

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Cherryland Electric Cooperative

Caring Together Through
Cherryland Cares

Crystal Mountain's
Commitment To
Sustainability

In Sickness And
In Health

**Silver Muzzle
Cottage**

*A Rescue & Hospice For
Homeless Senior Dogs*

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Photos By Dre Photography



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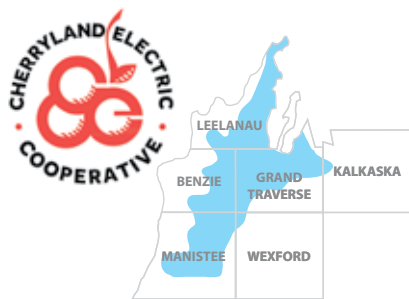
I Remember...

We invite members to share their fondest memories.

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 Cares Awards \$10,150 To Four Nonprofits

At their fourth-quarter board meeting, the Cherryland Cares board awarded a total of \$10,150 in grants to Benzie Area Christian Neighbors, Junior Achievement of Northwest Michigan, Love INC, and TART Trails. In total, Cherryland Cares awarded over \$36,000 in grants to area nonprofit agencies in 2017.

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

Local Students Can Apply For Youth Tour In Washington, D.C.

High school sophomores and juniors from Cherryland's service territory are invited to join the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour: a once-in-a-lifetime, all-expenses-paid leadership travel opportunity to Washington, D.C. June 9–14.

Two local students will have the chance to explore the leadership lessons of our nation's history and immerse themselves in the cooperative spirit with other students from around the state and country.

Applications must be submitted by Wednesday, Feb. 28. For more information and to apply, visit CooperativeYouthTour.com.

Cherryland Offers Five Scholarships

Cherryland offers five scholarships—three worth \$4,000 (\$1,000 for four years) for high school seniors and two for \$1,000 each for adult scholarship (post high school).

Applications for both scholarships are available on the Cherryland website or by contacting Cherryland's office at 231-486-9200.

Members Can Serve On Cherryland's Board

Any qualified Cherryland member can be elected to serve a three-year term on the cooperative's board of directors. Two directors will be elected at this year's annual meeting, including one Grand Traverse/Kalkaska county director and one at-large director.

To be nominated, candidates can file a petition with the cooperative's administrative assistant starting the first day of March until 4 p.m. on the last business day of March, which is Mar. 29. Nominating petitions are available on the Cherryland website and at the co-op office in Grawn.

For more information regarding board nominations and the election process, review Article III of the co-op's bylaws on the Cherryland website.

Members Mark Calendars For 80th Annual Meeting

Cherryland's 80th Annual Meeting will take place Thursday, June 21, at Incredible Mo's in Grawn. Mark your calendars for an evening of food, fun, and information.



Caring Together

Tony Anderson, General Manager

On September 25, 1996, the Cherryland Electric Community Caring Fund filed its articles of incorporation and members began using their pocket change to make a difference in our communities. More than 10 years ago, the name was changed to Cherryland Cares.

Since its humble beginnings in 1996, Cherryland Cares has allowed members of Cherryland Electric Cooperative to round up their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar. This pocket change is then governed by an independent board of directors and awarded to area non-profits and individuals in need of assistance during hard times on a quarterly basis.

Today, we have 4,050 members rounding up their bill each month. On average, they are donating \$6 per year per member to the 501(c)3 non-profit entity. Over the last decade, these collective donations have amounted to \$400,000 to entities like Father Fred, Goodwill, TART Trails, Benzie Area Christian Neighbors, Love INC, Leelanau County Cancer Foundation, Junior Achievement, Habitat For Humanity, TCAPS Step Program, Boots For Kids, Child and Family Services, Northwest Michigan Supportive Housing, and dozens of other worthwhile causes.

Pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters can have a tremendous impact when we all toss them into the same jar.

We would like to see even more contributions in the future. With more than 35,000 meters in service, we certainly have the potential to go far higher than 4,050 members. Pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters can have a tremendous impact when we all toss them into the same jar.

