

April 2018

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Great Lakes Energy Cooperative

COPPER PEAK:
REACHING
new
HEIGHTS

Free Energy Seminar

**GLE Exceeds State
Performance Standards**

Bill Changes Coming In June



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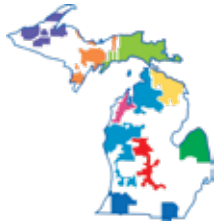
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Photo courtesy of Brad Nelson, NorthernPOV

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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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They're The Power Behind Your Power

Bill Scott, Great Lakes Energy President/CEO

May flowers aren't the only things April showers produce. Spring storms bring outages, too. While Great Lakes Energy strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, Mother Nature sometimes has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that jump into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst—co-op lineworkers.

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. They must perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, they wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more difficult.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. Line crews use their laptops and cell phones to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our case, GLE lineworkers are responsible for keeping over 14,000 miles of lines across 26 counties working, in order to bring power to your home 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

Even though some lineworker tools have changed over the years, the dedication to the job has not changed. During dangerous weather conditions, crews often work around the clock to restore power. While April is known for spring showers, there is also a day set aside to "thank a lineworker."

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 9. So during the month of April, if you see a lineworker, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.



Three Openings On GLE Board



District 1 – **Paul Schemanski**



District 2 – **Mark Carson**



District 7 – **Paul Byl**

Nominating petitions are available in three districts for Great Lakes Energy (GLE) members who wish to seek election to the cooperative's board of directors.

Three board positions, each for three years, will need to be filled. Qualifying GLE members who reside in districts 1, 2 or 7 can seek election to the board.

Counties by district are:

District 1 – Emmet County

District 2 – Charlevoix and Cheboygan counties

District 7 – Oceana and Muskegon counties

The terms of directors Paul Schemanski of Petoskey, Mark Carson of Boyne City, and Paul Byl of Shelby expire this year. The three incumbents plan to seek re-election.

To get their names on the ballot, qualifying member-owners of the electric cooperative who maintain a primary residence within its service area must file a nominating petition with the co-op secretary.

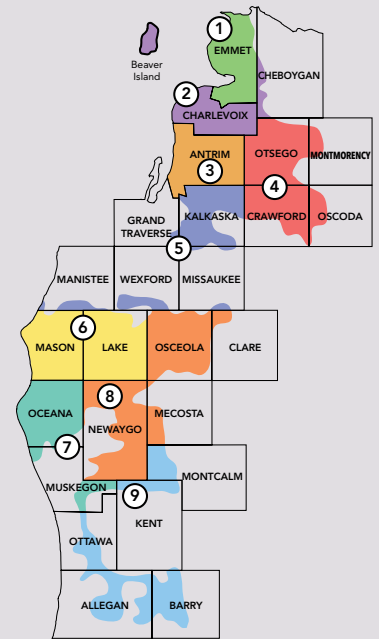
Petitions must be signed by at least 50 active GLE members within the candidate's district.

Petition circulators are advised, but not required, to collect well over 50 signatures because some may not be valid.

Signed petitions returned by mail or in person must be received in the co-op's Boyne City office no earlier than Thursday, May 24, and no later than noon Friday, June 8.

Petition forms are available by contacting 888-485-2537, ext. 1331.

GLE members in each of the three districts will elect one candidate from within their district to fill the three positions on the board. Mail-in ballots will be sent with the July/August 2018 issue of *Michigan Country Lines*. Winners will be announced Aug. 22 at the GLE Annual Business Meeting.



When Do We Vote?

Great Lakes Energy members elect a candidate from within their district to the cooperative's board of directors once every three years.

Find the district you reside in below to determine when you will receive a mail-in ballot. Ballots are mailed in July with the annual election issue of *Michigan Country Lines*.

2018 Election

District 1 – Emmet County

District 2 – Charlevoix and Cheboygan counties

District 7 – Oceana and Muskegon counties

2019 Election

District 6 – Mason and Lake counties

District 8 – Osceola, Clare, Newaygo and Mecosta counties

District 9 – Ottawa, Kent, Montcalm, Allegan and Barry counties

2020 Election

District 3 – Antrim County

District 4 – Otsego, Montmorency, Oscoda and Crawford counties

District 5 – Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Manistee, Missaukee and Wexford counties

Hiring The Right Contractor

By Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen

Renovations to your home can be the perfect time to improve your home's energy efficiency. To make sure you get those energy savings, it's important to do some planning right from the beginning.

The first step is to educate yourself so you can be in control of your project. Helpful, easy-to-understand energy efficiency information is available for virtually any area of your home and any renovation project. Just be sure to use reputable sources, like your local electric co-op, energy.gov or energystar.gov.

You'll need that knowledge so you can judge the solutions each potential contractor proposes. Some products or methods that are sold as effective energy efficiency solutions may not work as well as they claim, or may be too expensive relative to the energy savings they provide.

It's important to talk to your local building department to find out if your project requires a permit and inspections. Some contractors may suggest doing the work without a permit, but unpermitted work can cause problems if you need to file an insurance claim down the road or when you get ready to sell your home.

