

# MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Great Lakes Energy Cooperative

## *Interlochen*

Making Beautiful Music  
In Northern Michigan

Fiber Internet Update

Reliability Work Takes Flight

New Billing Usage Information



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*Ultimate comfort  
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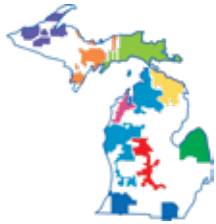
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Michigan's Electric Cooperatives  
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# In This Issue

June 2018 // Vol. 38, No. 6

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Located in northwestern Michigan, Interlochen Center for the Arts offers arts education programs for students in grades 3-12 and adults of all ages. Interlochen also hosts hundreds of concerts and events.

Photo courtesy of Interlochen Center for the Arts



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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. *Country Lines* retains reprint rights
4. Submit your memory at: [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) under the MI Co-op Community tab.

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# High-Speed Fiber Development Continues

**Bill Scott**, Great Lakes Energy President/CEO

The days of dial-up service, data caps and slow internet service will soon be over for many members living in our Petoskey service district when we start construction of a high-speed fiber internet network next month. The Petoskey service district covers Emmet County, small parts of Charlevoix and Cheboygan counties and Beaver Island (see map).

Earlier this spring, you may have noticed workers walking the power lines. Since April, contracted workers have been doing ground boring work and gathering engineering data that will help support construction efforts and operation of the fiber network.

In July, contracted construction crews will begin attaching fiber optic cable to our poles, a process which will be completed in 2020 or possibly sooner. This fiber cable will deliver high-speed internet and phone service to members. The last step in the construction phase is extending the fiber cable into the homes and businesses of GLE members who become subscribers of this exciting new service offering.

If all goes as scheduled, a small number of GLE members will have high-speed fiber service by the end of the year. In 2019 and beyond we plan to add many more new subscribers.

The addition of the fiber optic technology will benefit all GLE members in the district, not just those who subscribe to the service. It will serve as the backbone for other supporting technologies that will enable us to improve our reliability and outage restoration capabilities. It could also lead to improving our members' overall experience with us by, for example, providing customized information on where and when their kWh usage is occurring.

The installation cost to bring fiber to the home will be included as part of the promotional offer when members enroll. We plan to offer three attractively-priced internet plans, including optional landline phone service. Phone service can be purchased separately or bundled with fiber internet service at a discount.

The fiber service will be provided by a newly-created subsidiary owned by Great Lakes Energy. The subsidiary will be responsible for all project costs. Our plan is that there will be no negative impact on electric service or rates.

Should the initial phase of this project be successful, we will extend fiber internet to other service areas based on member demand and other factors.

We will keep you informed on this exciting new project as it develops in the months ahead through our publications, online at [gtlakes.com](https://gtlakes.com) or on our Facebook page.



Fiber internet service is coming to GLE members in the shaded areas above, which includes most of Emmet County and small parts of Charlevoix and Cheboygan counties. Service to Beaver Island will be a form of high-speed internet yet to be determined.

# New Reliability Project

Jen Young maneuvers the UAS inside the power line training yard at Great Lakes Energy's Boyne City office. It can remain airborne for up to 30 minutes before batteries need to be recharged. Calm or light wind conditions must exist to fly it.



**R**eliability improvements are looking up at Great Lakes Energy with the addition of an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) or drone.

Equipment attached to the UAS enables it to “see” problems on the cooperative’s power line distribution system that could lead to outages. By hovering the remotely-operated UAS at a close but safe distance from power lines, pilots on the ground can locate trouble areas and alert lineworkers to move in and make the repairs.

Thermal images from a small, infrared camera mounted to the UAS can reveal hot spots caused by power line equipment operating at higher than normal temperatures. The hot spot could be due to a loose wire connection, cracked insulator, or other equipment issues often not visible from the ground.

## Storm Work Helper

The UAS will be used for storm work, too. Great Lakes Energy will test how well it helps field workers find downed lines and other storm damage. Workers patrol the lines and report the damages and their locations to repair crews.

“I can look out over several spans of line and not be able to spot all the damage without walking the entire length to get a closer look,” explains Great Lakes Energy’s Jenny Young. “With the drone, I expect to do the job faster and more effectively.”

Patrolling lines on foot is time-consuming, particularly if there’s heavy snow, streams to cross or hills to climb.

Pilots will be able to photograph or video record damaged power line equipment and share the images and locations with repair crews.

## Licensed Operators

Young is one of three GLE field workers who are commercially licensed to operate the UAS near the co-op’s power lines. Their training consisted of not only learning how to fly the UAS, but also studying the rules and regulations related to the commercial operation of the aircraft. That includes knowing areas to avoid, such as airspace designated for military use. They each passed a Federal Aviation Administration aeronautical knowledge exam to earn their commercial license.

