

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



PROTECT
& *Serve*

The Sweet Story
Of Cops & Doughnuts

Members Make Annual Meeting A Success

Introducing Our Three Newest Employees



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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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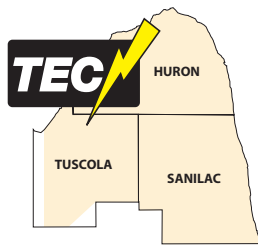
I Remember...

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 or email to cdorr@meca.coop



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Dallas Braun, General Manager

PAYMENT STATIONS

Huron County

Bad Axe—Northstar Bank
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Tuscola County

Akron—Northstar Bank
 Caro—Northstar Bank
 Mayville—Mayville State Bank
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Sanilac County

Sandusky—Northstar Bank

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*Thumb Electric Cooperative is an equal
 opportunity provider and employer.*



THUMB ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE HOLDS 80th ANNUAL MEETING

Louis Wenzlaff, president of the board of directors, opened the 80th Annual Meeting of TEC members on June 10 at the Thumb Octagon Barn. An estimated 800 people attended the meeting, which was highlighted by the election of three directors and numerous entertainment activities as part of TEC's Member Appreciation Day/Annual Meeting.

Reelected to three-year terms of District 3 were Beth McDonald, Huron County; Duane Kursinsky, Sanilac County; and Carl Cousins Tuscola County. Others nominated for a director position were Philip Roth of Huron County and Kenneth Landsburg of Sanilac County.

President Wenzlaff introduced TEC's Attorney Jason Bitzer and members of the current TEC board of directors including Donald Wolschleger, Beth McDonald and Randall Dhyse, Huron County; Kim Nunn, Mike Briolat and Duane Kursinsky, Sanilac County; and Jonathan Findlay and Carl Cousins, Tuscola County. General Manager Dallas Braun was also introduced.

President Wenzlaff recognized three TEC employees that recently retired and thanked them for their combined services of 85 years. Recognized were: Operations Supervisor Ken O'Berski—38 years, Plant Operator/Mechanic Clarence Maurer—36 years, and Journeyman Lineman Richard Timko—11 years.

TEC's Board President Louis Wenzlaff highlighted the following areas:

- Presented the 2016 financial statement that showed operating revenues of \$20,162,929 and expenses of \$19,516,382 resulting in an operating margin of \$646,547. The cooperative also earned \$311,040 in interest on short-term investments, rental income, subsidiary income, and patronage capital from other cooperative organizations. Total margins for 2016 were \$957,587. Member's patronage capital accounts were allocated 4.6 cents

on each dollar paid by TEC members in 2016. Approximately 14 percent of this 2016 patronage, along with another \$275,000 for the year of 1986 and \$145,000 for the year of 1987, was retired and appeared as a credit on a separate line item on members' May 2017 electric bills.

- Since patronage capital retirements began, TEC has refunded over \$8.2 million back to its members.
- In 2016 TEC invested over \$3.3 million in a new utility plant, bringing TEC's total investment to over \$91 million serving 12,225 member-consumers in the areas of Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola counties.
- The cooperative continues to make capital investments in the electrical system. \$5.4 million of upgrades are planned and under construction for 2017. TEC employees and outside line construction contractors will be performing the work.
- TEC paid \$785,610 in property taxes to schools and other governmental bodies in Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola counties in 2016.
- The cooperative continues to work with state and national organizations to ensure that issues that may affect the availability, reliability and affordability of electricity to its membership are heard by our elected officials in Lansing and Washington, D.C.
- The cooperative continues to support and promote "ACRE," the Political Action Committee (PAC) for all electric cooperatives. All TEC members can participate directly.
- Recognized TEC's 30 employees for continuing to work safely and thanked the employees for their continued dedication and hard work during the past year.