Some members are going beyond the simple rounding up. They are beginning to make monthly donations of \$5 or

\$10 on top of the average 50 cent contribution. Others are making one-time donations to Cherryland Cares in amounts nearing \$100.

It is as simple as calling our office at 231-486-9200 and telling a member service representative that you want to round your bill up for Cherryland Cares or that you want to make an even larger donation. Whatever you decide can simply be added to your next monthly bill.

At their December 18, 2017, board meeting, your board of directors made the decision to match every dollar donated to Cherryland Cares. Thus, moving forward, when you round up for \$6 per year, add \$5 per month or make a one-time donation, your generosity becomes \$12, \$10 or something much larger.

Your board is using what will be a small percentage of unclaimed capital credits to make this matching contribution. Unclaimed capital credits are margins (profits) owed to members no longer on our system and who left no forwarding address.

Tapping these funds for a charitable purpose like Cherryland Cares does not hit our operating expenses and therefore, will not affect our rates going forward. They will affect the equity we carry on our balance sheet only.

Your board and management feel strongly that using a tiny portion of these funds to benefit worthwhile organizations will show the commitment we have in the Cherryland Cares effort. When we encourage you all to contribute, you need to know that the organization is behind you completely as well.

Please seriously consider rounding up your bill or making a donation to Cherryland Cares today. Call 231-486-9200 during normal working hours as soon as possible. If we all care together, we can make an even greater impact on our communities in the decades to come.

NO BARRIERS

ADVENTURES FOR RURAL VETERANS—APPLY BY FEB. 28

Michigan electric cooperatives believe there should be “No Barriers” for veterans with disabilities. That’s the name and idea behind CoBank’s No Barriers initiative. Michigan cooperatives are looking for qualified veterans* from our local community to participate.

No Barriers is a five-day, all-expenses-paid, expedition in Colorado, designed to help veterans with disabilities transform their lives through curriculum-based experience in challenging environments (climbing, rafting and hiking).

If you are a disabled veteran, or you know of a disabled veteran in our community who would like to participate in the No Barriers program, please complete the form on our website:

countrylines.com/nobarriers

**Must have VA disability rating to be eligible.*



ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
YOUTH TOUR

Michigan Co-ops Inspire
Tomorrow’s Leaders This Summer

June 9–14, 2018

Youth Tour applications accepted
between now and Feb. 28.

Encourage your favorite high school
sophomore or junior to apply!



YOUTH TOUR 2018

Learn more at **CooperativeYouthTour.com**.

Portable Generator SAFETY TIPS

Always read the Owner's Manual and instructions for your generator. Do NOT cut corners when it comes to safety.

These tips are merely supplemental and are not intended as a substitute for reading the Owner's Manual.



Carbon Monoxide And Ventilation

- Using a generator indoors **can kill you in minutes.** Exhaust contains carbon monoxide, a deadly, poisonous gas you cannot see or smell.
- NEVER run a generator indoors or in partly-enclosed areas, such as garages.
- ONLY use outdoors and far from windows, doors, vents, and crawl spaces and in an area where adequate ventilation is available and deadly exhaust gas cannot accumulate.
- Using a fan or opening doors and windows will not provide sufficient ventilation.
- It is recommended that you install battery operated carbon monoxide alarms/detectors indoors according to manufacturer's instructions/recommendations.

Gasoline, Fueling And Burn Safety

- Do not overfill the fuel tank. Always allow room for fuel expansion.
- If the tank is over-filled, fuel can overflow onto a hot engine and cause fire or explosion.
- Never add fuel while the unit is running or hot. Allow the generator and engine to cool entirely before adding fuel.
- Never store a generator with fuel in the tank where gasoline vapors might reach an open flame, spark or pilot light.
- Many generator parts are hot enough to burn you during operation and while the generator is cooling after turning off. Avoid coming into contact with a hot generator.