GLE members who happen to see the UAS near power lines this year will also see the pilot nearby. To maintain control of the UAS, pilots must keep it within their sight. They will wear vests and carry identification. If you see a GLE pilot at work, please do not approach because it could distract the pilot and cause an accident.

In some cases, GLE members will be notified by an automated phone message if the UAS will be in use in their area. This would be for any planned line maintenance projects where the aircraft will be involved. Notification will not be possible when the UAS is used in emergency storm restoration situations.



Look For The Blue Ribbon  
For Chances To

WIN  
BILL CREDITS  
& CASH!

# MI CO-OP Community

## A place for you to share, win and belong.

As a *Michigan Country Lines* reader, not only are you the heart of your co-op, you are the heart of this magazine. The recipes, memories, photos and stories you share are what make our magazine one-of-a-kind. It brings us together as a community, and we want to encourage more of it. Thanks to the new MI Co-op Community page on [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com), it's now easier than ever to share your content and to read content submitted by other members. Better yet, we don't expect you to work for free. Many submissions are rewarded with cash and bill credits. Just look for the blue ribbon—and we'll look forward to your content.



1.

## Monthly Recipe Contest And MI Co-op Kitchen

If you're in need of some food inspiration, look no further than MI Co-op Kitchen—our online cooking community. MI Co-op Kitchen is an interactive space where you can share your recipes and food ideas with other like-minded members. Submit a recipe for our monthly contest and you could win a \$50 bill credit and have your recipe published. A winner is selected every month.



2.

## Where In Michigan Is This? Our Mystery Photo Contest

Have you traveled much in the mitten state? If so, it could pay off. Correctly identify our mystery photo and you could win a \$50 bill credit. A new "Where in Michigan Is This?" mystery photo is published in our January, March, May, July/August, September and November/December *Michigan Country Lines* issues. Each correct guess is placed into a drawing and one lucky winner is selected.



3.

## I Remember—Members Share Their Fondest Memories

The best stories come from the people who've lived them, so share yours with us. If we publish your story, you receive a \$50 check! Just send us your memory up to 200 words; photos are always a great addition!



4.

## Our New Guest Column

We know many of our members are talented and have great ideas—so we invite you to share that talent in *Country Lines*! We will pay \$150 for stories we publish. Let the ideas flow! Stories could be about a significant or memorable event, a person in your life, life lessons learned, educational topics, Michigan recreational activities—and more! Please keep stories to approximately 350 words. Photos are always welcome!



**NEW!**

## Best Of Michigan

Do you have a favorite spot you bring out-of-state guests? What about a favorite Michigan ice cream store you can't resist or a Michigan-inspired treat you always buy? We want to know! Our new Best of Michigan column is a way for you to submit your favorite treats, sites, restaurants, opinions and activities.

We will publish many submissions for the Best Of Michigan section—so there is no monetary reward. However, your name will be published!

## Best Beaches!

Tell us your top toes-in-the-sand, sun-soaking beaches along Michigan's coastline.

Submit your answers at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) under the MI Co-op Community tab by June 20.

# HOW TO PREVENT ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING

Each year 3,800 people die from drowning.

Electric shock drowning occurs when an electric current escapes boats, docks and lights near marinas, shocking nearby swimmers.

There are no visible signs of current seeping into water, which makes this a hidden danger.

The electric shock paralyzes swimmers, making them unable to swim to safety.



## ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR:

### Swimmers

- **Never swim near a boat or launching ramp.** Residual current could flow into the water from the boat or the marina's wiring, potentially putting anyone in the water at risk of electric shock.
- If you feel any tingling sensations while in the water, **tell someone and swim back** in the direction from which you came. Immediately report it to the dock or marina owner.

### Boat Owners

- **Ensure your boat is properly maintained and consider having it inspected annually.** GFCIs and ELCIs should be tested monthly. Conduct leakage testing to determine if electrical current is escaping the vessel.
- **Use portable GFCIs or shore power cords** (including "Y" adapters) that are "UL-Marine Listed" when using electricity near water.
- Regularly have your boat's electrical system inspected by a certified marine electrician. **Ensure it meets your local and state NEC, NFPA and ABYC safety codes.**

## IF YOU SEE ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING TAKING PLACE:



**TURN POWER OFF**



**THROW A LIFE RING**



**CALL 911**

**DO NOT enter the water. You could become a victim, too.**

# Heat Pumps:

## An Energy-Efficient Alternative

Looking to save on heating and cooling costs? Heat pumps are a smart alternative to furnaces and air conditioners.

### How do Heat Pumps work?

Like a refrigerator, heat pumps use electricity to move heat. During the heating season, heat pumps extract and move heat from the cool outdoors into your warm house. In the summer, they move heat from your cool house into the warm outdoors.

Because heat pumps *move* heat rather than *generate* heat, they can cost up to 75 percent less to operate compared to conventional heating or cooling methods.

