

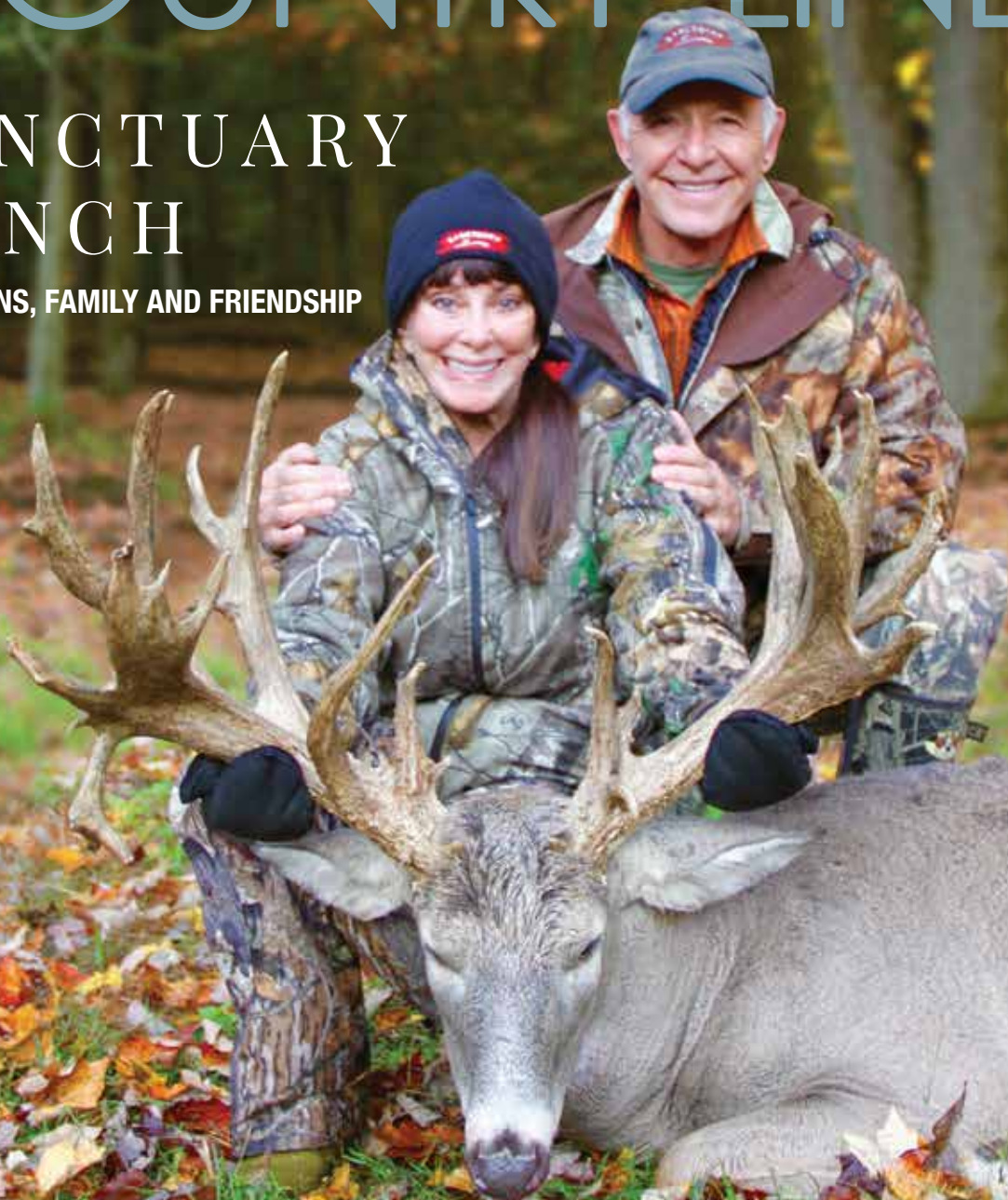
Cherryland Electric Cooperative

November/December 2017

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

SANCTUARY RANCH

TRADITIONS, FAMILY AND FRIENDSHIP



Cherryland Retires
\$2 Million To Members

We Love
Member Services

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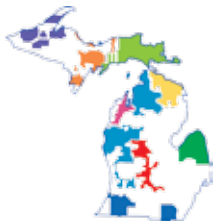
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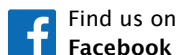
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I Remember...