Electrocution Hazard And Electrical Shock Hazards

- Do not connect your generator directly to your home's wiring or into a regular household outlet.
- Connecting a portable electric generator directly to your household wiring can be deadly to you and others. A generator that is directly connected to your home's wiring can "back feed" onto the power lines connected to your home and injure neighbors or utility workers.
- Only start or stop the generator when no electrical loads are connected.
- Overloading your generator can seriously damage your valuable appliances and electronics. Do not overload the generator. Prioritize your needs; do not operate more appliances and equipment than the output rating of the generator. A portable electric generator

should be used only when necessary and only to power essential equipment.

- Use the proper power cords. Plug individual appliances into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated cords with a wire gauge adequate for the appliance load. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage. Do not use extension cords with exposed wires or worn shielding.
- Do not operate the generator in wet conditions such as rain or snow.
- The generator must be properly grounded. If the generator is not grounded, you run the risk of electrocution. Check and adhere to all applicable federal, state and local regulations related to grounding.

Generator Placement And Operation

- Allow at least five feet of clearance on all sides of the generator when operating.
- Generators can be used during a wide variety of weather temperatures, but should be protected from the elements when not in use to prevent shorting and rusting.
- Operate the generator only on level surfaces and where it will not be exposed to excessive moisture, dirt, dust or corrosive vapors.
- Inspect the generator regularly.
- Always disconnect the spark plug wire and place the wire where it cannot contact the spark plug to prevent accidental starting when setting up, transporting, adjusting or making repairs to the generator.

Source: American Red Cross with technical advice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Fire Protection Association (publisher of the National Electric Code®) and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.



Jim MacInnes, CEO of Crystal Mountain, has long been passionate about sustainability, clean energy, and protecting natural resources.



The Snowball Effect —

By James A. Curtis

Ski season is in full swing, and while Crystal Mountain CEO Jim MacInnes has seen his share of exciting winters at the award-winning Thompsonville resort, he always marvels at the power snow has on the landscape—and the people.

"Snow has this mesmerizing power to calm the spirit, but also calls us to 'come out and play,'" said MacInnes. "Its beauty is a constant reminder why we dedicate ourselves to its preservation."

Crystal Mountain's leadership has long been passionate about sustainability, clean energy, and protecting natural resources as a core value of its business practices. Its dedication to sustainability is embedded throughout the resort, from promotional materials made from recycled paper, environmentally-friendly cleaning products, and energy-efficient lighting, to building the Midwest's first "Green" spa to be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified by the U.S. Green Building Council.



Jim MacInnes



The resort has also made significant investments to lower its carbon footprint, transitioning the new inn's fossil fuel heat to a closed-loop geothermal system, utilizing 150 electric carts for golfing and an all-electric vehicle for resort security, as well as providing guests and staff with five complimentary electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. Crystal Mountain was also among the first to install free public EV charging in northern Michigan.

"Just like a rolling snowball, each action we take towards sustainability compounds," said MacInnes. "With enough collective action, we can create an avalanche of change."

Crystal Mountain's commitment to guests and community has resulted in numerous awards, both in tourism and environmental circles. Most recently, the resort was named "Top 12 Best Family Ski Resort in U.S. and Canada" by *Conde Nast Traveler*, "Innovator of the Year" by Michigan Governor's Energy Excellence Awards, and "Environmentalism of the Year" by the Northern Michigan

Environmental Action Council. In 2010, MacInnes was among the first to be named a "Green Leader" by the *Detroit Free Press*.

"We're very proud of our achievements as hosts and neighbors," said MacInnes. "We hope it inspires others to make the changes they can and add to our big, growing snowball."

When it comes to clean energy, MacInnes has long valued the partnership of Cherryland Electric Cooperative and Wolverine Power Cooperative as a Michigan leader. In 2018, MacInnes has another milestone to celebrate as the cooperatives now lead Michigan's transition to a low-carbon future—Crystal Mountain and all other members are now powered by 56 percent carbon-free energy.

"We're thankful our energy provider cares as much about environmental stewardship as we do," said MacInnes. "We're proud to be cooperative members."



