



COPS & DOUGHNUTS



HISTORIC CLARE CITY BAKERY SINCE 1896

The Sweet Story Of Cops & Doughnuts

**Focus On Renewable Solutions**  Remembering The August Storm **Driving Cross Country** For Cancer Research



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**Executive Editor** 

Casey Clark

Editor

**Christine Dorr** 

Copy Editor

**Heidi Spencer** 

Design and Layout

Karreen Bird

**Publisher** 

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#### **CONTACT US/LETTERS TO EDITOR:**

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



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# IN THIS ISSUE

#### ON THE COVER

A bakery in Clare, Michigan, that had been in constant operation since 1896 was within weeks of closing in 2009. That's when the members of the Clare Police Department came to the rescue. All of them. Unwilling to let their historic bakery fail, all nine members of the local police department banded together to save this historic business. Today dubbed "Cops and Doughnuts," the bakery boasts handmade confections of all types and now has several locations throughout Michigan.



#### **FEATURE**

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Guess Our New Mystery Photo And Win A \$50 Bill Credit!



We invite members to share their fondest memories.

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

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- 2. Digital photos must be at least 600 KB
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#### **Board Of Directors**

#### TERRY LAUTNER

President 231-946-4623 tlautner@cherrylandelectric.coop

#### **TOM VAN PELT**

Senior Vice President 231-386-5234 tvanpelt@cherrylandelectric.coop

#### **MELINDA LAUTNER**

Secretary 231-947-2509 mlautner@cherrylandelectric.coop

#### JON ZICKERT

Treasurer 231-631-1337 jzickert@cherrylandelectric.coop

#### **JOHN OLSON**

Director 231-938-1228 jolson@cherrylandelectric.coop

#### **DAVID SCHWEITZER**

Director 231-883-5860 dschweitzer@cherrylandelectric.coop

#### **GENERAL MANAGER**

Tony Anderson

#### CO-OP EDITORS

Rachel Johnson Rob Marsh

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.

#### **TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

231-486-9200 or 1-800-442-8616 (MI)

#### **ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 298, Grawn, MI 49637

#### **WEBSITE**

cherrylandelectric.coop

#### **PAY STATION**

Cherryland Electric Cooperative office 5930 U.S. 31 South, Grawn MI, 49637

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## CO-OP **NEWS**

#### Students Represent Cherryland In Washington D.C.

Congratulations to Kaitlin Hozak of Traverse City West Senior High School and Rory Gabriel of St. Francis High School for being selected to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington D.C. this June. They joined hundreds of other high school students representing electric cooperatives from all over the country. The weeklong event featured tours of monuments and historical sites, meetings with elected officials and leadership training.

#### August Brings The Northwestern Michigan Fair

Join the fun at the Northwestern Michigan Fair August 6–12 at the Northwestern Michigan Fairgrounds. Cherryland is proud to sponsor Kids' Day and the Pancake Breakfast. For more information about the fair, visit NorthwesternMichiganFair.net.

## Members Support Local Nonprofits Through Cherryland Cares

Cherryland Cares distributes funds to local nonprofit organizations in need of financial support. 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 sending an email to cec@cherrylandelectric.coop.

If you are an area nonprofit agency seeking financial help, please call Shannon Mattson at 231-486-9234 or e-mail smattson@cherrylandelectric.coop. The deadline for third quarter applications is Friday, September 8.

#### Cherryland Office Closed Labor Day

The Cherryland office will be closed Monday, September 4, in observance of Labor Day. Normal business hours will resume Tuesday, September 5.

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.

#### Join Tony On Facebook Live In July

Join us Thursday, July 20, at 1 p.m. on Cherryland's Facebook page as General Manager Tony Anderson provides an update on all that is going on at the co-op. Tony will also be fielding questions during the broadcast. ■







**Tony Anderson** General Manager

t a recent Rotary Club meeting, I listened to a spokesperson for a local environmental group lamenting the state of our environment. The name of the group doesn't matter as 90 percent of the message could be attributed to many such groups. Sadly, the message was very similar to one I had heard almost 10 years earlier, as well as every year since.

