

# MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative

## *Interlochen*

Making Beautiful Music  
In Northern Michigan

Scholarship Winners Named

Youth Tour Travelers

Fiber Construction Begins!





**Act now to receive a  
30% Federal tax credit**

**7 Series**  
*Ultimate comfort  
and efficiency*



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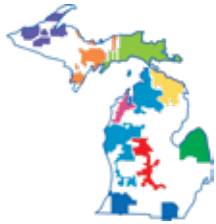
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[waterfurnace.com/Credit](http://waterfurnace.com/Credit)





Michigan's Electric Cooperatives  
[countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com)

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**POSTMASTER:** SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

Association officers are **Robert Kran**, Great Lakes Energy, chairman; **Mark Kappler**, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric, vice chairman; and **Eric Baker**, Wolverine Power Cooperative, secretary-treasurer. **Craig Borr** is president and CEO.

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#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Please notify your electric cooperative. See page 4 for contact information.

The appearance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised.

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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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MEMBER GUEST COLUMN:

Anything Is Possible While Fishing In The Dark

Andy Duffy, Great Lakes Energy Member

[Submit A Guest Column And Win \\$150!](#)

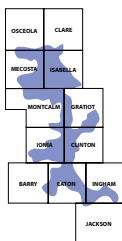
## I Remember...

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.

*Country Lines*  
will pay  
**\$50**  
for stories we  
publish.



## Tri-County Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

### Portland office/Mail payments to:

7973 E. Grand River Avenue  
Portland, MI 48875  
Open 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Friday

### Blanchard office:

3681 Costabella Avenue  
Blanchard, MI 49310  
Open 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Friday

Night deposit box available at both locations.

### Electric bill/account questions:

517-647-7554 or 1-800-562-8232

### Pay by phone, anytime:

1-877-999-3395

### Service questions/outages:

517-647-7554 or 1-800-848-9333  
(24 hours for emergency calls)

### Tri-County Propane:

1-877-574-2740

### HomeWorks Connect

1-800-668-8413

### homeworks.org

Email: [tricoenergy@homeworks.org](mailto:tricoenergy@homeworks.org)

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## The Excitement Is Building!

Mark Kappler, General Manager

Our members and the general public want more and more details on our HomeWorks Connect fiber business.

Our employees also want details so they can answer all the questions they're getting.

We are working as hard as we can to develop good answers to all the questions we're fielding, such as "How soon can you serve my neighborhood?" or "I have X service now, how will this compare?"

To recap: after almost two years of studying, planning, and initial engineering, we have just started construction on the "mainline" in Phase 1, which includes members served by the Portland and Grand Ledge substations and about half of the Odessa substation. We started here because we already have a fiber connection into our Portland office. Our administrative and IT staff are here, too, and it will be more efficient for them to learn on the job right here.

After mainline construction, we'll start working on service from the main line to a pole near the home. Then, as members sign up, we'll install the "drops" from the pole to the home. Finally, we'll schedule an in-home visit to complete the installation and set up the necessary electronics for you to connect to.

Based on our current progress, we hope to offer retail installations as soon as September. At that point, we'll offer packages starting at \$54.95 for 50 MB up/down bandwidth with no monthly data caps. If you like the idea of having one provider and one monthly bill, we'll also offer voice over IP telephone service with unlimited calling to the U.S., Canada, and the Caribbean for \$34.95 a month if you bundle it with a data package.

If all goes well with Phase 1, we'll move on to Phase 2, and eventually three more phases over a period of about five years, until access is available to **every** home or business that is served with HomeWorks Tri-County electricity.

Right now for Phase 2, we're looking at a couple of options that compare cost, density, and our ability to maintain reliable service. We hope to have a final decision soon so that the field engineers and make-ready teams can maintain a steady schedule.

Keep watching this magazine, our Facebook page, and your mailbox to stay up-to-date on our progress! You can help us by signing up for high-speed internet service at [Join.HomeWorksConnect.org](http://Join.HomeWorksConnect.org). Your expressions of interest will be one of the factors we use in setting our future plans.



Join us on Facebook.

[facebook.com/homeworks.org](https://facebook.com/homeworks.org)





**GREAT  
FOOD!**



**FELLOWSHIP!**



**PRIZES!**

## 2018 District Meeting Fun!

We want to thank everyone who attended their annual HomeWorks district meeting in May! We enjoyed the opportunity to update you on your co-op operations, celebrate the 25th anniversary of our People Fund with you, show you our new all-electric Chevy Bolt, and hand out the goods to all of our lucky prizewinners.