Photos—Robert Bruce Photography

Pizza! Pizza!

Take out? No way! Make perfect pizza at home with these simple recipes.

Farmhouse Pizza (pictured in top photo)

Deb Finedell, Great Lakes Energy

- one pre-made pizza crust (or make your own from scratch)
- Creamy Caesar dressing (amount depends on size of crust)
- smoked gouda cheese, ham and sun dried tomatoes (or any toppings you like)

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Spread Creamy Caesar dressing on the crust. Add toppings. Bake for 20–25 minutes or until golden brown. Let sit for 5 minutes before serving. Enjoy!



Watch a video of this recipe at
<https://goo.gl/5bWmPE>



Homemade Pizza

Elizabeth Coates, Cherryland

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 cup warm water at 105–115 degrees | 1 teaspoon sugar |
| 1 standard packet yeast (2¼ teaspoons) | 1 teaspoon salt |
| 2½ cups flour | • mozzarella cheese |
| 2 tablespoons olive oil | • tomato sauce |
| | • favorite toppings of choice |

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Dissolve yeast in warm water in a medium-sized bowl; let stand for 5 minutes. Add flour, olive oil, sugar and salt. Stir vigorously for 2 minutes, then let rest for 5 minutes. Grease two cookie sheets or two 12-inch pizza pans. Place the oven rack in lowest position. Divide dough in half. Pat each half into an 11-inch circle on a cookie sheet with floured hands. Sprinkle crust with mozzarella cheese, then spoon tomato sauce mixture over the cheese then add your favorite toppings. Bake one pizza at a time for 15–20 minutes or until crust is golden brown.



Pizza/Flatbread With No Knead Dough

Annie Barnes, Great Lakes Energy

- 3 cups lukewarm water**
- 6-7 cups all purpose flour (I use King Arthur)**
- 1½ tablespoons instant or active dry yeast**
- 1 tablespoon salt**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine all dough ingredients in an ungreased large mixing bowl, at least 6-quart capacity; stir to make a very sticky, rough dough. If you have a stand mixer, beat at medium speed for 30 to 60 seconds, or just stir with a big spoon until everything is combined.

Cover bowl and let rise at room temperature for 2 hours. Refrigerate at least 2 hours or for up to about seven days. If you're pressed for time, skip the room-temperature rise and stick it right into the fridge. The longer you keep it in the fridge, the tangier it will get. When ready, take out as much dough as you need (1/3 of the dough makes a large half sheet pan of pizza), oil your hands and lightly oil baking sheet and spread the dough out. If it springs back, let it rest for 5 minutes, then spread it more. If you're using a pizza stone or a grill, flour your surface and then spread the dough out.

Add your favorite toppings. Don't pile on the toppings too thick or the pizza will be soggy in the middle. Use a pizza peel to transfer your pizza to the oven/grill. Bake for 20-30 minutes, depending on pizza size, until the crust is nicely browned on the bottom. Let sit 5 minutes and then cut into serving pieces.



Entertaining & Potluck . . . due March 1

Spice It Up . . . due April 1

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

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

Enter to win a
\$50
energy bill
credit!

Featured Guest Chef

If you love a good hotdog and you're as busy as the folks at Silver Muzzle Cottage, this classic and easy Coney Dog Sauce is perfect for parties, picnics or a plain old Wednesday night.



Coney Dog Sauce

- 2 pounds ground beef**
- ½ cup chopped onion**
- 1½ cups ketchup**
- ¼ cup granulated sugar**
- ¼ cup white vinegar**
- ¼ cup yellow mustard**
- ½ teaspoon celery seed**
- ¾ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce**
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper**
- ¾ teaspoon salt**

Cook ground beef and onion in a skillet on medium-high heat until beef is browned. Drain. Transfer the beef and onion to a slow cooker and stir in remaining ingredients. Cover and simmer on low setting for 2-3 hours. To serve up a classic Coney dog, top a hotdog and bun with the simmered sauce, raw onion and yellow mustard.

