

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



Wild, Wild Midwest **WARDENS**

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

THOUSANDS
of **happy**
geothermal
owners.

MILLIONS
of **dollars** saved.



Real WaterFurnace owners

Thousands of happy homeowners have saved millions of dollars on heating, cooling, and hot water thanks to the groundbreaking 7 Series geothermal heat pump. To celebrate, we're offering instant savings on one of the most efficient units on the planet—the 7 Series. And that's not all—we're also giving away a FREE Symphony Home Comfort Platform with each purchase of a 7 Series and installation accessories. But hurry, this deal ends December 15th¹, 2017, so contact your local dealer today to join the SEVENbration!



WaterFurnace
Smarter from the Ground Up™

— Your Local WaterFurnace Dealers —

Bad Axe
B & D Htg
(989) 269-5280
bdheating.com

Berrien Springs
WaterFurnace
Michiana
(269) 473-5667
gogreenmichgeothermal.com

Big Rapids
Stratz Htg & Clg, Inc.
(231) 796-3717
stratzgeocomfort.com

Caro
AllTemp Comfort, Inc.
(866) 844-HEAT (4328)
geo4less.com

Clifford
Orton Refrig & Htg
(989) 761-7691
sanduskygeothermal.com

DeWitt
S & J Htg & Clg
(517) 669-3705
geothermalservicesofmichigan.com

Hart/Ludington
Adams Htg & Clg
(231) 873-2665
adamsheatingcooling.com

Indian River
M & M Plmb & Htg
(231) 238-7201
mm-plumbing.com

Jackson/Adrian
Comfort 1 Htg & A/C
(517) 764-1500
comfort1.net/geothermal

Kalkaska
Kalkaska Plmb & Htg
(231) 258-3588
kalkaskageothermal.net

Mt Pleasant
Walton Htg & Clg
(989) 772-4822
waltonheating.com

Muskegon
Adams Htg & Clg
(231) 873-2665
adamsheatingcooling.com

Kiessel Geothermal
Htg & Clg
(231) 747-7509
kiesselsgeo.com

Portland
ESI Htg & Clg
(517) 647-6906
esiheating.com

Sunfield
Mark Woodman
Plmb & Htg
(517) 886-1138
mwphonline.com

Traverse City
Geofurnace
Htg & Clg
(231) 943-1000
watergeofurnace.com

D & W Mechanical
(231) 941-1215
dwgeothermal.com



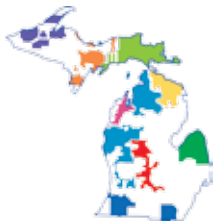
7 SERIES
\$2000 + **FREE**
INSTANT REBATE SYMPHONY WIFI PLATFORM

Learn more at waterfurnace.com/SEVENbration

IT'S A
SEVEN
bration

¹ Promotion ends on December 15th, 2017.

Promotion available only to residential customers through participating dealers. WaterFurnace is a registered trademark of WaterFurnace International, Inc. ©2017 WaterFurnace International, Inc.



Michigan's Electric Cooperatives
countrylines.com

October 2017
Vol. 37, No. 9

Executive Editor
Casey Clark

Editor
Christine Dorr

Copy Editor
Heidi Spencer

Design and Layout
Karreen Bird

Publisher
**Michigan Electric
Cooperative Association**

Michigan Country Lines, USPS-591-710, is published monthly, except August and December, with periodicals postage paid at Lansing, Mich., and additional offices. It is the official publication of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933.

Subscriptions are authorized for members of Alger Delta, Cherryland, Great Lakes, HomeWorks Tri-County, Midwest Energy, Ontonagon, Presque Isle, and Thumb electric cooperatives by their boards of directors.

POSTMASTER: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

Association officers are **Robert Kran**, Great Lakes Energy, chairman; **Mark Kappler**, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric, vice chairman; and **Eric Baker**, Wolverine Power Cooperative, secretary-treasurer. **Craig Borr** is president and CEO.

CONTACT US/LETTERS TO EDITOR:

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



Find us on
Facebook

Change of Address:

Please notify your electric cooperative. See page 4 for contact information.

