

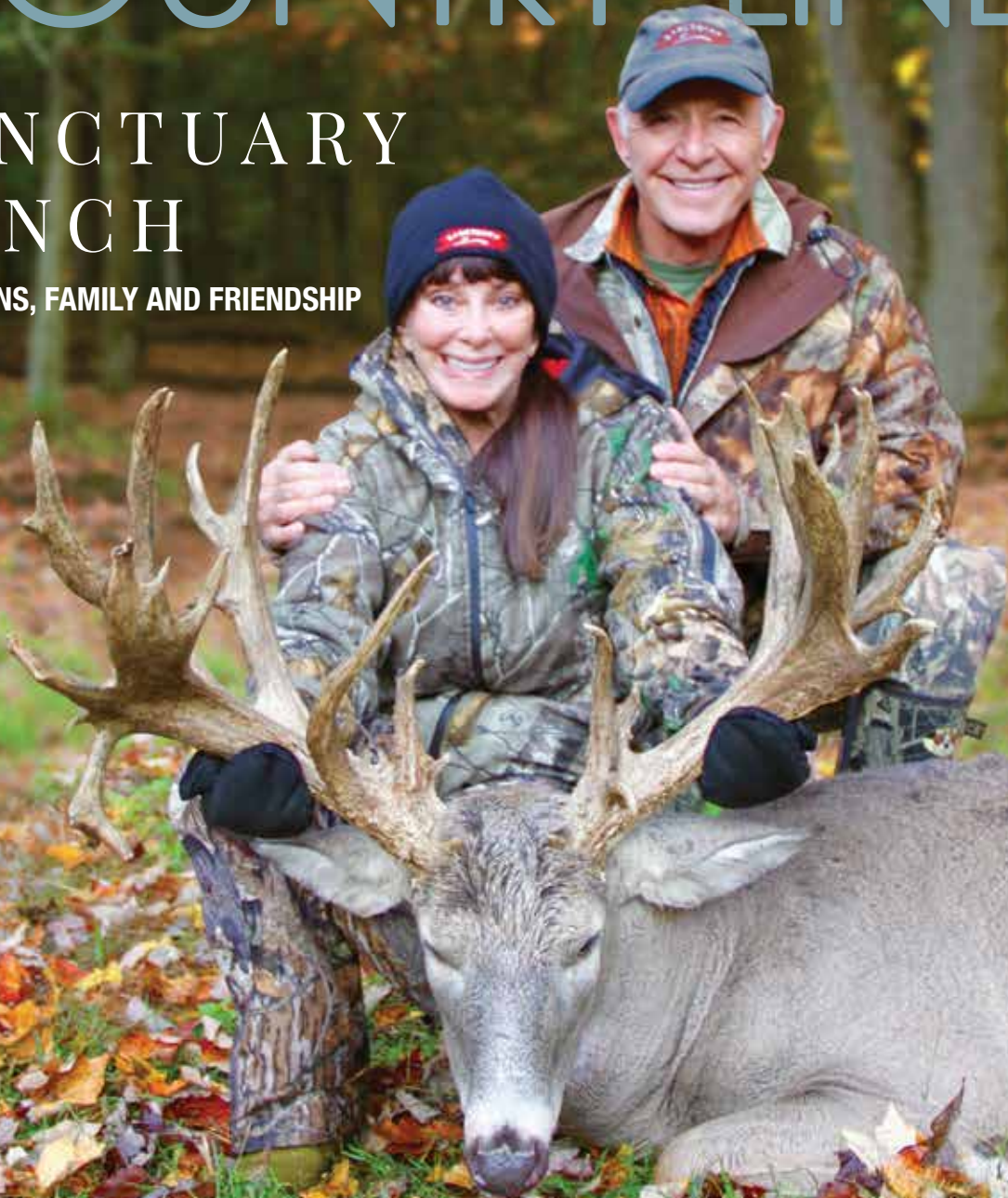
Thumb Electric Cooperative

November/December 2017

# MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

## SANCTUARY RANCH

TRADITIONS, FAMILY AND FRIENDSHIP



Look Up And Be Safe

Special Member Meeting Nov. 21

Member Services





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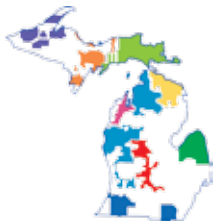
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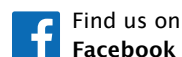
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### Change of Address:

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.