You can also use your newfound knowledge to ask the right questions of potential contractors. Ask about the product to be installed, the energy savings it should yield and whether it will improve comfort. Because energy efficiency installations and construction are specialized, most measures are unlikely to be installed correctly unless the installer has experience and hopefully some appropriate training or certification.

Finding a contractor can be a challenge, especially in rural areas. Your electric co-op may be able to provide a list of approved contractors in your area. You may decide you'd like to hire a small specialty contractor or a larger general contractor. Either way, it's crucial to hire someone with a contractor's license, a local business license and three types of insurance: liability, personal injury and workers' compensation. Check references to verify the contractor has a solid history of cost-control, timeliness, good communication and excellent results, including significant energy savings. You might learn that your lowest bidder tends to increase the price after the job has begun.

Once you have settled on a contractor, be sure to get a written contract. It should include "as built" details and specifications that include energy performance ratings you have researched ahead of time, such as:

- the name of the individual doing the installation
- the specific R value if you're insulating
- the make, model, the AFUE (annual fuel use efficiency) and COP (coefficient of performance) ratings if you're replacing a furnace (and ask that an efficiency test be conducted before and after the work)
- the make, model and EER (energy efficient ratio) rating if you are replacing the air conditioner. Some contractors can check for duct leakage in the supply and return ductwork with a duct blaster if you're doing any furnace or AC work.
- whether the contractor must pay for the necessary building permits.



Finally, be cautious about pre-paying. Keep the upfront payment as low as possible, set benchmarks the contractor must meet to receive the next payment and make sure a reasonable amount of the payment is not due until the project is completed, passes building inspections and you are fully satisfied. If you don't feel qualified to approve the project, you could even require testing or inspection by an independent energy auditor.

Then, enjoy your new energy efficient space!

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on hiring the right contractor, please visit collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.

As the “first responders” of the electric co-op family, lineworkers perform around-the-clock duties in dangerous conditions and challenging situations to keep power flowing and protect the public’s safety. These brave members of our community go above and beyond to restore power to their neighborhoods and towns, often in the most hazardous environments.

We honor the hardworking men and women who keep the lights on. Resolutions adopted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) explain it best:

“Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on; Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure; Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen; Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the second Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives, materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America’s Electric Cooperatives.”

**Lineworkers are the heart of the co-op nation, proud and strong.
Remember to #ThankALineworker**

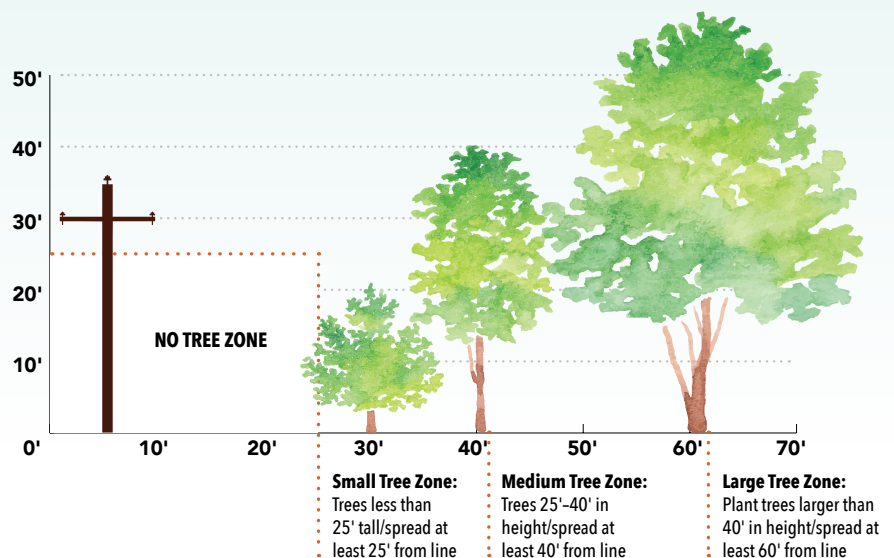


Plant The Right Tree In The Right Place

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard...especially to power lines.

To avoid future electrical hazards, planting tips include:

- Consider the mature height of trees. Any tree that can grow as tall as 25 feet or more should not be planted near overhead power lines. A mature height of less than 15 feet is recommended.
- Do not plant near underground utility services. Tree roots can grow and interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires. Future repairs to these facilities could also damage the health and beauty of nearby plants and trees.
- Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.



Be safe! Always call 811 before you dig to locate any buried utility lines.

Save Now On ENERGY STAR Air Purifiers

If you suffer from allergies, or would simply like to ensure the best air quality in your home, an air purifier is a great investment. Receive a **\$50 cash incentive** through Great Lakes Energy's Energy Optimization program when you purchase an ENERGY STAR® qualified air purifier!

What is an Air Purifier?

Room air purifiers are portable appliances that remove fine particles—such as dust, pollen, pet dander, tobacco smoke and mold spores—from indoor air. Purifiers should be placed as close to the main source of the contaminant as possible, keeping the unit(s) unobstructed and at least a few feet away from televisions, microwaves and stereo equipment. Air purifiers are most effective when all doors and windows are shut.

Why ENERGY STAR?