The appearance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised.

IN THIS ISSUE

ON THE COVER

"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.



6

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH

Co-ops Offer Careers With A Purpose

7

SAFETY

Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

10

COOKING COMMUNITY

Enjoy These Hearty Slow Cooker Recipes

Christin McKamey & Our Readers

Enter Our Recipe Contest And Win A \$50 Bill Credit!

Special Guest Chef Recipe From Ken Silfven,
Department Of Natural Resources

14

FEATURE

Wild, Wild Midwest Wardens

Emily Haines Lloyd

18

READER'S PAGE

I Remember...Growing Up With Family And Community

Ben Bohnsack, Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association

I Remember...My Grandfather's Life

Donna Miller, Cherryland Electric Cooperative

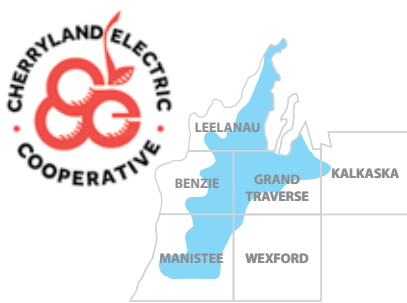
I Remember...

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



CO-OP NEWS

Board Of Directors

TERRY LAUTNER

President
231-946-4623
tlautner@cherrylandelectric.coop

TOM VAN PELT

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

MELINDA LAUTNER

Secretary
231-947-2509
mlautner@cherrylandelectric.coop

DAVID SCHWEITZER

Treasurer
231-883-5860
dschweitzer@cherrylandelectric.coop

JOHN OLSON

Director
231-938-1228
jolson@cherrylandelectric.coop

GABE SCHNEIDER

Director
517-449-6453
gschneider@cherrylandelectric.coop

JON ZICKERT

Director
231-631-1337
jzickert@cherrylandelectric.coop

GENERAL MANAGER

Tony Anderson

CO-OP EDITORS

Rachel Johnson
Rob Marsh

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday 7:30 a.m.– 4 p.m.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

ADDRESS

P.O. Box 298, Grawn, MI 49637

WEBSITE

cherrylandelectric.coop

PAY STATION

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

Cherryland Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner
The power of human connections



Find us on Facebook.
facebook.com/cherrylandelectriccoop



Follow us on Instagram.
[@cherrylandec](https://www.instagram.com/cherrylandec)

Co-op Board Holds Public Meetings Regarding Rate Change

This month, Cherryland's board of directors will hold two special meetings at the cooperative office in Grawn regarding a proposed rate change. The rate change is slated to go into effect in the first quarter of 2018.

A meeting will be held Thursday, Oct. 12, at 5:30 p.m. to provide information regarding the proposed rate change and give members an opportunity to ask questions of Cherryland staff and board members and offer feedback prior to the official public meeting.

An official public meeting will be held Monday, Oct. 16, at 9 a.m. prior to the monthly board meeting. Members are welcome to provide public comment to the board during that time. For more information regarding the public meeting and proposed rate change, go to page 17 of this issue.

Cooperative staff is willing to meet with you, your civic group, neighborhood, or home association at any time to discuss the proposed rate change and answer your questions. Contact us at 231-486-9200 for more information.

Michigan Blood Bus Visits Cherryland Office This Month

The Michigan Blood Bus will be stationed at the Cherryland office in Grawn on Monday, Oct. 16, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. All are welcome to donate, and no appointments are necessary. If you wish to learn more about Michigan Blood, visit MIBlood.org.

Cherryland Buys And Donates Pigs At Fair

The co-op purchased pigs from Cherryland members Gabe Luther (left) and Micah Hagedorn (right) during the 4-H livestock auction at the Northwestern Michigan Fair in August. The pigs were then donated to Goodwill's "Fill The Freezer" campaign. Congrats to both on pigs well raised! ■



Proposed 2018 Rate Increase



Tony Anderson
General Manager

The Cherryland accounting team has completed a cost of service study and a 10-year financial forecast. Internally, staff has debated our options for a rate increase in light of the results. We have discussed them again with your board of directors. The next step is to talk to you, the members of Cherryland Electric Cooperative.