I am not writing today to disparage any group of well-intentioned individuals. However, I am writing to encourage individuals on both sides of every climate issue to spend more time on realistic solutions and less time debating or lamenting a problem.

I stood up at that Rotary meeting and asked a simple question: "Zoning issues are preventing utilities from achieving higher levels of renewable wind resources. What is your group doing to improve zoning in Michigan?" The answer: "Our group is not working on that issue."

I drove home shaking my head. Cherryland has a power supply portfolio that is 18 percent renewable. We failed at an attempt to reach 30 percent when zoning votes in two townships in November 2016 killed a large wind project.

All I ever hear from environmental groups is "do more renewables." There wasn't one of these groups—local, regional or national in nature—encouraging these townships to pass ordinances favorable to renewable energy. The developer and Cherryland's power supplier, Wolverine Power Cooperative, were in the losing battle alone.

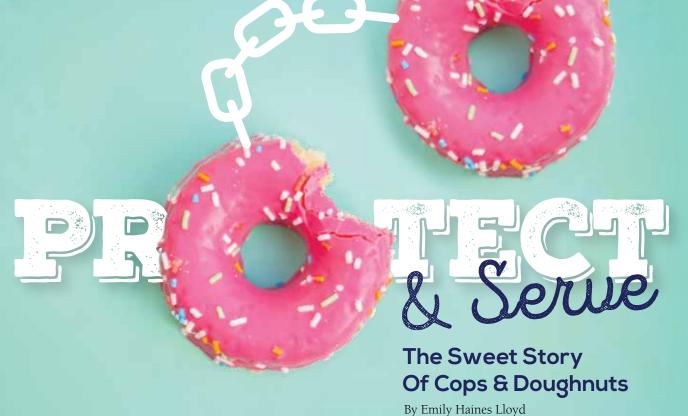
While disappointed, I am far from surprised. Big wind is not sexy. It doesn't bring in donors any longer. A carbon tax and railing about the "cost of carbon" are all the rage today. Tax carbon all you want. If we can't build alternatives in Michigan, then old, dirty plants will be called on to operate longer just to keep the grid stable.

What are the solutions? The biggest one is the "not in my backyard" gorilla in the room. If you want cleaner air, we need more large wind projects in Michigan. They are going to have to go somewhere. Environmental organizations need to get behind key locations, step into the mud and help with the dirty work that is zoning for these structures.

Transmission is another solution that could use support from all sides. Michigan has a weak connection to the Upper Peninsula. As a state, we need to improve this connection and continue on into Canada. Canada is rich in renewable resources that could help improve our clean energy portfolios in Michigan.

Green groups need to get into these fights soon. I expect I will get responses about solar and conservation. They are small drips in a huge bucket. Climate advocates need to care a little less about donor dollars, tone down the sky is falling rants, work with utilities and really get strategic about achievable results that are meaningful on a big scale.

Debating the size and scope of the problem for another 10 years is a disservice to everyone. Working together on the not-so-popular solutions is where all sides need to put their time and effort in the years to come.



here's something sweet happening in Clare, Michigan, and it's on a roll.

It started with a classic tale of a group of small-town police officers sitting in a local doughnut shop back in 2009. But then a twist occurred—the owner of Clare City Bakery told the officers he had to sell the bakery, which was one of the few open storefronts in the two-block downtown area of Clare. The officers lamented, continued talking and were struck by a thought—what if they bought the bakery?

"At first we laughed at [the thought of] a bunch of cops buying the only doughnut shop in town," said Al "Bubba" White, the now vice president of Cops & Doughnuts. "But eventually we stopped laughing."