A standard room air purifier, operating continuously, can use more energy than some new refrigerators! However, ENERGY STAR qualified air purifiers are 40 percent more efficient than standard models, saving you a considerable amount on utility bills.

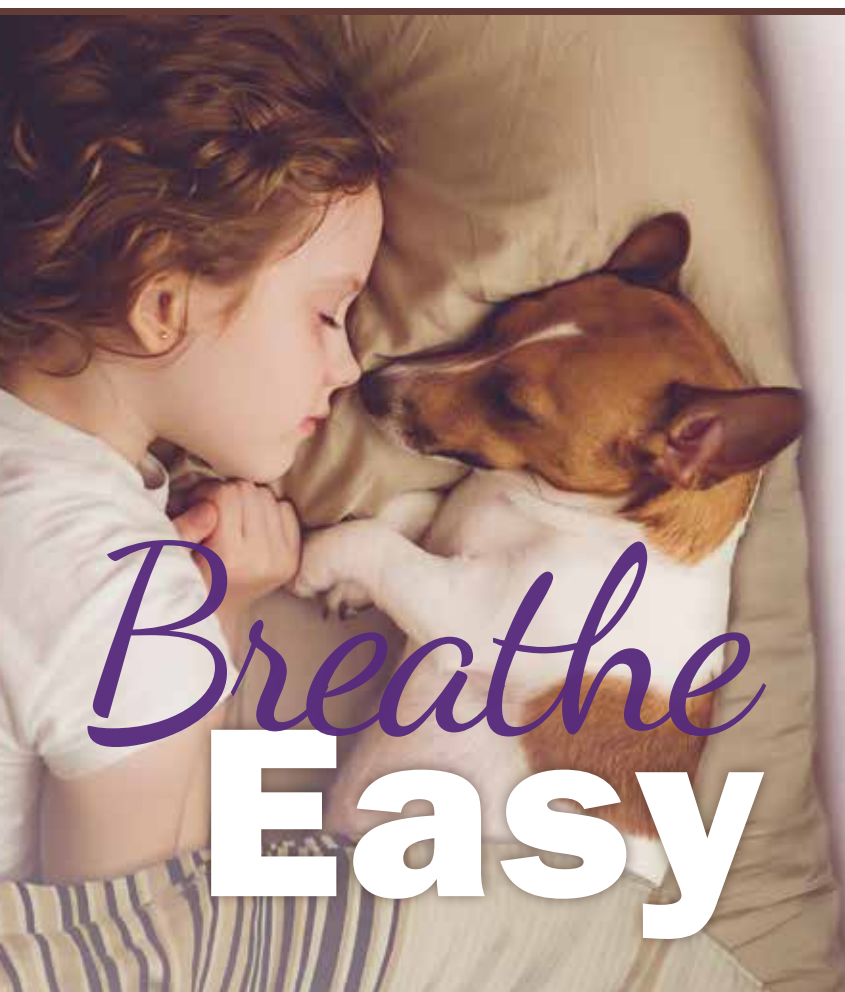
ENERGY STAR is a trusted brand for quality products that use significantly less energy than required by minimum federal standards. All ENERGY STAR products undergo rigorous testing to ensure maximum energy savings.

Receive Cash Back!

To claim your \$50 incentive, submit an application online, or send it to us via mail, fax or email. Include a copy of your sales receipt(s) per the instructions on the form.



As always, visit **michigan-energy.org** or call **877.296.4319** for additional energy-saving information and incentives.



Protect your family with an air purifier.

Reduce indoor pollutants, including:

- Pet dander
- Pollen
- Mold spores
- Seasonal allergens

\$50 CASH INCENTIVE

Purchase an ENERGY STAR® model for cash back and 40% more energy savings!

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org

PHONE: 877.296.4319



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan electric service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit **michigan-energy.org**.

Breathe Easy



GLE Photo Contest Heroes

1. My hero since I first opened my eyes—*Danielle Langworthy, Kalkaska*
2. Veterans welcomed into Ludington—*Steve Begnoche, Ludington*
3. Midnight walking beat alley shadow showdown—*Rich Kinsey, Chelsea*
4. A boy's hero—*Natasha Cummins, Kalkaska*
5. Newaygo CERT volunteer teaching CPR to kids—*Tim Deater, Hesperia*
6. First salute!—*Judy Umlor, Rapid City*



2



5



6



Most votes on Facebook!

1



3



4

Submit Your "Outdoor Adventures" Photo!

Each month members can submit photos on Facebook or our website for our annual photo contest. The photo with the most votes on Facebook is published here along with other selections.

Our April theme is Outdoor Adventures. Photos can be submitted by April 20 to be featured in the June issue.

How To Enter:

Visit [Facebook.com/greatlakesenergy](https://www.facebook.com/greatlakesenergy) and click "Photo Contest" from the menu tabs. Not on Facebook? You can also enter the contest at gtlakes.com/photocontest/. Make sure to vote and encourage others to vote for you, too. The photo receiving the most votes from our online and Facebook contest will be printed in an issue of *Michigan Country Lines* along with some of our other favorites. All photos printed in the magazine throughout the year will be entered to win a \$200 bill credit in December 2018.