A special thanks to everyone who brought a donation for their local food pantry, and to the Beal City and Chippewa Hills FFA chapters for their help setting up.

Thanks to all of our members for helping us put another great year of district meetings in the books. We hope you had as much fun as we did!



**VOTING!**



**GIVING!**



**SHARING  
INFO!**



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.*

# Grow YOUR \$AVINGS!

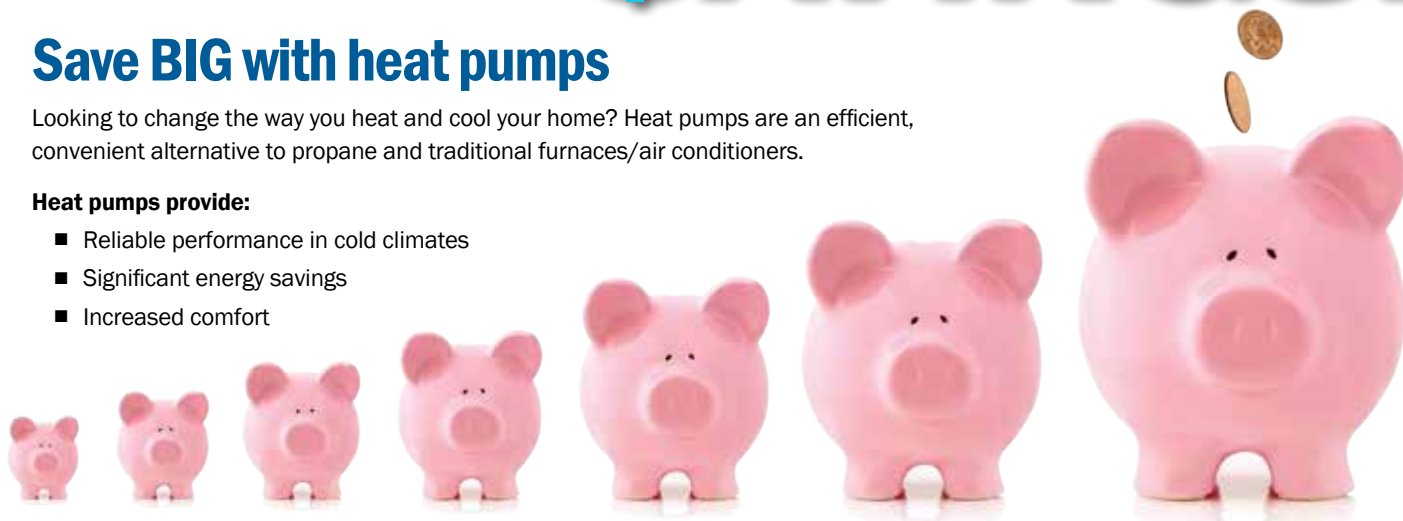
VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
for a full list of incentives!

## 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).







# Snap Shot

## Outdoor Adventures

1. Robin Decker of Blanchard shared a Snap Shot of Eric Decker wearing the Blind Skier vest skiing at Caberfae Peaks in Cadillac with his sighted guide, Shalyn Fortuna. She says, "Eric discovered his love of downhill skiing about four years ago. Eric has been low vision all of his life; we love seeing him enjoy this sport with Optical Illusions Sighted Guides. He recently skied the summit at Pico in Killington, Vermont."
2. David De Graaf from Battle Creek, who receives HomeWorks Tri-County Electric service at Barryton, sent in this photo, noting, "Kristopher Blake, passing a porcupine on the Manistee River Trail (porcupine is at the base of the tree to hiker's right). Beautiful but warm weather late last September for a three-day, two-night hike on the loop the MRT forms with a section of the North Country Trail."
3. Sandra Bevil of Farwell has a souvenir from her sisters' Christmas present to her—a trip to Florida. From left, Linda, Sandy, Kathy, Jane, and Judy.
4. Rita Owen from Portland says she and her husband, Mike, and their family wanted to leave their mark on Sand Beach in Munising. "What a fun day, scavenging the beach for just the right pieces of driftwood!"
5. Karen Retter from Jerome, who receives HomeWorks Tri-County Electric service near Barryton, says this Snap Shot depicts "a fun outdoor adventure for the pilot of this hot air balloon one early summer morning over Stoney Lake in Napoleon, Mich."