### Types of Heat Pumps

There are various types of heat pumps, two of which are outlined below:

- **Air-Source Heat Pumps:** These are the most common type of heat pump. Today's models can reduce electricity use for heating by up to 50 percent compared to furnaces and baseboard heaters. For homes without ducts, a ductless version called a **"mini-split heat pump"** is available.

- **Geothermal (Ground-Source) Heat Pumps:** These models achieve even higher efficiencies by transferring heat between your home and the ground. These heat pumps can be used in a wide variety of home types and in more extreme climates than air-source heat pumps, and also help control humidity.

Save now with cash back from the Energy Optimization program!

Equipment	Energy Optimization program incentive*
Central Air-Source Heat Pump	\$150–\$500
Mini/Multi-Split Air-Source Heat Pump	\$750
Ground-Source Heat Pump	\$350–\$500
Heat Pump Water Heater	\$300
HVAC Combo Bonus	\$100
Smart HVAC Combo Bonus	\$150

View all incentives at [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) or call **877.296.4319** for details.

*\*Incentive amounts are subject to change; other restrictions may apply. GLE does not sell or install heat pumps.*

# Grow YOUR \$SAVINGS!

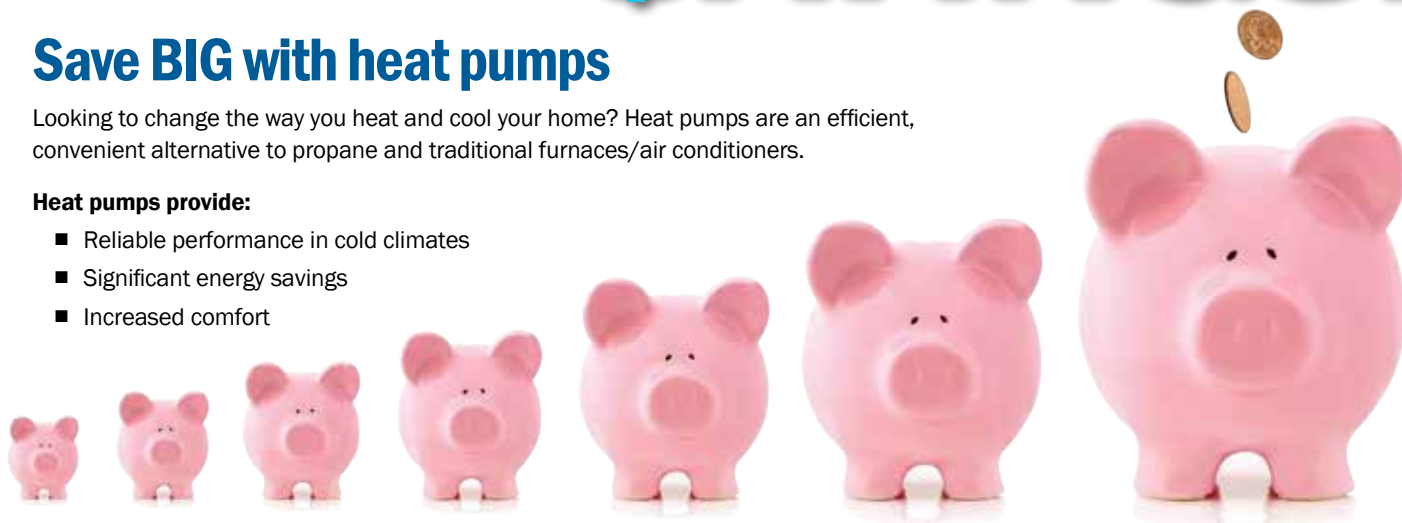
VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
for a full list of incentives!

## Save BIG with heat pumps

Looking to change the way you heat and cool your home? Heat pumps are an efficient, convenient alternative to propane and traditional furnaces/air conditioners.

### Heat pumps provide:

- Reliable performance in cold climates
- Significant energy savings
- Increased comfort



ONLINE: [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) PHONE: 877.296.4319

Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org).







# GLE Photo Contest

## Outdoor Adventures

1. Picking blueberries with my mother—*Kathy Courtourier, Ludington*
2. Evening Catch—*William Murawski, Fife Lake*
3. Winter Fun—*Jacqueline Houseman, Walkerville*
4. Heading to the beach—*Roberta Griswold, Central Lake*
5. High flying with skydiving—*Myra Reimink, Hamilton*
6. Blue sky and blue water—*Joshua Reimink, Allegan*



Most votes on Facebook!

### Submit Your "Fall Colors" 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 June theme is Fall Colors. Photos can be submitted by June 20 to be featured in the September 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://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!



# Spice It Up

These recipes are packed full of flavor.