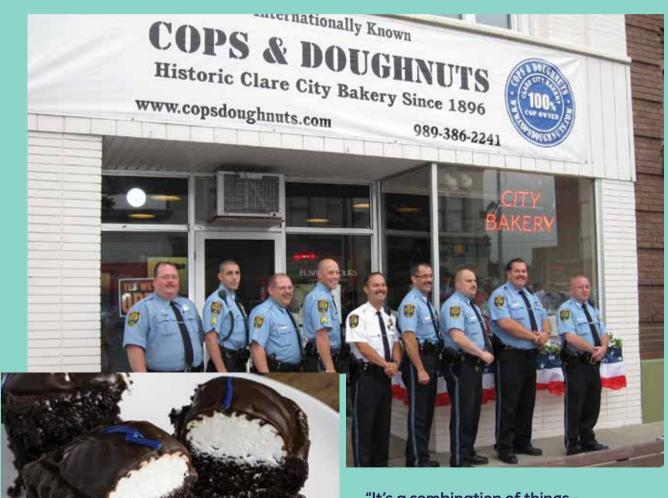
The recession had hit hard and the police force saw their small town slowly close storefront after storefront. Eventually, Clare City Bakery, a shop that had been around since 1896—surviving wars and the Great Depression—looked like it was about to be lost as well.

After making calls to the owner and quick talks among the nine-member police force, the deal was finalized within two weeks. Clare City Bakery became Cops & Doughnuts: Clare Precinct.



Without much business experience, White, along with now-president Greg "Ryno" Rynearson, as well as the other officers/owners, kept some of the bakery's key recipes along with the head baker. The result was a good first day.

It wasn't long before the story of a bunch of cops opening a doughnut shop caught some attention. They got a call from a reporter with The Associated Press, confirming that they were, in fact, a bunch of cops who opened a doughnut shop. Before they knew it, the guys were fielding interviews from



"NBC Nightly News," "Fox and Friends," and "Good Morning America."

When asked why he thinks Cops & Doughnuts is a story, White has some ideas.

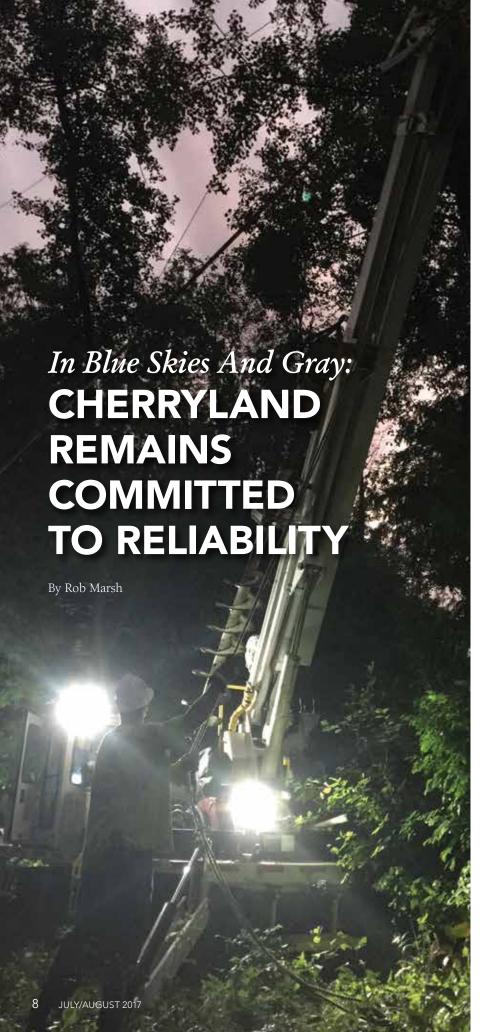
"It's a combination of things—a good product, of course, but it's also a good story. We don't just sell doughnuts," explains White. "We sell cops selling doughnuts."

That combination, plus a healthy dose of good humor and community spirit, seems to be working in a big way. The Cops & Doughnuts crew saw that they had a good thing and knew they could grow. But where to expand became the next question. It had been important to them to save their beloved Clare City Bakery and the important role it had played in their story. So, what if they could save another historic bakery?

"It's a combination of things a good product, of course, but it's also a good story. We don't just sell doughnuts," explains White. "We sell cops selling doughnuts."