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

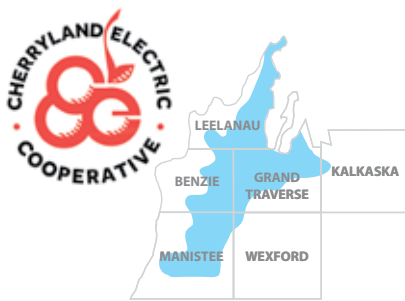
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CO-OP NEWS

Cherryland Retires \$2 Million To Members In December

Cherryland's board voted to retire \$2 million in capital credits to the membership this December. This amount is a direct pass-through of the \$2 million retirement Cherryland will receive from their power supplier, Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, that same month. The amount retired to each member can be found on their December billing statements.

Cherryland Cares Awards \$11,500 To Five Nonprofits

At their third quarter board meeting, the Cherryland Cares board awarded grants to Acme Christian Thrift Store, Boots for Kids, Habitat for Humanity of Benzie County, Leelanau County Cancer Foundation, and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Grand Traverse. Cherryland Cares has awarded \$25,900 in grants to area nonprofit agencies this year.

The Cherryland Cares board is comprised of five volunteer Cherryland members. The funds distributed by Cherryland Cares are a result of members electing to round up their monthly bills to the nearest dollar.

If you are an area nonprofit agency seeking financial help, fourth quarter grant applications are due Friday, Dec. 9. For more information, please call Shannon Mattson at 231-486-9234 or email at smattson@cherrylandelectric.coop.

Members Recycle, Receive Rebates At Clean Up Green Up Event

Clean Up Green Up is a free, community-wide, recycle, repurpose and reuse event put on by Michigan Green Consortium on Sunday, Nov. 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at TC West Senior High School in Traverse City.

Cherryland will offer rebates to our members that recycle working condition, older model refrigerators (\$20), freezers (\$20), air conditioning units (\$15) and dehumidifiers (\$15).

Members May Give Input At Monthly Board Meeting

The board of directors at Cherryland is offering an opportunity for members to provide direct input to the board on Monday, Dec. 18, at 9 a.m. at the company office in Grawn.

Members are asked to come to the lobby and request to speak to the board. Members are asked to keep their comments to five minutes. Member attendance at the board meeting is allowed for the public input portion of the meeting only.

Members May Dispose Christmas Trees At Cherryland

Cherryland members are reminded that Christmas trees can be discarded at Cherryland's office in Grawn. Trees can be dropped off on the right side of the Cherryland parking lot as you are driving in, just beyond where the two parking lots meet. This service is offered free to co-op members. ■

Give And Take



Tony Anderson
General Manager

Your cooperative will be retiring \$2 million in capital credits in December. This will take us over the \$20 million dollar mark since 2009. In the past, we have returned cash from just Cherryland Electric Cooperative. Other years, it has been a combination of cash from Cherryland and your power supplier, Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative. For the first time in my memory, Cherryland will be passing through \$2 million that comes completely from Wolverine.

While a majority of our members realize they belong to a cooperative, there is probably a great number who don't take the thought to the next level. Just as you are a member of Cherryland, Cherryland is a member of Wolverine. Thus, when Wolverine has positive margins, Cherryland is allocated a portion. The \$2 million being passed through to Cherryland members comes from historical Wolverine margins.

Why retire any cash at all? Wouldn't this make the financial condition of the cooperative even better? Yes, Cherryland could certainly retain the \$2 million to improve our financial condition. While the board and management had a desire to partially bolster financials with a smaller retirement, your cooperative is still in strong financial condition. Thus, everyone around the board table felt that it was appropriate to give back the cash now rather than later. Capital credits are simply interest free debt owed to each individual member that should be repaid at some point after all.

Why give cash back in December while (as I type this) proposing an increase in residential rates in

2018? This is an obvious question and one that we will get many times when/if the suggested \$3 per month residential rate increase goes into effect next year. I completely understand how many people will link the two acts. The fact remains that they are two separate and distinct decisions.

The 2018 rate increase is intended to cover current and future operating costs over the coming three-to-five-year period. As explained in previous columns, Cherryland's rates have not gone up for almost seven years. A \$3 per month increase on residential bills is necessary to offset the increased costs of operating a cooperative with 55 employees, 3,000 miles of line and 1,400 square miles of service territory.

Another important distinction that separates the two decisions is the individual members involved. The return of the cash goes mostly to cooperative members in 1998 and 1999. The rate increase will be paid by those people who are cooperative members in 2018 and beyond.

There will certainly be many members who get a portion of the December cash as well as all of the spring rate increase. Again, they are simply being repaid the debt they each loaned the cooperative some 19 years earlier while being properly charged for the cost to keep their lights on in 2018 and beyond.