General Manager Dallas Braun highlighted the following:

- In 2016, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) approved a rate increase that went into effect in December. For the average residential account, members saw an increase of approximately \$6 on their monthly bill.
- At a special board meeting, open to all TEC members held on August 16, 2016, the TEC board unanimously passed a resolution to become a member-regulated electric cooperative as allowed by the 2008 energy law. On November 26, 2016, TEC officially became member-regulated after receiving final approval from the MPSC. Member regulation allows decisions regarding rates, charges, accounting standards, billing practices, and terms and conditions to be decided locally by the board of directors with member-consumer input, as opposed to the MPSC in Lansing all while reducing expenses at the cooperative.

- In 2016, the cooperative's Energy Optimization programs were successfully administered in-house by TEC employees as a cost-savings measure and an opportunity to continue to strengthen the relationship between the cooperative and its members. All state-mandated savings goals were achieved in a cost-effective manner.
- In 2016, the cooperative met the state requirement of obtaining 10 percent of its electricity needs from renewable generation through its wholesale power contract with CMS Energy, which expires May 31, 2020.
- Through its subsidiary, Thumb Energy Services, the cooperative continues to offer competitive propane service to approximately 1,100 members and non-members alike.
- TEC continues its system maintenance program, including aggressive right-of-way trimming, clearing, spraying and other system improvement programs.
- State Representative Shane Hernandez, U.S. Representative Paul Mitchell, Dylan Hellus, the regional manager for U.S. Senator Gary Peters, along with Derrick Mathis, the regional manager for U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, were introduced and spoke briefly.
- In closing his report, General Manager Dallas Braun urged members to continue their strong interest in Thumb Electric Cooperative, to stay engaged and thanked them for their support.

After the business meeting, a lunch was served, followed by entertainment for all family members with bucket truck rides, pony rides, candy drop, face painting and other family activities.

In action taken after the annual meeting, the board of directors reelected Louis Wenzlaff—president, Donald Wolschleger—vice-president, Beth McDonald—secretary, and Randall Dhyse—treasurer. ■





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" Ryneerson, 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. ■

THUMB ELECTRIC

Energy Optimization Rebate Program

Energy Star Rebate	For Energy Star appliances, LED bulbs and fixtures, Energy Star TVs, and much more.
In-Home Energy Audit	Get knowledge on the energy usage of your home and some free energy saving items as well!
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Thinking of Installing a New Heating and Cooling System?

Thumb Electric may have a rebate to help with the cost.

- Geothermal rebate up to \$1,200
- AC and Air Source Heat pumps up to \$450

There are many more Energy Optimization rebates available. For a full listing, please visit our website or call our office.



Call: 1-800-327-0166 or 989-658-8571
www.tecmi.coop

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



A stately Elk. *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*



Share Your Photos!

Thumb Electric invites members to share their photos. Selected photos will be published in *Michigan Country Lines*.

Upcoming topics and deadlines are: **Birds and Feathers** due **July 20** for the Sept./Oct. issue and **Back To School** due **August 20** for the 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.

Ubly To Kinde Transmission Gets An Upgrade

Thumb Electric contractors will be upgrading and rebuilding the 41.6 KV transmission line between Ubly and Kinde this summer. Transmission lines feed higher voltage power to substations where the voltage can be reduced for distribution to the wires and poles that go into the homes we service. The current line has been in operation since the 1950s and is starting to show its age during bad weather. The new line, where possible, will be brought up near the road right-of-way and taken out of the deep right-of-way where access can be difficult with bucket trucks and other equipment needed during restoration efforts. Once the new line is operational, the old line will be removed.

Several Payment Options Available

Thumb Electric offers members several options when it comes to making payments and turning in meter readings. You may choose the same method used for nearly 80 years at the co-op: just send in the payment with the provided stub along with the meter reading. You can also make a payment over our phone system, your computer or smartphone and turn in your meter reading at the same time. We even have a cash payment option through MoneyGram offered at locations such as Walmart or CVS. For those choosing to use SmartHub over the internet or a smartphone, users have the added convenience of reporting a power outage. For more information, please visit our website at tecmi.coop.