The group expanded to McDonald's Bakery, a fifth-generation establishment in Ludington, Mich., followed by The Sutherland Bakery in Bay City, which originally opened in 1912. The crew then expanded and opened a precinct (or bakery) in Jay's Sporting Goods in Gaylord, and finally, a gem in South Bend, Indiana, was acquired, known as The Dainty Maid Bake Shop. Each town was reinvigorated by the lively atmosphere and genuine love that White, Rynearson and the team have for the history, community and, of course, the bakery.

With five precincts, more than 500 retail outlets, and approximately half a million customers visiting annually, Cops & Doughnuts is well on its way to their goal of "world domination," they attest. However, at the very heart, it's still a group of civic-minded public servants determined to protect the rich history of small-town bakeries by serving up great doughnuts.



# "The storm literally changed the landscape."

 Frank Siepker, engineering and operations manager

ugust 2, 2015, was a day in northern Michigan's history that will be retold for decades. Characterized by its ominous clouds, 100 mileper-hour winds, and driving rain, the August storm left a permanent mark on the landscape and the minds of northern Michigan residents.

Cherryland met the challenge of the storm with grit and determination. With 12,800 members out of service, every co-op employee, from the line crews in the field to the member service representatives answering phone calls, worked day in and day out to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

Two years later, the August 2015 storm acts as a constant reminder of Cherryland's mission: be the reliable electric provider our members deserve.

One of the reasons we weathered that storm so well was due to the ongoing investment into our system. By maintaining and upgrading our poles, wires, and other infrastructure, Cherryland creates system longevity and strength in the face of severe weather.

Since that storm, the cooperative has continued to be aggressive in its investment into system reliability. From August 2015 to the present, Cherryland has engaged in 98 construction projects, such as rebuilding infrastructure, relocating sections of line, converting





# No one knows when the next storm will strike, but one thing is for certain: we will be ready.

overhead to underground wire and so on. For perspective, those projects included the retirement of 1,157 poles and the installation of over 800,000 feet of overhead conductors.

With infrastructure upgrades and projects, tree trimming and removal, and general reliability improvements, Cherryland has invested approximately \$9.5 million since the August storm.

What does that investment in our system mean to you, the member? The lights stay on.

Cherryland gauges its success with a reliability percentage. Simply put, that number tells us how often the lights stay on.

At the end of August 2015, our reliability percentage was 99.961 percent. By the end of that year, the number climbed to 99.985 percent.

Today, Cherryland's year-to-date reliability percentage is 99.993 percent.

Though vital, being a reliable electric provider cannot be solely measured in new poles and wires. The August storm was a big testament to the strength and reliability of Cherryland's communications during a major weather event. During that week, our member service representatives handled nearly 1,700 calls, the website's Outage Center was visited over 30,000 times, and our outage updates on Facebook reached approximately 112,300 people.

Each with their own benefits, we continue to employ these communication mediums today to ensure every member looking for information during a major outage can find it.

It takes a lot of hard work and man hours to communicate to members during a major outage. While our phones are always online and the website is up and running, it isn't feasible to communicate every singular outage to your newsfeed on Facebook.

How can Cherryland's outage communications be brought to the next level?

In the coming months, we will introduce text notifications to our outage communications. We will be able to tell you if there is an outage at your location, when it's expected to be restored, and when the power comes back on. We can also give an update if the restoration time is expected to change. Big or small, Cherryland will be able to communicate an outage to the members it affects instantly.

Between system improvements and advancements in outage communications since August 2015, Cherryland has been investing in its mission. A 99.993 percent reliability is great, but we know that keeping the lights on means nonstop work and preparation.

No one knows when the next storm will strike, but one thing is for certain: we will be ready. ■

# CHICKEN CHALLENGE

Transform your dinner with these easy-to-prepare chicken recipes.

