

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Great Lakes Energy Cooperative

PETOSKEY *Stands Up* FOR LITTLE BAY BOARDS

Your Co-op Pays
Taxes, Too

Board To Meet On
Rate Increase

GLE Earns High
Satisfaction Rating



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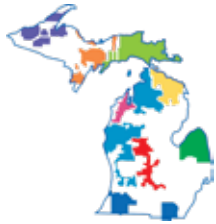
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1. 7 Series unit uses approximately 900 watts while running in speeds 1-2.





Michigan's Electric Cooperatives
countrylines.com

Executive Editor: Casey Clark

Editor: Christine Dorr

Copy Editor: Heidi Spencer

Design and Layout:
Karreen Bird

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CONTACT US/LETTERS TO EDITOR:
Michigan Country Lines
201 Townsend St., Suite 900
Lansing, MI 48933
248-534-7358
cdorr@meca.coop
countrylines.com

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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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Board of Directors

Mark Carson *Chairman District 2*
01950 Anderson Rd., Boyne City, MI 49712
231-675-0561 • mcarson@glenergy.com

Dale Farrier *Vice-Chairman District 5*
2261 Wheeler Lake Rd. NE, Kalkaska, MI 49646
231-564-0853 • dfarrier@glenergy.com

Larry Monshor *Treasurer District 4*
1541 Thumm Rd., Gaylord, MI 49735
989-705-1778 • lmonshor@glenergy.com

Paul Byl *Secretary District 7*
9941 W. Buchanan Rd., Shelby, MI 49455
231-861-5911 • pbyl@glenergy.com

Tim Brechon *Director District 8*
22322 220th Ave., Paris, MI 49338
630-379-6218 • tbrechon@glenergy.com

Richard Evans *Director District 3*
11195 Essex Rd., Ellsworth, MI 49729
231-883-3146 • revans@glenergy.com

Robert Kran *Director District 6*
7380 N. Tuttle Rd., Free Soil, MI 49411
231-464-5889 • bkran@glenergy.com

John LaForge *Director District 9*
7363 Walters Rd., Delton, MI 49046
269-623-2284 • jlaforge@glenergy.com

Paul Schemanski *Director District 1*
5974 Stolt Rd., Petoskey, MI 49770
231-439-9079 • paul.schemanski@glenergy.com

President/CEO: Bill Scott
888-485-2537

Communications
Director/Editor: Dave Guzniczak
231-487-1316
dguz@glenergy.com

Boyne City Headquarters
1323 Boyne Ave., P.O. Box 70
Boyne City, MI 49712
Hours: 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. M–F
Phone: 888-485-2537
Email: glenergy@glenergy.com

To report an outage, call:
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Your Co-op Pays Taxes, Too

Bill Scott, Great Lakes Energy President/CEO

As the tax filing deadline looms around the corner, I'm reminded of the old saying by Benjamin Franklin: "In this world, nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

In other words, tax season affects us all—even your electric cooperative. But it may surprise you to know that most of Great Lakes Energy's tax payments **don't** go to the IRS.

"As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we don't pay federal tax on electricity sales. So recent federal tax changes have very little impact on us."

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we don't pay federal tax on electricity sales. So recent federal tax changes have very little impact on us. But that doesn't mean we don't pay taxes. In fact, a good share of our tax expenses provides revenue to help support local governments, schools, senior care facilities and other services supported by property taxes.

The biggest share of our tax obligation is for property taxes. In 2017 we paid over \$5 million to over 400 townships and other local government units within GLE's 26 county service area. The bulk of it is personal property taxes levied on over 14,000 miles of power line and distribution system equipment required to bring power to over 120,000 GLE members. In addition, GLE pays taxes for its buildings and land at nine locations. Employee payroll taxes paid by GLE for its share of FICA (social security) and federal unemployment taxes totaled over \$1.56 million last year.

Sales tax on office supplies, computer equipment, distribution system materials (poles, wires, etc.) and other materials and supplies purchased by the co-op totaled \$762,000. This is in addition to the sales tax levied on your bill which is collected and sent to the state of Michigan.

Federal income taxes make up the smallest share of our tax bill amounting to just \$16,663 last year.

The taxes we pay make up part of the monthly charge you pay each month and are just one of many fixed costs we incur in providing you with safe and reliable electric service.

What other fixed costs make up the monthly charge? Learn more at gtlakes.com/monthlycharge.



Great Lakes Energy Seeks Rate Increase

Great Lakes Energy is proposing rate changes that would result in a net increase of less than one cent per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for residential and seasonal accounts.

Under the proposed rates, the kWh rate for residential/seasonal members would increase \$0.0216 per kWh and the power supply cost recovery (PSCR) factor would decrease \$0.0165 per kWh. The result is a \$0.0051 increase per kWh. The monthly charge would remain the same for both rate classifications.

For the average residential member using 800 kWh per month, this equates to a \$4.08 monthly increase. For the average seasonal member using 200 kWh per month, this equates to a \$1.02 monthly increase. The amounts don't include the 4 percent Michigan sales tax.

The increase, although small, would raise revenues to provide sufficient funding levels for maintaining reliable electric service, providing adequate margins and ensuring

members receive the service they need to power their homes and businesses.