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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](http://countrylines.com) or email to [cdorr@meca.coop](mailto:cdorr@meca.coop)

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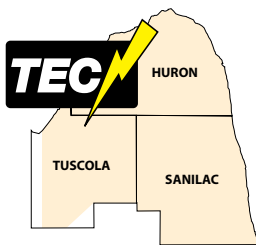
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**Dallas Braun**, General Manager

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## PAYMENT STATIONS

### Huron County

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Pigeon—Northstar Bank

### Tuscola County

Akron—Northstar Bank  
Caro—Northstar Bank  
Mayville—Mayville State Bank  
Millington—Mayville State Bank

### Sanilac County

Sandusky—Northstar Bank

Visit Thumb Electric's website  
**[www.tecmi.coop](http://www.tecmi.coop)**

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

# Look Up For Overhead Power Lines



**Dallas Braun**  
General Manager

As the harvest season winds down for local farmers and growers, we would like to remind everyone to be safe with large farm equipment, trucks and chainsaws when working around or near power lines. It seems every year there are several "close calls" on Thumb Electric Cooperative's system. A "close call" is defined as "a narrow escape from danger or disaster." Whether it is a piece of equipment that makes contact with the overhead power lines or someone operating a chainsaw that drops a tree on the power lines, the results can be the same: danger, disaster and also DEATH!

This year has proven to be no different. Earlier in the year, we had an individual cut a tree that fell down across an energized overhead power line. During the wheat harvest, we had an operator of a combine get tangled up with the overhead primary neutral. Recently, we had an operator of a semi-truck lift the box into an energized three-phase power line that the truck was parked underneath. Contact with energized power lines usually results in severe mechanical damage to the equipment, damage to the power lines, and the potential to kill or maim the person operating the equipment. While these incidents on our system did, in fact, result in damage to the equipment and power lines, luckily no one was killed or severely injured. Not this time.

Nationwide, thousands of accidents like this happen every year when large equipment touches overhead power lines. It is not only the equipment operators who are at risk, people on the ground who touch or even approach energized equipment can be killed. Operators should stay at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines when operating large equipment. Combines, trucks, and grain wagons with extended augers can reach well into the 10-foot radius around a power line. Farm equipment with wireless communication system antennas can also make contact and energize the vehicle with hazardous voltage. On farmsteads, grain augers often tower over power lines when extended to reach the top of grain bins. "All equipment operators need to double check and triple check, to see what is above you," cautions Rick Ewald, Thumb Electric Safety Coordinator. "Be conscious of your surroundings. You need to keep your eyes open and beware of overhead lines."

All farm workers should know to stay clear of overhead power lines as well as what to do if the equipment does become entangled with a line. The best action is to stay on the equipment and warn others to stay away until the local electric utility arrives to ensure the line is de-energized. Unless you have that assurance, do not get off except if there is a fire, which rarely happens. In the event of a fire, an operator should

jump clear from the equipment, without touching the equipment and ground at the same time. Land with both feet together, and hop away to avoid deadly "step potential."

One of the more frequent mishaps reported by the National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) involves electrocutions and electrical burns suffered by individuals around truck beds raised high enough to contact overhead lines. All farmers and large equipment operators are encouraged to use a spotter when necessary, take steps to keep equipment away from power lines, and make sure everyone knows how to survive if there is an accident.

Your cooperative will continue to be proactive in *public safety awareness around power lines*. The cooperative will also continue to partner with local community groups to send out phone/text safety blasts; air messages on local radio stations; set up safety signs at the local beet receiving stations; distribute truck/equipment safety decals; and continue to offer our "hot-line" safety demonstration for growers, farmers, first responders, and other groups within our community. We need you to do your part. Share the knowledge you have. Have a conversation with your family members about the dangers of overhead power lines. Have that same conversation with all seasonal, part-time or full-time employees. Knowledge is power. Let's work together to eliminate the next "close call." ■



## **NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THUMB ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

**A special Member Meeting is set for November 21, 6:30 p.m., at the cooperative's Ubyly office.**

The board of directors will consider changes to the cooperative's rate and tariffs at its meeting on November 21, 2017, to be held at the Cooperative office at 2231 Main Street, Ubyly, Mich. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. and is open to all members of Thumb Electric Cooperative.

