open for a while longer," says House. "We will be able to reapply for the federal grant in the fall, but until then, we are going to need help."

Without programs like Safe Haven, northern Michigan families in need may be forced to return to public spaces for child exchanges. With federal and local support, Safe Haven's tireless efforts can continue to ease the minds of countless children and parents going through tough times. ■

*Please visit Safe Haven's website at [fsnwm.org/safehaven](http://fsnwm.org/safehaven) to donate or for more information.*



**Child & Family Services**

of Northwestern Michigan

[www.cfsnwm.org](http://www.cfsnwm.org) | (231) 946-8975 | (231) 347-4463

# — 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.” ■

# Planes, Trains & Automobiles

## Photos With The Highest Facebook Votes!

The votes are in, and we're happy to share the photo with the most Facebook votes (and some favorites) from our photo contest. Thanks to everyone who submitted a photo, voted and spread the word by sharing the post on Facebook.



Most  
Votes On  
Facebook!

Cruising Through Sleeping Bear Dunes—By Andrea Kissel



My grandson, Bradley, at the Festival of Trains—By Jackie Herman



My grandsons, Porter and Henry, cruising the neighborhood—By Karen Popa



Fun summer driving—By Julie Brinkerhoff



Fun in the sun with Suntan and Sunburn—By Amy Morley



## Enter Your Photos And Win A Bill Credit!

Submit your best photo and encourage your friends to vote! The photo receiving the most votes from our Facebook contest will be printed in an issue of *Country Lines* along with some of our other favorites. If your photo is printed in *Country Lines* during 2017, you will be entered to win a credit of up to \$200 on your December 2017 bill.

Our May theme is **The Art of Nature**. Photos can be submitted from **May 1** to **May 20** to be featured in our July/August issue.

To enter the contest visit [facebook.com/cherrylandelectriccoop](https://facebook.com/cherrylandelectriccoop) and click "Photo Contest" from the menu tabs. If you're not on Facebook, don't worry. You can also enter the contest at [cherrylandelectric.coop/photo-contest](https://cherrylandelectric.coop/photo-contest). Make sure to vote, and encourage others to vote for you, too!

# CO-OP NEWS

## **Cherryland Cares Awards \$14,400 To Eight Nonprofits**

At their first quarter board meeting, the Cherryland Cares board awarded grants to Child and Family Services of Northwestern Michigan, The Dream Team, Grand Traverse Dyslexia Association, Leelanau Children's Center, Northwest Michigan Supportive Housing, Salvation Army of Traverse City, TCAPS STEP Program, and Traverse Life Center. Cherryland Cares awarded \$14,400 in grants to these area nonprofit agencies.

The Cherryland Cares board is comprised of five volunteer Cherryland members. The funds distributed by Cherryland Cares are a result of members electing to round up their monthly bills to the nearest dollar. Members can contribute to the Cherryland Cares fund by calling 231-486-9200, signing up through SmartHub, or emailing us at [cec@cherrylandelectric.coop](mailto:cec@cherrylandelectric.coop).

If you are an area nonprofit agency seeking financial help, second quarter grant applications are due Friday, June 9. For more information, please call Shannon Mattson at 231-486-9234 or email at [smattson@cherrylandelectric.coop](mailto:smattson@cherrylandelectric.coop).

## **Bowl for Kids' Sake Returns May 9 & 10 At Incredible Mo's**

Join us at this year's Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Michigan Bowl for Kids' Sake event!

Cherryland is proud to sponsor the year's largest fundraising event for the Bigs program. The event takes place on May 9 and 10 at Incredible Mo's. To find out how to donate and join the fun, go to [BigsUpNorth.com](http://BigsUpNorth.com) and click on the Events page.

## **Cherryland Joins The 16th Annual Ideas For Life Senior Expo On May 17**

Cherryland will be one of at least 100 exhibitors at the Ideas for Life Senior Expo at the Grand Traverse County Civic Center on Wednesday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Bay Area Senior Advocates event features a variety of local and statewide services aimed at providing solutions for the changes families will experience with aging parents and spouses.

## **Members Earn Rebates With Energy Efficiency Upgrades**

Cherryland members are eligible to receive rebates for energy efficiency upgrades in their homes or businesses. Common upgrades include replacing incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs and purchasing Energy Star qualified appliances. For a guide to our residential rebate program and a complete listing of rebates available on Energy Star qualified appliances, visit our website at [CherrylandElectric.coop](http://CherrylandElectric.coop). ■



## **Cherryland Office Closed Memorial Day**

The Cherryland office will be closed Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day. Normal business hours resume Tuesday, May 30.

Line crews are on call to respond to any outages or emergencies. You can report your outage through SmartHub or by calling us at 231-486-9200.



# 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.

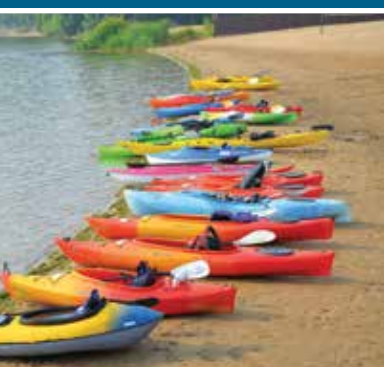
In mid-December, with mobility still dependent on the knee scooter and crutches, my wife and I attended a music program in search of some much-needed holiday cheer. Entering an auditorium brimming with families, grandparents and students, we noticed all handicapped-accessible rows were full, many seats 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?

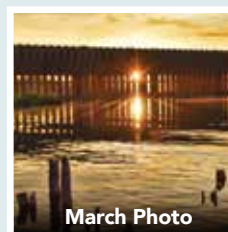
Though I'm still not 100 percent, doctors assure me I'll make a full recovery. In the meantime, my respect and appreciation for those with a permanent physical or cognitive disability has only deepened. My hope now is to encourage others to think twice when in public. Save those reserved parking spaces 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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**Your Panel**

**Joe's Panel**

**Sue's Panel**



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Cherryland Electric Cooperative is proud to offer a community solar program that gives our members an easy and affordable way to support renewable energy. Get a panel subscription through our SpartanSolar community array and start getting solar credits on your utility bill today. Learn more at [spartansolar.com](http://spartansolar.com)