The co-op's board of directors will consider adoption of the proposed rate changes at an open member meeting on March 21 (see related notice). If approved, the new rates would take effect with June monthly bills.

Proposed Rate Changes

	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Change
Energy charge	\$0.0864/kWh	\$0.1080/kWh	\$0.0216/kWh
PSCR charge	\$0.0165/kWh	\$0.00/kWh	\$(0.0165)/kWh
Net increase			\$0.0051/kWh

Notice To Members Of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative

A Board Meeting is set for March 21, 2018, at 11 a.m. at Wolverine Power Cooperative.

The board of directors will consider changes to the cooperative's rates and tariffs at its meeting on March 21, to be held at Wolverine Power Cooperative, 10125 West Watergate Road, Cadillac, MI. The meeting will start at 11 a.m. and is open to all members of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative. Members will have an opportunity to address the board on the proposed changes prior to board action.

The following items will be considered:

- Great Lakes Energy is seeking to increase revenues through rate changes that will result in a net increase of \$0.0051 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for residential/seasonal members as well as rate changes for all other rate classifications.
- Revise tariff language, fees and refund policies for new line extensions.
- Change maximum deposit amounts.

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 Great Lakes Energy at 888-485-2537, ext. 1331 a week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

Notice of the board meeting shall be sent to all members, as required by P.A. 167, by publication in *Michigan Country Lines*.



Photo courtesy of Michigan State Capitol Commission and Strategic Energy Solutions

Michigan Capitol Goes Green With Geothermal

The Michigan Capitol is going “green and clean” with a new geothermal heating and cooling system. It is projected to be the largest geothermal system at a state capitol in the country at this time.

Michigan has a long track record of geothermal system installations. The state’s climate and geology make it perfectly suited for the technology. Over the past 10 years, more than 17,000 geothermal systems have been installed in homes, businesses, and institutional facilities. Geothermal systems have become very popular in government and education sectors with many colleges upgrading their heating and cooling systems to geothermal including Lansing Community College, Saginaw Valley University, and Ferris State University. Recent studies indicate that the geothermal market is expected to grow at a rate of 8 percent per year.

“It’s impressive that state legislators recognize the benefits of the

technology and its impact on the environment,” said Art Thayer, director of energy efficiency at the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association. “Michigan’s electric co-ops have long supported geothermal systems, and it’s great to see a project with such high visibility.”

Drilling for the 500-foot-deep geothermal field is part of a larger \$70 million infrastructure upgrade already underway at the 139-year-old Capitol. While it will cost nearly \$4 million upfront, officials estimate the geothermal system will save the state \$300,000 a year on heating and cooling costs and pay for itself in roughly a decade.

With Michigan’s electric utilities investing more in renewable energy production such as solar and wind, it makes geothermal systems even more attractive. The net greenhouse gas emissions of a geothermal heating and cooling system utilizing electricity from wind, solar or a hydro-electric

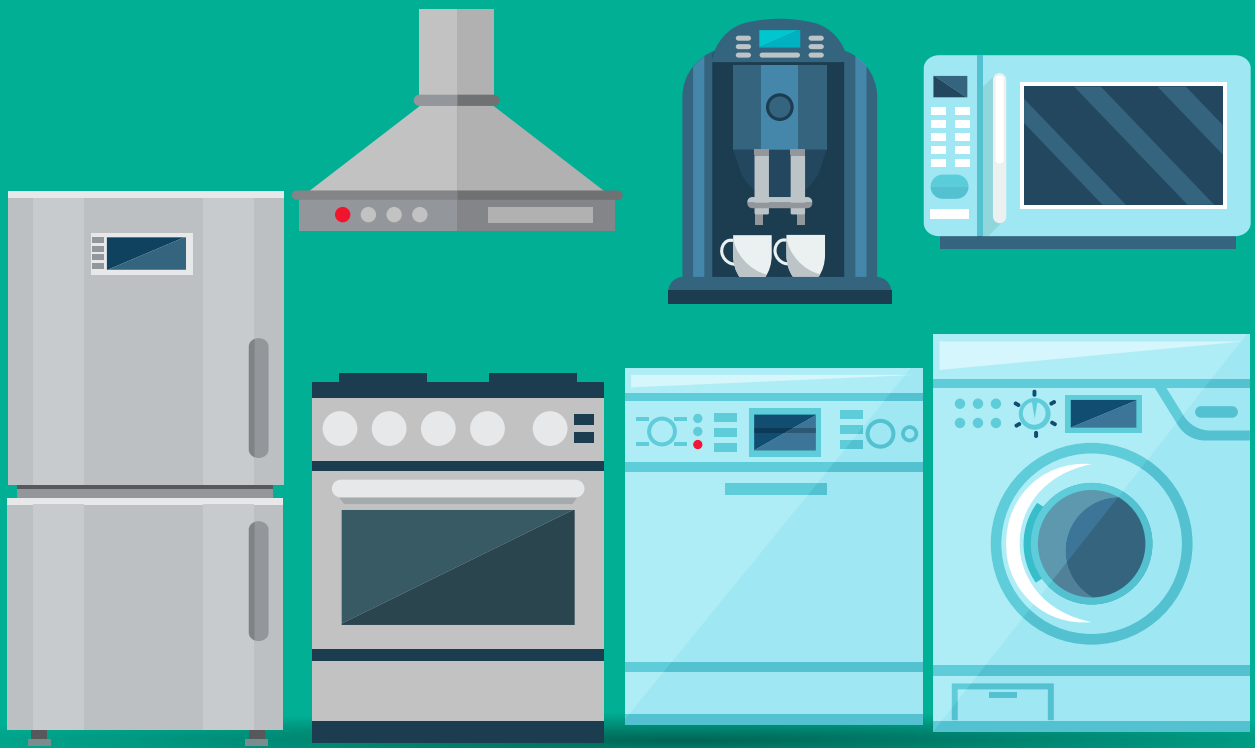
plant is zero as there is no combustion or emissions. Since there is no combustion of fossil fuels, geothermal systems can be four to six times more efficient than fossil fuel furnaces, and more than twice as efficient as a standard outdoor air conditioner.