What kind of rate increase are we going to be talking about? The proposed increase is a change in the monthly availability charge for residential meters. My recommendation to the board is to move this charge from \$15 per month to \$18 per month. For general service accounts, I will be suggesting a \$2 per month increase. This will go into effect in the first quarter of 2018.

Obviously, the percentage of this increase will be determined by the size of your monthly bill. Based on average usage, a three to four percent increase in the monthly bill will be seen by 75 percent of our residential members. Higher than average users will see less and lower than average users will see more.

Why \$3? When we look at all the costs involved with making electricity available to you at the flip of a switch, we come up with an availability charge of more than \$27 per month. I believe an incremental change is more palatable to our members than a huge \$12 per month change. The \$3 gets us the revenue our studies say we need to maintain a prudent financial condition for at least the next three years.

Also, if we were to go to the full \$27, it would require a sizeable drop in the monthly energy charge to avoid generating excess revenues. A lower energy charge would greatly reduce the incentive to conserve energy. Due to state energy conservation mandates and a desire to maintain

level wholesale power costs, I feel like it is better to keep energy charges at today's level.

There will also be a revenue neutral change to your monthly bill. Today, you see an energy charge and a power supply cost recovery (PSCR) charge. The energy charge is fixed and does not vary from month to month. The PSCR charge is set monthly and has been used to balance our budgeted wholesale power supply costs with actual charges incurred each month.

While the PSCR allowed us to respond to variations in power supply costs, it hasn't changed much over the last few years and thus, should really be rolled up into the permanent energy charge. Our short-term outlook for wholesale power looks very stable for the next couple years.

So, for now, we will simplify your bill by combining the energy charge and the present (and long used) PSCR charge into one line item on your bill. This will appear like we increased the energy charge, but in reality, you will be paying the same price as the PSCR line will go to zero for at least the next 12–24 months.

As you will see noted in the "Co-op News" section on page 4 of this magazine, there will be a 5:30 p.m. informational meeting regarding the proposed changes for all members at cooperative headquarters on October 12. On October 16, there will be another meeting at the cooperative at 9 a.m. If neither of these dates work for you, we are happy to come to your home, township, coffee shop or have a private conversation at our office at your convenience.

I look forward to the upcoming member meetings. Your calls and questions are welcome at any time as well. Rate increases are not fun for anyone, but if we all communicate, we can make the best of it and move your cooperative forward on solid financial ground. ■

Co-op Careers Offer Paycheck And A Purpose

By Justin LaBerge

October 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

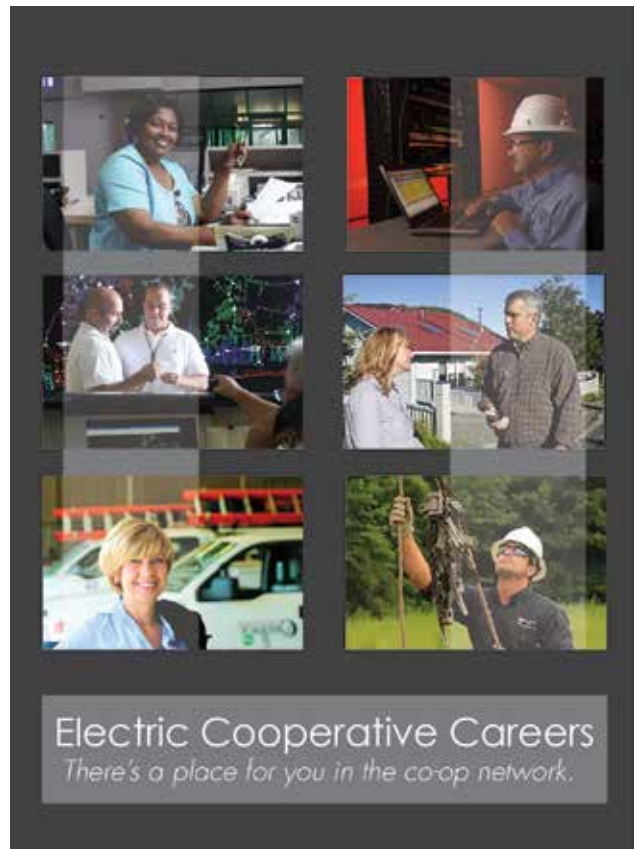
A lineworker high atop a pole is the first image that comes to mind for most people who think about electric cooperative employees. It's true that lineworkers comprise the largest segment of the co-op workforce—approximately 25 percent—but it takes a variety of talents to keep a cooperative running smoothly.