Photos—Robert Bruce Photography

## Spiced Red Lentil Soup With Cilantro (pictured above)

Cynthia Hodges, Ontonagon REA

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>4 tablespoons unsalted butter</b>                      | <b>4 cups chicken or vegetable broth</b>  |
| <b>1 large onion, chopped fine</b>                        | <b>2 cups water</b>   |
| <b><math>\frac{3}{4}</math> teaspoon ground coriander</b> | <b><math>10\frac{1}{2}</math> ounces (<math>1\frac{1}{2}</math> cups) red lentils, picked over and rinsed</b> |
| <b><math>\frac{1}{2}</math> teaspoon ground cumin</b>     | <b>2 tablespoons lemon juice, plus extra for seasoning</b>  |
| <b><math>\frac{1}{4}</math> teaspoon ground ginger</b>    | <b>1 teaspoon paprika</b>   |
| <b><math>\frac{1}{8}</math> teaspoon ground cinnamon</b>  | <b><math>\frac{1}{4}</math> cup fresh cilantro, chopped</b>   |
| <b><math>\frac{1}{4}</math> teaspoon pepper</b>           |   |
| <b>• pinch cayenne powder</b>                             |   |
| <b>1 tablespoon tomato paste</b>                          |   |
| <b>1 garlic clove, minced</b>                             |   |

Melt butter in large saucepan over medium heat. Add onion and 1 teaspoon salt and cook, stirring occasionally, until softened but not browned, about 5 minutes. Add coriander, cumin, ginger, cinnamon, cayenne, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon pepper and cook until fragrant, about 2 minutes. Stir in tomato paste and garlic and cook for 1 minute. Stir in broth, water, and lentils and bring to simmer. Simmer vigorously, stirring occasionally, until lentils are soft and about half are broken down, about 15 minutes. Whisk soup robustly until it is coarsely pureed, about 30 seconds. Stir in lemon juice and season with salt, pepper and extra lemon juice to taste. Ladle soup into individual bowls, sprinkle with paprika and cilantro, and serve.



Watch a video of this recipe at  
[micoopkitchen.com/videos](http://micoopkitchen.com/videos)

## Chicken Hot Legs

Stanley Pohl, HomeWorks Tri-County

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>4–5 pounds of chicken legs</b> | <b>1 cup Drake's Crispy Fry Mix</b>                         |
| <b>2 eggs</b>                     | <b><math>1\frac{1}{2}</math> cups Frank's RedHot™ sauce</b> |
| <b>• salt and pepper</b>          | <b><math>\frac{1}{2}</math> stick butter</b>                |

Preheat oven to 425 F. Pull skin over the meat (do not remove the skin). Beat eggs; add some salt and pepper. Dredge legs in eggs then coat well with Drakes mix. Cover a cookie sheet with aluminum foil and grease generously with butter. Bake until the bottom side gets crispy, then turn over and bake again until bottom is crispy.

For the spicy sauce: Mix together the butter and hot sauce in a large bowl.

Toss the chicken legs in the spicy sauce until well coated. Place the drumsticks back on the cookie sheet and continue baking an additional 10 to 15 minutes.







## FEATURED GUEST CHEF



### Buffalo Chicken Tacos

Nancy Popa, Cherryland

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 2 boneless chicken breast halves                  | 2 tablespoons buttermilk                   |
| 2 tablespoons hot sauce (such as Frank's RedHot™) | 2 tablespoons mayonnaise                   |
| 1 teaspoon butter, melted                         | 1 ounce blue cheese crumbled (about ¼ cup) |
| ½ teaspoon ground red pepper                      | 2 cups shredded romaine lettuce            |
|   | 1 celery stalk, thinly sliced              |
|   | 8 6-inch corn tortillas                    |

Heat a grill pan over medium-high heat; coat with oil. Cut the chicken breasts in half lengthwise to make 4 cutlets. Season well with salt and pepper. Cook chicken 2–3 minutes on each side until done. Remove from pan and let the chicken sit a few minutes before slicing thin. Combine hot sauce, butter and red pepper with a whisk. Add sliced chicken to mixture and coat. Combine buttermilk, mayonnaise and blue cheese; mash with a fork. Add lettuce and celery to the mixture. Warm the tortillas as the package directs. Place chicken mixture in tortilla and top with cheese mixture. Serve with tortilla chips or rice.



**Cookies And Cakes:** due July 1  
**Cocktails And Drinks:** due August 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](http://micoopkitchen.com) for more information and to register.

Enter to win a  
**\$50**  
 energy bill credit!

### Interlochen Cookie Bar

Stone Cafeteria at Interlochen Center of the Arts works hard to nourish the body and creative spirits of the students, faculty and staff. While menus are managed weekly to take advantage of local and seasonal produce, the menu occasionally includes an indulgent treat. So, when the Cookie Bar hits the menu, it's music to everyone's ears.