Visit geoexchange.com to learn more about geothermal.

Thinking of installing a geothermal system at your home? You may be eligible for co-op rebates and a

▶▶▶▶▶ **30%** ▶▶▶▶▶
federal tax credit.

To learn more, consult your contractor.



How To Choose Efficient Appliances

By TJ Kirk, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

It's never a good day when you realize you need to replace a large appliance in your home. However, when the unfortunate time comes, be sure to take a moment and consider what you will purchase—especially for appliances that haven't been replaced in a number of years, as the technology may have changed substantially. Instead of rushing out to buy the same make and model of appliance you had, consider this an opportunity to assess the market and make a smart purchase that will save you money in the long run.

According to the Department of Energy, appliances account for about 13 percent of the average household's energy use. Clothes dryers, refrigerators/freezers, computers, microwaves, dishwashers and washing machines are the appliances that tend to use the most energy in a typical American home. Every appliance you buy has an operating cost, which is the cost of the energy needed to power the appliance. To facilitate more informed comparison shopping, the federal government requires

some appliances to have an Energy Guide label stating the approximate energy consumption and operating cost of the appliance. Appliances with an ENERGY STAR label use 10 to 50 percent less energy than standard appliances and are generally more expensive than their standard counterparts. So, it's important to compare the lifetime costs of each (up-front cost plus operating costs) to ensure that purchasing the efficient appliance is the best choice.

As you begin your search for a new appliance, check with your electric cooperative to see if they offer incentives for energy efficient appliances, and remember to use the ENERGY STAR website as an additional resource.

Dramatic advancements in the efficiency of many electric appliances now can provide the same level of end-user comfort with substantially less electric input. With a little research and forethought up-front, you can save money over the life of your appliance without sacrificing any benefits. Good luck, and happy shopping!

Recycle Old Appliances, Save Energy And Money!

Do you have an old refrigerator or chest freezer taking up valuable space in your basement or garage? While you may not think about these appliances often, they could be adding hundreds of dollars to your utility bill each year.

Declutter your home and save money with our Energy Optimization program. You can earn \$50 for removing and recycling a secondary refrigerator or freezer!*

Free Appliance Pick Up Made Easy:

The Energy Optimization team will pick up and recycle your old refrigerator(s) or freezer(s) for FREE. You can choose to send along an old window air conditioner or dehumidifier for recycling as well. **NOTE:** All items must be in working condition.

How To Participate:

Contact the Energy Optimization team at **877-296-4319** to schedule an appointment. A representative will come to your home for the pick up, and a cash incentive will be mailed to you. It's that simple!

Cash incentives are available for the following:

Appliance Type	Pick up or Ride-Along Item	Incentive Amount
Refrigerator	Pick up	\$50
Chest Freezer	Pick up	\$50
Window Air Conditioner	Ride-Along	\$15
Dehumidifier	Ride-Along	\$15

**Limit two appliances per year, per residence.*

More Ways To Save!

Working on a remodeling project? Your electric utility's Energy Optimization program provides cash incentives toward qualifying new ENERGY STAR® appliances, including refrigerators, washers and dryers, ceiling fans, room air conditioners, televisions, and more.

Please visit **michigan-energy.org** for more information, or call **877-296-4319** with any questions.



Get \$50 for your old refrigerator or freezer.

Stop wasting energy and money! Recycle old, functioning appliances and earn cash incentives:

- **Refrigerator = \$50**
- **Freezer = \$50**
- **Dehumidifier** (ride along item) = **\$15**
- **Window Air Conditioner** (ride along item) = **\$15**

Contact the Energy Optimization team to schedule a free pickup.

Shopping for new appliances?

Receive cash incentives when you purchase ENERGY STAR® appliances. Visit the EO website for a complete list of savings opportunities.