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 or by visiting Michigan co-op websites at countrylines.com.

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



- **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.

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

Living The Co-op Life

If you wanted to live your life dealing exclusively with cooperatives, could it be done? Cooperatives represent a wide variety of industries that affect our daily lives including food, education, banks and more. While their products and services may be different, these businesses are bound together by a similar set of principles. These principles include being not-for-profit and democratically controlled by their membership.

This National Cooperative Month, we sought out to introduce you to other cooperatives in our community and give you a glimpse into what makes cooperatives so special.



TBA Credit Union

TBA Credit Union (TBACU) began in 1955 when several Traverse City teachers pooled together \$50 in a cigar box to help fellow educators and school staff with their finances. Today, the credit union offers a wide variety of financial services to over 16,000 members in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties. TBACU prides itself on being responsive to the financial needs of its membership and its continued exploration into innovative banking technologies.

"The cooperative difference means focusing on our community and members' well-being, not the bottom line. When a new member walks in the door, our goal is to save them time and money, help them earn more money, add convenience to their daily life, and provide peace of mind."

—Christie Dompierre, Marketing Director,
TBA Credit Union



COMMUNITY CO-OP

SINCE 1973

Oryana Community Cooperative

Oryana Community Cooperative has sold high quality food as well as health and wellness products in Traverse City since 1973. Being the region's first certified organic retailer, the co-op stocks items that are grown and produced using clean, sustainable and socially-just practices. Members of the cooperative enjoy a variety of store discounts throughout the year as well as discounts to other area stores in their Community Partners program.

"Being owned by the folks that use the cooperative means we work toward our quadruple bottom line: people, planet, purpose, and lastly profit. Being a cooperative is being an asset to a wonderful community."

—Steve Nance, General Manager,
Oryana Community Cooperative



BUY COOPERATIVELY

You may be supporting cooperatives and not even know it. Check out these big names in the co-op world and see if you contributed to the cooperative difference:

Land O'Lakes	CoBank
Welch's	Navy Federal Credit Union
Sunkist	HealthPartners
Ocean Spray	REI
Cabot Creamery	ACE Hardware
Prairie Farms Dairy	True Value
Blue Diamond Growers	Carpet One
Florida's Natural Growers	Do-It-Best



Traverse City Cooperative Preschool

For more than 40 years, the Traverse City Cooperative Preschool has operated as the only parent-run preschool program in the Grand Traverse area. The program combines teacher-led education with self-directed play time designed to develop skills that, later in life, will prepare the students for academic learning. Member-parents are encouraged to assist in the classroom and take an active role in their child's development.

"It is extremely important as a parent to show my kids a positive example of living cooperatively in a society. This will not only enable them greater success as adults, but it will result in them being more caring and engaged citizens."

—Natalie Bailey, Board President,
Traverse City Cooperative Preschool



CHS Inc. – Traverse City

CHS, the nation's largest cooperative, serves farmers, consumers and home builders around the world through agronomy, eggs, energy, feed and lumber businesses. CHS Traverse City is one of four Michigan locations for this Fortune 100 company. In addition to access to global markets for export, CHS members are eligible for patronage in the form of shares and cash as well as voting rights in selecting their board of directors.

"Cooperatives are great to work for because they recognize that their employees are the most important asset they have, not only to the organization, but to the owners that they serve daily."

—Jeff Layman, Manager, CHS-Traverse City

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.



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.

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 for more information and to register.