#### **Pepper Jack Pasta**

Deb Mitteer, Great Lakes Energy

- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into medallions
- 1 red bell pepper, cut into small strips
- 1 green bell pepper, cut into small strips
- 1 yellow bell pepper, cut into small strips
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 4 cups mini penne pasta, uncooked
- 5 cups milk
- 8-ounce block pepper jack cheese, cut into small pieces
- 2-3 tablespoons cooking oil

Drizzle cooking oil in a dutch oven pot. Add the chicken medallions and cook chicken until no longer pink. Remove chicken from pot and set aside. Add the peppers and onions to the pot and cook until onion is transparent. Add chicken back to the pot with the peppers and onion. Add the uncooked penne pasta and 5 cups of milk to the pot. Bring the milk to a boil and stir constantly for 8–10 minutes or until pasta is tender. Remove from stove and add the pepper jack cheese. Let set until the cheese is melted. Stir until well mixed. Serve immediately.



Watch a video of this recipe at https://goo.gl/BRjFXS





#### Rosemary Chicken And Brie Bundles

Denise Barth, Cherryland

- 8-ounce can refrigerated crescent dinner rolls
- 2 tablespoons green onions, sliced
- 6 ounces Brie cheese, rind removed, cubed
- 1½ cups cooked chicken breast, chopped
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 teaspoon crushed dried rosemary
- 1 tablespoon grated Parmesan cheese



Heat oven to 350 F.
Separate dough into four rectangles, press perforations to seal. Spoon ¼ of green onions onto the center of each rectangle; top with ¼ of the Brie cheese cubes. Top each with ¼ of chicken, pressing into cheese. Fold short

ends over chicken, overlapping slightly. Fold open ends over about ½ inch to form a rectangle. Press all edges to seal. Place seam side down on ungreased baking pan or cookie sheet. Cut three 1-inch slashes on top of each roll to allow steam to escape. Brush with egg, sprinkle with Parmesan cheese and rosemary. Bake for 21 to 26 minutes or until golden brown. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Serves 4.

#### Dawn's Elegant Chicken

Dawn Wagner, Great Lakes Energy

- 8 half chicken breasts (4 whole)
- 8 Swiss cheese slices
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 can cream of celery soup
- ½ to ¾ cup white cooking wine
- Pepperidge Farm Stuffing mix (or your favorite)
- <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> stick of butter



Preheat oven to 350 F. Spray a 9×13 baking dish with vegetable spray. Place chicken breasts in the baking dish. Place a slice of Swiss cheese on each piece of chicken. In a separate bowl, mix the cream of chicken soup, the cream of celery

soup and the white wine. Pour the mixture over the chicken. Cover the entire top of the dish with stuffing mix. Melt butter and pour it on top of the stuffing/chicken. Bake for 1 hour. Serve over Uncle Ben's Wild Rice (or your favorite).



# **Cream Cheese Chicken Dumpling Soup**

Jessi Smith, Great Lakes Energy

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 celery stalk, chopped
- 2 carrots, chopped
- 2 cups cooked chicken
- 8 cups chicken broth
- 2 eggs
- 1 package of cream cheese, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 cup flour
- salt and pepper, to taste



Melt butter in soup pot. Add chopped onions and sauté for 2 minutes or until lightly golden brown. Add chopped celery and carrots, and sauté for 2 minutes. Add chicken and chicken broth to vegetables. Continue to cook soup on medium

heat. To make the cream cheese dumplings, you will need either a food processor or a bowl and mixer. Combine the eggs, cubed cream cheese and flour, mix until smooth. When the broth in the soup pot is near a boil, reduce heat to low. Dip a large metal spoon into the pot to get the spoon hot. Remove about half a spoonful of the dumpling mixture and dunk the spoon into the soup, wiggling the spoon until the dumpling releases. Repeat this step until all the dumplings are in the pot. Allow the last dumplings to cook 2 minutes per side. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve and enjoy.

## **Meet Andy Hanna:** Cherryland's Support Man

Cherryland is always buzzing with activity. Employees, trucks, and inventory are constantly coming and going. Cherryland has a support system to ensure all of this is organized and flows seamlessly. Andy Hanna, the co-op's newest materials clerk and custodian, plays an integral part in that support system. We sat down with Andy to learn more about him and his role at Cherryland.