- ½ cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1½ cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1 (14-ounce) can EAGLE BRAND® Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate morsels
- 1⅓ cups flaked coconut
- 1 cup chopped nuts

Heat oven to 350 F (325 F for glass dish). Coat a 13x9-inch baking pan with non-stick cooking spray. Combine graham cracker crumbs and butter. Press into bottom of prepared pan. Pour sweetened condensed milk evenly over crumb mixture. Layer evenly with chocolate chips, coconut and nuts. Press down firmly with a fork. Bake 25 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool. Cut into bars or diamonds. Store cookie bars covered at room temperature.

Read the full story about Interlochen Center of the Arts on page 14, and find this recipe and others at [micoopkitchen.com](http://micoopkitchen.com).





## Historic Farms Honored

An Oceana County farm owned by Great Lakes Energy member Karl Henrickson of Shelby was recently certified as a sesquicentennial farm.

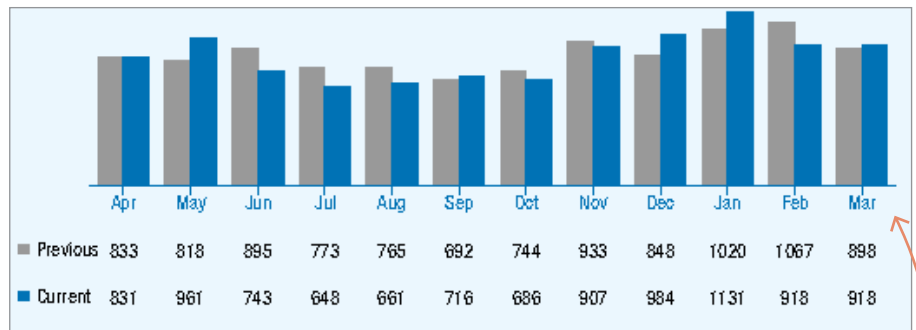
Great Lakes Energy is a sponsor of the Michigan Centennial Farm Program that honors Great Lakes Energy members and other Michigan residents whose farms have been owned and operated by the same family for at least 100 years. Centennial farms that continue to be owned and operated by the same family for at least 150 years can be certified as a sesquicentennial farm. 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 at [centennialfarms.org](http://centennialfarms.org).

# New Usage Information On Your Bill

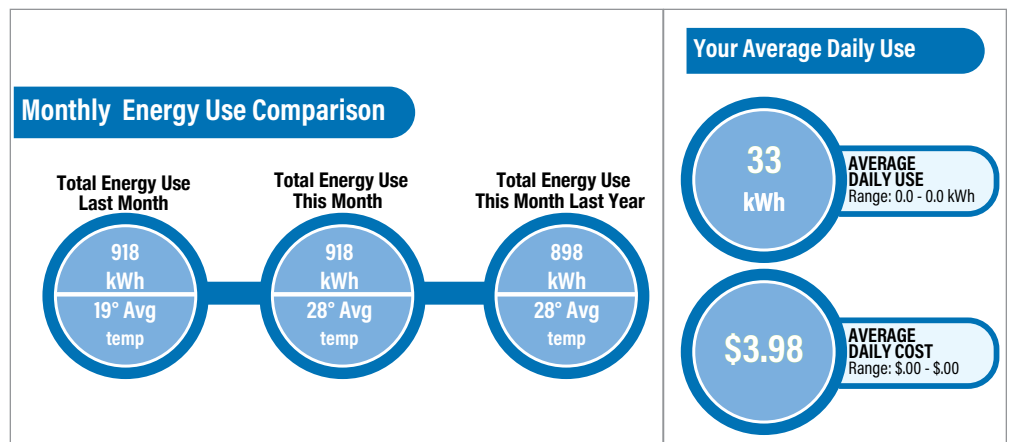
New graphics to help you better manage your energy use have been added to your monthly bill. They will allow you to quickly and easily keep track of your kilowatt-hour (kWh) consumption.

Samples of the new billing graphics appear below.



How much electricity did I use in March 2018 compared to March 2017?

**Answer:** 918 kWh for March 2018 and 898 kWh for March 2017. Now you can quickly compare your current 12 month usage history with your previous 12 month history.



At a glance, see kWh use for last month, this month and this month last year. Daily average usage and cost information is also provided.

The first bill with the new graphics will be sent in June.



# Join People Fund Plus



## Quilts Honor Those Who Served

Little Traverse Bay Quilters Guild members (L to R) Claudia Libbey, Tresa Keys, Ruth Harris, Donna Campbell, Linda Fry, Penny Harrison, Lois Hart, and Kay Geuder hold a quilt that will be given to a local U.S. military veteran. Since 2014, the guild has awarded quilts to 239 veterans—primarily from Antrim, Charlevoix and Emmet counties. The group received a \$1,000 People Fund grant to help cover supplies for its Quilts of Valor project that honors local veterans with quilts that convey a message of healing, comfort and concern.