I firmly believe each decision truly stands on its own merit. However, I also understand that the two actions are a giving and a taking. It is not the first time and certainly will not be the last time. There is no other form of utility governance that operates this way. It is a give and take that everyone at your cooperative is proud to be a part of. ■

Home Heating Assistance Programs • 2017–2018 Season

Program: Winter Protection Plan
Contact: Your Local Utility Company

Income Guidelines 2017–2018	
# in Household	150% Poverty Guide Maximum Income
1	\$18,090
2	24,360
3	30,630
4	36,900
5	43,170
6	49,440
7	55,710
8	61,980

Add \$6,270 for each additional member.

Note: All customers 65+ are eligible regardless of income. Customers are responsible for all electricity and natural gas used. At the end of the protection period, participants must make arrangements with their utility company to pay off any money owed before the next heating season.

The **Winter Protection Plan (WPP)** protects enrolled seniors and low-income customers from service shut-offs and high utility bill payments during the winter months (Nov. 1–March 31). If you are eligible, your utility service will remain on (or restored with the WPP) from Nov. 1 through March 31, if you:

- pay at least 7% of your estimated annual bill each month, and
- make equal monthly payments between the date you apply and the start of the next heating season on any past due bills.

When the protection period ends (March 31), you must begin to pay the full monthly bill, plus part of the amount you owe from the winter months when you did not pay the full bill.

Participation does not relieve customers from the responsibility of paying for electricity and natural gas usage, but does prevent shut-off during winter months. You qualify for the plan if you meet at least one of the following requirements:

- are age 65 or older,
- receive Department of Health and Human Services cash assistance, including SSI,
- receive Food Assistance,
- receive Medicaid, or
- household income is at or below the 150% of poverty level shown in the Income Guidelines chart at left.

Senior citizen customers (65 or older) who participate in the WPP are not required to make specific payments to ensure that their service will not be shut off between Nov. 1 and March 31. Service for seniors can be restored without any payments.

Program: Home Heating Credit
Contact: Mich. Dept. of Treasury

# Exemp.	Max. Income	# Exemp.	Max. Income
0–1	\$13,271	4	\$27,071
2	17,871	5	31,671
3	22,471	6	36,271

Add \$4,600 for each exemption over 6.

You can apply for a **Home Heating Credit** for the **2017** tax year if you meet the income guidelines listed at left or you qualify based on alternate guidelines including household income, exemptions, and heating costs. Additional exemptions are available for seniors, disabled claimants, or claimants with 5% or more of their income from unemployment compensation.

If you qualify, you may receive assistance to help pay for your winter heating bills. **Forms are available mid- to late-January wherever tax forms are provided or from the Michigan Dept. of Treasury (517-636-4486, or michigan.gov/treasury).** The Home Heating Credit claim form must be filed with the Michigan Dept. of Treasury **no later than Sept. 30 each year.**

Program: Earned Income Credit
Contact: U.S. Treasury Dept.,
 Internal Revenue Service
irs.gov/EITC
 Michigan Dept. of Treasury
michigan.gov/treasury

The **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** is a refundable federal income tax credit for low-income, working individuals and families who meet certain requirements and file a tax return. Those who qualify will owe less in taxes and may get a refund. Even a person who does not generally owe income tax may qualify for the EITC, but must file a tax return to do so. If married, you must file jointly to qualify. File Form 1040 or 1040A and attach the EITC.

You may claim a **Michigan earned income tax credit** for tax year **2017** equal to a percentage of the federal earned income tax credit for which you are eligible. Visit the website or see the MI 2016 tax booklet for details.

Program: Crisis Assistance Program
Contact: Local Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) michigan.gov/mdhhs

State Emergency Relief Program (SER): michigan.gov/mdhhs You do not have to be a DHHS client to apply for help with a past due bill, shutoff notice, or the need for deliverable fuel through the SER. This program, available Nov. 1–May 31, provides most of its utility assistance during this crisis season. However, limited assistance is available outside the crisis season. If you receive a DHHS cash grant, you may vendor part of it towards heat and electric bills. Contact your local DHHS or call the Home Heating Hotline, 855-275-6424.

Program: Low-Income Home Weatherization
Contact: Local Community Action Agency

You may be able to receive help with weatherizing your home to reduce energy use if you meet low-income eligibility guidelines (200% of poverty guidelines) and funding is available. **Weatherization** may include caulking, weatherstripping, and insulation. Contact your local Community Action Agency for details. Visit mcaaa.org to find one in your area.

Program: United Way
Contact: Call 2-1-1 or UWmich.org/2-1-1

2-1-1 is a free phone service operating 24 hours daily to provide information about help that may be available in a particular area with utilities and other needs. Learn more at UWmich.org/2-1-1.