Mike Stave Tells Co-op's Story With Numbers

By Rob Marsh

To some, the word "accounting" brings up memories of high school math classes, long lectures and a blur of numbers and equations. Mike Stave, Cherryland's newest accountant, would disagree. To him, the word "accounting" means reaching his goals.

Stave was born and raised in Traverse City. He attended Grand Valley State University and completed his degree through Ferris State University's extension program in Traverse City.

While finishing his degree, Stave worked for Bill Marsh Auto Group in Traverse City as an oil express technician and manager. "In those seven years with the dealership, I learned a lot of practical skills," says Stave. "That's knowledge I can take with me for the rest of my life."

With the support of his dad, Stave felt confident in pursuing his goal of becoming an accountant. "I am lucky that my dad, a fellow accountant, is just a phone call away. He has been a great resource and mentor to me along the way."

That goal became a reality in October 2016 when Stave joined the Cherryland accounting team.

The transition from the automotive world to the co-op world wasn't too big of an adjustment for him. "Like Bill Marsh, Cherryland's culture is centered around the people they serve and the people they employ," says Stave. "It didn't take me long to get acclimated."

While others only see numbers and spreadsheets, Stave compares being a Cherryland accountant to being a detective. "The numbers tell a story," he explains. "I like diving deep into the details and figuring out what makes the co-op work."

One year after coming to Cherryland, he still finds the co-op's accounting department to be a great fit. "A big prerequisite of mine was that Cherryland employees had to have a sense of humor. That checks out," jokes Stave. "More importantly, I have great people around me to help me learn more about the cooperative model, the electric utility industry and my profession."

When Stave isn't crunching numbers, he is nurturing his true love: sports. He takes advantage of all

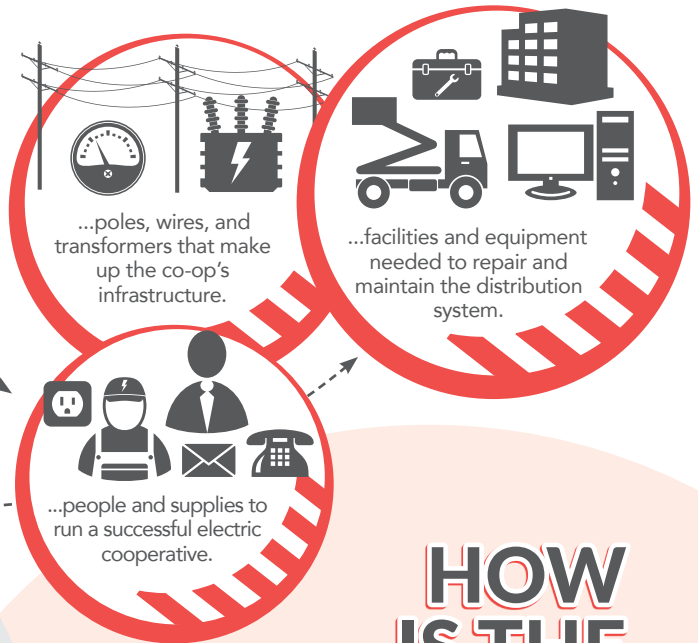
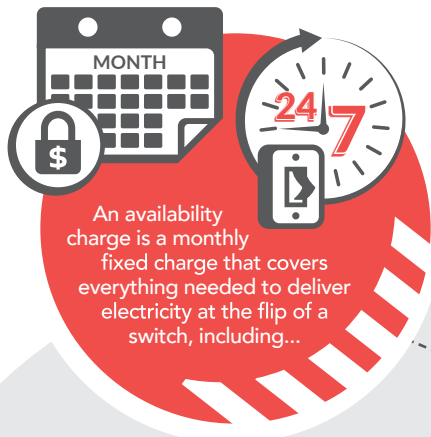


Mike Stave (right) enjoys skiing with friends at Crystal Mountain.