### Upcoming Snap Shot Contest Topics And Deadlines

- "Fall Colors," Deadline: July 16 (September issue)  
"Pumpkin Faces," Deadline: Aug. 15 (October issue)  
"Celebrations," Deadline: Sept. 17 (November-December issue)

Go to [homeworks.org](http://homeworks.org) and select *Country Lines* under the Electric tab to submit your photos and see additional themes. It's fast and easy. To send by mail: include your name, address, phone number, photographer's name, and details about your photo. Mail to Attn: *Country Lines* Snap Shots, 7973 E. Grand River, Portland, MI 48875. Photos will not be returned. Do not send color laser prints or professional studio photos.

### Submit Your "Fall Colors" Photos!

Contributors whose photos we publish in 2018 will be entered into a drawing. *Country Lines* will choose two winners for a bill credit of \$100 each on their December electric bill, due in January 2019!

Enter to win a  
**\$100**  
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).



# Your Board In Action

## Meeting at Blanchard on April 23, your board of directors:

- Read and approved a new “Customer Data Protection” tariff and policy for the HomeWorks Ratebook.
- Set March 14 as the Record Date for Districts 3 and 6, and April 2 for the remaining districts, for the list used in creating district meeting membership rolls.
- Discussed the April 13–15 ice-snow-wind storm and the Cooperative’s response.
- Read and approved Board Policy 402 – “Allocation of Non-Operating Income from Subsidiary,” with minor wording changes.
- Approved using 6.43 percent as the weighted average cost of capital to discount up to \$250,000 estate capital credit retirements in 2018 as authorized at the March board meeting.
- Authorized donations from unclaimed capital credits retired in 2012, including \$5,000 in matching grants to CoBank’s Sharing Success program, authorized at the March meeting; \$13,550 in supplemental Touchstone Energy Classroom Technology grants, and \$10,000 in additional 2018 Touchstone Energy scholarships; \$5,000 to the Jordan Lake Trail project; \$2,500 to the Isabella County 4-H Proud Equestrian Program; \$2,500 to the Montcalm County 4-H Community Connection Program; \$2,500 to Ovid-Elsie Schools in support of their robotics program; \$9,500 to NRECA International for costs associated with the Partners for Power Bolivia project; and retire the balance to the Cooperative’s donated capital account.
- Learned about progress made with the HomeWorks Connect fiber-to-the-home project.
- Learned there were 94 new members in March.
- Acknowledged the April safety report, listing employee training and minor employee and public incidents.

### Time Set Aside For Members To Comment Before Cooperative Board Meetings

The first 15 minutes of every board meeting are available for members who wish to address the board of directors on any subject. The next meetings are scheduled for 9 a.m. on June 25 at Portland, and on July 23 at Blanchard. Members who need directions to the meeting, or wish to have items considered on the board agenda, should call 517-647-7554.

## Helping Others With Your Spare Change

Thanks to your spare change, the People Fund helped provide books to youngsters for a year, helped repair Little League ball fields in Morley, and paid camp expenses for special needs children. You make a difference for only about \$6 a year!

### Meeting April 18, the Tri-County Electric People Fund board approved seven grants totaling \$9,293.43, including:

- \$1,300 to Gratiot-Isabella RESD, to provide books through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program;
- \$1,000 to Knox-Helms American Legion in Morley, to help repair Little League ball fields;
- \$2,500 to EightCap Greenville Optimist Camp, to cover some of the camp expenses for special needs children;
- \$1,500 to Helping Hands of Eaton County, Charlotte, to purchase personal care items for clients;
- \$237 to an Ionia County family for housing expenses;
- \$2,500 to an Isabella County family, to assist with housing expenses; and
- \$256.43 to a Mecosta County family, to help with housing expenses.

### How to Apply for a Tri-County Electric People Fund Grant

The Tri-County Electric People Fund provides grants to individuals and organizations in the co-op’s service area for food, shelter, clothing, health, and other humane needs, or for programs or services that benefit a significant segment of a community.

Write to 7973 E. Grand River Avenue, Portland, MI. 48875, for an application form and grant guidelines, or visit the People Fund tab at [homeworks.org](http://homeworks.org).

