

# MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



## *Wild, Wild Midwest* **WARDENS**

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Finest Conservation Officers In Action

Your Co-op Adds Capacity  
To Serve KBIC Casino Project

Small Town Schooling  
At Its Finest

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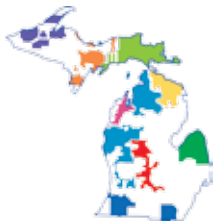
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"Wardens," the Outdoor Channel's hit television series, chronicles the adventures of America's conservation officers. This season, 36 episodes feature some of Michigan's finest DNR officers as they protect the state's lakes, rivers and rugged terrain from a variety of intruders, such as poachers, illegal hunters or unlawful fishermen.



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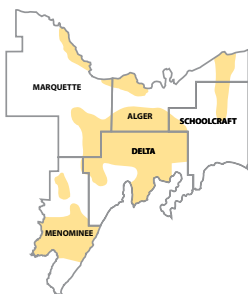
## I Remember...

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

**[algerdelta.com](http://algerdelta.com)**

# Our Past, Our Future

Looking back helps us see forward.



**Tom Harrell**  
Chief Executive  
Officer

An oft cited quote says, “Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” Yet sometimes remembering our history with the goal of repeating it can be a good thing. October is National Co-op Month and a great time for the nation’s 30,000 cooperatives to celebrate while taking a look back—and a look forward.

Alger Delta was founded on September 2, 1937, when a handful of people from Trenary, Rock and Perkins worked together to bring electricity to their farms. The investor-owned power companies of the day thought these areas couldn’t produce enough profit, so they were bypassed. Once established, the co-op—on behalf of its member-owners—committed to provide these and other communities with electricity. Fast forward to today—and tomorrow. Alger Delta currently serves about 10,000 members in six counties in the central Upper Peninsula.

We understand the spirit that helped create this co-op must be continually nurtured. While times and technology have changed—and will continue to change—our commitment to serving you will not. Although we started out to provide electricity, our impact (with your support) has grown. Today, we do much more than provide electricity to a handful of farms. Today, we fuel economic growth in the U.P. through investment in the electric transmission and distribution systems. We support a cleaner environment and a cleaner future through renewable energy. We help members install solar and wind generation. We contribute to parks, town halls, ball teams, youth centers and food pantries. We send high school students and veterans to Washington D.C., where they observe history, learn about leadership, and visit the memorials to reflect on those who we honor and sacrificed for us.

The voices from the past tell me tales of humble beginnings, lessons learned, small successes and great victories. The voices of the future speak of timeless principles, commitment, service, community and membership. In these respects, looking back is looking forward. ■



ELECTRIC  
CO-OPS  
COMMIT  
To Members

**CO-OP MONTH | OCTOBER 2017**

# Alger Delta Adds Capacity To Serve KBIC Casino Project

**A**lger Delta Cooperative is increasing the capacity of its lines and other facilities in the Harvey area to serve the increasing electric load required by the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) casino near Marquette. The KBIC is expanding the casino's gaming space and adding an entertainment facility and a hotel. "We're excited to work with KBIC on this project," says Tom Harrell, Alger Delta's CEO. "This is an important economic development opportunity for the KBIC, Harvey, the surrounding area and Alger Delta. We're looking forward to serving the expanding electric load," Harrell added.

The project adds about 2.25 megawatts of energy consumption to Alger Delta's lines and facilities serving that part of the co-op's system. "It's about the same as adding over 2,000 average residential homes to the system," says Harrell. In order to provide energy and capacity to the new facilities, Alger Delta will build new lines from the intersection of M-28 and US 41, eastward along M-28 to a point just east of the KBIC casino.

The line rebuilding project is about five miles overall and is broken into two separate phases. Phase one consists of rebuilding the first 3.5 (+/-) miles of overhead line from the intersection of US 41 and M-28 eastward along M-28. Phase two will see the remaining 1.5 (+/-) miles of the overhead line being rebuilt from end of phase one eastward along M-28 to the east side of Casino property.

The co-op will be installing taller poles, larger capacity conductors and making other improvements to the overhead line. Construction will begin in October 2017 with completion expected in May 2018. The financing for the project is divided between Alger Delta and KBIC. "We showed KBIC the engineering and other information about what it will take to supply the increased load requirements. The new line will benefit Alger Delta members, too, so an equitable division of the cost that resulted in KBIC paying two-thirds of the overall price tag and Alger Delta picking up the rest," says Harrell.