Enter to win a
\$200
energy bill
credit!

Divine Desserts

Indulge a little!



Photos—Robert Bruce Photography

Espresso Cheesecake (pictured above)

Jeannette Len, HomeWorks Tri-County

Crust

- 2 cups Oreo cookie crumbs (use entire cookie, including cream)
- 5 tablespoons butter, melted

Cheesecake

- 3 (8-ounce) packages full-fat cream cheese
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 eggs
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup brewed espresso (about 3 shots)

Chocolate Ganache

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup heavy cream
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
- mini chocolate chips, for topping (optional)

Crust: Preheat oven to 350 F. Pulse Oreos in blender or food processor until very fine. Measure out 2 cups of crumbs, roughly $\frac{2}{3}$ of a 14.3-ounce package of Oreo cookies. In a small bowl, combine crumbs with melted butter and mix well. Before adding crumbs to the pan, wrap bottom and sides of a springform pan in three layers of aluminum foil, which will keep the water out during the water bath. Add crumbs to an 8-inch springform pan and distribute evenly, using a cup to press the crumbs into the pan. If desired, press crumbs up the sides of the pan about a half inch. Bake crust for 8 to 10 minutes. Remove pan from oven. Cool to room temperature before adding cheesecake mixture.

Cheesecake: Turn oven down to 325 F. In a large mixing bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth, 2 to 3 minutes. Add in sugar, vanilla, and espresso; beat again. Add eggs, one at a time, beating after each one. Beat mixture for 1 additional minute. Pour cheesecake mixture on top

of cooled crust. Place 8-inch round springform pan inside a 9x13-inch cake pan (or another large pan). Carefully fill 9x13-inch pan with water, about 1-inch below top of the tin foil on the 8-inch pan. Place water bath with the cheesecake in the oven and bake for 60 minutes at 325 F. The cheesecake is done when the center wobbles a little when you jiggle the pan. The edges of the cheesecake should look firmer than the center.

Once cheesecake looks done, turn oven off and open the oven door a little. Allow to cool to room temperature inside the oven before removing, 60 to 90 minutes. Once cooled, remove cheesecake from oven. Carefully take off aluminum foil on edges and place cheesecake (still in pan) in the fridge for a least 6 hours or overnight. Before serving, carefully unmold cheesecake from pan. Allow pan to do most of the work; some of the cheesecake may stick to the pan, but the cheesecake should naturally separate from the pan.

Chocolate Ganache: To make the chocolate ganache, place the chocolate chips in a heat-proof bowl. In a small saucepan over medium heat, bring the heavy cream to a boil. Once boiling, pour the heavy cream over the chocolate chips. Allow mixture to sit for 1 to 2 minutes, melting the chocolate chips, then stir well to mix. Allow the chocolate to cool for 5 to 7 minutes.

To assemble, spoon the chocolate ganache on top of the cheesecake, using a spatula to spread around. Add mini chocolate chips on top of the ganache. Serve. Cover and refrigerate any leftovers.



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

Oh-So-Tempting Turtle Brownies

Debbie Eberly, Great Lakes Energy

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 package German Chocolate cake mix | 1 cup pecans or walnuts, chopped |
| 2/3 cup evaporated milk, divided | 14 ounces caramels, unwrapped (approx. 1 1/3 bags) |
| 2 eggs | 16 ounces semi-sweet chocolate chips (approx. 1 1/3 bags) |
| 3/4 cup butter, softened | |



Preheat oven to 350 F. Combine cake mix, 1/3 cup evaporated milk, eggs, and butter. Mix well. Stir in nuts. Press half of the cake mixture into a 9x13-inch, well-greased pan. Bake for 6 to 7 minutes. While baking, combine caramels and remaining 1/3 cup evaporated milk and melt in microwave. Remove pan from oven and sprinkle chocolate chips evenly over bottom layer. Pour caramel over chocolate chips. Spoon remaining cake mixture over top. Spread as evenly as possible. Finish

baking for 18 to 20 minutes. Cool before cutting.

Chocolate-Covered Oreo Cookie Cake

Becky Elliott, Cherryland

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 package devil's food chocolate cake mix | 1 package (8-ounce) cream cheese, softened |
| 4 ounces (2/3 cup) semi-sweet chocolate chips | 1/2 cup sugar |
| 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter | 2 cups whipped topping, thawed |
| | 12 Oreo cookies, coarsely crushed |



Preheat oven to 350 F. Prepare cake batter and bake in 2 (9-inch) round pans as directed on package. Cool cakes in pans 10 minutes. Invert cakes onto wire racks; gently remove pans. Cool cakes completely. To make chocolate glaze, microwave chocolate and butter in bowl on high for 2 minutes or until butter is melted. Stir until chocolate is completely melted. Cool 5 minutes. Meanwhile, beat cream cheese and sugar in large bowl with mixer until blended.

Gently stir in whipped topping and crushed cookies. Stack cake layers on plate, spreading cream cheese mixture between layers. Spread top with chocolate glaze; let stand until firm. Keep refrigerated.