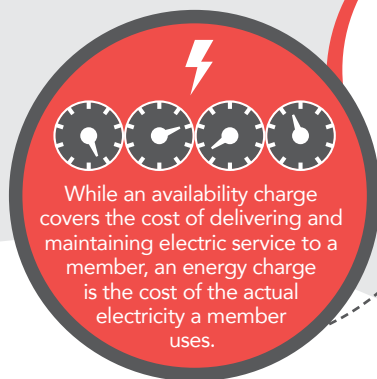
the athletic opportunities northern Michigan has to offer, including skiing and disc-golfing. But his passion for sports doesn't stop there. "I'm obsessed with University of Michigan football and basketball," laughs Stave. "I also have a borderline addiction to Fantasy Football."

While accounting may not be everyone's calling, the co-op is lucky to have goal-oriented people like Stave who see numbers as an opportunity to tell a story. ■

What is an **AVAILABILITY CHARGE?**



How does it differ from an **ENERGY CHARGE?**



HOW IS THE **AMOUNT** of an availability charge **SET?**

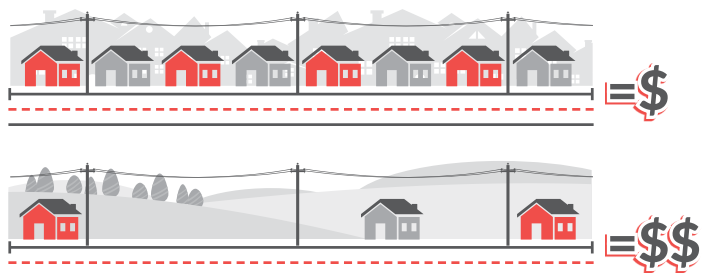
The co-op's **COST OF SERVICE STUDY** evaluates the cost of providing electricity to all of Cherryland's **35,000 MEMBERS**

To avoid subsidizing specific rate classes, **THE STUDY DETERMINES SERVICE COSTS** across all types of members, including residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial. The fixed cost for each member class is their availability charge.



How does Cherryland's availability charge **COMPARE** to others?

The amount of the charge varies utility to utility depending on the number of people served. For example, for every mile of line a municipal utility serves they may be able to divide their cost of service over 30 people. Rural cooperatives, on the other hand, may only be able to divide that cost over 10 people in the same mile. Whether a person is served by a municipal utility or cooperative, the cost of the mile of line stays the same. **THE MORE PEOPLE A UTILITY SERVES PER MILE OF LINE, THE MORE PEOPLE TO DIVIDE THAT COST AMONG AND THE LESS THE CHARGE PER PERSON.**



Wild, Wild Midwest

WARDEN



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

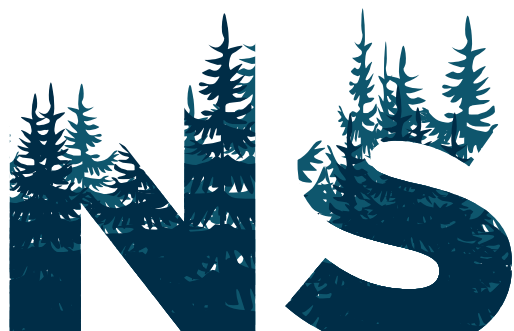
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) mission statement makes its purpose clear: maintain the safety of all while enforcing the laws that safeguard the natural resources of our state. Just like their fellow police officers, the conservation officers of the DNR are committed to serve and 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



"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.

Life's A Beach—Michigan Waters

Most
Votes On
Facebook!



"Life's a Beach on East Bay With or Without Rose-Colored Glasses!"
—By Theresa Stack

Photos With The Highest Facebook Votes!

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



"Celebrating the last weeks of summer!"—By Kim Stern



"Limitless and Immortal"—By Michell Clishe



"Fun at Sunset"—By Annemarie Wigton



"Sunset on Lake Leelanau"—By Joetta Brooks



Enter Your Photos And Win A Bill Credit!

Submit your best photo and encourage your friends to vote! The photo receiving the most votes from our Facebook contest will be printed in an issue of *Country Lines* along with some of our other favorites. If your photo is printed in *Country Lines* during 2018, you will be entered to win a credit of up to \$200 on your December 2018 bill.

Our October theme is **Furry Friends**. Photos can be submitted from **October 1** to **October 20** to be featured in our January 2018 issue.