Read the full story about Silver Muzzle Cottage on page 14, and find this recipe and others at micoopkitchen.com.

>> What's on that pole?

This illustration shows basic equipment found on electric power distribution poles. Not all poles have all this equipment on them. They vary according to location and the service they provide.

>> Primary wires run on top. Each usually carries 7,200 volts of electricity from a substation.

>> A crossarm holds power lines, allowing required clearances between lines.

>> Surge arrestors protect the transformer from lightning strikes.

>> A secondary service drop carries 120/240-volts of electricity to the end user. It has two "hot" wires from the transformer, and a bare neutral wire connected to the ground wire on the pole.

>> Telephone and cable TV lines are typically the lowest wires.

>> A head-high "birthmark" shows the size of the pole, as well as where and when it was made.

>> 40-foot poles are sunk six feet into the ground.

>> Insulators (made of porcelain or a composite) prevent energized wires from contacting each other or the pole.

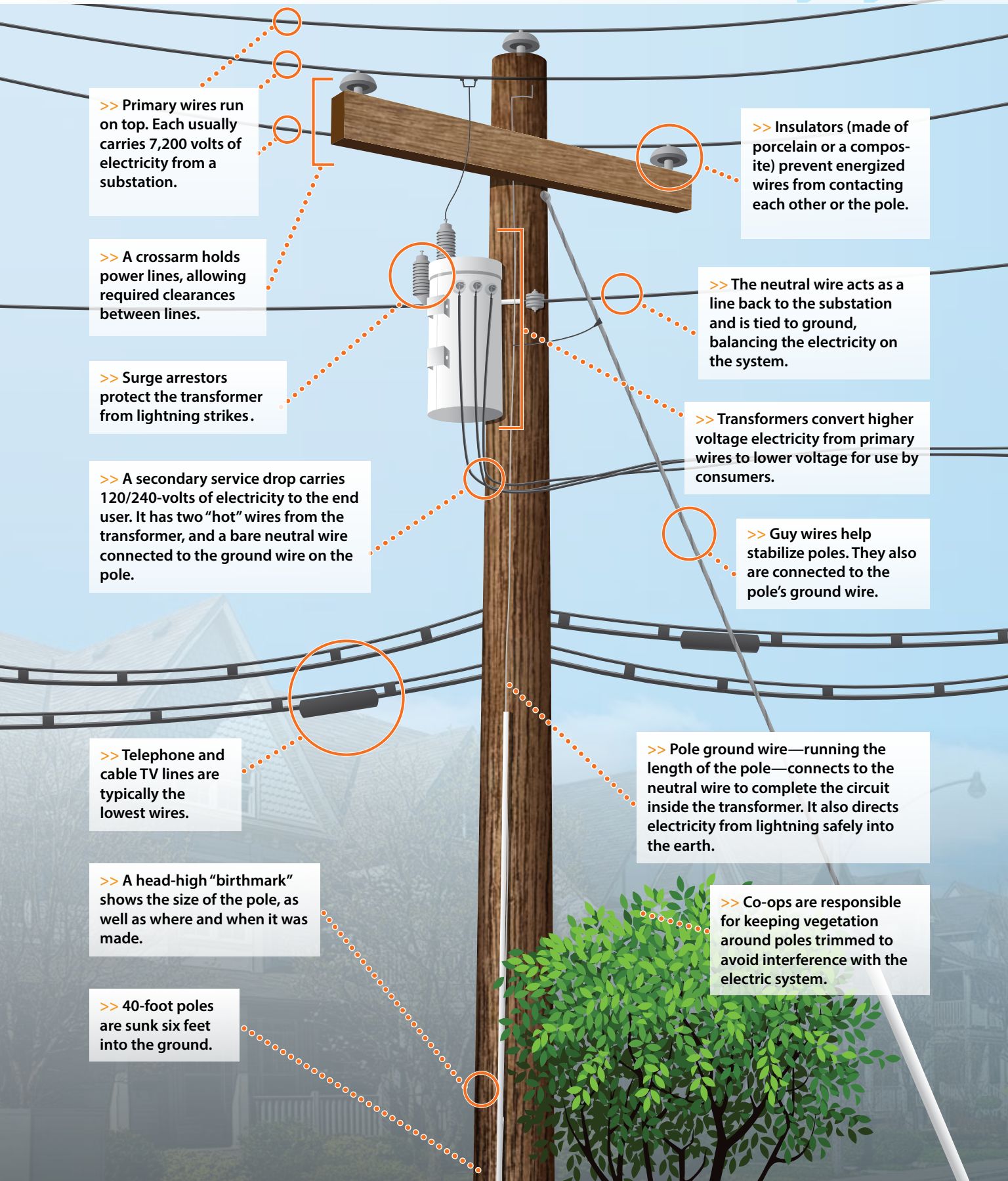
>> The neutral wire acts as a line back to the substation and is tied to ground, balancing the electricity on the system.