Featured Guest Chef

As visitors reach the small town of Ironwood, stomachs growl and thoughts turn toward fueling up before braving the Copper Peak Adventure Ride. Ironwood natives, the Pozegas, dished up their savory family recipe so everyone can enjoy a taste of the U.P.



Pozega Family Meat And Potato Pasties

Dough Ingredients

- 3 cups flour
- 1 cup shortening
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon vinegar
- 6 tablespoons cold water

Filling Ingredients

- 6 cups thinly-diced potatoes
- 1 large onion, diced
- 1 pound ground chuck
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder

Preheat oven to 350 F. Mix flour, shortening, salt and baking powder until fine. Then beat egg with a fork, mix in vinegar and cold water. Combine with flour mixture until it forms a dough. Divide the dough into 6 round balls.

Mix potatoes, meat, onion, salt, pepper and garlic powder in a large bowl.

Roll out each ball of dough into a circle and fill with 1/6 of the meat filling over half of each circle. Put a pat of butter on top of mixture, and fold over and seal edges. Make small slits on top of each pastry. Transfer to a parchment-lined rimmed baking sheet and brush pasties with milk. Bake until golden brown, about 1 hour. Enjoy!

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



Eggcellent: due May 1
Cookies And Cakes: due July 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!

Bill Changes Coming In June

Starting in June, members' bills will have a fresh, new look with more information to help them better manage their energy needs.

Other changes are also coming, as Great Lakes Energy switches to a new software system that will handle billing, accounting, engineering and all other business functions. The transition to the new system will be mostly seamless, with some member involvement needed to reset online access and establish paperless bill settings. Some account numbers may also change.

"We believe the new suite of integrated software programs will help us better keep up with the technological demands of our business and our members," says President/CEO Bill Scott.

New software and related services will be provided by the National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) that serves electric cooperatives and telecommunications companies across the United States. NISC is an information technology cooperative that develops, implements and supports software and hardware solutions for its member consumers.

Members who receive and pay their GLE bills online or by the mobile app will be able to continue to do their business that way with a new mobile app and web solution. Additional features, such as the ability to track your energy usage on your mobile app, will be included.

New logins will be required to take advantage of the new web-based services as old logins will no longer be supported. Those who currently receive paperless bills will be required to sign up for that service again once they login to the new portal(s). During the changeover, paperless bill service may be temporarily interrupted if there is a delay in opting in for paperless billing delivery.

In addition to making bill payments and checking energy use, members can use the new mobile app and web solution to report service issues, power outages or contact GLE on other matters. GLE will be able to send important messages electronically to members.

Residential and seasonal members will have more data on their bill to help them manage their energy use. New information on average daily kilowatt-hour (kWh) use and average daily cost will be shown. A bar chart will enable them to quickly see how their energy use for any month in the current 12-month period compares to the same month for the previous 12-month period.

Some members will see their account number change as longer account numbers will be shortened to fit the new billing software system.

Please watch for updates on the changes in future issues of *Michigan Country Lines*, *PowerTalk* bill inserts and our website and Facebook site.



Register Now

**Saturday, June 9, from 10 a.m. to noon.
Holiday Inn Convention Center
East Ballroom
4079 W. U.S. 10, Ludington**

Space is limited, so please register by calling 1-888-485-2537, ext. 8958, or email: events@glenergy.com.

Attend A Free Energy Seminar

A free energy seminar for Great Lakes Energy members will be held **Saturday, June 9, at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Ludington.**

Learn about home heating and cooling options with geothermal and air-source heat pumps, and energy optimization (EO) programs that offer incentives to help co-op members save energy. They include rebates for the purchase of furnaces with variable speed blower motors, heat pump water heaters, Wi-Fi-enabled or smart occupancy-sensing thermostats, refrigerators, televisions, lighting and more. In addition, information on free online audits will be provided.

Local heating and cooling companies and Great Lakes Energy staff members will be on hand to answer questions related to heat pumps.

Co-op members will learn about other incentive programs offered by Great Lakes Energy, too.

Door prizes will be awarded. Winners will receive energy-saving gifts.

Getting the lights back on quickly is another way Great Lakes Energy looks out for you.

Meeting High Standards

GLE exceeds all state performance standards.

Great Lakes Energy exceeded all 10 state-mandated standards for electric service and reliability in 2017.

Thousands of Great Lakes Energy members are benefiting from improvements in reliability and service. It has led to our success in meeting all 10 state performance standards in nine of the last 11 years. The addition of more line protection devices, use of new technologies, improvements to major power line circuits, and ongoing vegetation management to limit tree damage to power lines are all helping to get the lights back on safely and more quickly for members during storms.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) requires state-regulated electric utilities to annually report how well they are able to meet standards established to protect consumers from unacceptable levels of electric service and reliability. Standards to help measure utility performance in emergency outage situations are included.

2017 Annual Standards And Results

Complaint Response. Utility must respond in three business days or less to at least 90 percent of any formal complaints filed against it with the MPSC.

GLE score: 91 percent.

Call Blockage. No more than 5 percent of incoming calls should receive a busy signal.

GLE score: 1.81 percent.

Meter Reading. At least 85 percent of the meters must be read within the approved time period.

GLE score: 99.6 percent.