> Andy Hanna (right) with wife Whitney (le and daughter Jocelyn (center)

#### Question: Tell us about yourself.

**Answer:** I was born and raised in Williamsburg, Mich. I graduated from Elk Rapids High School in 1995.

I went to Ferris State University and studied graphic arts for a couple of years, but I learned guickly that if I wanted to pursue it further, I was going to have to move to a big city. That was not the life for me.

I came back home and worked primarily in the automotive industry. I spent the last 10 years working for a local auto and RV repair shop as a service manager. I started at Cherryland in January.

My wife, Whitney, and I have been married for 17 years and we have one daughter, Jocelyn, who is 14 years old.

#### Q: What's your role at Cherryland?

A: I am one of the co-op's materials clerks and custodians. Day-to-day I help the line crews load equipment onto the trucks, receive and distribute incoming shipments, work on the grounds, organize inventory in the warehouse, and so on.

#### Q: What brought you to the co-op?

A: I was looking for a place where I knew I could have a future. While I was looking for a place to work, I knew people who worked for Cherryland. They only had good things to say about the work and the environment.

I love it here. I am not stressed like I was in other jobs. I think that has a lot to do with the people who work here and the environment they built.

#### Q: What do you like to do in your free time?

A: I've been a gearhead since I was young. My dad was always working on something, especially hot rods. He is the one who got me into it. Even to this day, I am working on something with him three to four nights a week.

Over time I acquired all the tools (well, maybe not all the tools!) I need to maintain my own vehicles at home. On occasion, I help friends fix up their vehicles too.

Simply put, whenever I have a chance, I like to be working on cars and off-roading with family and friends.

## **Local Guys Go Topless For Cancer Research**

By Rob Marsh

ho doesn't enjoy putting the top down on a convertible, feeling the wind and soaking up the sun? Now, take that experience and place it in the cooler month of March. That's what the ChopTop Challenge is all about.

The ChopTop Challenge gathers auto enthusiasts from around the country for a four-day road rally from Chicago to Las Vegas in cars that have their windshield and roof removed. The participants earn points for driving specific types of cars and performing certain tasks. Winners for specific categories are named once the rally is complete and points are tallied.

Cherryland's Materials Clerk, Andy Hanna, has participated in the ChopTop Challenge since its start in 2016. As opposed to treating the challenge as just a game, Hanna and his teammate saw the rally as an opportunity to give back to the community. "We figured that if we were going to do something this crazy, we should do some good," said Hanna.



Hanna and his teammate drove from Traverse City to Las Vegas in a car with no roof or windshield.

Both Hanna and his teammate lost family members to cancer, so they used the challenge to raise money for cancer research. That is how team "GoToplessForTatas" was born.

After removing the top, Hanna and his teammate outfitted their car with pink cancer awareness ribbons and a unique front plate. They encouraged family, friends and strangers to write their name or the name of a loved one who was affected by cancer on the car as well.



Team GoToplessForTatas encouraged people to write the names of loved ones affected by cancer on their car.

"During the trip, people would stop us and ask us about the car and the names," said Hanna. "Some of them would not only write someone's name, but would also give us a donation to the cause."

In early March, Cherryland employees gathered for a chili cook-off event in support of Hanna's efforts. With the proceeds of the silent auction and individual donations, they raised over \$1,700 for Hanna's trip and the American Cancer Society.

"My co-workers' generosity was overwhelming," said Hanna.

As one can imagine, traveling at 70 mph without a windshield or roof in late March is not always enjoyable. Even with five layers of clothing and snowmobile helmets, Hanna and his team found the trip to be exhausting. "For the first three days, it was cold and wet," Hanna chuckled. "We were begging for it to end."

Once they reached Las Vegas, the team donated the car to a local man looking to continue promoting the cause. "He wanted to keep the car to honor his grandmother and aunt who passed away from cancer as well as his mom currently living with cancer. Giving away the car was a great opportunity to pay it forward."