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](http://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](http://gtlakes.com/peoplefundenroll) to join. •





# *Interlochen* Making Beautiful Music In Northern Michigan

By Emily Haines Lloyd // Photos courtesy of Interlochen Center for the Arts



In Interlochen, Michigan, nestled within 1,200 acres of woods with not one, but two crystal blue lakes sparkling with glints of light, is an idyllic setting worthy of an opening sequence in a movie. With its rustic-looking cabins, noticeable absence of technology, and campers rushing off to their activities, it's not unlike other summer camps.

But, as they say, it's all about the details.

Take a closer look to see campers in their iconic blue polo shirts, walking along with instrument cases, sheet music, scripts, portfolios and a variety of accessories that display the fact that Interlochen is no ordinary summer camp. Each year Interlochen plays host to approximately 2,500 third through 12th-grade students from around the world who want to make something beautiful over their summer vacation.

"The Interlochen Arts Camp experience gathers students and teachers from all over the country and the world in an intensive, inspiring artistic experience that trains and rejuvenates young artists," said Jason Hubbard, vice



president of academy programs. "The reservoir of skills and experiences informs their practice and continues to inspire their work throughout the year."

Interlochen Arts Camp, formerly called National High School Orchestra Camp, has been in operation since 1928. It expanded its efforts in 1962 when it opened its year-round boarding school—Interlochen Arts Academy, which now hosts approximately 500 students each year from grades nine through 12. Both programs offer young artists opportunities to explore their craft in a variety of disciplines like music, theater, creative writing, dance, film, visual arts and more, while building in authentic camp experiences like off-campus field trips or lake activities.

While you'll find a large number of campers and students who hope to one day have a career in the arts, there are just as many who will one day find careers as software designers, teachers, or accountants, but the long-term impact can be equally significant.

"Students come to Interlochen to find their voice, to develop in their artistry, and to find their people," said Leslie Donaldson, director of engagement.

This finding of one's tribe is a common theme. Famous alumnus Josh Groban, an actor and vocalist, talked about his experience as a camper at Interlochen Arts Camp on Bloomberg TV in 2015.

"You're surrounded by nature, on a lake, and you're also surrounded by kids from all over the country and all over the world who share the same passion for the arts as you do," said Groban. "It was the first place I realized I was not an outcast."

Interlochen provides world-class instruction in the arts for its campers and provides a variety of performances, shows and interactions for art lovers from the region. In 2018, Interlochen announced a new Day Camp program that invites local residents in grades six through 12 the opportunity to attend three and six week programs at a substantially discounted rate. Now, community members can more than enjoy the performances against the camp's idyllic backdrop, they actually have the opportunity to participate.

Yes, Interlochen is brimming with talented artists, unlike your average camp program. But at its core, it is all about the students and the opportunity for them to produce beautiful art, make lifelong friends and create cherished memories. So maybe, at its heart, Interlochen is exactly what summer camp is all about.



Tickets for the 2018 Interlochen Arts Festival are now on sale!  
Buy your tickets today!  
See all featured events online  
at [tickets.interlochen.org](https://tickets.interlochen.org) or  
call 800-681-5920.

# Pay Station Service Ends

In an effort to streamline business processes, Great Lakes Energy no longer accepts payments at pay stations.

A special thanks goes out to participating businesses who provided GLE members with this bill payment service.

A wide range of other convenient payment options are available to GLE members, including:

**AutoPay:** Your payment is automatically deducted each month from your checking or savings account or charged to your credit/debit card. Create an account on the GLE website to enroll.

**EPay:** Pay online at [gtlakes.com](http://gtlakes.com). Make a one-time payment with a check or credit card.

**Mobile App:** Download GLE's updated mobile app with new features that include kilowatt-hour usage monitoring.

**PhonePay:** Pay by credit card or check over the phone at any time.

**FlexPay:** Pay for your electricity in advance and manage your electricity use on a daily basis. No late fees, no reconnect fees and no deposits are involved with this plan.

**Mail or In-Person:** You can also mail your payment in the envelope provided with your bill or visit any GLE office to make your payment in person or in a drop-box.

Your understanding is appreciated as GLE works to better serve your needs. Please call 888-485-2537, ext. 8924 if you have any questions. Thanks for being a member of Great Lakes Energy.

# Rate Increase Effective In June

Rate changes recently approved by the Great Lakes Energy board of directors will result in a net increase of \$0.0051 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for residential and seasonal accounts. It will go into effect with the June bills.

A \$0.0216 increase in the energy charge and a \$0.0165 decrease in the power supply cost recovery (PSCR) factor results in a net increase of \$0.0051. (\$0.0216 minus \$0.0165 equals \$0.0051). The monthly charge will 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. Amounts don't include state 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.