Wire Down Relief Factor. At least 90 percent of the time, a utility must respond within four hours to nonutility employees, such as firefighters, who request relief from guarding a downed power line.

GLE score: 90.9 percent.

New Service Installation. At least 90 percent of new services must be installed in 15 business days or less. Great Lakes Energy handled 859 new service installations last year, excluding those installed in combination with primary lines.

GLE score: 99.2 percent.

Average Call Answer Time. Calls must be answered on average in less than 90 seconds. In 2017, the cooperative handled over 322,000 calls through its Call Center, outage and operator queues.

GLE score: 24 seconds.

Outage Restoration (Normal Conditions). At least 90 percent of the customers should have their power restored in eight hours or less.

GLE score: 98.6 percent.

Outage Restoration (Catastrophic Conditions). At least 90 percent of the customers should have their power restored in 60 hours or less.

GLE score: 100 percent.

State rules define catastrophic conditions as either severe weather conditions that result in service interruptions to at least 10 percent of a utility's customers or events of sufficient magnitude that result in a government issued state of emergency declaration.

Outage Restoration (All Conditions). Power should be restored to at least 90 percent of the customers in 36 hours or less under normal and catastrophic conditions.

GLE score: 100 percent.

Same Circuit Repetitive Interruption. No more than 5 percent of the utility's electric circuits should experience five or more outages in a 12 month period.

GLE score: 0.12 percent.

Fuel Mix Report

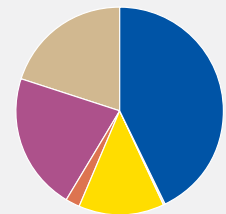
The fuel mix characteristics of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ending 12/31/17.

Comparison Of Fuel Sources Used

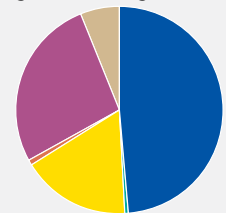
Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
Fuel Source		
Coal	42.8%	48.8%
Oil	0.3%	0.4%
Gas	13.5%	17.0%
Hydroelectric	2.2%	0.9%
Nuclear	21.3%	26.8%
Renewable Fuels	19.9%	6.1%
Biofuel	0.7%	0.9%
Biomass	0.4%	0.5%
Solar	0.3%	0.1%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.1%	0.1%
Wind	18.1%	4.1%
Wood	0.3%	0.4%

NOTE: Biomass above excludes wood; solid waste incineration includes landfill gas; and wind includes a long-term renewable purchase power contract in Wolverine's mix.

Your Co-op's Fuel Mix



Regional Average Fuel Mix



Emissions And Waste Comparison

Type Of Emission/Waste	lbs/MWh	
	Your Co-op	Regional Average*
Sulfur Dioxide	3.0	3.7
Carbon Dioxide	1,674	1,999
Oxides of Nitrogen	1.2	1.4
High-level Nuclear Waste	0.0066	0.0083

*Regional average information was obtained from MPSC website and is for the 12-month period ending 12/31/17. Great Lakes Energy purchases 100% of its electricity from Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc., which provided this fuel mix and environmental data.

Note: The Fuel Mix Report appearing in the March 2018 edition of *Country Lines* contained an inaccuracy and was printed in error. The above information reflects the corrected report.



COPPER PEAK: REACHING *new* HEIGHTS

By Emily Haines Lloyd
Photos courtesy of Brad Nelson, NorthernPOV
and Copper Peak

Fresh off the February festivities in Pyeongchang, South Korea, Olympic fever is slowly fading. But for a small community in the Upper Peninsula, Olympic dreams are still very much alive.

In Ironwood, a village that sits on the Michigan and Wisconsin border, visitors can travel down a country road to Copper Peak, which is currently a tourist stop for breathtaking 360-degree views. However, between the 1970s through the 1990s, Copper Peak was a premiere ski jump for would-be Olympians and ski jump enthusiasts. And, if a dedicated band of supporters have their way, it will be again.

The Copper Peak ski jump sits 469-feet-high and looks over 2,500 square miles. The view from the world's largest artificial ski jump includes three states (Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota), majestic Lake Superior, and the winding Black River as it cuts through the woods. In its prime, it hosted 13 ski flying events in its nearly 25-year run.

The Copper Peak ski jump eventually closed due to financial constraints, but by no means remained dormant. Administrators believed that the views from the top of the jump should be enjoyed by more than just the lucky few jumpers and flyers who competed

and trained on the hill. That's when the Copper Peak Adventure Ride entered the scene.

"The Copper Peak Adventure Ride is one of the most thrilling experiences," said Marketing and Communications Director Kassi Huotari. "There is the perfect mixture of excitement and anxiousness as you slowly head to the top, but the payoff is priceless."

The return on the \$20 ticket price (\$20/adults, \$8/children) more than pays for itself, as adventurers take an 800-foot-chairlift ride to the crest of the hill, followed by an 18-story elevator trip to the main observation deck. If you're

feeling even more daring, individuals can climb eight additional stories to the top of the jump's starting gate.

Breathtaking hardly describes the feeling, adventurers say, as they look out over the landscape with a view that few get to experience.