2017 Energy Optimization Rebates Available

Thumb Electric continues to offer rebates for certain energy efficient upgrades in 2017. Energy Star appliances such as TVs, refrigerators and washing machines have rebates available. Along with the Energy Star appliances, new upgrades to heating and cooling systems are eligible. Purchases such as geothermal systems, Air Source heat pumps and new central air systems may have rebates if they meet certain qualifications. Another popular program is LED lighting upgrades. If you think you may be able to take advantage, call us at 800-327-0166 for more details or see our website at tecmi.coop for printable rebate forms.

Tree Trimming Efforts Continue

Tree trimming will continue at an aggressive pace heading into summer 2017. We are seeing fewer outages and a shorter duration of outages that do occur because of these efforts. Priorities will continue for line sections that are historically problematic, followed by overgrown sections. As time allows, less severe circuits will be maintained. Members in Greenleaf, Austin and Elkland townships will see crews this summer, as the area has been hit especially hard with diseased and aging trees falling on lines, sometimes from far out of our right-of-way. Members in Fremont, Vassar, Dayton and Indianfields townships will also see crews as part of regular system maintenance. In addition, as part of the Ubly to Kinde transmission project, tree trimming will take place in parts of Bingham, Verona and Lincoln townships.

Due to a disease in the Ash tree, which is a very popular species of tree in our service territory, we have had to adjust our trimming locations. It has made planning a challenge at times, but we make every effort to contact members ahead of the trimmers. We will send out a postcard to members to let them know trimmers will be in the area. And, at times, we will try and call members to let them know the plan for their area. If you have an updated phone number, please call us with your new contact information.



Appliance Recycling

Through SEEL, our contracting partner, we will pick up an old working refrigerator or freezer, and we will credit your account \$50. We will also pick up a dehumidifier or a window AC unit you wish to recycle, but only in conjunction with the larger appliance. Those are worth a \$20 bill credit. Call 844-631-2130 to schedule your pick up today! ■

Thumb Electric New Employees

Thumb Electric recently lost three valuable employees to retirement. While we wish them well in their future endeavors, their absences left a big hole in our staff. After an extensive search, we are pleased to introduce the newest members of the TEC team!



Operator-Mechanic Russell Lemanski started April 17 out of the Uby warehouse. Russ is married to wife, Janel, and together they have three children. Russ worked for the Huron County Road Commission before coming to TEC, and prior to that he worked as a mechanic for Bischer Farms. His education was obtained at Ohio Technical College. In his free time, Russ enjoys spending time with family, snowmobiling and serving as a volunteer firefighter with Sigel Township. He is looking forward to working with Thumb Electric and its members.



Lineman Tyler Tope started May 15 at the Caro warehouse. Tyler comes to us from Kent Power and New River Electric where he was also a lineman. He received his education at Northern Michigan University in the Line Tech program. Tyler notes that fishing and hunting are among his favorite activities.



Lineman Chad Malloy started May 17 at the Caro warehouse. Chad and his wife Melissa have five children. Chad comes to us from Consumers Energy, and prior to that, he worked for contractors of DTE Energy. Chad likes spending time with family and friends, and he counts boating and riding motorcycles as his favorite hobbies. He is glad to be working close to home.

We wish Russ, Tyler and Chad a long and safe career at Thumb Electric.

Access To Rules & Rates

Please be advised that the following information is available to Thumb Electric Cooperative members:

1. Complete rate schedules;
2. Clear and concise explanation of all rates that the member may be eligible to receive;
3. Assistance from the cooperative in determining the most appropriate rate for a member when the member is eligible to receive service under more than one rate;
4. Clear and concise explanation of the members' actual energy use for each billing period during the last 12 months.

The information can be obtained by contacting Thumb Electric Cooperative at 1-989-658-8571 or 1-800-327-0166.

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?