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org

PHONE: 877-296-4319



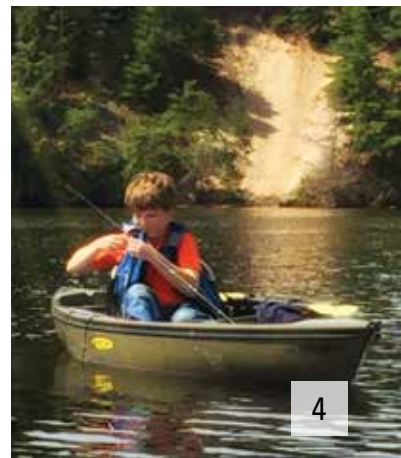
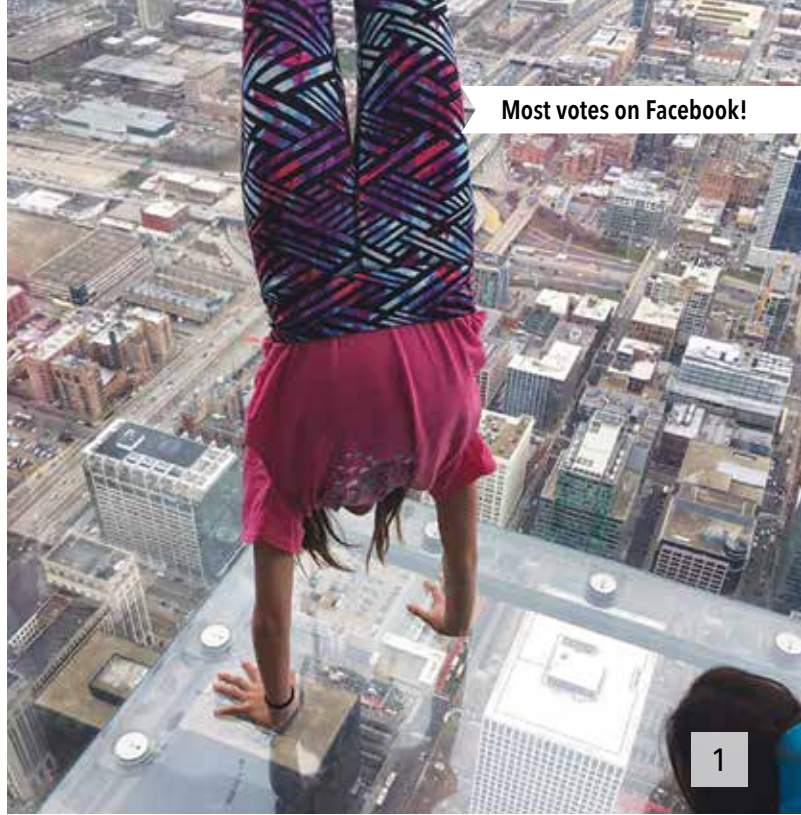
Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan electric service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit **michigan-energy.org**.



GLE Photo Contest

Talented Kids

1. Grace at Chicago Willis Tower—*Jackie Euper, Hersey*
2. Our little Ninja Turtle—*Brandy VanAelst, Allegan*
3. Climbing and rappelling—*Tracy Thorley, Lewiston*
4. My grandson concentrating on his fishing—*Judy Conrad, Pellston*
5. Filling the bird feeders—*Jill Wilson, Zeeland*
6. Lillian, the animal whisperer—*Crystal Hall, Middleville*



Submit Your "Show Us Your Garden" 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 February theme is Show Us Your Garden. Photos can be submitted by March 20 to be featured in the May 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/](https://www.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!



Potato Perfection

Nothing beats the humble potato.

Photos—Robert Bruce Photography

Baked Mustard Potato Wedges (pictured above)

Sharron Fromius, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

- 5–6 cups small new potatoes, cut into wedges
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup olive oil
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup Dijon mustard
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 3 tablespoons Parmesan cheese, more or less according to your preferences

Preheat oven to 400 F. Lightly oil or spray a rimmed baking sheet. Clean and cut potatoes into wedges. In a large bowl, or Ziploc bag (I prefer using bags), mix the olive oil, mustard, butter, garlic powder and oregano. Add potatoes to bowl or bag and mix well. Dump potatoes onto the baking sheet. Spread out in one layer as much as possible. Generously sprinkle with salt, pepper and Parmesan cheese. Bake for about 30 minutes or until they are fork tender and the desired crispiness you like.



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



Refrigerator Mashed Potatoes

Donna Miller, Cherryland

- 5 pounds potatoes
- 2 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese
- 1 (16-ounce) container sour cream
- 2 teaspoons onion salt
- 1 teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon pepper
- 1 stick butter, softened

Peel and cook the potatoes, drain well, then mash them with a mixer. Add remaining ingredients and blend well. Eat right away or put in the fridge. Potatoes will thicken up more if refrigerated; they tend to be thinner if used immediately. Keep in the fridge for up to one week.



Heather's Sweet Potatoes

Heather Vedder, HomeWorks Tri-County

- 6 sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup orange juice, plus 1 teaspoon orange juice concentrate
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon nutmeg
 - pinch of salt
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup pecans, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons of butter
 - half a bag of marshmallows

Preheat oven to 350 F. Boil the cubed sweet potatoes in salted water until soft. Mash the sweet potatoes (some lumps will remain). Add orange juice, orange juice concentrate, brown sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt. Spread mixture in a shallow, rectangular pan. Sprinkle with pecans; dot with butter. Bake for 34 minutes. Add marshmallows. Bake for another 10–15 minutes until marshmallows turn slightly brown.