Program: Medical Emergency Protection
Contact: Local Utility Company

You are protected from service shut-off for nonpayment of your natural gas and/or electric bill for up to 21 days, possibly extending to 63 days, if you have a proven **medical emergency**. You must provide written proof from a doctor, public health or social services official that a medical emergency exists. Contact your gas or electric utility for details.

Program: Shut-off Protection for Military Active Duty
Contact: Local Utility Company

If you or your spouse has been called into **active military duty**, you may apply for shut-off protection from your electric or natural gas service for up to 90 days. You may request extensions. You must still pay, but contact your utility company and they will help you set up a payment plan.

Program: Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Emergency Grant Program
Contact: MI Veterans Trust Fund

The Trust Fund provides temporary assistance to veterans and their families facing a financial emergency or hardship including the need for energy assistance.

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund at 517-284-5299 or michiganveterans.com

Program: MI Energy Assistance Program
Contact: Utility or 2-1-1 in late November

Agency assistance through Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP), includes services that will enable participants to become self-sufficient, including assisting participants in paying their energy bills on time, budgeting for and contributing to their ability to provide for energy expenses, and being energy efficient. Shut-off protection is provided Nov. 1–April 15 for all residential customers.

Switch Things Up With Stylish, Efficient Lighting For Your Home

By Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen

Saving energy starts with choosing the correct bulb. Efficiency standards for incandescent bulbs between 40 and 100 watts, which came into effect in 2012, led to the halogen bulb (also known as energy-efficient incandescent). These bulbs are at least 25 percent more efficient than the old incandescents. The other two common types of household bulbs, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and light-emitting diodes (LEDs), are even more efficient.

Energystar.gov estimates that you can save \$75 a year by replacing the five most-used incandescent bulbs or light fixtures with ENERGY STAR® certified LED or CFL lighting. Of the three types, LEDs tend to save more money over the long run and LED prices have decreased in recent years. A downside of CFLs is that they contain a small amount of toxic mercury that can be released into your home if one breaks.

When you're considering which type of bulb to buy, consider both watts and lumens. Watts indicate how much energy (and therefore, money) is used to produce light. Lumens indicate how much light the bulb produces. A handy comparison is that an 800-lumen bulb is about equal to the amount of light from a traditional 60-watt incandescent bulb. Lumennow.org offers an excellent guide to understanding bulbs.

Bulbs also give off different colors of light, known as color temperature. If a bulb burns out—or in the case

of an LED, as it dims over time—it can be challenging to find a replacement that matches other lights in the room. If the contrast bothers you, you may want to purchase and install bulbs of the same brand and wattage for the entire room or area at the same time.

Installing dimmers instead of on/off light switches is a good way to save energy while giving you greater control of the amount of light in the room. Not all bulbs are dimmable, so be sure to check the label on the bulb. It's worth considering whether you have the right number and the right location for light switches. We recommend hiring a licensed electrician if you decide to install new lighting and switches.

The Lighting Research Center website (<http://www.lrc.rpi.edu/>) provides a resource page with many sample lighting layouts for every room in the home, which you can find by entering the phrase "lighting patterns for homes" in their website's search engine. Home décor sites also give excellent lighting explanations, plans and ideas.

It's always a good idea to check with your local electric co-op as they may offer energy audits or lighting product rebates.

With a little planning, you can have a well-lit, energy efficient home you'll enjoy for years to come! ■



A Tribute To Jim Hough



1932-2017

An exceptional journalist, Jim Hough was the "people's columnist" at the *Lansing State Journal* for 25 years. After retiring from the newspaper, he wrote a regular column in *Michigan Country Lines* for over two decades. His column, *Right at Home*, received rave reviews and was a favorite among our readers. With his passing in October, we pay tribute to him and his contributions to *Michigan Country Lines* magazine.

(L-R) Melanie Hamilton, Rachel Johnson, Tina Swanson, Sonya Sias, Deb Sierzputowski, Rob Marsh, Amanda Olds, Nicole Vanover, Megan Girard



We ♥ Member Services

Though you may have never met them, Cherryland's member services representatives work hard to make sure your experience with the co-op is top notch. Learn about the special qualities each representative brings to the member experience and to the member services team from the representatives themselves.

MEGAN GIRARD

“

Megan is invaluable to our team. Our job can be stressful at times, and we can all count on her to be a level-headed, calming presence. She is intelligent and often finds ways to improve our processes. No matter what position Megan holds at Cherryland, she does it with a smile.

Megan truly wants to help our members. If there is an issue, she will do everything in her power to resolve it. She listens with empathy and does all she can to make our members' experience with Cherryland a positive one.