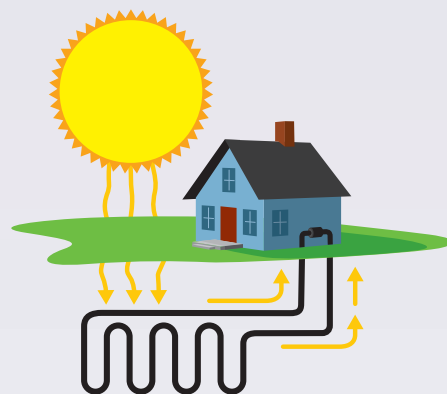
For a beer pairing, try a hoppy IPA like **North Peak's (Traverse City) Diabolical**. It is unfiltered and dry-hopped with Michigan grown Chinook and Cascade hops. It has a smooth malt character and citrus pine aroma that brings forward the tartness in the apples.

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.



Renewable Geothermal Heat

Geothermal is a simple technology that uses the earth's renewable energy to provide high-efficiency heating and cooling. In winter, the system draws heat from the ground and transfers it to your home. In summer, it extracts heat from your home and transfers it to the ground. **Contact the energy experts at Thumb Electric Cooperative at 800-327-0166** for honest answers on your energy choices, or call any of the trained and certified installers listed here.



All-Temperature Geothermal Systems

1103 E. Caro Rd., Caro, MI 48723
989-673-5557

Ameriheat, Justin Faber

2891 E. Forester Rd., Deckerville, MI 48427
810-376-4534

B & D Heating, Cooling & Plumbing

1148 North Van Dyke, Bad Axe, MI 48413
800-515-1117

Burkhard Plumbing & Heating

638 E. Huron Ave., Bad Axe, MI 48413
989-269-7532

Certified Temperature Innovations

3107 Custer Rd., Carsonville, MI 48419
810-300-7748

Roots Heating and Cooling

4074 Huron St, North Branch, MI 48461
810-688-4813

Geo Renew Systems, Inc.

3045 Grange Hall Rd., #7, Holly, MI 48442
248-531-0325

Geomasters, Inc., Plumbing & Heating

57 Ward St., Crosswell, MI 48422
810-679-2251

Geothermal Systems of Lapeer, LLC

6689 Orchard Lk. Rd. #188
West Bloomfield, MI 48322
810-240-2116

Holland Heating and Cooling

9160 Lapeer Rd., Davison, MI 48423
810-653-4328

Ingell Refrigeration

1115 4th St., Port Huron, MI 48060
810-982-4226

J & B Plumbing & Heating

7641 Pigeon Rd., Pigeon, MI 48755
989-453-3931

Jack McCain Plumbing & Heating

9651 Weale Rd., Bay Port, MI 48720
989-453-2277

Kowaleski Heating & Cooling, LLC

3977 Ruppel Rd., Port Hope, MI 48468
989-428-3371

Kulek Heating & Air Conditioning

14421 Jeddo Rd., Yale, MI 48097
810-387-4452

Kundinger & Kroll

31 E. Main St., Sebawaing, MI 48759
989-883-2770

Lakeshore Improvements

Plumbing & Heating

7825 Big Gulley Rd., Palms, MI 48465
989-864-3833

Michigan Energy Services

8445 Main St., Whitmore Lake, MI 48189
888-339-7700

NRG Control

3690 Washburn Rd., Vassar, MI 48768
989-670-2543

Newton-Johnson Plumbing & Heating

114 Enterprise Dr., Vassar, MI 48768
989-823-2341

Orton Refrigeration

31 W. Sanilac Rd., Sandusky, MI 48471
810-648-2252

Preferred Heating

7736 Arendt, Melvin, MI 48454
810-378-5454

Priority Service by Porter & Heckman

3056 Davison Rd., Lapeer, MI 48446
810-644-8576

Shetler Plumbing & Heating

7184 Nitz St., Pigeon, MI 48755
800-547-3651

Superior, Inc.