Approved Rate Changes			
	Current Rate	Approved Rate	Change
Energy charge	\$0.0864/kWh	\$0.1080/kWh	\$0.0216/kWh
PSCR charge	\$0.0165/kWh	\$0.00/kWh	\$(0.0165)/kWh
<b>Net increase</b>			<b>\$0.0051/kWh</b>

VOTE

# Next Month For A Board Member

It's time to vote! Great Lakes Energy members in three director districts will receive a mail-in ballot with their July/August issue of *Michigan Country Lines*.

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

District areas are:	<b>District 1- Emmet County</b> <b>District 2 – Charlevoix and Cheboygan counties</b> <b>District 7 – Oceana and Muskegon counties</b>
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The terms of directors Paul Byl of Shelby, Mark Carson of Boyne City, and Paul Schemanski of Petoskey expire this year. The three incumbents plan to seek re-election.

In addition to the mail-in ballot, the candidates' profiles will appear in the July/August election issue that will be sent to members in districts 1, 2 and 7. Please watch for your ballot next month and remember to vote.

Winners will be announced Aug. 22 at the cooperative's Annual Business Meeting in Boyne City.

**GREAT LAKES ENERGY COOPERATIVE CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET \***  
as of December 31, 2017

<b>ASSETS</b>		<b>EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES</b>	
<b>Electric plant:</b>		<b>Equities</b>	
Distribution plant	\$ 478,354,149	Memberships	\$ 519,740
Construction in progress	6,366,855	Patronage capital	182,313,757
	484,721,004	Donated capital	6,184,394
Less accumulated depreciation	141,768,496	Accumulated other comprehensive income	5,602,036
Net electric plant	342,952,508	Total equities	194,619,927
<b>Other assets and investments:</b>		<b>Long-term debt, net of current portion, and non-current accrued expenses:</b>	
Investments and memberships	118,890,395	Long term debt	246,611,039
Notes and other receivables	138,216	Non-current accrued expenses	7,193,463
Total other assets	119,028,611	Total long-term debt and non-current accrued expenses	253,804,502
<b>Current assets:</b>		<b>Current liabilities:</b>	
Cash	2,841,192	Current maturities of long-term debt	4,067,396
Accounts receivable, net of bad debt reserve	16,914,351	Accounts payable	13,446,756
Materials and supplies	2,616,270	Accrued expenses	14,822,403
Other current assets	1,822,944	Customer deposits	1,599,562
Total current assets	24,194,757	Total current liabilities	33,936,117
<b>Deferred charges</b>	5,694,283	<b>Deferred credits</b>	9,509,613
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 491,870,159</b>	<b>Total liabilities and equities</b>	<b>\$ 491,870,159</b>

**GREAT LAKES ENERGY COOPERATIVE CONSOLIDATED OPERATING STATEMENTS \***  
for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Operating revenues</b>	\$ 186,526,472	\$ 186,029,181
<b>Operating expenses:</b>		
Cost of power	116,880,898	117,047,768
Distribution system operating and maintenance expenses	26,550,957	24,829,582
Customer service and information expenses	10,245,497	9,572,463
Administrative and general expenses	8,637,791	8,527,742
Depreciation and amortization	14,245,706	13,825,806
Other operating expenses	173,400	153,080
Total operating expenses	176,734,249	173,956,441
Operating margins before fixed charges	9,792,223	12,072,740
<b>Fixed charges, interest expense</b>	10,415,748	10,264,152
Operating margins after fixed charges	(623,525)	1,808,588
<b>Non-operating margins:</b>		
Interest income	2,312,170	1,991,866
Other expenses, net of other income	(182,751)	(36,824)
Total non-operating income	2,129,419	1,955,042
<b>Capital credits from associated organizations:</b>		
Wolverine Power Company	7,573,681	5,629,937
Other associated organizations	1,400,878	1,095,431
Total capital credits from associated organizations	8,974,559	6,725,368
<b>Net margins</b>	<b>\$ 10,480,453</b>	<b>\$ 10,488,998</b>

\*A copy of the audited financial statements and the auditors' report is on file at the cooperative's office in Boyne City, MI.



GUEST COLUMN

# Anything Is Possible While Fishing In The Dark

Love or monsters: Take your pick.

By Andy Duffy, Great Lakes Energy Member

"You and me going fishing in the dark," wrote a brace of country song lyricists. My dad was a fan of the idea.

Dad grew up when white pine stumps remained from the logging days. Lakes were pristine. I don't know where he got his fishing knowledge, but he knew about fishing in the dark.

We lived on some derelict farmland perched beside a winding river. I was just a kid with a compulsion to fish. Dad told me to try fishing at night with a black, Arbogast Jitterbug.

I had the Jitterbug. My yard-mowing income saw to that. My empty tackle box compartments always outnumbered my full ones because I lost lures as fast as I bought them. Trees, old bridge pilings and rocks were anglers' adversaries, and they beat me often. Because of my dad's recommendation, though, I always had a Jitterbug.