>> Transformers convert higher voltage electricity from primary wires to lower voltage for use by consumers.

>> Guy wires help stabilize poles. They also are connected to the pole's ground wire.

>> Pole ground wire—running the length of the pole—connects to the neutral wire to complete the circuit inside the transformer. It also directs electricity from lightning safely into the earth.

>> Co-ops are responsible for keeping vegetation around poles trimmed to avoid interference with the electric system.





In Sickness And In Health

By Rachel Johnson, Member Relations Manager

On a beautiful fall day 10 years ago, my husband and I vowed to stand by each other in sickness and in health. It was easy to say those words. It's much harder to live them.

I was in my 20s when we married. The "in sickness" portion of our marriage seemed decades away. It wasn't.

This last year has challenged the mettle of our marriage and has forced me to live up to my vows. It was a task I was woefully unprepared for and honestly not well-suited to do. Anyone who knows me will tell you; I'm not much of a nurturer.

But, here's the thing about marriage, it doesn't really care what comes naturally to you. It's not a vow to do what is easy; it's a vow to do what is needed. I had an amazing example of that lesson growing up.

My grandparents were married in 1942 and remained married for 67 years. They had a very traditional marriage. My grandfather worked for 48 years in a blue-collar job and my grandmother raised seven children.

She tended an enormous garden that fed the family, she cooked and baked, she cleaned and mended her family's clothes. She did laundry with a clothes wringer for as long as I can remember.

Then, in 2000, she started showing signs of Alzheimer's. It wasn't a surprise; it runs in the family. It was, however, a challenge. The caregiver of the family had become the one in need of caretaking.

It is only recently that I've come to understand the tremendous act of love that came next.

For the next seven years, my grandfather cared for my grandmother at home. He gardened, he cooked, he cleaned. He had help from the rest of the family. But, ultimately, my blue-collar grandfather became his wife's caregiver. The bread earner became the bread maker.

Eventually, her physical needs and his advancing age made it impossible for him to care for her at home. In 2007, she moved into a nursing home and spent the remaining two years of her life there. Every single day my grandfather drove to the home and spent hours reading to her and eating

meals with her. While he stopped seeing to her physical needs, he continued to take such sweet care of her.

As we near Valentine's Day, my grandparents' type of love is the love to which I aspire. It isn't flashy and nobody is going to make a Hallmark movie about it. It is a love that is steady and sweet. One that changes and evolves. And one that makes good on the early promises to have and to hold, even when it's not easy.



My cherished grandparents, Bill and Mildred, on Christmas Day in 2007.

"It is a love that is steady and sweet. One that changes and evolves. And one that makes good on the early promises to have and to hold, even when it's not easy."



Captain
13 years old;
sweet, gentle,
slow mover

Silver Muzzle Cottage

A Rescue & Hospice For Homeless Senior Dogs

By Emily Haines Lloyd // Photos By Dre Photography

"The truth is, I'm selfish."