Note: Applications must be received by July 1 for the July board meeting, and by August 13 for the August board meeting.

# Using SmartHub? Stay Up To Date!

Older browsers that do not support the latest encryption protocols are no longer considered secure. The Payment Card Industry (PCI) requires older browsers and encryption protocols not be used at all after June 2018.

This is not unique to SmartHub, which has shown a warning since August 2016 to our members using older browsers that they need to upgrade.

If you haven't already upgraded to a supported browser, you will need to very soon in order to continue using SmartHub on your PC (this does not affect the app on your smart device.)

If your browser is at this level or higher, you should be able to use SmartHub:

- Internet Explorer 11+
- Chrome 30+
- Android 5.0+
- Firefox 27+
- Safari iOS 5.0+
- Safari OSX 9+

You should routinely update your browsers to ensure you stay secure on the internet, even if you aren't using SmartHub.

If for some reason you cannot upgrade your browser to a minimum supported



level, please contact HomeWorks Tri-County at 800-562-8232 to discuss other payment options.

## **Notice to Members of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative** **A Special Member Meeting is set for June 25, 9 a.m., at the Cooperative's Portland office**

The board of directors will consider several changes to the Cooperative's rates and tariffs at its meeting on June 25, 2018, to be held at the Cooperative office at 7973 Grand River Avenue, Portland, MI. The meeting will start at 9 a.m. and is open to all members of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

The session will begin with an opportunity for members to provide direct input to the board of directors, without filing a formal request under the Cooperative policy. Members are asked to come to the lobby by 9 a.m. and request to speak to the board; staff will direct interested members to the meeting room. Time constraints on each member's comments will be at the discretion of the board president, but members are asked to keep comments to less than five minutes.

The following items will be considered:

1. Revise the Cooperative's Energy Optimization rate to meet program needs.
2. Discuss participation in the State of Michigan's Low Income Energy Assistance program at the cost of a surcharge, to be determined by the state, on each residential customer's monthly energy bill.

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 HomeWorks Tri-County Electric at 800-562-8232 a week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. Comments may also be made before the meeting date by calling General Manager Mark Kappler at 517-647-1281, or by email at [mkappler@homeworks.org](mailto:mkappler@homeworks.org).

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

## **Notice to Members of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative** **Customer Access to Consumption Data and Confidentiality**

The HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, at a properly noticed meeting held April 23, 2018, has in accordance with Mich Admin Code, R 460.153 (Rule 53) of the Michigan Public Service Commission's Consumers Standards and Billing Practices for Electric Service, adopted a tariff and a Customer Data Protection Policy to be included in the Cooperative's Ratebook.

For specific details of any HomeWorks tariffs or fees, please call us at 1-800-562-8232 or visit our website at [homeworks.org](http://homeworks.org).



# *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.**



**After two years of study and planning,** and several months of field engineering and prep work, our fiber construction contractor began work just south of Portland in early May. Their crew is shown boring an underground main line along Knox Road. The fiber installation will generally follow our current electric lines, whether it's overhead or underground, and construction of main lines is expected to go through the summer months. Crews will then be assigned to splice in service drops before an installer completes installation inside the home or business.



**CASA executive director Kelly Schafer** accepts the Sharing Success check from HomeWorks Tri-County Electric director Luke Pohl (left) and general manager Mark Kappler.

HomeWorks director Luke Pohl, of Westphalia, and general manager Mark Kappler recently presented a \$5,000 gift to CASA—Voice for Clinton County's Children, and its Child Advocacy Center in St. Johns.

The gift was made possible by a \$2,500 matching grant from one of the cooperative's lenders, CoBank, as part of CoBank's Sharing Success program. Sharing Success is a charitable fund designed to benefit cooperatives and the charitable groups they support throughout rural America.

"CASA advocates for the children of our county when they've been in difficult situations. Helping a child through a painful experience or transition takes a huge investment of time and resources. We're very pleased to be able to help them with this gift," said Pohl, who represents most of Clinton County on the HomeWorks Tri-County Electric board.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers are appointed by the court to a child or sibling group and visit them every 7 to 10 days.

Through their consistent visits, CASA Advocates get to know the children, then report back to the court how the children are doing throughout their foster care journey to a safe, permanent home. The primary goal of the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) is to ensure Clinton County children are not further victimized by the systems designed to protect them.