Spice It Up ... due April 1

Eggcellent ... due May 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

Little Bay Boards owner Jason Thelen knows that snacks and drinks are a great way to kickstart the creative process. Thelen uses organic coconut oil in his all-natural board wax, so he confidently uses the same oil, a trusty cast iron pan, and a heat gun to whip up some potato chips for his friends and neighbors. He's modified the recipe for your kitchen.



Beach-Style Potato Chips

- 4 Russet potatoes
 - coconut oil (Jason warns you, coconut oil tastes like coconut. He calls these chips Hawaiian flavored.)
 - sea salt
 - garlic (optional)

Wash potatoes. Slice potatoes evenly about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick. This is important so that they cook evenly. Soak the slices overnight in fresh water. Using a cast iron skillet, melt about a half inch of coconut oil in the pan. Bring the pan to a temperature between 325–350 F. Higher temperatures will cause the pan to smoke. Add a little garlic (minced is fine) into the oil as it's heating up. Take potatoes and lay them out on a paper towel to dry them. Dab dry. Place sliced potatoes evenly in the hot oil. Cook to your preference. (Jason likes his a bit softer, while his wife likes them crunchy.) Remove from oil. Sprinkle with sea salt. Cool and serve.

Read the full story about Little Bay Boards on page 14, and find this recipe and others at micoopkitchen.com.

What Is The Right-Of-Way?

Motorists should be familiar with the term “right-of-way,” but it has a different meaning to your electric cooperative.

The right-of-way is the strip of land that electric utilities, through an easement or other mechanism, are granted access to use for specific purposes. A typical Great Lakes Energy right-of-way is 30 feet wide for single-phase (two overhead wires) lines and 40 feet for three phase (more than two wires) lines. The power line is usually centered within the right-of-way.

Easement agreements give GLE access rights to private property for the purpose of constructing, inspecting and maintaining its power line distribution system. The easement is typically a written agreement between the utility and property owner.

Who owns the right-of-way?

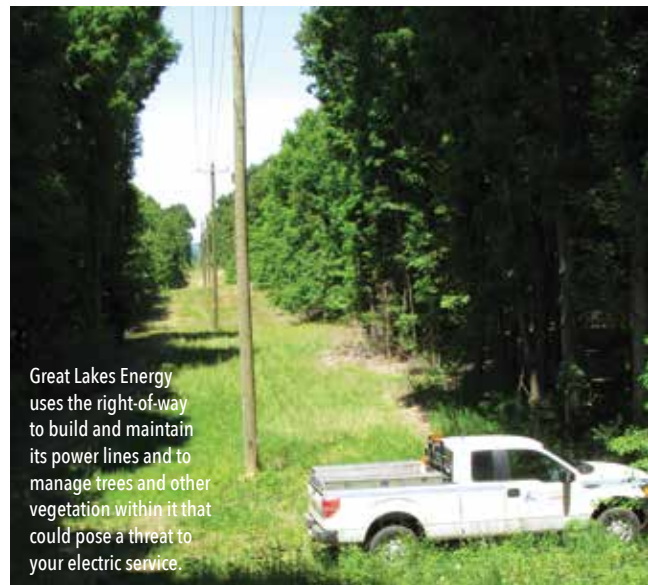
The property owner is the owner of the land that the power line crosses. Please remember that GLE’s rights-of-way are often on private property. They must be treated like any private land and only used with the owner’s permission. If the right-of-way crosses state forest or other public land, rules on allowable uses of the property still need to be followed. In addition, the use of motorized vehicles (especially ATVs and snowmobiles) in the power line right-of-way can be dangerous and should be avoided. A collision with a utility pole or guy wire is a personal hazard that can also result in outages.

Please remember that Great Lakes Energy’s rights-of-way are often on private property. They must be treated like any private land and only used with the owner’s permission.

How does GLE use the right-of-way?

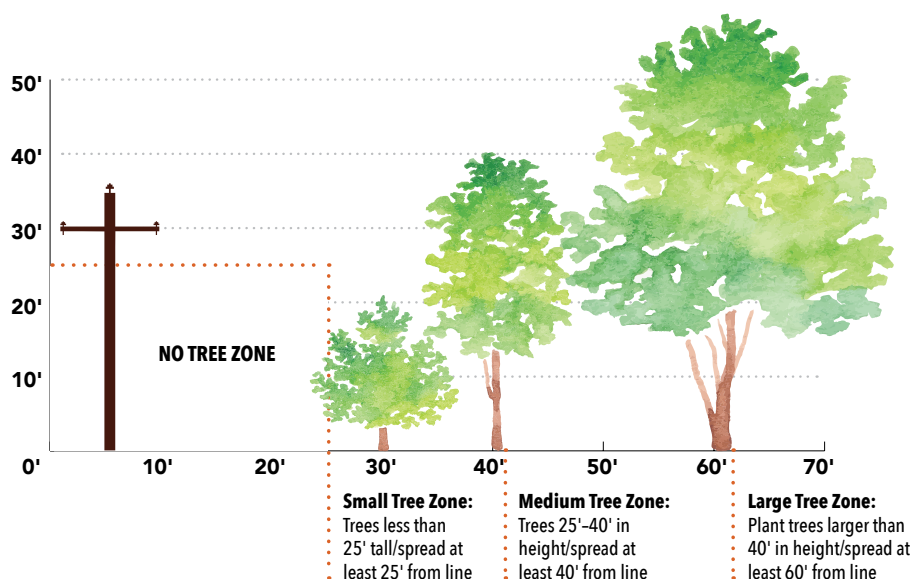
Access to the right-of-way allows the co-op to service and repair its power line distribution equipment, manage vegetation growth within the right-of-way that threatens electric service reliability and safety, and extend new lines to meet growth.