Alger Delta says that economic development of this sort benefits all its members. "It doesn't matter where it is when something like this happens on our system, every member benefits. We're happy to see this kind of investment in Alger Delta, Harvey and the U.P. We encourage it and wish them all great success," says Harrell. ■



# Co-op Careers Offer Paycheck And A Purpose

By Justin LaBerge

**O**ctober is National Cooperative Month! Every day in this country, more than 75,000 men and women go to work at America's electric cooperatives to keep the lights on for 42 million energy consumers in 47 states.

It's challenging work, but in addition to a paycheck, co-op employees go home each night knowing they've helped make their communities better places to live.

Over the next five years, thousands of workers will get to experience that sense of purpose and pride as America's electric cooperatives hire nearly 15,000 employees nationwide. These new hires will replace Baby Boomers reaching retirement age and accommodate organic growth in the energy industry.

## Many career options

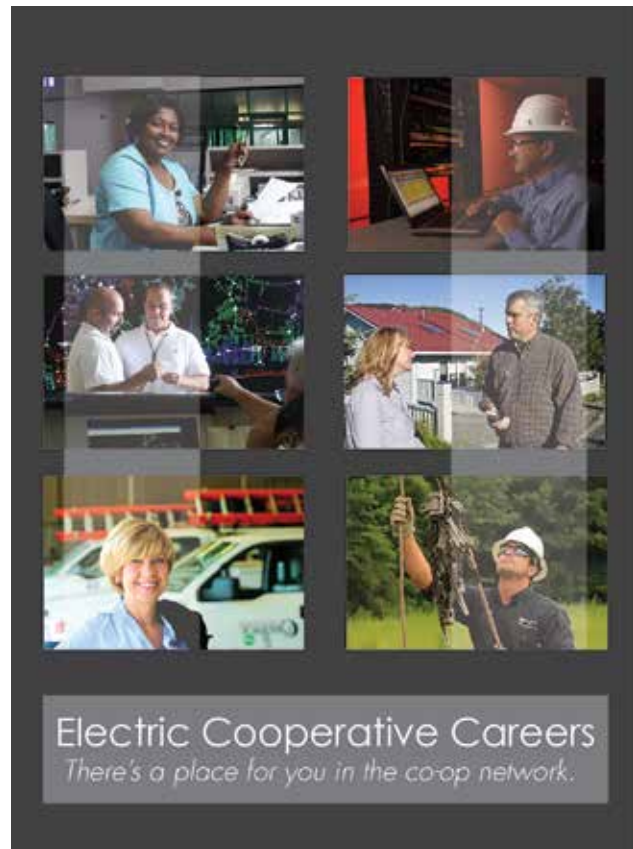
A lineworker high atop a pole is the first image that comes to mind for most people who think about electric cooperative employees. It's true that lineworkers comprise the largest segment of the co-op workforce—approximately 25 percent—but it takes a variety of talents to keep a cooperative running smoothly.

Information technology and engineering are two rapidly growing career opportunities at co-ops. The need for more high-tech workers is driven by the shift to a smarter electric grid and the growth of renewable energy sources that must be carefully monitored and managed.

Other in-demand career paths at electric cooperatives include finance, member services, equipment operators, energy advisors, communications and marketing, purchasing, administrative support and human resources.

## Second careers

Some people think the only time to start a new career is fresh out of high school or college. While the energy industry offers many rewarding careers to recent grads, it is also a great place to start a second or third career.



Lineworker training programs offered through community colleges are growing in popularity among people who previously worked in oil and gas, manufacturing, mining, forestry and other similar industries.

## Make a difference

As not-for-profit, member-owned, locally-based businesses, America's electric cooperatives offer careers that allow employees to make a difference in the communities they serve. Cooperatives are guided by a set of principles that put people ahead of profits and offer fulfilling work to those who enjoy serving others. ■

## How to find a co-op job

Interested in joining the co-op family? To learn more about the opportunities available across the cooperative network, visit [careers.touchstoneenergy.coop](http://careers.touchstoneenergy.coop) or by visiting Michigan co-op websites at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com).