Megan has always gone out of her way to make me feel like a part of the team. She takes the time to ask me about important things in my life and she really listens to my answers. She is very easy to get along with and adds fun to our team.”

—Sonya Sias

MELANIE HAMILTON

“

Melanie is a gracious person who is wonderful to be around. She strives to provide the best service in any situation by actively listening and searching for the best solutions for our members. Melanie goes out of her way to ensure that we are doing all that we can for our members. She has a beautiful heart and I think that shines through in her work.

Working with Melanie is a joy. She has such a bubbly personality and brings laughter and happiness to our work family. She knows how to balance her work duties while making the work environment fun and enjoyable.”

—Nicole Vanover

SONYA SIAS

“

You can't describe Sonya without using the word 'strong.' She is a warrior through and through. Sonya is the type of woman that we all wish to emulate in our daily life. She is constantly striving to go above and beyond for our members by being patient, kind and thoughtful. Sonya is a privilege to work alongside as she is dependable and a good person; she will always do the right thing. I am proud to be Sonya's coworker and friend.”

—Megan Girard

DEB SIERZPUTOWSKI

“

Deb's nearly 40 years with the co-op lends her abundant knowledge in many different areas, including customer service, billing and operations. Our members benefit from this knowledge because she can often provide quick answers to member questions, so we do not need to research the issue and make a return phone call.

Deb has a definite gift of compassion for others. She consistently will try to listen to and understand each member's situation and assist in a kind, caring manner. She doesn't just rush through a phone call, but takes time to hear a member's issue. She often goes above and beyond to help members who are struggling with setting up online accounts or automatic payments.

Working with Deb is a pleasure. She always makes us feel cared for and comfortable.”

—Tina Swanson

TINA SWANSON

“

Tina has a really good memory, a great sense of humor, and quick wit that makes the work seem easier and the time go by quickly. She has a real empathy for our members and the circumstances that they may be going through. And, boy, do I enjoy working with Tina! She is always happy to help problem-solve and volunteers to help any of us with a project.”

—Deb Sierzputowski

NICOLE VANOVER

“

Nicole is one of the most genuine, sincere and empathic people I know. She has a heart of gold. She truly cares about everyone and is willing to help anyone at any given time. When Nicole is talking with a member on the phone, you just know that she is really listening to what they say and is always willing to go that extra mile.

I like working with Nicole because she is that person who you can just be yourself around. She is always willing to help and has never made me feel ignorant for asking questions when I should already know the answers!”

—Melanie Hamilton

PLEASING PIES

Sweet and savory pie recipes you will love and want to share.



Photos—Robert Bruce Photography

Fresh Pear Pie

Jan Glass, Great Lakes Energy

- 5 cups fresh peeled and cored pear slices
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 3 tablespoons butter, cut into bits
- 1 unbaked double pie crust, store bought or homemade

Preheat oven to 450 F. Toss sliced pears in lemon juice and set aside. Mix flour, sugar, spices and lemon zest. Add flour mixture to the pear slices. Pour the pear mixture into the unbaked bottom pie crust pressed firmly into a pie pan and dot the top of the mixture with butter. Add the top crust and cut slits for steam. Bake for 10 minutes at 450 F, then turn down oven temp to 350 F and bake for an additional 30 minutes. This pie is wonderful served with a nice vanilla bean ice cream.

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

Savory Onion Pie

Kris Hazeres, Alger Delta

- 3 cups thinly sliced Vidalia or other sweet onions
- 1 cup crushed Ritz crackers
- 1/4 cup melted margarine or butter
- 2 tablespoons margarine or butter
- 3/4 cup milk
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- dash of pepper
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- paprika, optional



Preheat oven to 350 F. Sauté onions in butter until tender but not brown. In a bowl, combine crackers and melted margarine; press into an 8" pie plate. Place onions in crust. Combine remaining margarine, milk, eggs, salt and pepper. Pour gently over onions. Top with cheese (add extra if desired). Sprinkle with paprika if desired. Bake for 30 minutes. Refrigerate any leftovers.

Sour Cream Raspberry Pie

Connie Pietila, Ontonagon County REA

- ¾ cup sugar
- ¼ cup flour
- 1 cup (8-ounce) carton sour cream
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- 4 cups fresh raspberries
- 9-inch unbaked pie crust

Crumb Topping:

- ⅓ cup sugar
- ⅓ cup brown sugar
- ⅔ cup flour
- ¼ teaspoon cinnamon
- 3–4 tablespoons butter



Preheat oven to 350 F. Mix together sugar and flour in a large bowl. In a small bowl, mix sour cream, beaten egg, vanilla and salt. Add to sugar mixture and stir well. Fold raspberries in gently. Place pie crust in a deep pie dish. Place

raspberry pie mixture in crust. Bake for 30 minutes. For crumb topping, stir together sugars, flour and cinnamon. Cut in butter until crumbly. Sprinkle over hot pie and bake another 35 minutes or until edges are golden. Let cool at least 2 hours before slicing.

