

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

July/August 2017

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



PROTECT & Serve

The Sweet Story
Of Cops & Doughnuts

New PIE&G CEO

Capital Credit
Refunds Coming

Communities First
Fund Awards



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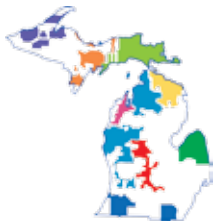
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IN THIS ISSUE

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.

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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 or email to cdorr@meca.coop



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A Message From PIE&G's New CEO



Tom Sobeck
President & CEO

Thank you! I've said that often as of late. It started when our board of directors offered me the opportunity to serve as your Chief Executive Officer.

After I accepted, it continued in response to the many well wishes I received from employees and my peers. And, it will continue long into the future as I thank all PIE&G members for placing your energy needs in our hands every day. It's a notion we take very seriously here at the co-op.

Our part of the deal is to keep the lights on and to keep your bill as low as we can. Those two goals are sometimes at odds with each other, but it's our task to find the right balance.

Your part of the deal is pretty easy: tell us how we're doing. There are a number of ways that you can do that, and I encourage you to take advantage of them. Our monthly board meetings are open to our members, and you're welcome to attend and offer your comments. You can always contact your directors at any time and, of course, my door is always open. I welcome the chance to sit down with you to discuss your concerns and to talk about the benefits of your membership in an electric cooperative.

I'd like to say I have some grand plan to make things even better, but the truth of the matter is that the board of directors and our employees are some of the finest people our region has to offer. Their hard work, expertise and dedication will continue to make PIE&G successful long into the future. My job is to give them the tools to continue their good work and then just stay out of their way!

Our mission, vision and values are all designed to enhance your quality of life and to make rural Michigan a better place to live and work. With that in mind, there are two questions guiding every decision we make on your behalf: What is the cost and does the benefit outweigh that cost? I can assure you that every decision we contemplate will always take that into account.

PIE&G continues to invest in northeast Michigan, and our commitment to that includes the continued study of the feasibility of a new headquarters building. We're hoping to make some decisions soon so look for more information in future editions of *Country Lines*.

It's an exciting time at the co-op and to be working in our industry. I'm looking forward to the many challenges ahead and to the opportunity to meet with you. ■

Your Board In Action

At their most recent meetings, the PIE&G board of directors:

- Approved capital credit retirements of \$2,623,000 to be refunded to members in October 2017.
 - Established a review and approval process for grant applicants for the CoBank/PIE&G Sharing Success Program and approved a co-op contribution of up to \$5,000.
 - Adopted Resolution 2017-07 recognizing retiring CEO Brian Burns for his 32 years of loyal and dedicated service to the cooperative and its members.
 - Approved first quarter write-offs of \$19,998.11.
 - Reviewed the IRS Form 990-Annual Return for Nonprofit Corporations.
 - Reviewed the 10-year financial forecast as presented by CFO Sobeck.
 - Amended the 2017 Capital Budget by increasing it \$75,000 to \$1,654,040.
 - Approved a \$1,000 donation to the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation's Cooperative System Integrity Fund.
 - Approved Board Policy 116-Addressing the Board at Meetings.
- Approved resolutions authorizing the chairman to execute on behalf of PIE&G an employment agreement with Thomas Sobeck for the position of president and chief executive officer.
 - Accepted the resignation of Attorney David Werth and wished him well upon his retirement. ■

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Keep warm summer air outside where it belongs! Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

Source: U.S Dept. of Energy

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PROTECT & SERVE

The Sweet Story Of Cops & Doughnuts

By Emily Haines Lloyd

There'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





**"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."**

*"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?

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, Ryneerson 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. ■

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The Art Of Nature



Morning sunrise on Upper Black River. *By Shelby Price*



While on a golf trip to Brimley, Mich., I headed out for an early morning walk and saw the sun rising over Waiska Bay.
By Pamela Blamer



Hillman is best known for its Elk Farm. *By John Garavaglia*



A wild pansy with dandelion. *By Melinda Young*



Honeybees working diligently on a 10-foot mammoth sunflower in Rust township. *By Kathryn Southerland*

Photo Fun

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op invites members to share their amazing photos. Selected photos will be published in *Michigan Country Lines*.

Upcoming topics and deadlines are: **Birds and Feathers** due **July 20**—Sept./Oct. issue and **Back To School** due **Sept. 20**—Nov./Dec. issue.

To submit photos, and for details and instructions, go to **<http://bit.ly/countrylines>**

We look forward to seeing your best photos!

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
- 1 ½ 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)
- ⅔ 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).



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

- "Slow Cooker Favorites" due August 1
- "Pleasing Pies" due September 1

Go to micoopkitchen.com for more information and to register.

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.