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

Your Board In Action

August Board Meeting

- The results of the cost of service study were presented to the board. The results indicate that a rate increase is needed to meet current and future financial needs of the cooperative.
- The board elected to hold two public meetings regarding the proposed rate change: an informational meeting on Thursday, Oct. 12, at 5:30 p.m. and an official public meeting prior to the monthly board meeting on Monday, Oct. 16, at 9 a.m. Both meetings will be held at Cherryland's Grawn office. Co-op staff and board members will be present at both meetings taking questions and comments.
- An update regarding wireless communication installation was given by the co-op's engineering and operations manager. Wireless internet company, 186networks, planned to have wireless equipment installed at the Thompsonville, Copemish, and Brethren substations by the end of August.
- The co-op's accounting team gave a presentation on key ratio trend analysis. In 2016, the co-op ranked second in having the lowest costs per member, third in collecting the lowest revenue amounts per member, and first in average members per employee compared to similarly sized co-ops across the country.
- The board reviewed the progress of subscriptions to the SpartanSolar community array in Cadillac. The project continues to be a success with co-op members subscribing to a total of 70 solar panels. ■

Notice To Members Of Cherryland Electric Cooperative

**A Special Public Hearing is set for
Oct. 16, 9 a.m., at the cooperative's
Grawn office.**

The board of directors will consider changes to the cooperative's rates at its meeting on Oct. 16, 2017, to be held at the cooperative office at 5930 US 31 South, Grawn, Mich. The meeting will start at 9 a.m. and is open to all members of Cherryland Electric Cooperative.

The session will begin with an opportunity for members to provide direct input to the board of directors. Members are asked to come to the lobby by 9 a.m. and request to speak to the board. Members are asked to keep their comments to five minutes or less.

The following items will be considered:

1. Revisions to the cooperative's rates to meet current and future financial needs, based on a cost of service study.
2. Combining the current Energy Charge and Power Supply Cost Recovery (PSCR) charge and setting the PSCR charge to zero.

Notice of changes or additions to the cooperative's rates or service rules shall be sent to all members, as required by P.A. 167, by publication in *Michigan Country Lines* at least 30 days prior to their effective date.



Breakdown Of The Proposed Rate Change

Cherryland's board of directors will consider a rate change proposal at their monthly board meeting on October 16. The proposed rate change includes:

- \$3 increase in the residential availability charge
- \$2 increase in general service availability charges
- Adding the current PSCR charge (\$0.0094/kWh) to the current energy charge (\$0.1098/kWh). The new energy charge will become \$0.1191/kWh and the PSCR charge will be set to zero. The impact of this change will be revenue neutral in 2018. Future changes to the PSCR charge will be determined by fluctuations in actual power supply costs after 2018.

The proposed rate change would go into effect in the first quarter of 2018. For more information, attend one of the upcoming member meetings (see page 4) or contact us at 231-486-9200 or cec@cherrylandelectric.coop.

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

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



FOR A LIMITED TIME

American Metal Roofs **DOUBLE REBATE**



*Order in the month of October
and receive a **DOUBLE REBATE** from
the Manufacturer - up to \$5000 -
PLUS a 50% Rebate on Hi-Flow Ridge Vent!*

**REBATE UP TO
\$5000 OFF**
**PLUS 50% REBATE ON
HI-FLOW RIDGE VENT**

 **Do-It-Yourself
and
Save 50%**

Free Classes - Register Online

Financing Available

VISIT OUR SHOWROOMS:



FLINT - 6140 Taylor Drive



CHARLOTTE - 1875 Lansing Rd

Call Today! 844.638.2576
844.METAL.ROOFS



Visit our website!

AmericanMetalRoofs.com

See dozens of pictures • Enter to win a Metal Roof • Request a Quote



"I love my new roof. It's beautiful.
Every time I drive in the driveway
I'm excited to see my house. The
new roof makes my house look
like a brand new home."

- Feedback from a recent customer
Read more at:
guildquality.com/americanmetalroofs





cherrylandelectric.coop



*MICHIGAN'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES CELEBRATE*

NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

October 2017