Trees are a common cause of power outages for our members. Routine maintenance of trees and other vegetation on more than 11,000 miles of GLE overhead line is a large undertaking, but one that improves reliability for our members. Routine tree maintenance in the right-of-way is completed on a regular, rotating basis. GLE power line rights-of-way in 17 counties are on the tree trimming



schedule for this year. Members served by the lines scheduled for maintenance are contacted by phone, e-mail and postcard mail prior to any work being done. Please visit gtlakes.com or contact us for more information.

Tree Planting Guide





Be A More Secure Internet User

Mike Youngs
Great Lakes Energy

Greetings and welcome back!

In past *Country Lines* issues, I've attempted to share security advice you might have never heard. I hope you found the tips useful and enjoyable.

Now I'm going to dive into the minds of hackers and cybercriminals to help illustrate why these tips are important.

The term "hacker" sometimes has a bad connotation, and I am partly to blame as I tend to use the term a little too loosely. Hackers are not criminals; they're curious about how things work and like to see what happens when technology is used in an unintended way.

A criminal, on the other hand, is someone who breaks the law. The motivation is not the mental challenge; it's the payoff. And in the context of a cybercriminal, ransomware author, or identity thief, the payoff is money.

Now, some hackers are criminals (Black-hats), some are helpful (White-hats), and some play both sides (Gray-hats).

One thing all hackers have in common is they are motivated by the challenge of figuring out something that no one else can. What is done with the hacking determines the color of the hat; or, if you are a hacker or a criminal. Which group should you worry about more?

In my mind, it's obviously the criminals. And when you adopt the mindset that every time you go "online" you are sharing the same space as countless criminals looking to steal money, you can begin to understand why taking security seriously is a good idea.

How secure should you be? This is where I might surprise you. You don't have to live in a virtual Fort Knox to go online. Often, you only need to be more secure than the person next to you.

Wait, what?

Remember, cybercriminals want to make a profit, so they follow the path of least resistance. In the physical world, if a car thief strolls into a parking lot with three identical cars and finds the first one locked, the second one open, and the third one open with the keys in the ignition, which car is the most likely to be taken for a joy ride?

A cybercriminal infiltrates a financial password database with three equally valuable accounts. The first account has a password of "123456", the second has "Passw0rd1" and the third is "9AV4~mCxY2VdCGfE6,"—created by and stored in a password manager. Which bank account, of course, is most likely to be drained to zero by the time you wake up?

Along similar lines, who's better protected if your computer has up-to-date antivirus software and your neighbor's does not? While at Starbucks, you use a VPN and the person in front of you does not. You see where I am going with this. The thieves will go after the easy mark.

That's it for now. Get the most out of the online world as safely and securely as possible.



Historic Farm Honored

An Oceana County farm owned by Great Lakes Energy members Edward and Joanne Heck, of Rothbury, was recently certified as a centennial farm.

Great Lakes Energy is a sponsor of the Michigan Centennial Farm Program that honors Great Lakes Energy members and other Michigan residents whose farms have been owned and operated by the same family for 100 years. Once a farm is certified, the owners receive a certificate as well as a display marker for their farm.

GLE members can request an application or receive more information about the program by contacting The Historical Society of Michigan, 517-324-1828, or by visiting their website, centennialfarms.org.

PETOSKEY *Stands Up* FOR LITTLE BAY BOARDS

By Emily Haines Lloyd // Photos by Northern Territory Imaging and Design



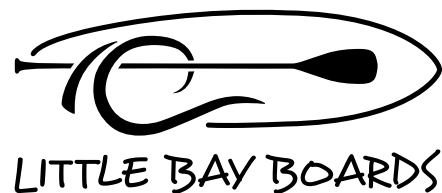
If it takes a village to raise a child, then it most certainly takes one to raise a brainchild.

Little Bay Boards, the brainchild of Jason Thelen, is the well-loved Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) darling of Petoskey. Indeed, it was the community of Petoskey that inspired Thelen to turn a dream into a successful business. Today, Thelen has carved out more than just a great company, he has created relationships with many other local business owners and friends. And that, Thelen notes, is one of his greatest successes.

Thelen, a Petoskey resident and great-great-great-grandson to Chief Petoskey—a legendary figure amongst the native Odawas and the namesake of both the town and Michigan's state stone—hadn't intended to build a thriving artisan SUP business. He, like most Michiganders, was looking for a way for his family to enjoy the nearby water and lakes.