# Eight Area Seniors Earn Touchstone Energy Scholarships

From a number of outstanding area high school applicants, eight students were chosen to receive one of our annual \$1,000 Touchstone Energy scholarships. They include:



**Nicholas Burlingame**, son of Lynne and Michael Burlingame. A graduate of Ashley High School, he plans to attend Oakland University and eventually work in rural medicine.



**Joy Johnson**, daughter of Marvin and Lisa Johnson. A graduate of Lakeview High School, she plans to study agriculture and plant breeding at Michigan State University.



**Natalie Kea**, daughter of Anne and Jeff Kea. A graduate of Mount Pleasant High School, she will study accounting at Central Michigan University.



**Nat Pytlowany**, son of Frank and Tammy Pytlowany. A graduate of Lakewood High School, he plans to study heavy equipment technology at Ferris State University.



**Taylor Rademacher**, daughter of Jim and Nancy Rademacher. A graduate of Fowler High School, she will attend Central Michigan University to study English for a career in education.



**Kylee Schrauben**, daughter of Brenda Schrauben. A graduate of St. Patrick School in Portland, she plans to study logistics at Central Michigan University.



**Morgan Silvestro**, daughter of John and Sara Silvestro. A graduate of Farwell High School, she will study agriculture operations at Delta College.



**Lauryn Wisner**, daughter of Jon and Kaye Wisner. A graduate of Montabella High School near Blanchard, she will study accounting at Northwood University.

Scholarship winners are chosen based on a combination of academic achievements, leadership both at school and in their community, and their own statements regarding career goals and financial need.

These scholarships are made possible with the support of Touchstone Energy, an American cooperative federation of 750 electric cooperatives. Together, we serve over 32 million member-owners across 75 percent of America's land mass.

As a Touchstone Energy co-op, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric provides high standards of service according to four core values: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. These scholarships are one way we show support for our communities.



About 1,800 students from over 45 states participate in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program each year. For more than 50 years, Youth Tour has brought high school students to Washington, D.C., to learn about co-ops, leadership, history and the importance of civic engagement.

Twenty of those students come from Michigan, including three sponsored by HomeWorks Tri-County Electric.

## They are:



**Jenna Birch**, daughter of Jody and Sally Birch of Blanchard, who attends Chippewa Hills High School.



**MaeLynn Huhn**, daughter of Michelle and Ryan Huhn of Portland, who attends Portland High School.



**Isabella Waite**, daughter of Jennifer Waite of Morley, who attends Big Rapids High School.

Leaving Michigan on June 9, the students will tour Gettysburg National Battlefield and Baltimore's Fort McHenry before reaching Washington, D.C.

They will spend several days touring Washington's landmarks, monuments, and memorials, then visit with some of their elected representatives during a day on Capitol Hill, before returning home.



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

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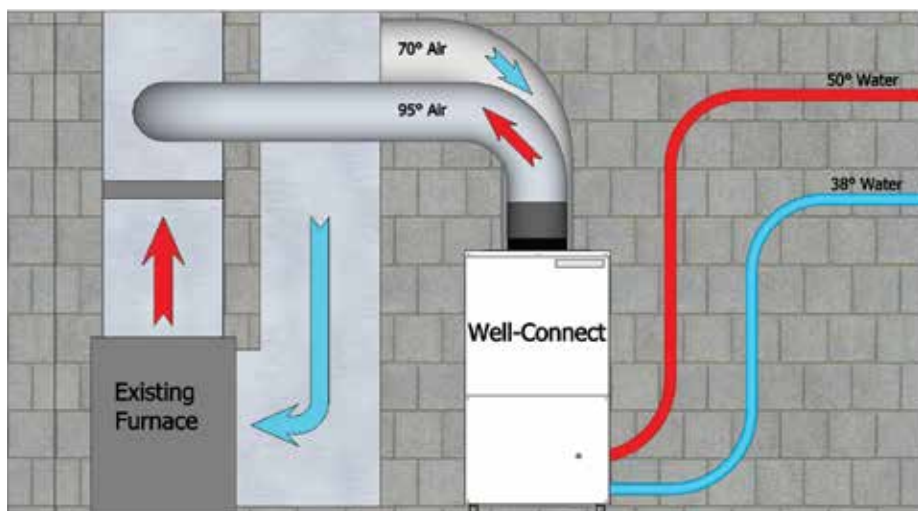
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