# What can you do to prevent *carbon monoxide poisoning*?

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- **DO** purchase and install carbon monoxide detectors that meet Underwriters Laboratories (UL) standard 2034-95. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper placement, use and maintenance. If the detectors plug into the wall, be sure they have a battery backup.
- **DO** leave the house if the alarm sounds on your CO detector. Go to a hospital emergency room or call 911 if anyone is feeling sick. If no one is sick, call the emergency number for your heating service or 911. Stay out of the home until your heating service or fire department says it's okay to go in.
- **DO** have a heating professional inspect, clean, and adjust your fireplace, wood stove, gas appliances including furnaces and water heaters, and chimneys/vents every fall—before the start of home heating season.
- **DO** purchase gas appliances that vent their fumes to the outside. Have them installed by a heating professional.
- **DO** read and follow all of the instructions for any fuel-burning devices.
- **DO** make sure that your car, truck, or boat has a working, airtight exhaust system. Repair exhaust leaks immediately.
- **DO** pay attention to symptoms (headache, dizziness, tiredness and/or a sick feeling in your stomach), especially if more than one person is feeling sick or if people and pets are feeling sick.
- **DON'T** operate fuel-powered machines such as generators, power washers, or mowers in buildings or semi-enclosed spaces.
- **DON'T** cook or heat with a grill indoors, even if you put it inside a fireplace.
- **DON'T** run vehicles in the garage, even if the door is open. Carbon monoxide can build up quickly and enter your vehicle and home.
- **DON'T** sit in a parked vehicle with the engine running for a long period of time, especially if your car is in snow.
- **DON'T** use gas stoves or ovens to heat your home.
- **DON'T** use an un-vented gas or kerosene space heater indoors.
- **DON'T** close the damper to the fireplace unless the fire is completely out and the coals are cold.
- **DON'T** ride in covered pickup truck beds or campers. Air moving around the vehicle can draw exhaust in.
- **DON'T** swim or play near the back of a boat where the motor gives off exhaust.
- **DON'T** ignore symptoms! You could die within minutes if you do nothing.

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For more information, contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services by calling **1-800-648-6942** or visit **[michigan.gov/carbonmonoxide](https://michigan.gov/carbonmonoxide)**.

# Energy Assistance For Income Qualified Residents

We know that utility bills can easily pile up for folks with limited incomes. The Energy Optimization program is here to help! We provide a number of products and services to help qualified residents improve the energy performance of their homes—which, in turn, reduces electric bills.

## Equipment Evaluations And Replacements

Is your refrigerator at least 10 years old? If so, there's a good chance it uses twice as much electricity as a new ENERGY STAR® certified model.

If you qualify for this service, an Energy Optimization program representative can visit your home to evaluate your refrigerator. If the refrigerator is determined to be highly inefficient, you could be eligible for a new replacement at no cost. In some cases, water heaters may also be eligible for free replacement if they meet program criteria.

## Energy-saving Devices And Installation

Kits containing energy-saving devices are available to qualified residents. You may receive a letter in

the mail regarding a free kit. Or, you can request your kit at a participating food pantry, Salvation Army, or church. Most kits include:

- LED bulbs and night lights,
- Faucet and shower aerators,
- Smart power strip.

## Weatherization Assistance

We partner with Michigan's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) through local Community Action Agencies to support energy efficiency home improvements for income-qualified residents. To learn more about this opportunity, call 517-373-8896 or visit [benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/1861](https://benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/1861). Families that have received services through WAP have seen their annual energy bills reduced by an average of \$437 per year.

To find out if you qualify for Energy Optimization programs or to learn more, call 877-296-4319 or visit [michigan-energy.org](https://michigan-energy.org).

# Helping Hands

## Energy Assistance

We know it can be difficult to keep up with energy costs. Families or individuals eligible for assistance based on income levels can receive:

- In-home equipment evaluations
- Refrigerator and water heater replacements
- Energy-saving devices (with installation)
- Weatherization assistance

**ENERGY TIP:** Call us or visit our website for program eligibility information.

**877.296.4319**

**[michigan-energy.org](https://michigan-energy.org)**



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan electric service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit [michigan-energy.org](https://michigan-energy.org).



# Life's A Beach—Michigan Waters



Sunset on Point Abbey—By Rick Peterson



Celebrating the last weeks of summer—By Kim Stern



Limitless and Immortal—By Michell Clishe



Fun at Sunset—By Annemarie Wigton

## Share Your Captured Moments!

Alger Delta invites members to share their amazing photos. Selected photos will be published in *Michigan Country Lines*. Upcoming topics and deadlines are: **Furry Friends** due **Oct. 20** for the January 2018 issue and **Winter Sports** due **Nov. 20** for the February 2018 issue.