The session will begin with an opportunity for members to provide input to the board of directors on the items being considered. Time constraints on each member's comments will be at the discretion of the board chairman, but members are asked to keep comments to less than five minutes.

The following will be considered:

- Establish the 2018 Power Supply Cost Recovery Factor, to be applied to the cooperative's retail member-consumers' monthly kilowatt-hour use. The Power Supply Cost Recovery Factor represents the power supply costs as established by the cooperative and its power supplier. The factor is established annually and reviewed monthly.
- Close existing tariffs D-23.00 (net metering program-generators with a capacity of 20 KW and less) & D-23.10 (modified net metering program-generators with a capacity of greater than 20KW and not more than 150 KW) to new participants.
- Establish new tariffs D-23.20 (distributed renewable energy program-generators with a capacity of 20KW and less) and D-23.30 (distributed renewable energy program-generators with a capacity greater than 20 KW and not more than 150 KW).
- Revise tariff D-17:00 (requirements for pole attachments).

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.

Participation: Any interested member may attend and participate. The location of the board meeting site is accessible, including handicapped parking. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact Thumb Electric Cooperative at 800-327-0166 a week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. Comments may also be made before the meeting date by calling General Manager Dallas Braun, or by email at [dbraun@tecmi.coop](mailto:dbraun@tecmi.coop).

# 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](http://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](http://irs.gov/EITC)  
 Michigan Dept. of Treasury  
[michigan.gov/treasury](http://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](http://michigan.gov/mdhhs)

**State Emergency Relief Program (SER):** [michigan.gov/mdhhs](http://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](http://mcaaa.org) to find one in your area.

**Program:** United Way  
**Contact:** Call 2-1-1 or [UWmich.org/2-1-1](http://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](http://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](http://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

**S**aving 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.



THUMB ELECTRIC

# Energy Optimization Rebate Program

Energy Star Rebate	For Energy Star appliances, LED bulbs and fixtures, Energy Star TVs, and much more.
In-Home Energy Audit	Get knowledge on the energy usage of your home and some free energy saving items as well!
HVAC Rebates	Installing a new furnace or AC system? Certain energy-efficient upgrades qualify for incentive dollars.
Appliance Recycling	Got an old refrigerator or freezer eating up your energy budget? Have it recycled and get cash back. Window AC & dehumidifiers qualify under certain conditions.

Agribusiness and commercial programs also available.

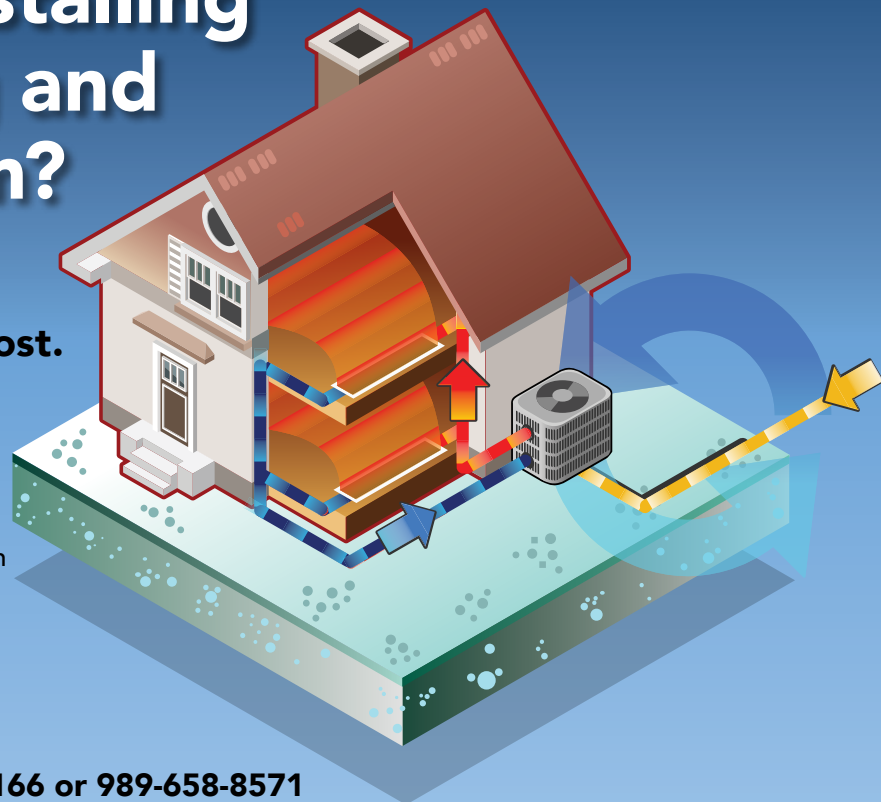
**Call 989-658-8571 or 1-800-327-0166, or visit our website [tecmi.coop](http://tecmi.coop) today to learn specific details.**