"That's the thing about Michigan," said Thelen. "You want to get out on the water as soon as possible and stay out as long as you can."

So, Thelen, who at that time worked as a full-time carpenter, tried his hand at building his own stand-up paddleboard. After scouring the internet for how-to's and professional advice, from the likes of Paul Jensen, godfather of the hollow wood paddleboard and Jason's mentor, he opted to start with a smaller board for his then 9-year-old daughter.



Visit littlebayboards.com to learn more
or call 231-838-8451.

Visit countrylines.com to watch a video
about how Little Bay Boards are made.

"From there, things went in a way I still don't quite understand," said Thelen.

It began with strangers at the beach coming up to their vehicle, admiring the board and asking where they got it. Then people asked how he'd done it himself. Finally, Thelen's wife asked if he thought he could build another one. So, he did. Then he sold it. Then, he built another board and sold that one, too.

As with many small businesses, there was a time when Thelen had to make a decision to stay with his full-time carpentry position or take a leap into this SUP venture.

With the support of his family, Thelen jumped. Or, rather, he paddled.

With each leap of faith, another answer, another supporter, another order would arrive.

Community members, like the owner of a local boutique, Lake Affect, offered space to showcase a board. Local friends and neighbors set aside wood cut-offs and leftovers that they thought Thelen might be interested in using. A friend and owner of Northern Territory Imaging and Design offered his services to help Thelen reach and connect with more people. T-shirts and the website were all created by folks from the neighborhood. Eventually, his now-business partner took over the day-to-day details to give Thelen more time to create. His business neighbor from Mary Bea Art was a daily inspiration on his creative process. Even the Little Bay Board's landlord was a source of support as he lent his own machinery and tools to help Thelen develop his craft.

Of the nearly 6,000 residents in Petoskey, Thelen notes that some days it feels like nearly everyone in the community has, in one way or another, had a big impact on Little Bay Boards.

"Things have grown beyond my dreams. We have boards that we've shipped to Switzerland and Australia," said Thelen. "But in the end, I'm building these boards and this business with the local people I see every day at the grocery store. I feel like the [entire Petoskey] community is giving our company...this big, loving hug that helps us grow."



"I feel like the [entire Petoskey] community is giving our company...this big, loving hug that helps us grow."
— Jason Thelen

Fuel Mix Report

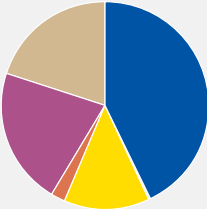
The fuel mix characteristics of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative as required by Public Act 141 of 2000 for the 12-month period ending 12/31/17.

Comparison Of Fuel Sources Used

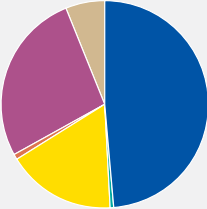
Regional average fuel mix used		
Your co-op's fuel mix		
Fuel Source		
Coal	42.8%	48.8%
Oil	0.3%	0.4%
Gas	13.5%	17.0%
Hydroelectric	2.2%	0.9%
Nuclear	21.3%	26.8%
Renewable Fuels	19.9%	6.1%
Biofuel	0.7%	0.9%
Biomass	0.4%	0.5%
Solar	0.3%	0.1%
Solid Waste Incineration	0.1%	0.1%
Wind	18.1%	4.1%
Wood	0.3%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



Who Are Your Directors?

Your directors are Great Lakes Energy members just like you. In addition to his job as manager of Gordon Food Service's Gaylord store, Mark Carson devotes his time to coaching a boys' basketball team in Boyne City, officiating basketball games and teaching business courses. He brings his business management and leadership skills to Great Lakes Energy as the board chairman. That's the cooperative difference.

Statement Of Non-Discrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Challenge Mountain Receives People Fund Grant



A \$5,000 People Fund grant awarded to Challenge Mountain helped finance a new multipurpose truck used for snowplowing and hauling bikes, skis, boats and other equipment to recreational sites in Charlevoix and Emmet counties. Challenge Mountain offers recreational opportunities year-round for individuals with physical, cognitive and developmental disabilities. Pictured with the

vehicle from left are: Bill Aten, the organization's board president; Elizabeth Gertz Looze, executive director and Dickie Katz, maintenance staff.

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!

Great Lakes Energy Cooperative

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

On December 15, 2017, Great Lakes Energy Cooperative filed an Application for Approval of Renewable Energy Plan with the Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) pursuant to the "Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy Act" (2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1001, et seq.) and MPSC Order Case No. U-15800 dated December 4, 2008.

Any interested person may review the filed Renewable Energy Plan on the MPSC website under Case No. U-16593 at: www.michigan.gov/mpscdockets and at the offices of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative, 1323 Boyne Ave, Boyne City, MI 49712, or at the office of the Commission's Executive Secretary, 7109 West Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, Michigan 48917, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Written and electronic comments may be filed with the Commission and must be received no later than 5 p.m. on May 8, 2018. Written comments should be sent to the: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 30221, Lansing, Michigan 48909, with a copy mailed to: Great Lakes Energy Cooperative, 1323 Boyne Ave, Boyne City, MI

- Electronic comments may be e-mailed to: mpscdockets@michigan.gov. All comments should reference Case No. U-16593. Comments received on this matter becomes public information, posted on the Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Comments must not include information you wish to remain private.