Featured Guest Chef

Chef Jim Wood of Sanctuary Ranch knows his way around venison. So, it's no wonder that his mouthwatering Venison Medallions with Mushroom Marsala Cream Sauce is a favorite at the lodge. Give it a try! It might just become your new venison go-to recipe as well.



Venison Medallions

- ½ pound venison loin, cut into ½ inch thick medallions, coated in flour and salted
- Butter, enough to sauté
- ½ cup mushrooms
- ½ cup Marsala wine
- ¼ cup beef stock
- ½ cup cream
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- Salt to taste

In a large skillet over medium-high heat, add butter followed by venison medallions. Sauté for 1 minute. Add mushrooms, and sauté 1 minute, then flip medallions. Add Marsala and reduce 5 seconds. Add beef stock and reduce 5 seconds. Add cream and reduce until meat begins to bleed. Next, add Dijon, salt to taste and mix thoroughly. Arrange medallions on a plate and pour sauce over the top.

Read the full story about Sanctuary Ranch on page 14, and find this recipe and others at micoopkitchen.com.



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

“Flatbreads and Pizzas” due December 1

“Potatoes” due January 1

“Indulgent Desserts” due February 1

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

Back To School

Most
Votes On
Facebook!



"First day of school! They grow up so fast..."—By Susi Worden



"Enjoying a trip to Moomers after the first day of school"
—By Stefanie Tschirhart-Baldwin

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.



"Maddy and Maddy's Daddy"—By David Tessin



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 November theme is **Winter Sports**. Photos can be submitted from **November 1 to November 20** to be featured in our February 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!



"Preschool"—By Suzique Couture

Legal Services Of Northern Michigan Fights Needless Homelessness

By Rob Marsh



Heather Abraham speaks about the housing crisis at the annual Equal Justice Works dinner.

Imagine this: You're working a low-paying job in the city. Cost of living in the city is too expensive, so you rent a place that's 30 minutes away. Between gas, food, and the rent, you're barely scraping by.

One day, your car breaks down. Next you are struggling to get to and from your job that's a half hour away. You start losing shifts and the money you desperately need to survive. Now you are reading an eviction notice. In what seems like an instant, you are staring into the face of homelessness.

What are you going to do now?

Attorney Heather Abraham has seen this scenario play out all too often. "While working in Washington, D.C., as a staffer on Capitol Hill, I was living in a low-income neighborhood and saw firsthand the struggles people met when facing eviction," explained Abraham. "That's when I knew that I wanted to become a housing attorney."

Abraham works with Legal Services of Northern Michigan (LSNM). LSNM promotes equal access to justice by providing free civil legal services to people living at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty level or who are 60 years or older in northern Michigan.

"While the law guarantees access to legal representation in criminal cases, representation is not guaranteed in civil cases, which can be equally difficult to navigate," explained Abraham. "Our job is to be a watchdog for the people we serve and empower them to make informed decisions."

Last year, LSNM received a Cherryland Cares grant to revitalize the Eviction Diversion Program—a partnership between the 86th District Court of Grand Traverse County and local social services agencies. It provides temporary rental and utility assistance for low-income residents during short-

term crises such as medical emergencies or the breakdown of a family vehicle. The Cherryland Cares grant funds free, on-site legal advice to low-income tenants facing eviction.

"Imagine homelessness on a continuum," said Abraham. "By proactively intervening with free legal services to avoid evictions, we have the potential to dramatically decrease the incidence of homelessness in our community."

Abraham's efforts have already had a significant impact. In her first year, Abraham has advised or represented approximately 200 clients facing imminent homelessness.

"The commitment and enthusiasm of our community partners and the 86th District Court has been remarkable," said Abraham. "We all understand that, in the end, everyone benefits from ending needless homelessness," said Abraham.

An eviction notice doesn't have to be the beginning of homelessness. Rather, with the support of community servants like Abraham and LSNM, the cycle can be broken before it begins. ■

SANCTUARY RANCH

Traditions, Family And Friendship

By Emily Haines Lloyd



The gathering area to share stories and admire trophies.