## Thinking of installing a new heating and cooling system?

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

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

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



**Call: 1-800-327-0166 or 989-658-8571**  
**[www.tecmi.coop](http://www.tecmi.coop)**





## Employee Spotlight

In the utility world, there are typically two sides of the equation that make sure service remains steady for its customers, or in the case of a cooperative, its members. There is the operations side, which includes linemen and other support staff who make repairs, plug fuses, build and rebuild poles, wires, transformers and other physical structures that deliver energy to your home in a safe and reliable manner. On the other side, there are member services.

Member services makes sure that when you have an issue—whether it's an individual outage during the day, a billing question or concern, a meter that has stopped working, or just about any problem you may encounter—your concerns are resolved in the most efficient manner possible. Our personnel have

even returned to work at 2 a.m. to help tackle large-scale power outages! Our points of the first contact in member services are Jan, Vicki, Angie and Jennifer. They see that your question is answered, your call is redirected to the correct individual, or that your outage gets dispatched to crews who will make that restoration. Our highly qualified staff each have college degrees and has between 16 and 34 plus years of experience at Thumb Electric, giving them the knowledge to resolve your issue.

Away from the office our member service staff stay busy with activities like knitting, hunting, cooking and baking, reading, running, and spending time with family. Thumb Electric would like to thank the entire member service department for their hard work and dedication. ■

# 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](http://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*:

**"Flatbreads and Pizzas" due December 1**

**"Potatoes" due January 1**

**"Indulgent Desserts" due February 1**

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

## Tree Trimming Efforts Continue

Tree trimming continues at an aggressive pace as we wind down on 2017. Areas that started off wet early in the year have dried out and are now being gone through as access has been possible. Removing and trimming trees make for fewer outages and shorter duration of outages that do occur because of these efforts. Priorities will continue for line sections that are historically problematic lines, followed by overgrown sections. As time allows, less severe circuits will be maintained.

Members in Greenleaf, Austin and Elkland townships will continue to see crews this year, as the area has been hit especially hard with diseased and aging trees falling on lines, sometimes from far out of our right-of-way. Members in Fremont, Vassar, Dayton, Juniata and Indianfield Townships will see crews as well as part of regular system maintenance. Also, as part of the Ubly to Kinde transmission project, tree trimming will take place in parts of Bingham, Verona and Lincoln Townships. Due to a disease in the Ash tree, which is a very popular species of tree in our service territory, we have had to adjust our trimming locations. It has made planning a challenge at times, but we make every effort to contact members ahead of the trimmers. We will send out a postcard to members to let them know trimmers will be in the area and, at times, we will try and call members to let them know the plan for their area. If you have an updated phone number, please call us with your new contact information.



## Ubly to Kinde Transmission Rebuild Continues

Thumb Electric contractors will continue upgrading and rebuilding the 41.6kv transmission line between Ubly and Kinde this fall and through the winter months. Work was at a standstill for a time in September and October as crews were called to help with the restoration efforts in Florida due to Hurricane Irma. Transmission lines feed higher voltage power to substations where the voltage can be reduced for distribution to the wires and poles that go by your home. The current line has been in service since the 1950s and is starting to show its age with reliability during bad weather. The new line, where possible, will be brought up near the road right of way and taken out of deep right of way where access can be difficult with bucket trucks and other equipment needed during restoration efforts. Once the new line is operational, the old line will be removed.