Any proposed Renewable Energy Plan Charges may not exceed \$3 per meter per month for residential customers, \$16.58 per meter per month for commercial secondary customers or \$187.50 per meter per month for commercial primary or industrial customers.

GLE Earns High Satisfaction Rating

Great Lakes Energy members gave the electric cooperative high marks in 2017 on the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) survey. GLE scored 85 out of 100 points, 10 points higher than the national investor-owned utility average.

ACSI tracks trends in customer satisfaction for more than 300 major companies that provide goods and services to U.S. consumers. ACSI includes an Energy Utilities Index which measures customer satisfaction among the residential consumers of 29 major utilities and other smaller energy providers.

GLE's ACSI score was calculated from a random sample of members who took the cooperative's annual member survey online and by phone in the fall of 2017 and answered the four ACSI questions. GLE's score of 85 is the highest score the co-op has received to date and is above the national electric cooperative average and significantly higher than the national investor-owned utility average.

"Naturally, we're honored," said Bill Scott, GLE's president and CEO. "However, we won't rest on our laurels. Member satisfaction will continue to be high on our list of corporate goals. We want members to view GLE as a dependable source of electricity with outstanding service."

Enter to win a

\$50

energy bill
credit!



Where In *Michigan* Is This?

Identify the correct location of the photo above by March 20 and be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 electric bill credit. Enter your guess at countrylines.com or send by mail to: *Country Lines* Mystery Photo, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Include the name on your account, address, phone number and the name of your co-op.

Our Mystery Photo Contest winner from the January 2018 issue is Jon Jahnke, a Thumb Electric Cooperative member, who correctly identified the photo as the Charlevoix South Pier Light Station.

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



January photo courtesy of Thomas Mann



Jack's Journal: Country Music Today

By Jack O'Malley

Several weeks ago I received an email from a listener to my radio show complaining that Country Music "isn't country anymore." It's a sentiment I've heard again and again. That's why, this month, I thought I would publish my remarks to that listener in the hopes it might help someone else. Here is my response:

I've been in country music a long time now. The loyalty to the genre is amazing. Everyone has his or her likes and dislikes. I've heard your complaint many times over the years, and I've even discussed it with artists. Here is the long and the short of it: what you like is what you like. You are not wrong.

This is the issue. Country music has always evolved—from the Hillbilly Days to the 1960s Nashville sound to the outlaws of the '70s and so on. Vince Gill had an interesting take on it when he was asked "his opinion" of current music. He said, "It isn't my cup of tea...but I know what I was playing wasn't necessarily the cup of tea of the guys who came before me."

Eddie Rabbitt once told me that when he was coming along, he knew that he was pushing the older artists off the radio. That's just the way it works. He said, "Now it's my turn to be pushed out the back door...[but] I am just gonna try and hang on to that doorknob as long as I can."

The point I'm trying to make is that country music has always evolved. From fiddles and guitars to adding drums and then electronics, the music has changed. From Ferlin Husky to Jim Reeves and Ray Price, artists have learned from the music of their era—just like young artists are doing today. Garth Brooks was disliked by traditionalists in the 1990s, 25 years ago, some might argue. Today, he is as country as anyone else.

So, yes, today's instrumentation might not be considered classic country, but it reflects the times. However, the one constant in country music is the lyrics. This is where I believe country music really lives. It's not found in a fiddle, but in the songs themselves. They still talk about real life! We aren't in coal mines and factories like the '60s. We aren't in the '70s or '80s anymore either. Today's world is cell phones and instant communication. Artists today are talking about life today, not a life of bygone years.

My friend, time marches on. WTCM FM is and always has been your Top 40 country music station from the '70s to today. We played the hits then and we play them today—with a large "tip of the hat" to our past.

Thanks for loving country music!

Readers, this will be my last *Michigan Country Lines* article as I am stepping into a new adventure...wish me luck!

WELL

It supplies you with clean, affordable water.
Now let it supply you with clean, affordable heat.



MADE IN MICHIGAN

well  **CONNECT** Hybrid Geothermal


Add a Well-Connect in Hours. Heat for Half for Decades.

wellconnectsaves.com

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It's all part of a day's

WORK.

(Okay, a really long day's work.)

We'd like to thank our members for helping us score an 85 in the recent American Customer Satisfaction* Index. Their feedback puts Great Lakes Energy above the national electric cooperative average and a full 10 points higher than the national investor-owned utility average.

Even though ACSI recognizes "customer" satisfaction, GLE members are in fact "members." That's an important distinction. And, it's why we strive to provide a level of service that's second to none.

Naturally, we're honored. But we can't let it go to our heads. We must remain the dependable source of electricity our members never have to think twice about—unless, of course, they're being surveyed by the ACSI.

*Touchstone Energy ACSI member ratings using the ACSI customer satisfaction survey questions are compared to the ACSI ratings of residential customers of the largest U.S. investor-owned energy utilities.



Looking out for you