Those words don't quite ring true when you're speaking to Kim Skarritt-Nelson, owner of Bowsers By The Bay, and founder and program director for Silver Muzzle Cottage Rescue & Hospice in Rapid City. Skarritt-Nelson is the heart and soul of this organization that looks to place or care for senior dogs that have been surrendered or abandoned by their previous owners.

"You see," Skarritt-Nelson explains, "I get as much out of the time spent with these amazing animals as they do."

Skarritt-Nelson's "selfishness" began when she left corporate America in 2004 and opened Bowsers By The Bay in Elk Rapids in 2011. This cage-free boarding home, grooming center and behavior therapy clinic for dogs offers everyday encounters with a variety of beloved breeds.

However, as Skarritt-Nelson became more involved in the community, she saw a disturbing trend.

"Over and over again, I would see senior or terminal dogs in shelters," said Skarritt-Nelson. "They were either dropped off by their owners who could no longer care for them or, even more heartbreaking, these animals were abandoned and left to fend for themselves."



Parker
12 years old;
recently adopted

Silver Muzzle Cottage, to date, has rescued more than 110 senior dogs.



Gracie
10 year old Lab mix;
sweet and gentle

Kim
Founder, Silver Muzzle Cottage

***“Our rescue takes dogs
of all breeds and sizes.”***

—Kim Skarritt-Nelson



Reese
12 years old;
a gentle giant



Emily
13 years old and blind;
a permanent resident of
the Cottage, truly an angel

In a typical shelter older dogs are often overlooked for more energetic puppies, while the terminally ill dogs are often euthanized. Over 2,000 senior dogs are without homes within 500 miles of Traverse City, she learned. Skarritt-Nelson’s heart couldn’t take it.

That’s when she created Silver Muzzle Cottage—a unique rescue mission for senior dogs and hospice care for terminally ill dogs. Unlike overcrowded shelters, Silver Muzzle provides a home-like environment where dogs roam freely during the day and sleep on large pillow beds or sofas at night, often curled up with their new pack family.

“These dogs once were loved by an individual or a family,” said Skarritt-Nelson. “We believe that they should feel that same love at the end of their life as well.”

As big as Skarritt-Nelson’s heart is, even she can’t attend to all the needs of each dog in her care, which is why a dedicated team of volunteers are critical to Silver Muzzle’s success. Volunteers take the shelter’s beloved pack on trips to the beach, walks in the woods, drives into town for ice cream, or even just long, lazy naps on Skarritt-Nelson’s newly-acquired 15 acres in Rapid City. The new location is undergoing constant renovations to provide an amazing quality of life for its canine residents and accommodate even more needy dogs in the future.

Volunteers even gather together when it’s finally time for some of their hospice pets to say goodbye. Surrounded by loving words, lots of animals and heartfelt farewells, Silver Muzzle’s team sends beloved friends off with all the love and companionship each dog deserves.

With heartwarming touches and thoughtful experiences like that, it’s easy to say that the world could do with a little more selfishness like Skarritt-Nelson and the team at Silver Muzzle Cottage. 🐾



Mongo
8 year old
Dane/Mastiff mix;
has no idea he
weighs 130 lbs

With 12–20 dogs onsite on a daily basis, there’s always plenty to do! If you are interested in helping Silver Muzzle Cottage, volunteers can take dogs out on adventures, lend a hand with custodial work that allows the residents a clean home, or assist with administrative work like writing thank you notes or stuffing envelopes.

Visit silvermuzzlecottage.com to see how you can help.



Photo Contest

Winter Sports

1. "Ryder riding his snowmobile in northern Michigan" by Erika Girven
2. "The tipping point..." by Lynne Severt
3. "Winter hike in search of Lake Michigan ice caves" by Theresa Lelito
4. "Snowmobiles and Snow Angels" by Ronda Howard
5. "Wheeee!" by Stefanie Tschirhart-Baldwin



Submit Your "Heroes" Photo!

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.

Our February theme is Heroes. Photos can be submitted from February 1 to February 20 to be featured in our April issue.

Enter Your Photos And Win A Bill Credit!