## Several Payment Options Available

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

## Appliance Recycling Nears Season End

Appliance recycling will be closed for the year as of November 15, but there is still a small window to schedule a pick up. Our appliance recycling partner SEEL will pick up an old working refrigerator or freezer, and we will credit your account \$50. If they have scheduled to pick up a refrigerator or freezer, they will also schedule to pick up a dehumidifier or a window AC unit you wish to recycle. Those are worth a \$20 bill credit. Call 844-631-2130 to schedule your pick up today! We anticipate the program starting up again next spring around April 1, 2018. Thank you for all of your participation in our Energy Optimization programs. ■



# Contribute to THAW

(The Heat And Warmth Fund)

Keep this child—and thousands of others like him—warm this winter.



## Neighbors helping neighbors in need.

- A family had funeral expenses that caused them to fall behind in their utility bill payments. THAW helped to keep the heat and electricity on during this difficult time.
- A senior citizen with an annual income of \$7,000 has to pay a large, unexpected medical bill and falls behind on utility payments.
- A 42-year-old husband with two children is laid-off. He can't find another job, his unemployment runs out...and the utility bills don't get paid.

Also visit  
**thawfund.org**  
for more  
information.

These are just some of the people helped by The Heat And Warmth Fund (THAW).

THAW is a nonprofit organization that provides last-resort energy assistance to low-income families in Thumb Electric Cooperative's service area. THAW has helped more than 75,000 Michigan senior citizens and families (more than one-half with children) keep their heat and electricity on during the winter months.

Please make a donation to THAW. Your tax-deductible contribution will help someone in your community keep their heat and electricity on this winter.

Please complete and mail the clip-out form below, along with your donation to: **Department 77650, THAW Fund, P.O. Box 77000, Detroit, MI 48277-0650**. Or, make a contribution using VISA or MasterCard by calling **800-866-THAW** (or 8429). Your gift is tax-deductible.

Yes!

I want to help someone in my community keep their heat and electricity on this winter. Enclosed is my check or money order payable to THAW. I understand my gift is tax deductible.

☐ \$10

☐ \$25

☐ \$50

☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO:

Dept. 77650  
THAW Fund  
P.O. Box 77000  
Detroit, MI  
48277-0650

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

To make a contribution using VISA or MasterCard, call 1-800-866-THAW (or 8429) or visit [thawfund.org](http://thawfund.org).

# 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.





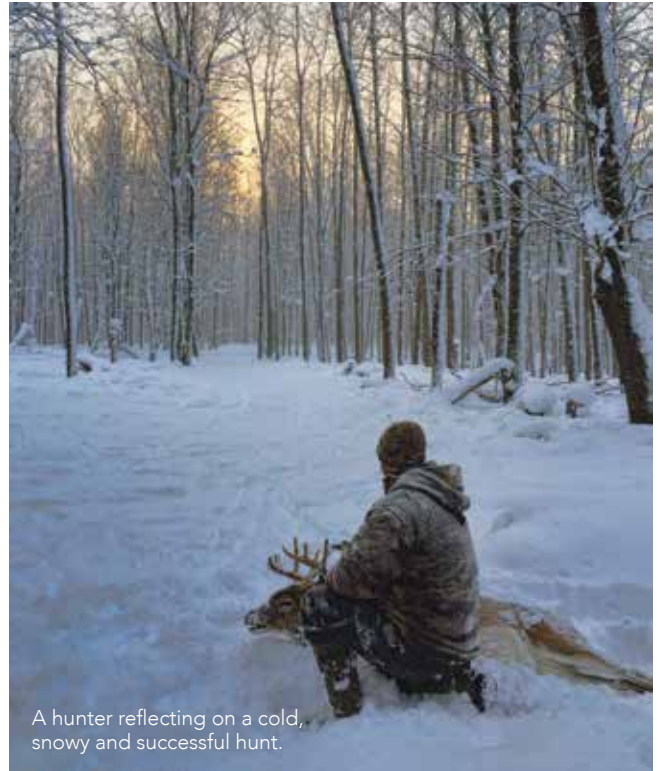
A father and daughter heading off for quality time.



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.