To submit photos go to <http://bit.ly/countrylines>

We look forward to seeing your best photos!

# SLOW COOKER

Put your slow cooker to work with these hearty recipes.

Photos—831 Creative

## Slow Cooker Chicken Chili (pictured)

*Diana Johnson, Great Lakes Energy*

- 3–4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (thighs don't work as well)
- 1 can corn, undrained
- 1 can Rotel diced tomatoes, undrained, or chili tomatoes (or both)
- 1 package ranch dressing mix
- 1 can chili beans
- 1 can northern beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 package chili seasoning mix or Mexican seasoning packet (or make your own)
- 1 jar salsa of choice
- 1 8-ounce package cream cheese

Layer in order in a 6-quart crock pot. Do not mix. You can add more corn, beans, salsa, tomatoes according to taste. Cover and cook for 6 to 7 hours on low. Mix and add pepper to taste.

▶ Watch a video of this recipe at <https://goo.gl/nqUvzX>

## Pizza Tot Casserole

*Kris Hazeres, Alger Delta*

- 2 pounds ground beef
- ¼–½ cup onion, diced
- 1 can (10.5-ounce) cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can (10.5-ounce) cream of chicken soup
- 1 can (14-ounce) pizza sauce
- about 37 pepperoni slices
- ½ cup green pepper, chopped
- 2½ cups shredded mozzarella
- 32-ounce bag tater tots



Brown beef in a skillet with onion over medium-high heat and drain. Mix beef mixture with soups. Spray slow cooker with cooking spray. Pour mixture into your slow cooker and spread out evenly. Pour pizza sauce evenly over

mixture. Place pepperoni slices evenly across the top. Spread green peppers evenly across pepperoni slices. Sprinkle cheese on top. Cover with tater tots.

Place aluminum foil on top. Cover and cook for 3 hours on high. Remove aluminum foil and continue cooking on high. Optional: Place in your broiler (on high if you have the choice of high/low) for 2–4 minutes, watching very closely.



## Chicken Tacos

Helen Pische, Great Lakes Energy

- 1½ pounds boneless, skinless chicken breast
- 16-ounce jar salsa
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 15-ounce can black beans or pinto beans, drained
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1½ teaspoons cumin
- ½ teaspoon oregano
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- ¼ cup water
- Toppings: shredded cheddar cheese, cilantro, lime wedges



Spray a 6-quart slow cooker with cooking spray. Place chicken breast in the pot. Add remaining ingredients, stir, cover and cook 4 hours on high. Stir when done; the chicken should

shred easily. Serve with taco shells or on rice. Top with shredded cheddar cheese, cilantro and lime wedges.

**MI**  
**co-op**  
KITCHEN

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

**“Healthy Salads”  
due November 1**

**“Flatbreads and Pizzas”  
due December 1**

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



**Ken Silfven, special advisor for communications at the Department of Natural Resources, has been using this recipe for Venison Pot Pie for years. He can't remember exactly where it originated, but it's become a favorite in his home. Ken notes that it does take a little time to prepare (at least for him), but the results are totally worth it.**

## Venison Pot Pie

- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 3 tablespoons minced parsley leaves
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon allspice
- 1 tablespoon chopped thyme leaves
- ¼ cup red wine
- 1 pound pork loin, diced into ½ inch pieces
- ½ pound venison, diced into ½ inch pieces
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 1 cup diced celery
- 1 cup diced carrots
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 small, diced onion
- 1 medium potato, peeled and diced small
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 2 rounds prepared pie crust (about 9 inches)
- 1 beaten egg

Preheat the oven to 400 F. Combine the salt, pepper, parsley, cinnamon, allspice and thyme in a big bowl. Make a marinade by stirring in the red wine. Add the meat and coat it thoroughly. Cover and marinate at least 30 minutes. Use a medium pot to heat olive oil and add the celery, carrots, garlic and onion. Stir for 5–10 minutes until soft. Add diced potato to the pot and stir, then add the meat and brown slightly while continuing to stir. Lower the heat and add the chicken broth. Simmer for 30 minutes and then remove from the heat so it can cool. Spoon the meat mixture onto the already-prepared pie crust. Place the top crust on top, seal it and pinch it with a fork. Cut slits in the top and then brush it with the egg wash. Put the pie on a baking sheet and bake for 45 minutes. Let it cool for a few minutes before serving.