3442 Cemetery Rd., Cass City, MI 48726
989-872-3305

Thumb Cooling & Heating

5599 Pochert Rd., Port Hope, MI 48468
989-428-4948

And: 837 South State, Caro, MI 48723
989-672-4948

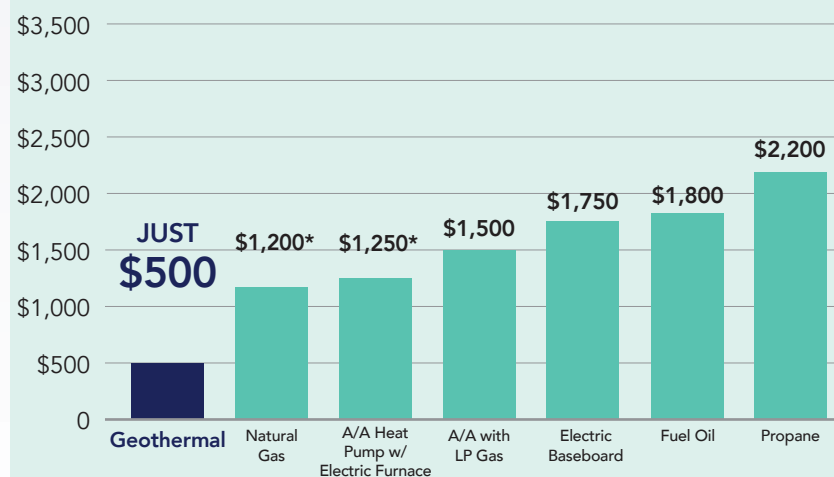
Well Connect-Terra Caloric

PO Box 307 Alpena, MI 49707
989-356-2113



Annual Operating Costs

For an Average 1,800 Sq. Ft. Home
(45,000 BTU heating load, 20,000 BTU cooling load)



Factors Used: **Electric Baseboard, Air-Source Heat Pump and Geothermal**—based on TEC's 7.557¢/kWh dual-fuel rate. **LP gas**—based on \$2.00/gal. and 90% efficient furnace. **Fuel Oil**—based on \$2.20/gal. and 80% efficient furnace. **Natural Gas**—based on \$1.08/therm., 90% efficient furnace including \$9/mo. service charge. (Electric baseboard costs do not include air conditioning.)

*All electric system comparable to natural gas!

Annual Meeting Highlights



Photo credit: Laura Nimtz

EARLY BIRD PRIZE DRAWING WINNERS

1. **TEC WATER HEATER** – Gail E. Booms – Kinde
2. **FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Dale Lanway – Clifford
3. **GAS GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Kenneth Sierzan – Mayville
4. **ENERGY EFFICIENCY GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Len Briolat – Ubly
5. **FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Barbara Green – Caro
6. **GAS GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Martin R. Kubacki – Ubly
7. **ENERGY EFFICIENCY GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Wilfred Salowitz – Palms
8. **FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Larry Weber – Filion
9. **GAS GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Alvin Yaroch – Kinde
10. **ENERGY EFFICIENCY GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Melvin Hoppe – Cass City
11. **FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Patricia Risdon – Caro
12. **LED TROUBLE LIGHT** – Dana Howe – South Lyon
13. **LED FLOODLIGHT** – Nicole Fox – Vassar
14. **LED SHOP LIGHT** – Ronald Lentz – Carsonville

FINAL PRIZE DRAWING WINNERS

1. **GAS GIFT CERTIFICATE** – David Segroves – Caro
2. **ENERGY EFFICIENCY GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Shawn Young – Port Hope
3. **FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Lawrence Bukoski – Bad Axe
4. **GAS GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Mary Reeves – Cass City
5. **ENERGY EFFICIENCY GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Marie Zulka – Hamtramck
6. **FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Jim Vogel – Palms
7. **GAS GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Richard Jackson – Bad Axe
8. **ENERGY EFFICIENCY GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Lawrence Curell – Silverwood
9. **FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Bruce McCormick – Caseville
10. **GAS GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Stanley Wolschlagier – Bad Axe
11. **ENERGY EFFICIENCY GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Myron Cook – Ruth
12. **FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Harold Riley – Croswell
13. **LED TROUBLE LIGHT** – Richard Timko – Caro
14. **CLAMP ON LED LIGHT** – Robert Noll – Lexington
15. **ENGINE BLOCK TIMER** – Charles Depcinski – Bad Axe