So, one June night after the final rays of sunlight disappeared in the evening sky, I made my way down the winding path, between patches of poison ivy and snake grass, to the sandbar that lined the river. Mosquitoes descended on me. I swatted.

Still, I dutifully went about my fishing. I made a cast, and then another.

I had little room to fish. Upstream and down, the stream wasn't safe for someone my age. I was restricted to 30 feet of shoreline. So, I decided to make one last cast and call it a night.

In the dark, I could hear my lure, but I couldn't see it. When the plug was right at my feet, an unholy commotion shook my world. Water splashed. A maelstrom opened, and I thought it would suck me in. My heart leaped into my throat. My rod bent. Line zipped through the line guides. I realized I had a fish on. I played it in. It was a smallmouth bass, the first one I ever caught. The world became a magical place for me that night.

Today, Michigan remains an enchanted place. As the song suggests, the magic may come with falling in love in the middle of the night. Or, it might come as a raging monster surging from the water to devour a young angler. A person can take his pick: One type of magic is probably just as enchanting as the other.

**Left:** Sam Shaffer of Concord knows that at the time of the summer solstice, magical things can happen. A kiss probably won't turn a fish into a princess, but anything is worth a shot.

**Below:** Janet Day of Clark Lake fishes one of Michigan's country lakes. The lakes are magical places where anything can happen.



A proponent of the bucolic life, Andy lives in co-op country in a rural area near Evart. There, he engages in a wide variety of outdoor activities including hunting, fishing and gathering.

## Country Lines Invites Members To Submit A Guest Column

*Country Lines* will pay \$150 for stories we publish. In general, great columns are those that talk about a significant or memorable event or person in your life, and the lessons learned. If we choose to publish your column, we will contact you via phone or email.

### Guidelines

1. Approximately 350 words
2. Digital photos must be at least 600 KB
3. *Country Lines* retains reprint rights
4. Submit your guest column at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) under the MI Co-op Community tab
5. Please include a head shot photo and a couple sentences about yourself

*Country Lines*  
will pay  
**\$150**  
for stories we  
publish.

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Daniel M. - Manistee, MI



"We're saving \$1,500 per year and would recommend Well-Connect to anyone."

Roger and Judy R. - Atlanta, MI



"With a Well-Connect, we now fill our propane tank only ONCE per year vs. every 7 weeks!! Well-Connect also keeps our home cool and comfortable all summer. We love it!"

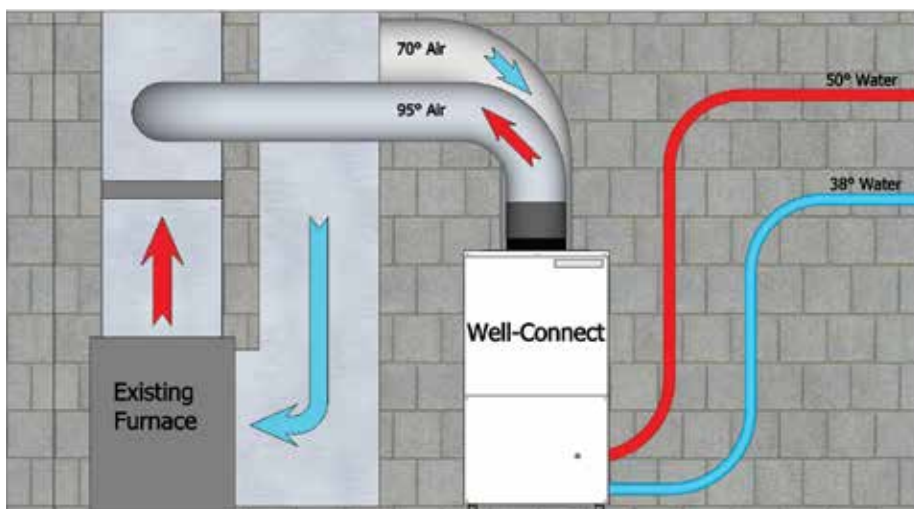
Steve & Miriam - Owosso, MI



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## HOW DOES THE SYSTEM WORK?



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# Your Co-op. Your Board. Looking out for you.



Putting their many years of board experience to work for you are Great Lakes Energy directors (front L-R) Tim Brechon, Mark Carson, Dale Farrier and John LaForge; (back L-R) Robert Kran, Paul Byl, Ric Evans, Paul Schemanski and Larry Monshor.

## Great Lakes Energy Directors Put Members First

- Major system improvements in the last 14 years have increased service reliability to all GLE members.
- GLE accomplishes more with less, ranking it as one of the most productive electric cooperatives nationwide<sup>1</sup>.
- Profits earned are returned to you. A total of more than \$66.4 million in capital credit refunds have been returned to members since 2003.
- Eight local offices deliver quick and courteous service, especially when big storms roll in.

<sup>1</sup> Based on number of members per employee statistics compiled by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Directors work for you and you alone.  
That's the cooperative difference.