**Read the full story about Michigan's DNR officers featured on the Outdoor Channel's "Wardens" show on page 14, and find this recipe and others at [micoopkitchen.com](http://micoopkitchen.com).**



Pictured from left to right in the front row: Kacey C., Emery H., Eli J., Cole C., & Marty S. Back row: Elayna S., Riley C., Mrs. Lohfink, Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Verbeek, & Shawna S.



With a low student census the school is able to provide each student with their own computer, Chromebook and iPad, which greatly enriches their learning experience.

# Small Town Schooling At Its Finest

By Yvonne Whitman

Driving along rustic County Road 426 lies a small elementary school that is filled with the vibrancy and energy that fuels small communities across America. The rural farming community that supports Wells Township School, established in 1958, has seen vast fluctuations in its student census from an all-time high of 90, down to the current student body of just eight students.

The school has two full time teachers and Administrator Luann Lohfink does double duty as principal and a part-time teacher. All three enjoy a close camaraderie and work effectively together. According to teacher Mrs. Verbeek, "This experience is amazing. I've worked in large schools, but this is the best. We all eat lunch together. We all work together. And ultimately, it's the kids that benefit from this level of one-on-one. It's a huge advantage for them. For me this is a one-in-a-million event. I know I'll never get to experience this again."

Mrs. Lohfink has been the school's administrator for four and a half years, and when asked if the local community supports keeping the Wells Township School open Lohfink enthusiastically responds, "Yes, absolutely!" Perhaps that is because, in addition to meeting the educational needs of the Wells Township children, the school also functions as a community hub. A monthly community dinner is prepared by the school cook and served in the school cafeteria for a nominal fee, September through June. "In the winter, this is the only place these people can come to see each other once a month, so it's a gathering place. They can't wait for that to happen, and they love that," Lohfink explains.

When asked what it is like to be the administrator to such a small school she thoughtfully responds, "It's amazing." But there are also challenges, "A principal at a larger school would have more people to do all the jobs that are required, so I have to wear

many hats." One of those hats is maintenance, as last summer found her painting school hallways, her office and window trim.

According to Mrs. Bruce who teaches grades four through six, the advantages to teaching in a classroom of three to four students is "the one-on-one individual instruction." But there are disadvantages, too. "We can't make a sports team. We don't have enough people to have a softball or kickball team. And when it comes to putting on a play each student must memorize multiple roles which sometimes gets confusing." Another challenge is teaching multiple grade levels within one classroom. "I sometimes call this my three-ring circus. I may be teaching math in the main ring to a fourth grader, but must also have a constructive lesson going on in the fifth and sixth-grade ring."

The multiple grade levels in one room may result in another potential benefit to the students. "I think it's more realistic to the work force," acknowledged Mrs. Bruce. "In the real world, you may work in a situation where there are many things going on, and you must be able to focus. Your job is important, there are distractions, but you still have to do your work."

And what do the students think about the unique school experience? "It's less busy," states third-grader Emery, "I get more work done because there are less students, and I always get one-on-one attention. I love this school." ■

Education is simply the soul of  
a society as it passes from one  
generation to another.

—G.K. Chesterton



**Top:** Mrs. Bruce's class with their completed Mother's Day projects.

**Bottom:** The school's library.

**Left:** Students at work in Mrs. Verbeek's classroom.



# *Wild, Wild Midwest*

# WARDENS



Conservation Officer Mark Leadman scans the landscape in Michigan's District 1 located in the Upper Peninsula.



Conservation Officers Chris Simpson and Dave Rodgers seized nearly 60 illegally taken waterfowl in southwest Michigan's District 7.

## **The Outdoor Channel Captures Michigan's Finest Conservation Officers In Action**

By Emily Haines Lloyd

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) mission statement makes its purpose clear: maintain the safety of all while enforcing the laws that safeguard the natural resources of our state. Just like their fellow police officers, the conservation officers of the DNR are committed to serve and protect—even when their jurisdiction includes serving and protecting water, wilderness and wildlife around the state.