To enter the contest visit facebook.com/cherrylandelectriccoop and click "Photo Contest" from the menu tabs. If you're not on Facebook, that's okay. You can also enter the contest at cherrylandelectric.coop/photo-contest. Enter your picture, cast your vote, and encourage others to vote for you as well.

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.

Enter to win a
\$200
energy bill
credit!

Your Board In Action

December Board Meeting Highlights

- The co-op's member relations manager reported to the board that 139 members newly signed up to contribute to Cherryland Cares after a sign-up drive in November. Cherryland Cares is a charitable fund overseen by a group of five volunteer Cherryland members who review grant applications and allocate money to non-profit organizations seeking assistance. Cherryland Cares is funded by members electing to round up their monthly electric bill to the nearest dollar.
- The board approved a proposal to match members' 2018 contributions to Cherryland Cares with unclaimed capital credits. Unclaimed capital credits are profits (also known as margins) owed to members no longer on Cherryland's system and who left no forwarding address. These matching contributions affect neither the co-op's operating expenses nor rates.
- The board approved the purchase of a new co-op road sign. After 15 years of service, the old road sign broke beyond repair. The new sign will continue to display the time and temperature to motorists.



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The subscription may be canceled at any time. If you choose to cancel your subscription, you must wait 12 months from the cancellation date before re-enrolling.

I Remember...



Michigan Memories

It was 1942, and I was four years old when my parents moved about six miles to a different farm home. There had been a storm that blew down our barn and killed some cows, and my mother had found a rattlesnake in the kitchen of our farmhouse. My dad, Amos, purchased a different farm west of Edmore near Six Lakes. He tied all of our cattle together and led them right down M-46 to our new farm. My mother, Nellie, drove a team of horses pulling a steel-wheel wagon that was carrying my sister, two brothers and me. Three more sisters would be added to the family at the new farm. I do not believe that move would be possible today with all of the hundreds of different vehicles that now travel that same highway.

It was so exciting to explore our new home, but the thing that I most remember is that it had electric lights. That was a new experience for us. There was a single lightbulb in the middle of the ceiling with a pull string, and we pulled the string turning the light on and off until the bulb broke.

The yard had a tall pine tree that stood in front of the house, and we would climb it. Since that time the barn and the house have both burned, but the huge, 100-year-old pine tree is still proudly standing and can be seen for a mile. I served in the U.S. Navy and then returned to Six Lakes and now live in view of my old farm home and that beautiful, old pine tree.

Nile Pool, HomeWorks Tri-County

Catch And Release

Catch and Release has had a strong meaning throughout my life.

As a young girl, we lived down the street from the owners of camp—a beautiful place on Walloon Lake where I got to spend a good part of my childhood summers riding horses and making lifelong friends. Those gentle horses would let us catch, saddle, and ride them in the corral and were happy upon release to return to their stable for food and rest.

A few years later my parents created a lovely retreat on the banks of the South Branch of the Au Sable River. It was an easy rustic landing where we learned to fly fish and relax as the elusive trout were caught and released.

Many loved ones have shared our river house and have caught our love of the north woods of Michigan. Over the years we have released some mighty important friends and family, but they are still in our hearts and thoughts as we head back up to our beloved spot along the river in the evergreen Michigan forest.

Sally Binard, Great Lakes Energy Cooperative

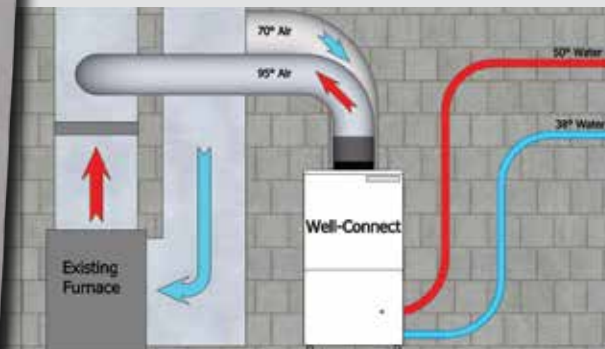


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