While bringing those amazing views to nearly 10,000 ticket buyers last year was inspiring, those who have known and loved this hill—including team members, athletes and community members—still dream of returning Copper Peak to its former glory. A few years ago, that group of ski-jump enthusiasts and go-getters began efforts to upgrade the jump to meet modern standards and reached out for fundraising and, eventually, legislative support to return Copper Peak to a premiere competitive ski jump and training site.

"We've got excellent support from the international ski jumping community," said Charles Supercynski, president of the Copper Peak board. "We see it as a very important construction project that will enhance the area. This is huge for us. We only have 16,000 people in the county, so it would be enormous for us economically and for the state. It would shine the international spotlight on Michigan and this community."

The mission is to re-establish Copper Peak as the western hemisphere's largest active ski jump and host the Summer Grand Prix competitions.

"At the recent Olympic trials in Park City, Utah, a U.S. female flyer approached a couple of our board members who were wearing Copper Peak gear," said Huotari. "She went right up to them and said she wanted to be the first woman to fly off Copper Peak when it reopens. With that kind of passion and support, we're even more committed to succeeding."

Visit copperpeak.net to learn more.

Copper Peak is all about the adventure and is excited to be hosting the Red Bull 400, a grueling, 400-meter sprint to the top of the ski jump that will put each athlete's calves, quads and endurance to the test. The event on Saturday, May 12, is open to the public and, much like the view from the top, will be a remarkable site to see.

For more information visit:

redbull.com/us-en/events/red-bull-400-international



Past



Present



Future

Artistic rendering, provided by Populous, shows the future plans of the Copper Peak site which includes adding a plastic landing hill and porcelain track down the in-run to prepare for summer ski jumping.

People Fund Grant Helps Others



Volunteers (from left) Jeanette Kass, Susie McFarren, and Mary Patterson stock the shelves at a food pantry operated by the Missions Around Ravenna in Service (MARS). The group was able to purchase food locally and provide other financial assistance to needy families through the help of a \$2,500 People Fund grant.

People Fund grants are funded with "extra change" donated by Great Lakes Energy members who have their bills rounded up to the next dollar. Call or visit us online to support the People Fund. Join before June 1 and be entered to win a \$100 bill credit!

JOIN PEOPLE FUND PLUS

Now you can make a greater impact in your local community with People Fund PLUS.

Choose a People Fund donation level in addition to your rounded-up amount. Your donations are awarded in the form of grants to local community nonprofit groups.

All People Fund contributors have the chance to win a \$100 bill credit twice per year. In 2017 the People Fund awarded \$216,155 in grants to local nonprofits. Visit gtlakes.com to see the list of grant recipients in your area.

JOIN TODAY!

Working together, we can help enhance our local communities and meet the needs of so many.

Example:

With People Fund: Bill Amount
\$65.42 + \$.58 for People Fund = \$66.00

With People Fund PLUS: Bill
Amount \$65.42 + \$.58 for People
Fund + \$2.00 for PLUS = \$68.00

Call 888-GT-LAKES or visit
gtlakes.com/peoplefundenroll
to join.



JOIN





Renewable Energy Program

Three Ways To Participate

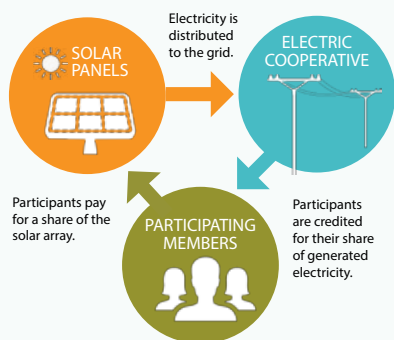
1

Community Solar

Community Solar offers members the benefits of solar without the installation and maintenance expense involved with owning your own solar panels. Of the three programs, it is the lowest cost option for those interested in investing in renewable energy.

How does it work?

Members purchase a subscription in the SpartanSolar community array located across from our power supplier's headquarters in Cadillac. One subscription entitles a member to a share in the energy produced by the solar array. GLE continues delivering energy to the subscribing members, who receive a solar credit on their bills. Members have nothing to install or maintain and can cancel at any time.



Option Details

- 15-year agreement
- Credit of \$0.10/kWh generated
- Subscription cost: \$600/panel upfront or \$10 monthly bill charge for five years
- Energy Optimization rebates up to \$150 per panel for up to 20 panels when you pay in full*

*Subscription must be obtained by Nov. 30, 2018, to receive rebate. Other restrictions may apply.

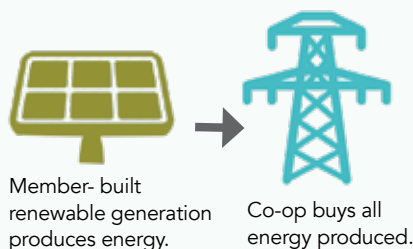
2

Buy-All/Sell-All

If a member's goal is to produce more renewable energy than they use, this program is for them. Of the three programs, this could involve the largest investment due to the larger renewable energy generating system the member would likely install.

How does it work?