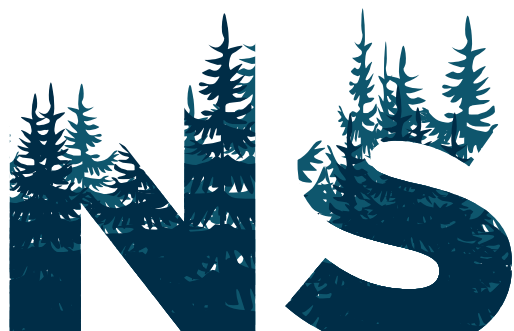
It's noble work, and yet the approximately 250 conservation officers aren't often seen or recognized for their efforts. That's because this small number of conservation officers must cover the entirety of both the Upper and Lower Peninsulas—making their districts sometimes hundreds of square miles.

However, Michigan conservation officers are becoming much more noticeable since the 2017 airing of "Wardens" on The Outdoor Channel. The show, which up until 2016, had been filmed in the state of Montana, has now turned its camera lens on The Great Lakes State.

"The resources in Michigan were one of the main reasons The Outdoor Channel had its eye on Michigan as a new location for 'Wardens,'" said Jon Ross, senior editor of Wolf Creek Productions, the producers of the show. "Great hunting, off-road vehicles, lakes and rivers—Michigan is ripe with hunting, fishing and outdoor recreational experiences."

"Wardens" chronicles the lives of conservation officers across America, with the focus on Michigan's finest.





*The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural resources for current and future generations.*

Watch "Wardens" on the Outdoor Channel Mondays at 2 a.m., Fridays at 10:30 a.m. and Saturdays at 9:30 p.m. (EST) for the month of October. Viewers can also check for air times by visiting [outdoorchannel.com/wardens](http://outdoorchannel.com/wardens)



"Our goal from 'Day One' was to use this partnership (between the Michigan DNR and The Outdoor Channel) as an educational tool," said Ken Silfven, special advisor for communications at the DNR. "It's important that citizens not only understand what we do, but why we do it."

The DNR is committed to ensuring all of Michigan's residents and visitors are able to enjoy the outdoor recreational opportunities of the state. It's the conservation officers' responsibility to make sure that is done both safely and legally.



"Wardens" showcases the men and women who protect our public lands in a variety of situations, such as nabbing poachers in high-stakes sting operations, snowmobiling through grizzly bear country, or tracking down illegal fishing operations in freezing rivers, lakes and streams. The show seeks to bring an understanding of the conservation officer's job and why state laws need to be enforced. It also looks to generate interest in outdoor recreation while enhancing the public's appreciation of the DNR's role. As a bonus, the program has increased recruitment efforts by sparking interest in careers as Michigan conservation officers.

"The show was meant to educate viewers about the need to protect our natural resources," said Silfven. "It is also meant to give them a firsthand look at the men and women who wear the green and gray uniform of a Michigan conservation officer. Based on the feedback we're receiving, the show is doing just that."

Top and bottom: Conservation Officer Mark Leadman is filmed by Kristin Ojaniemi as he patrols Michigan's Upper Peninsula District 1 in November 2016, for the opening of the state's firearm deer season.



# 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.**
- ☐ **Never plug it into a wall outlet or directly into the home's wiring.**
- ☐ **Be sure to follow all manufacturer's recommendations when using a generator to avoid tragedy.**

For additional safety information, please visit:



# The Dreaded Vampire Loads

By Tom Tate, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Perhaps you are familiar with an undesirable aspect of the electronic and IOT (internet of things) revolution: vampire loads. Vampire loads come from devices that use electricity even when they appear to be off. The primary culprits are chargers, set-top television boxes, instant-on televisions and gaming systems. There are others, but these four represent the major offenders.

Chargers take the 120 VAC (volts alternating current) power at the outlet and reduce it down to the voltage required by the connected device, usually 5 to 12 VDC (volts direct current). Obviously, when your device is charging, the charger is using electricity, but you might be surprised to learn that chargers are still using small amounts of energy even when they're not connected to a device.

Television set-top boxes also consume energy when they appear to be inactive. Anytime the set-top box's lights are on, it is using power. Like chargers, they use more when the television is on, but they are always working—even when the TV is off. This is especially true for those devices with a DVR function that records your favorite TV shows.

The instant-on television is another culprit. The intention of the "instant-on" feature is instant gratification for the viewer, meaning no waiting for the TV to turn on and warm up. Unfortunately, for that convenience, the TV must be on at nearly full power. So, in this mode, it can be a real energy drain.

The typical gaming console can use as much energy as a regular refrigerator even when it's not being used. Make sure to check the console settings and disable automatic updates, which is where the energy drain comes from.

So how does the average family combat these dreaded vampire loads?