Photos courtesy of Sanctuary Ranch



It's daybreak at Sanctuary Ranch in Stanwood, Michigan. Ryan Bollman, general manager, takes his first sip of coffee long before the first rays of sunshine flicker in the morning sky. Walking into the woods in complete stillness, his breath caught in the cool air, he climbs into a deer stand, looks out through his "office window" and realizes he's not the average Joe or Jane pushing papers or punching a time clock.

Bollman spends his days a little differently than most desk jockeys. When running a business that is four square miles of gorgeous northern Michigan terrain and bursting with the largest, most sought-after Whitetail deer, the "daily grind" has a slightly different meaning.

Sanctuary Ranch is a one-of-a-kind, preserve trophy hunting experience that rivals any in the country.

While most nature-raised, hunted Whitetail are only one and a half to two years old, the Whitetail at Sanctuary Ranch are a mature five to six years old. These larger, majestic deer are a game hunter's dream, with Sanctuary home to some of the smartest and most elusive bucks that hunting aficionados have ever seen.

"When my dad [Pat Bollman] bought this land back in the late '70s, I don't think he could have imagined all that Sanctuary Ranch would become," said Ryan Bollman. "But his love of hunting and how much it meant to our family—that became the basis for everything we built moving forward."

Ask any of the hunters who return year after year what brings them back to Sanctuary Ranch and you don't hear about trophies. You hear words like *tradition, family and friendship*. This is what Sanctuary Ranch does that elevates the experience.



A father and daughter heading off for quality time.



Sanctuary's guides with some of the top 2016 trophies.

“The sun rose and revealed a magnificent landscape. It teemed with game to the horizon and was a grand site. Indeed, it was to be a very good day.

”
—Ernest Hemingway



A hunter reflecting on a cold, snowy and successful hunt.

Bollman and the entire staff take the time to know their clients—their likes, preferences, how they like to hunt and where. Sanctuary Ranch pairs hunters and groups with the perfect leader who takes hunters on an experience that is custom-made just for them. Then they come back to the lodge to eat great food, tell even better stories, and make new friends.

“It’s not just about pulling the trigger,” said Bollman. “Our hunters have a relationship, a connection, to the ranch. They feel like this is their hunting property, and they know we’re here to watch over it while they’re gone.”

And return they do. Year after year, with new generations joining older generations, these hunters create memories they’ll have forever, along with their majestic trophies. These experiences are why Sanctuary Ranch has built a clientele that is

practically anticipating their next trip before they’ve even left the ranch.

Bollman doesn’t get out in the woods quite as often as he used to, as his responsibilities on the property continue to grow. However, he doesn’t seem to mind entirely.

“Of course I love being out there and taking one of our hunters out for the day,” said Bollman. “But it’s not about me—it’s about creating that awesome experience for someone else. That’s what Sanctuary Ranch is all about. That’s the tradition we want to be a part of.” ■



**Please visit
sanctuary-ranch.com
for more information.**

Your Board In Action

September Board Meeting

- The board voted to retire \$2 million in capital credits to the membership in December. This amount is a direct pass-through of the \$2 million retirement Cherryland will receive from their power supplier, Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, that same month.
- The board approved a new commercial generator program. The program will offer low-interest loans for generators to commercial members who provide essential services during severe storms such as gas stations, ambulance services, fire departments, and more.
- Minor updates to the cooperative's Revolving Loan Fund Plan were approved by the board. The purpose of the Revolving Loan Fund is to assist economic development in Cherryland's service area by providing zero-interest loans to area businesses.



Cherryland's Holiday Schedule

In observance of the holidays, the Cherryland office will be closed on the following dates:

- Thursday, Nov. 23, and Friday, Nov. 24, for Thanksgiving
- Monday, Dec. 25, and Tuesday, Dec. 26, for Christmas
- Monday, Jan. 1, and Tuesday, Jan. 2, for New Year's

Line crews are on call to respond to any outages or emergencies. You can report your outage through SmartHub or by calling us at 231-486-9200.



No one can help everyone, but everyone can help someone.

Extend a helping hand to those who need it by rounding up your monthly electric bill to the nearest dollar. Investing your small change into our Cherryland Cares program brings about big change in our community.



Sign up by December 15 and be entered to win a

\$100 bill credit.

Visit cherrylandelectric.coop to learn more.

Power's Out? Send A Drone

By Rob Marsh

After Hurricane Harvey, Texas cooperatives were faced with the challenge of restoring power to areas that were plagued by flooding. Some took to boats while others took to all-terrain vehicles to cross the flooded areas. For a few utilities, taking to the sky was the best way to get the power back on.

Drones are no longer a birthday present for a teenager with a knack for technology. Drones are being used by major retailers, news organizations, the military, scientists, and more.