The member installs up to a one megawatt (MW) renewable energy generating system (solar, wind, etc.). Our power supplier buys all electricity the system generates at \$0.10 per kWh. This option turns a member into a true energy supplier to the co-op.



Option Details

- 20-year agreement
- \$0.10/kWh for energy generated on premises and placed on the grid
- One MW cap

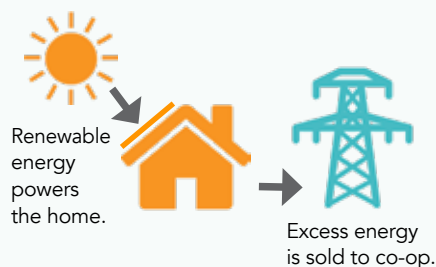
3

Net Metering

This program is for members whose goal is to meet their home's energy needs with their own renewable energy generating system.

How does it work?

Every kWh of renewable energy produced by the member and used in their home is a kWh the member doesn't have to buy from GLE. The savings is based on our retail rate. Should a member produce more energy than they use, they will receive a bill credit of \$0.056 per kWh for any excess energy they put on the grid.



Option Details

- 10-year agreement
- Retail offsets for kWh produced and used on premises
- \$0.056/kWh for energy generated and placed on the grid
- 20 kW cap

In addition to these programs, all members receive nearly 20 percent of their power from clean, renewable sources due in large part to our power supplier's investment in wind energy generation in Michigan.

Visit spartansolar.com for more information or call 888-GT-LAKES, ext. 8957.

I Remember...



Photos courtesy of Joanne Sobeck

The Nahma Airport

My mother Alice one day not long ago told me about a ride she took on a single-engine plane as a young girl. Born in 1920 she grew up in Nahma on Big Bay de Noc with her seven siblings. She said that Pup Ranguette had a plane at the Nahma airport. "What? There was an airport in Nahma?" She smiled and explained that it was west of Nahma on the shoreline running parallel to the road going out to St. Jacques. Having spent my youth in Nahma, I never saw any airport or beach; it was an area covered with water and weeds everywhere.

Later that summer we visited my mother's brother and wife, George and Ruthann Ritter, in Nahma. I asked my Uncle George about the airport and he took my mom, myself, and my two young sons onto a two-rut road. We made our way to an expansive beach on the shores of Lake Michigan. My uncle showed me the cement grooves that held the airport hangar doors. More impressive were the large boulders still visible, yet in disarray, spelling out NAHMA in 15x10-foot letters signaling to early planes where to land. I said to my mom, "I've never seen this beach before." She tapped me with the back of her hand and said, "You haven't lived long enough," educating me to the cycle of the big lake and life.

Joanne Sobeck, Alger Delta

The Red Farmhouse History

It was the day we pulled into the driveway and I told my husband "this is it" before we even got out of the car. It's that feeling you get when you know something is meant to be. That day, 15 years ago, the red farmhouse on Valley Road spoke to me and became ours.

I'm continually reminded of our responsibility not only to the house but the integrity of the land and its history. The original owners homesteaded and farmed the land in Potato Soup Valley more than 100 years ago. Over the years, history became more apparent and appreciated. One summer afternoon, a woman and her elderly mother pulled into the driveway. The older woman had grown up in the house and wanted to see it again. A few years later, extended families of the elderly woman who had stopped by a few summers earlier also came to visit the farmhouse.

I remember the countless times we've been snowed in and can't imagine being anywhere else. The first time our daughter ran across the field into the setting sun was so joyful. We even planted a time capsule so that 50 years from now, future generations can recall and appreciate the history that continues to be made in this magical place.

Heather Carmona, Great Lakes Energy



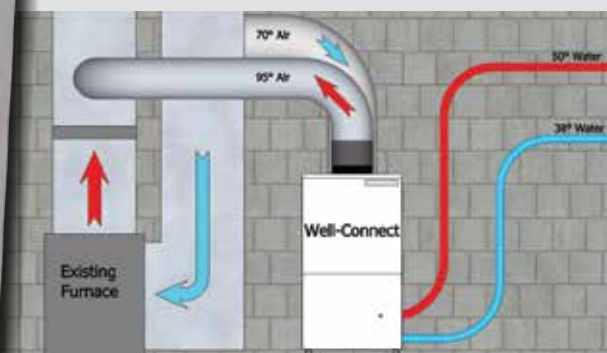
Photo courtesy of Heather Carmona

Michigan Made Hybrid Geothermal System Provides Savings and Comfort

Installs in 1 Day

wellCONNECT Hybrid Geothermal

Well-Connect **works in combination** with your home's current heating system. This hybrid approach allows almost any **existing well** to become a **free, renewable energy** source for **heating and cooling** your home.



"Well-Connect sounded too good to be true but with their 6 month guarantee, we decided to try it. Turns out, our results are even better than advertised. I can promise you, we would do it again in a heartbeat"

— Jack and Marsha Frost,
Fountain, MI



VIDEO: How It Works
wellconnectsaves.com

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THANK YOU

Let's honor the heroes
who keep the lights
on **365** days a year.

We celebrate the
hard work, innovation
and dedication of
electrical lineworkers.

April 9 is
National Lineworker
Appreciation Day

#ThankALineworker