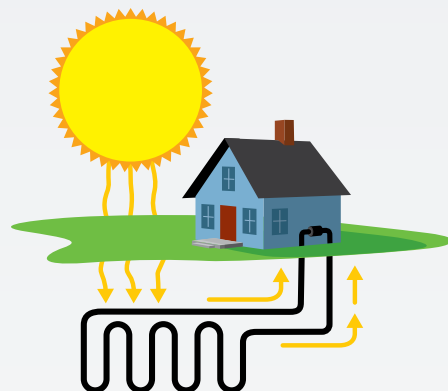
“Of course I love being out there and taking one of our hunters out for the day,” said Bollman. “But it’s not about me—it’s about creating that awesome experience for someone else. That’s what Sanctuary Ranch is all about. That’s the tradition we want to be a part of.” ■



**Please visit  
[sanctuary-ranch.com](http://sanctuary-ranch.com)  
for more information.**

# Renewable Geothermal Heat

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



## AirTech Heating LLC

Kinde, MI 48445  
989-551-6555

## All-Temperature Geothermal Systems

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

## Ameriheat, Justin Faber

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

## B & D Heating, Cooling & Plumbing

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

## Burkhard Plumbing & Heating

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

## Certified Temperature Innovations

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

## Roots Heating and Cooling

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

## Geo Renew Systems, Inc.

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

## Geomasters, Inc., Plumbing & Heating

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

## Geothermal Systems of Lapeer, LLC

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

## Holland Heating and Cooling

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

## Ingell Refrigeration

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

## J & B Plumbing & Heating

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

## Jack McCain Plumbing & Heating

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

## Kowaleski Heating & Cooling, LLC

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

## Kulek Heating & Air Conditioning

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

## Kundinger & Kroll

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

## Lakeshore Improvements

**Plumbing & Heating**  
7825 Big Gulley Rd., Palms, MI 48465  
989-864-3833

## Michigan Energy Services

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

## NRG Control

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

## Newton-Johnson Plumbing & Heating

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

## Orton Refrigeration

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

## Preferred Heating

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

## Priority Service by Porter & Heckman

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

## Shetler Plumbing & Heating

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

## Superior, Inc.

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

## Thumb Cooling & Heating

8430 N Van Dyke Rd, Cass City, MI 48726  
855-206-5457

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

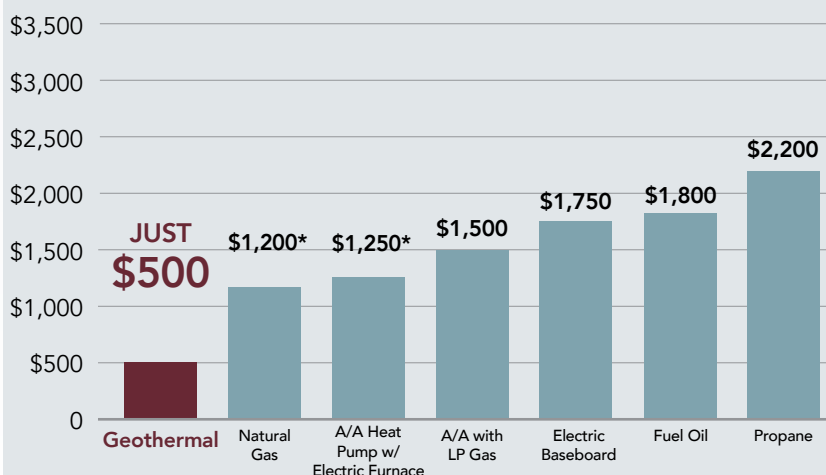
## Well Connect-Terra Caloric

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



## Annual Operating Costs

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



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

\*All electric system comparable to natural gas!



# Back To School



Returning to education or recreation?—Regina Young



Enjoying a trip to Moomer's after the first day of school.  
—By Stefanie Tschirhart-Baldwin



Back to school with friends!—Monica Field



Heading to the bus stop.—Mary Johnson

## Share Your Photos!

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

Upcoming topics and deadlines are: **Furry Friends** due **November 20** for the January 2018 issue and **Talented Kids** due **January 20** for the March issue.

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

We look forward to seeing your best photos!

# Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger Give Back To Community

By Jack O'Malley

**T**he 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](http://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](http://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





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