Electric utilities like Cherryland see drone technology as another tool in the reliability tool chest. Drones offer electric utilities new ways to improve outage response as well as infrastructure and right-of-way (ROW) maintenance.

According to Chris Vermeulen, Cherryland engineer and licensed commercial drone pilot, the benefit to having a drone available in the case of a major outage event like Hurricane Harvey is simple: "It allows you to have a look at what you're dealing with."

"By determining through drone video and pictures the severity of an outage, a co-op's outage response can be more efficient," says Vermeulen. "Co-ops can determine how many lineworkers and what kind of equipment they need before dispatching crews."

Where drone implementation gets interesting is the potential to prevent outages before they occur using the latest in imaging technology.

A couple of the same Texas co-ops that used drones in response to Hurricane Harvey have also deployed drones to identify areas of their infrastructure and ROWs that need attention before an outage occurs.

These drones are affixed with Light Detection and Ranging, or

LiDAR, scanners—an imaging technology used to create 3D models of electric infrastructure.

"After producing the initial 3D model, you update this model down the road and compare it against the previous scan," explained Vermeulen. "That allows you to figure out whether trees need to be removed and if equipment needs to be repaired to prevent an outage."

Cherryland also sees the potential of improving reliability by using drones. While Vermeulen and his coworkers study drone response procedures like those in Texas, Cherryland's drone is being used to educate and train lineworkers. "Particularly for new lineworkers, it's nice that we can get them familiar with our lines and equipment with drone pictures and video before they go up in a bucket," said Vermeulen.

Drone technology has opened doors to how electric utilities think about outage response and infrastructure and ROW maintenance. Instead of sending a line crew to find damaged equipment or a tree crew to scan the lines for fallen trees, a utility can take to the skies and give their crews better information before they take to the field. ■



Chris Vermeulen (right) and Jim Carpenter (left) use a drone to take pictures of co-op lines and poles.

Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger Give Back To Community

By Jack O'Malley

The fall season brings colorful leaves, crisp air, and all things orange. Fall also ushers in firearm deer season, the biggest hunting season in Michigan, which draws as many as 700,000 men and women to the woods. For the serious hunters, deer season means fresh meat on the table and a chance to give back to communities.

The Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger (MSAH) program was founded in 1991 by a group of men and women who saw a unique opportunity to provide nutritious meals for those less fortunate. Started as a nonprofit organization, MSAH connects participating licensed game processors with deer hunters looking to process and donate all or a portion of their hunt. There are two different ways a hunter can donate game at MSAH participating processors:

Give-A-Pound—Successful hunters who have their deer processed at a participating MSAH processing facility have the option to donate a pound or more of their processed deer to local food pantries.

Whole Deer Donations—Successful hunters who drop off and donate their whole deer at a participating MSAH processing facility will have the deer processed at NO COST to them. The processor turns the venison into ground burger and is reimbursed through the MSAH fund for their work in the finished product.

The processed venison is then collected by a nonprofit community food bank, pantry or shelter

working in coordination with the processor. If a specific processor needs a nonprofit community food bank, pantry or shelter to work with, locations can be provided through the MSAH. This way, deer donated and processed can help their local community.

In 2016, more than 29,000 pounds of processed venison were donated through wild game processors working with the MSAH program to 35 nonprofit organizations. That processed venison equaled over 145,000 hot and high-in-protein meals for those throughout the state of Michigan who were in dire need.

Funding for the Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger program exists through an account created through Public Acts 116 & 117 of 2005 which states that sportsmen, sportswomen and non-hunters can voluntarily donate funds to the MSAH in different ways. Funds collected reimburse processors working with MSAH for the work they perform in the processing of the deer.

So, the next time you see a flash of blaze orange or camo, tip your hat and thank a hunter because



Jack O'Malley

good things are happening statewide thanks to their love of the sport.

To learn more about MSAH and how to donate your venison, please visit the website at sportsmenagainsthunger.org. ■



«« Where In Michigan Is This?

Identify the correct location of the photo on the left by December 15 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 September 2017 issue is **Jeannine Uphouse, a Presque Isle Electric & Gas Cooperative member**, who correctly identified the photo as the Rosewood Walkway-Marquette in the Upper Peninsula.

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



September Photo



WAREHOUSE CLEARANCE SALE



**EVERYTHING MUST BE SOLD
BEFORE INVENTORY:**

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cherrylandelectric.coop

It's Capital Credit Season!

It's the most wonderful time of the year to give you capital credits.

Take a look at your December bill under **Capital Credits** and see how much money you got this year.

Learn about capital credits and other cooperative benefits at CherrylandElectric.coop