Hanna and his teammate took what was just a fun event and turned it into an opportunity to bring about awareness. It's that kind of creative thinking that has a significant impact on the community. ■

Follow Hanna and Team GoToplessForTatas on Instagram @gotoplessfortatas

# DOUGLINUIS & Craft Beer: A Divine Pairing

Our cover story on page 6 features the funloving Cops & Doughnuts bakeries. So, what better than to pair a few of these businesssavvy police officer's favorite baked goods with some popular Michigan—made beers. It's a fun idea for dinner parties, tailgating or lounging around the fire pit.

By Emily Haines Lloyd | Photos—Christin McKamey

This is a classic doughnut for a reason and is a dream to pair.

When it comes to chocolate, fruit is pretty much a no-brainer. For a berry "wow factor," try **Short's (Bellaire) Soft Parade**—a fruity-rye ale featuring strawberries, blueberries, raspberries and blackberries. It's a home run in contrasting flavors.

If you want to stay in the sweet pocket, look at Saugatuck Brewing Company's (Saugatuck)
Neopolitan Milk Stout. It truly drinks like its namesake with a blend of chocolate, vanilla and strawberry. Super smooth and rich, you'll feel like you just added a dollop of ice cream to your already delicious doughnut.





You would think a fresh-baked cinnamon bun can't get any better, but then you discover the delicious Cops & Doughnuts maple frosting and realize you were wrong.

A dessert lover's dream is a rich pairing with New Holland's (Holland) Dragon's Milk Bourbon Barrel Aged Stout. Its roasty malt character intermingled with deep vanilla tones, all dancing in an oak bath, is a whopping 12 percent ABV, but perfect for sipping with this dreamy doughnut.

Screamin' Pumpkin Ale from Griffin Claw Brewing Co. (Birmingham) is like a slice of warm pie, offering flavors of cinnamon, clove, sweet pumpkin and a little molasses. Paired with the cinnamon bun, it's like double dipping in the dessert category.

Cops & Doughnuts' Peanut Butter Deputy is a Long John filled with peanut butter cream, topped with chocolate frosting and chopped peanuts. In other words—YUM!

Founder's (Grand Rapids) Curmudgeon is an old ale brewed with molasses and uber malty. It's a barrel-aged brew that seems made for this kind of decadent pairing.

Atwater Brewery's (Grand Rapids) Vanilla Java Porter has the rich flavor of dark roasted coffee with plenty of vanilla notes. It's a fairly simple beer that packs a classic coffee and doughnut punch.





This is a classic apple fritter that is sweet, tart and showcases hints of cinnamon. Each one is handcrafted in the historic bakery in downtown Clare, Michigan. Let's be honest, they're huge, satisfying and could be shared, but do you really want to do that?

For a beer pairing, try a hoppy IPA like North Peak's (Traverse City) Diabolical. It is unfiltered and dryhopped with Michigan grown Chinook and Cascade hops. It has a smooth malt character and citrus pine aroma that brings forward the tartness in the apples.

Looking for something a bit more earthy and smoky? Try a Scotch Ale, such as **Dark Horse Brewing Company's (Marshall) Scotty Karate**. It's brewed with cherry wood smoked malt instead of the traditional peat smoked malt, offering up warming notes of coffee, caramel and sweet caramelized brown sugar. If that doesn't sound like a pair made in fritter heaven, we don't know what does.

# The Art Of Nature

#### **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.



Hangin' In The Mitten—By Mikayla Hinkle



Turkey Tail Fungus—By Cortney Brenner



Aerodynamic Elegance—By Carrie Noren



Capturing Waves—By Audrey Mockler



Lake Michigan Sunset Beauty— By Melissa Braun



#### 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 July theme is Birds and Feathers. Photos can be submitted from July 1 to July 20 to be featured in our September issue.

Our August theme is Life's a Beach—Michigan Waters. Photos can be submitted from August 1 to August 20 to be featured in our October issue.

To enter the contest visit 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/photocontest. Make sure to vote, and encourage others to vote for you, too!



## **Your Board In Action**

#### **Highlights From The May Board Meeting**

- The board will accept applications for the vacant Grand Traverse/Kalkaska County board seat until June 23. The seat became vacant when board member Betty Lien resigned at the beginning of May.
- An update on Cherryland's Energy Optimization (EO) program was given. The co-op is on track to exceed its state-mandated energy savings goal.
- Russell Springsteen of Right Brain Brewery visited and discussed with the board what was done with the economic development loan the brewery received from the cooperative in January 2015.
- The current financial report showed that through April the cooperative's net operating margins amount to \$52,200. At this same point, Cherryland had budgeted a net loss on net operating margins of (\$191,300).
- The board discussed plans to bring fiber trunk lines into some underserved areas in the Cherryland territory. They also discussed working with a third-party to bring broadband internet services to those areas by facilitating access to co-op infrastructure.

# Notification About Cherryland Cares

Area nonprofit agencies seeking financial help can apply for a grant through Cherryland Cares.

This program distributes funds to local nonprofit organizations seeking assistance. Cherryland Cares is overseen by a five-member board who reviews grant applications and allocates funds to nonprofits seeking assistance.

Cherryland Cares is funded through Operation Round Up—the voluntary rounding up of one's monthly electric bill to the next whole dollar amount. A member's average annual contribution is approximately \$6. Your annual contribution to Cherryland Cares is reported on your monthly statement in December. Participation in Operation Round Up is voluntary and may be discontinued at any time.

All grant information is highlighted in *Michigan Country Lines* and on Cherryland's Facebook page. The deadline for third quarter applications is Friday, Sept. 8. For additional information regarding Cherryland Cares, please call Shannon Mattson at 231-486-9234 or email smattson@cherrylandelectric.coop.

## Beaver Island's Music Festival Offers Unique Vibes In A Throwback Setting

ith a population of 600 living on 56 square miles of land off the coast of Charlevoix in Lake Michigan and accessible only by boat or air, Beaver Island could be described as a throwback to another era. How fitting then that the island hosts its own musical festival featuring sounds of the Renaissance.

Celebrating its 16th season this summer, Baroque on Beaver (known as BonB) focuses on classical music; however, guests may also be treated to jazz, Broadway, folk and other genres throughout the 10-day festival. Renowned musicians from symphonies in Midland, Grand Rapids, Chicago, and even as far away as Mexico, gather for what many consider the epicenter of classical music on the Great Lakes.

Originally organized by locals for locals, the event quickly gained a wider audience and became one of the island's most popular events and tourist destinations. According to Festival Director Matthew Thomas, the reason for the event's growth is simple. "Beaver Island is a unique place. Add high-quality music you can enjoy up close and personal, and suddenly a great experience becomes unforgettable!" For this small community, that's music to its ears.

While the event continues to be celebrated for raising cultural awareness of classical music, BonB also makes an important economic contribution to the island. Guests tend to stay longer, spend more, and support businesses whose primary focus is tourism, hospitality and transport. For those who don't have time for an extended stay, day packages are now available. Visit baroqueonbeaver.org for ticket, travel and accommodation information.



In the meantime, as locals and tourists gather under a canopy of stars on a remote island, the sound of music echoing off the water and surrounded by the region's finest musicians, the words of one musician sum up the experiences of most who attend BonB. "This might sound strange," this first-time event musician said, "but I really hope you have me back next year."

The Beaver Island Cultural Arts Association was formalized as a 501c3 corporation in 2006. BICAA's mission is "To serve the Beaver Island community



Jack O'Malley

by promoting and supporting the cultural arts, including the annual Baroque on Beaver Festival." For information about BICAA, please visit the website at bicaa.org or by calling 888-511-5189.

The 2017 festival is July 28 through August 6.



### « Where In Michigan Is This?

Identify the correct location of the photo on the left by August 10 and be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 electric bill credit. 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 the name of your co-op.

Our Mystery Photo Contest winner from the May 2017 issue is Paul Morningstar, a Midwest Energy Cooperative member, who correctly identified the photo as the annual Harbor Beach BiYakAthon (bike, run, kayak) at Lincoln Memorial Park.

Winners are announced in the following issues of *Country Lines*: January, March, May, July/August, September and November/December.





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

#### And I understood that lack of trust.

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

#### I knew things had to change.

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