Fortunately, you just need to change how you handle these energy-sucking electronics. Here are a few suggestions.

- Unplug chargers when not in use.
- Invest in smart power strips. These look like normal power strips but have a twist—one of the outlets is the "master" that receives power all the time. The others are off. When the device connected to the master outlet turns on, the rest of the outlets receive power too. For example, have the television in the master outlet and when you turn it on, the set-top box, speakers, streaming devices, etc. will turn on too.
- Turn off the instant-on function on your TV. Turn off set-top boxes that do not contain the DVR functionality or use a smart power strip.
- Disable automatic updates in gaming consoles and turn the console completely off when you finish using it.
- When replacing any device or appliance, look for an EnergyStar rated product.

Check with Alger Delta for additional suggestions and energy-saving advice. ■

## FUEL MIX REPORT

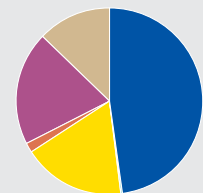
The fuel mix characteristics of Alger Delta Co-op Electric Association as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ending 12/31/16.

### COMPARISON OF FUEL SOURCES USED

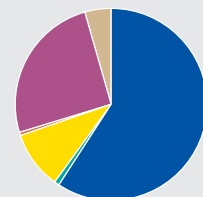
Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
FUEL SOURCE		
Coal	48.0%	60.4%
Oil	0.1%	0.7%
Gas	17.8%	8.9%
Hydroelectric	1.8%	0.5%
Nuclear	19.7%	24.6%
Renewable Fuels	12.69%	4.9%
Biofuel	0.0%	0.7%
Biomass	0.37%	0.4%
Solar	0.03%	0.1%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.9%	0.0%
Wind	11.31%	3.2%
Wood	0.08%	0.5%

NOTE: Biomass above excludes wood; solid waste incineration includes landfill gas.

Your Co-op's Fuel Mix



Regional Average Fuel Mix



### EMISSIONS AND WASTE COMPARISON

TYPE OF EMISSION/WASTE	lbs/MWh	
	Your Co-op	Regional Average*
Sulfur Dioxide	0.76	7.6
Carbon Dioxide	1,237	2,170
Oxides of Nitrogen	0.54	2.0
High-level Nuclear Waste	0.001	0.0083

\*Regional average information was obtained from MPSC website and is for the twelve-month period ending 12/31/15.

Alger Delta purchases 100% of its electricity from WPPI Energy, which provided this fuel mix and environmental data.



# I Remember...

## *Growing Up With Family And Community*

Throughout my growing up years, my father and grandfather farmed together in Michigan's Lapeer County. They were both full-time farmers until the mid-1950s when dad began working elsewhere. Our 160-acre family farm included milk cows, hogs, sheep and chickens with all the basic crops—hay, corn, wheat and oats. The fields, livestock and garden provided almost all the food we needed and cash for everything else. As children we each had our chores, so my brother and I fed the chickens and gathered the eggs. Our one-room school was at the corner of the farm. By the age of 10, I drove the tractors and in my teen years worked the fields. Our milk was sold through a cooperative dairy. Feed and fertilizer were purchased through the farm co-op. Grandpa owned stock in the regional electric company. Neighbors worked together during seasons of harvesting. In this way I learned the very early value of living and working



together with mutual respect and partnership, both within the family and the community, values I continue to hold highly in our day.

*Ben Bohnsack, Alger Delta Cooperative  
Electric Association*

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## *My Grandfather's Life*

His name was Albert Doezeema. He had a scar on his arm and scar on his leg, and one day he told me his story:

In the 1930s, he was lucky that he had a job with a Grand Rapids power company as a lineman. Jobs were scarce then, and he told me that the company had him work every other week so that twice as many men could have work due to the Great Depression. One day, he was at the top of a 35-foot pole and somehow touched a line that was powered with 7200 volts. He was knocked from the pole and hit the ground. He broke many bones and

had burns on his arm and leg. He said that they figured the shock of hitting the ground started his heart back up, or else he would not have survived. After recovering from the incident, he transferred to the company warehouse and was point man for the next 35 years. I always think about how linemen put their life on the line when they work so closely with powerful electricity. My grandfather surviving that electrical incident in the 1930s was a miracle at that time. He lived to be 89.

*Donna Miller, Cherryland Electric Cooperative*





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*MICHIGAN'S ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES CELEBRATE*

***NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH***

*October 2017*