CHILDREN'S PRIZE DRAWING WINNERS

1. **BIKE (BOYS)** – Camden Nimtz – Unionville
2. **BIKE (GIRLS)** – Sophia Mueller – Ubly
3. **TABLET** – Seamus Carter – Croswell
4. **TABLET** – Daniel White – Cass City
5. **DIGITAL CAMERA** – Jessie Rolston
6. **DIGITAL CAMERA** – Jaxon Risdon

PRIZE DONATED BY BARTNIK PROPANE

GAS GRILL – Howard Beardslee – Caro

PRIZE DONATED BY KAPPEN TREE SERVICE

LARGE LOAD OF MULCH (DELIVERED) – Arnold Schmitter – Millington

SMARTHUB PAPERLESS BILLING DRAWING WINNERS

\$50 BILL CREDIT – Mindy M. Raymond – Millington
\$50 BILL CREDIT – Terry Wilson – Bay City
\$50 BILL CREDIT – Darroll Lipe – Cass City
\$50 BILL CREDIT – Kenneth Decker – Carsonville



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.

I knew things had to change.

So, in the winter of 1999, I sat down to plan the perfect home improvement experience - *from the homeowners perspective*. Armed with a cup of good coffee and a legal pad, I went to work. Several hours and several pages later, the plan for American Metal Roofs was born.

The Result: The best roofing product, installed by skilled craftsmen backed by warranties with real teeth. I believe that's what every homeowner deserves. If you agree, let's get together and talk about a beautiful, permanent American Metal Roof for your home.

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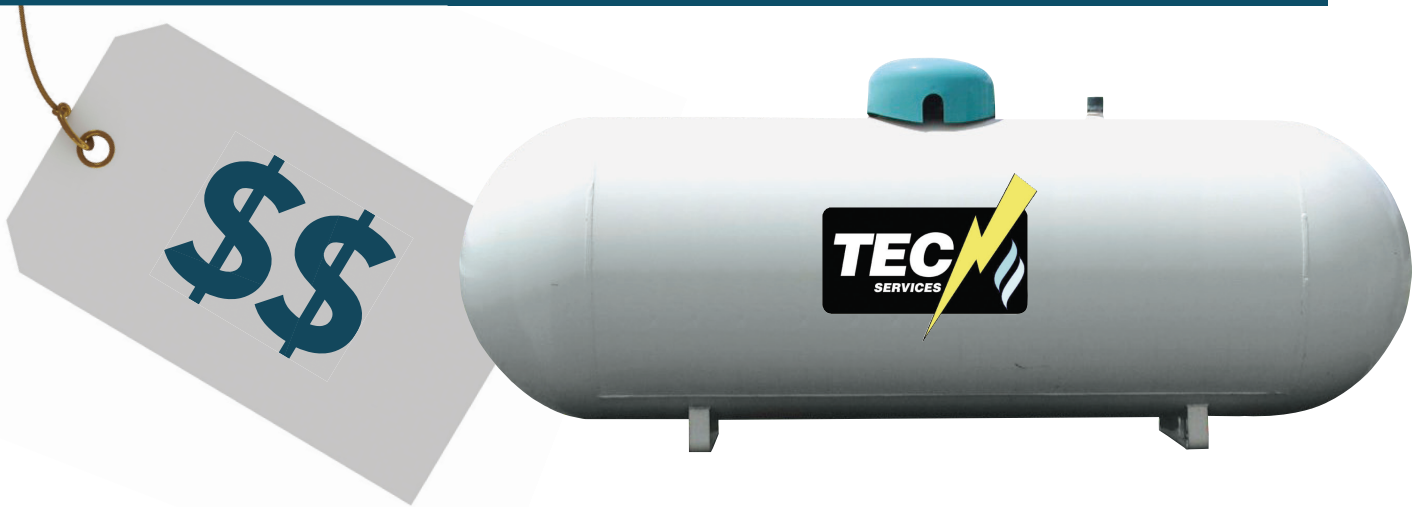
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