PIE&G Announces 2016 Capital Credit Allocation On Summer Billings

If the cooperative's revenues exceed expenses at year end, capital credits are assigned to members in proportion to the amount of revenue contributed through energy purchases. Capital credits are sometimes called "patronage capital" and **the assignment of this excess revenue or margin is called a "capital credit allocation."**

In 2016, PIE&G's power supplier, Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, allocated a margin of approximately \$919,000 to PIE&G for its energy purchases made on behalf of PIE&G members. In addition, PIE&G's electric operation produced a margin of over \$841,000 and its natural gas division produced a margin of \$467,000. These margins were then **allocated** to you, the member-owner, as capital credits depending on the services you receive (electric, natural gas or both) and will be noted on your June, July or August bill.

Capital credits are retired and refunded to members when the board of directors determines



that the financial condition of the co-op will not be impaired. **Until then, allocated, unretired margins represent a contribution of operating capital that allows PIE&G to finance its operations**—including new construction and system improvements—while reducing borrowing and interest expense until the capital is retired and refunded to members in later years. ■

PIE&G Directors Return \$2.623 Million To Members

Capital Credits From The 1980s, 1990–91 And 1999 To Be Retired

At their April meeting, PIE&G's board of directors authorized approximately \$2,623,000 in capital credit retirements. Members who received electric service in the 1980s, 1990–91 and 1999 will receive an amount of the above in proportion to their energy use. **Checks for the capital credit refund will be mailed in the fall of 2017.**

As a member-owned, not-for-profit organization, when PIE&G revenues exceed expenses, "capital"

is generated and "credited" to individual members on a pro rata basis, depending on their purchases of electricity or gas.

Capital credits are used to build the facilities needed to serve members or may be retired and refunded whenever the board of directors determines that the co-op's financial condition will not be impaired. Since its inception, PIE&G has refunded approximately \$12 million in capital credits back to its members. ■

Co-ops Obtain State Tax Refund For Members

\$48,000 For Sales Tax On Margins Returned To PIE&G Members

A few years ago, PIE&G, together with other Michigan electric co-ops, sought relief from the state of Michigan for a certain sales tax. The cooperatives were successful. The state of Michigan now returns sales tax assessed on positive operating margins.

For 2016, PIE&G generated positive margins for both electric and natural gas operations.

Thus, sales tax refunds of approximately \$31,347 will be given back to electric members and over \$17,364 will be refunded to natural gas members. The tax refunds will be reflected as a credit beginning with bills mailed in June 2017. Although the individual refund may be small, it reflects PIE&G's commitment to keeping members' services affordable. ■

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DOUGHNUTS & Craft Beer: A Divine Pairing

Our cover story on page 6 features the fun-loving Cops & Doughnuts bakeries. So, what better than to pair a few of these business-savvy 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.

**CHOCOLATE
DIP RAISED
GLAZED**



**CINNAMON
BUN MAPLE
FROSTED**



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.

PEANUT BUTTER DEPUTY

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.



FELONY FRITTER

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 dry-hopped 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.



PIE&G Communities First Fund Awards \$7,704 In Grants

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op members continue to generously assist area community organizations and individuals through the voluntary round up of their electric and natural gas bills. Member contributions to the Communities First Fund provide resources for grants and scholarships in their local communities within the PIE&G service area.

At a recent meeting, the PIE&G Communities First Fund board of directors finalized awards of \$7,704 in grants to the recipients listed below.

Alpena County

Thunder Bay River Restoration, Inc. (\$2,005) to purchase equipment for the Thunder Bay River Recreation Improvement Project, whose mission is to clean up fallen trees blocking the Thunder Bay River and to make it safe and passable for emergency rescue crafts and recreational users from Atlanta to Alpena. The equipment includes a portable winch, chain saw and extra cable. The purchase also included a snatch block to enable easier, safer and faster removal of trees, roots and wood debris from the river in places that aren't accessible by heavy equipment. Thunder Bay River Restoration hopes to partner with other groups to clean the stretch of river from Hillman to Salina Road this summer.



Representatives of Thunder Bay River Restoration, Inc. received an award to buy equipment for ongoing cleanup of the river.

Montmorency County

Atlanta Senior Citizens, Inc. (\$1,000) to purchase new chairs for the ASC building for increased seating capacity. Additional seating is needed to accommodate large groups when the ASC building is used by community organizations, such as the Montmorency County Commission On Aging and Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency and the Montmorency Conservation Club, and for events for food distribution, blood pressure and flu shot clinics, and the Snow Drift Rally.

Hillman Community Schools (\$1,000) for

Operation Update to purchase new books to improve the reading selection in the Library/Media Center and for supplies. The goal is to modernize the Library/Media Center so that students from all grade levels will want to read more and enjoy the space. The school will seek input from students to help encourage Media Center use and to change perspectives on reading.



Brian Burns, former PIE&G CEO, presents an award to Julie White, Hillman Schools Board President, for Library/Media Center upgrades.

Presque Isle County

Presque Isle County Council on Aging (PICCOA)

(\$1,199) towards the purchase of two AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators), one for each PICCOA center in Onaway and Posen, to respond to cardiac emergencies. PICCOA provides a host of services to area seniors, and the centers are used to

serve meals, for physical fitness and education activities and as a place to socialize. Having the AEDs on site will significantly improve the chances of survival in case of emergency.

Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan, Inc. (WRCNM)

(\$2,500) toward the purchase of playground equipment for Leadership Little Traverse: Play Ground Project at the WRCNM's Safe Home emergency shelter. The Safe Home provides safety, food and shelter to survivors of domestic abuse and their children. It is operated 24/7 to provide more than 2,500 nights of refuge to domestic abuse survivors each year. The LLT: Play Ground Project involves improvements to existing equipment to increase safety and functionality and also installation of a 900-square-foot playground with play structures for preschool age children and children ages five through twelve years. The playground will benefit children from five counties, including Emmet, Cheboygan, and Otsego. ■

PIE&G Communities First Fund Board Awards

\$15,500 In Scholarships Given To Area High School Graduates

At their recent meeting, the PIE&G Communities First Fund board of directors awarded 15 scholarships of \$1,000 each to each of the following 2017 high school graduates:

ALMONT: Sydney Torres, Hayley Torres

INLAND LAKES: MacKenzie Hemmer, Regan Bunker

ALPENA: Trevor Roznowski

JOHANNESBURG-LEWISTON: Destiny Pryor, Kristin McCormick

ATLANTA: Brianna Gross, Tiffany Juergens, Enrico Racz-Reene

ONAWAY: Cameron Horn, Noel Nash

CHEBOYGAN: Jeffrey Ostman Jr.

POSEN: Izaiah Hincka

WOLVERINE: Teàh Lowe



In addition to the above scholarships, the A. Barkley Travis Memorial Scholarship, valued at \$500, was awarded to Ashley Wirgau of Rogers City.

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op provides electric and natural gas service to more than 42,000 member-owners across northeast Michigan. Its headquarters is located in Onaway.

Left: Teàh Lowe of Wolverine received a \$1,000 scholarship toward college.



Holiday Closing

Our PIE&G office will be closed Monday, September 4, for Labor Day. Payments will post to an account the same day if made online at pieg.com using SmartHub or if using Pay-by-phone 1-866-999-4517. Drop box payments will be posted to an account on the next business day.

Report emergencies anytime by calling 1-800-423-6634 or 989-733-8515.

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

With 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 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.



Jack O'Malley

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.



May Photo



AMERICAN METAL ROOFS President, Frank Farmer



“Your new roof, from purchase through installation, should be an outstanding experience...”

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.

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Severe Storm Preparedness Kit Checklist

- ☐ **Water** – Fill up bathtubs and containers with water for washing, and also stock up on bottled water for consumption.
- ☐ **Food** – Have on hand enough food for three to seven days, non-perishable packaged or canned food, juices, foods for infants or the elderly, snack foods, non-electric can opener, cooking tools, fuel, paper plates and plastic utensils.
- ☐ **Blankets, Pillows and Seasonal Clothing Items**
- ☐ **First Aid Kit / Medicines / Prescription Drugs**
- ☐ **Special Items** – For babies and the elderly
- ☐ **Toiletries / Hygiene items / Moisture wipes**
- ☐ **Flashlight / Batteries**
- ☐ **Radio and Clock** – Battery operated, also consider purchasing an NOAA weather radio
- ☐ **Telephone** – Fully charged cell phone with extra batteries and a traditional (not cordless) landline telephone
- ☐ **Emergency Numbers** – Keep a list of emergency telephone numbers including the local utility company
- ☐ **Cash (with some small bills) and Credit Cards** – Banks and ATMs may not be available for extended periods
- ☐ **Keys**
- ☐ **Toys, Books and Games**
- ☐ **Important documents** – Place in a waterproof container or bag any insurance cards, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security cards, birth certificates, etc.
- ☐ **Tools** – Keep a waterproof set with you during the storm. Some items include duct tape, screw drivers, work gloves, safety goggles, etc.
- ☐ **Vehicle fuel tanks filled**
- ☐ **Pet care items** – Have an ample supply of food and water, proper identification, immunization records, medications, a carrier or cage, muzzle and leash.
- ☒ **Keep family and friends out of flooded basements to avoid electrical shock.**
- ☒ **Keep family and friends away from all downed power lines during or after a storm.**
- ☒ **Be sure to follow all manufacturer's recommendations when using a generator to avoid tragedy.**
Never plug it into a wall outlet or directly into the home's wiring.

For additional safety information, please visit: