

---

# MICHIGAN

---

# COUNTRY LINES

Thumb Electric Cooperative

## Courageous Coffee

**The Perfect Blend**

Members Make Annual Meeting A Success

---

Annual Meeting Prize Winners

---

Take Advantage Of The Energy Waste Reduction Rebate Program

# THERE'S A TREASURE IN YOUR BACKYARD

*and it isn't just corn.*

You may not realize it, but your home is sitting on a **free and renewable** supply of energy. A WaterFurnace geothermal comfort system taps into the stored solar energy in your own backyard to provide **savings of up to 70% on heating, cooling and hot water**. That's money in the bank and a smart investment in your family's comfort. Contact your local WaterFurnace dealer today to learn how to **tap into your buried treasure**.

## YOUR LOCAL WATERFURNACE DEALERS

### Bad Axe

B & D Htg  
(989) 269-5280  
bdheating.com

### Berrien Springs

WaterFurnace Michiana  
(269) 473-5667  
gogreenmichgeothermal.com

### Big Rapids

Stratz Htg & Clg, Inc.  
(231) 796-3717  
stratzgeocomfort.com

### Caro

AllTemp Comfort, Inc.  
(866) 844-HEAT (4328)  
geo4less.com

### Clifford

Orton Refrig & Htg  
(989) 761-7691  
sanduskygeothermal.com

### Hart/Ludington

Adams Htg & Clg  
(231) 873-2665  
adamsheatingcooling.com

### Indian River

M & M Plmb & Htg  
(231) 238-7201  
mm-plumbing.com

### Kalkaska

Kalkaska Plmb & Htg  
(231) 258-3588  
kalkaskageothermal.net

### Michigan Center

Comfort 1/Aire Serv of  
Southern Michigan  
(517) 764-1500  
comfort1.net/geothermal

### Mt Pleasant

Walton Htg & Clg  
(989) 772-4822  
waltonheating.com

### Muskegon

Adams Htg & Clg  
(231) 873-2665  
adamsheatingcooling.com

Kiessel Geothermal  
Htg & Clg  
(231) 747-7509  
kiesselsgeo.com

### Portland

ESI Htg & Clg  
(517) 647-6906  
esiheating.com

### Sunfield

Mark Woodman  
Plmb & Htg  
(517) 886-1138  
mwphonline.com

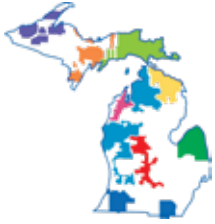
### Traverse City

D & W Mechanical  
(231) 941-1215  
dwgeothermal.com



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





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

**Executive Editor:** Casey Clark

**Editor:** Christine Dorr

**Copy Editor:** Heidi Spencer

**Design and Layout:**  
Karreen Bird

**Publisher:**  
Michigan Electric  
Cooperative Association

**Michigan Country Lines**, USPS-591-710, is published monthly, except August and December, with periodicals postage paid at Lansing, Mich., and additional offices. It is the official publication of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933.

**Subscriptions** are authorized for members of Alger Delta, Cherryland, Great Lakes, HomeWorks Tri-County, Midwest Energy & Communications, Ontonagon, Presque Isle, and Thumb electric cooperatives by their boards of directors.

**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.

**CONTACT US/LETTERS TO EDITOR:**  
*Michigan Country Lines*  
201 Townsend St., Suite 900  
Lansing, MI 48933  
248-534-7358  
[editor@countrylines.com](mailto:editor@countrylines.com)  
[countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com)

 [facebook.com/  
michigancountrylines](https://www.facebook.com/michigancountrylines)

**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.

# In This Issue

July/August 2018 // Vol. 38, No. 7



## ON THE COVER

Roast master and owner of Courageous Coffee, Tanya Schneider has followed her passion since her first cup of coffee.

## 6 MICHIGAN ELECTRIC CO-OPS EMPOWER STUDENTS

Youth Tour 2018

## 7 FIVE FRIENDLY TIPS FOR THE FARMERS MARKET

Grace Derocha

## 10 MI CO-OP KITCHEN

Jump Start Your Day With These Eggcellent Recipes!

Christin McKamey & Our Readers

Tanya Schneider Of Courageous Coffee Shares Her Cappuccino Muffin Recipe

[Enter Our Recipe Contest And Win A \\$50 Bill Credit!](#)

## 14 FEATURE

Courageous Coffee: The Perfect Blend

Emily Haines Lloyd

## 18 MI CO-OP COMMUNITY

Best Of Michigan: Best Beaches!

Here are members' top beaches along Michigan's coastlines.

[Guess Our New Mystery Photo And Win A \\$50 Bill Credit!](#)

Win \$150 for stories published.

## Guest Column

*Country Lines* invites members to submit stories.

### Guidelines

1. Approximately 350 words
2. Digital photos must be at least 600 KB
3. Submit your guest column at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) under the MI Co-op Community tab

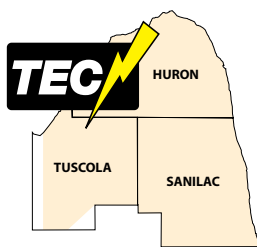
Win \$50 for stories published.

## *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. Submit your memory at: [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) under the MI Co-op Community tab.



## Thumb Electric Cooperative

2231 Main Street  
 Ubyly, MI 48475-0157  
 1-800-327-0166 or 989-658-8571  
 E-mail: [tec@tecmi.coop](mailto:tec@tecmi.coop)  
[www.tecmi.coop](http://www.tecmi.coop)

### Board Of Directors

#### HURON COUNTY

**Randall Dhyse**, Treasurer  
 District 1 • 989-551-6533

**Vacant as of 6-18-18**  
 District 2

**Beth McDonald**, Secretary  
 District 3 • 989-550-7470

#### SANILAC COUNTY

**Kim Nunn**, Vice President  
 District 1 • 810-679-4291

**Mike Briolat**, Director  
 District 2 • 989-284-3405

**Duane Kursinsky**, Director  
 District 3 • 810-837-3828

#### TUSCOLA COUNTY

**Louis Wenzlaff**, President  
 District 1 • 989-683-2696

**Jonathan Findlay**, Director  
 District 2 • 989-551-8393

**Carl Cousins**, Director  
 District 3 • 989-871-4449

**Dallas Braun**, General Manager

### PAYMENT STATIONS

#### Huron County

Bad Axe—Northstar Bank  
 Pigeon—Northstar Bank

#### Tuscola County

Akron—Northstar Bank  
 Caro—Northstar Bank  
 Mayville—Mayville State Bank  
 Millington—Mayville State Bank

#### Sanilac County

Sandusky—Northstar Bank

Visit Thumb Electric's website  
[tecmi.coop](http://tecmi.coop)



Join us on Facebook  
[facebook.com/thumbelectric](https://facebook.com/thumbelectric)

Thumb Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Thumb Electric Cooperative Holds 81<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING



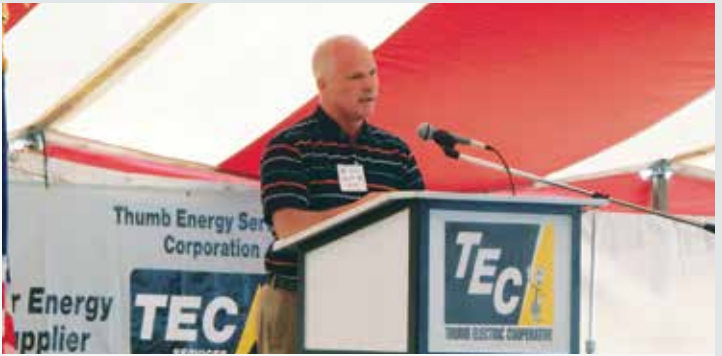
### Louis Wenzlaff, president of the board of directors, opened the 81st Annual Meeting of TEC members on June 9 at the Thumb Octagon Barn.

An estimated 700 people attended the meeting, which was highlighted by the election of three directors and numerous entertainment activities featured as a part of TEC's Member Appreciation Day/Annual Meeting.

Elected to three-year terms for District 2 were Kevin Grifka, Huron County; Mike Briolat, Sanilac County; and Jonathan Findlay, Tuscola County. Others nominated for a director position were Donald Wolschleger, Huron County; Ernest Messing, Sanilac County; and Amanda Langmaid and Thomas Lounsbury, Tuscola County.

President Wenzlaff introduced TEC's Attorney Jason Bitzer and members of the current TEC board of directors including Donald Wolschleger, Beth McDonald and Randall Dhyse, Huron County; Kim Nunn, Mike Briolat and Duane Kursinsky, Sanilac County; and Jonathan Findlay and Carl Cousins, Tuscola County. General Manager Dallas Braun was also introduced.

President Wenzlaff recognized two TEC employees who recently retired and thanked them for their combined service of 50 years. Recognized were: Office Services Manager Jim Philp—40 years and Journeyman Lineman Paul Voss—10 years.



## TEC's Board President, Louis Wenzlaff, highlighted the following areas:

- The 2017 financial statement that showed operating revenues of \$20,861,513 and expenses of \$20,160,509 resulting in an operating margin of \$701,005. The cooperative also earned \$359,119 in interest on short-term investments, rental income, subsidiary income, and patronage capital from other cooperative organizations. Total margins for 2017 were \$1,060,124. Members' patronage capital accounts were allocated 4.5 cents on each dollar paid by TEC members in 2017. Thumb retired \$130,000 of this 2017 patronage along with another \$413,000 for the years of 1987 and 1988; this appeared as a credit on a separate line item on members' May 2018 electric bills.
- Since patronage capital retirements began, TEC has refunded over \$8.9 million back to its members.
- In 2017 TEC extended electrical service to 50 new accounts and invested \$4.8 million in new utility plant bringing TEC's total investment to \$96 million serving 12,232 member-consumers in the areas of Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola.
- The cooperative continues to make capital investments in the electrical system. Just under \$5 million of upgrades are planned and under construction for 2018. TEC employees and outside line construction contractors will be performing the work.
- The cooperative paid \$830,647 in property taxes to schools and other governmental bodies in Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola counties in 2017.
- In 2017, the cooperative's Energy Optimization Program came in under budget and the 1.2 million kWh saved exceeded the state-mandated kWh goal.
- Through its subsidiary, Thumb Energy Services, the cooperative continues to offer competitive propane service to approximately 1,100 accounts in the Thumb Area.
- TEC recognized 30 employees for continuing to work safely and thanked them for their continued dedication and hard work during the past year.

After the business meeting, a lunch was served, followed by entertainment for all family members with bucket truck rides, pony rides, barrel rides, candy drop, face painting and other family activities.

## TEC's General Manager, Dallas Braun, highlighted the following:

- In April of this year, the monthly service charge was increased by \$5/month for most rate classes, which resulted in a rate increase of approximately 3.5 percent. The needed increase was due to weather-related events impacting the system in March and April of 2017.
- TEC continues its maintenance program, including aggressive right-of-way trimming, clearing, spraying and other system improvement programs.
- Line contractors are currently working on a 15-mile rebuild project from TEC's Kinde substation to TEC's Ublly substation. The new construction will consist of new poles and wires supporting transmission, distribution and fiber circuits.
- TEC has retained an engineering firm to perform a fiber feasibility study in the Thumb area.
- TEC has begun the process to select an Automatic Metering Infrastructure (AMI) vendor/system, with a tentative deployment date starting in 2019.
- TEC continues to offer a full slate of programs and services to its members to help become more energy-efficient and save money.
- The cooperative continues to work with its statewide and national organizations to ensure that issues that may affect the availability, reliability and affordability of electricity to its membership are heard by our elected officials in Lansing and Washington, D.C.
- The cooperative continues to support and promote Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE), the Political Action Committee (PAC) for all electric cooperatives. All TEC members can participate directly through the Co-op Owners program.
- U.S. Congressman Paul Mitchell, State Representative Shane Hernandez, State Senator Mike Green, U.S. Senator Gary Peters' Regional Coordinator Dylan Hellus, and U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow's Regional Manager Derrick Mathis were introduced and briefly spoke to the membership. All were recognized for their support of Thumb Electric Cooperative and the rural electric program.
- In closing his report, General Manager Dallas Braun urged members to continue their strong interest in Thumb Electric Cooperative, to stay engaged and thanked them for their support.

In action taken after the Annual Meeting, the board of directors elected Louis Wenzlaff—president, Kim Nunn—vice-president, Beth McDonald—secretary, and Randy Dhyse—treasurer.



# 2018 YOUTH TOUR

Photos courtesy of Doug Snitgen

## Washington, D.C. Highlights

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour teaches students about their past and helps equip them with the skills they need to be Michigan's next generation of energy-minded leaders. Youth Tour offers a unique opportunity to explore leadership lessons from our nation's history, build life-long friendships with students from across the country, and be immersed in the cooperative spirit.

Michigan's electric cooperatives sponsored 22 high school juniors and seniors on this once-in-a-lifetime trip to Washington, D.C. this past June.



Students from across the state toured multiple landmarks, including a guided tour of the U.S. Capitol.



The Michigan pillar is a tribute within the National World War II Memorial, and represents the 620,000 Michigan residents who served during World War II.



Youth Tour students visited the historical home of George Washington, Mount Vernon.



The group visited the Marine Corps War Memorial.



Students enjoyed meeting with Congressmen Bill Huizenga and Jack Bergman on the steps of the U.S. Capitol building.

Information is available at [CooperativeYouthTour.com](http://CooperativeYouthTour.com)



# Five Friendly Tips For The Farmers Market

By Grace Derocha

Michigan residents are fortunate in their ability to grow and buy fresh, locally grown produce throughout the summer and fall. According to the Michigan Farmers Market Association, the mitten is home to more than 300 farmers markets, reaching residents in nearly every county of the state. Trips to the farmers market can be a fun family tradition to inspire healthier eating habits and explore new foods and flavors. While planning a visit to the farmers market, keep in mind some of the following tips:

## 1. Ask Questions

Don't shy away from making conversation with the vendors at a local farmers market. Unlike a grocery store setting, shoppers are given the opportunity to learn more about what they're purchasing, ask questions and get advice for their own growing/gardening purposes. Some vendors may even have insight on cooking methods or tasty food pairings.

## 2. Bring Bags And Cash

Farmers market vendors do not usually supply shopping bags. Bringing reusable bags from home guarantees a means of carrying purchases while reducing waste. It's also common for farmers market vendors to only accept cash, so be sure to have bills and small change on hand before heading out the door.

## 3. Pick The Right Time To Go

Crowds at the market tend to pick up around midday, so it's best to arrive right as it opens. Early shoppers have a better chance of avoiding lines, getting advice from vendors and picking from high-demand fruits or vegetables. On the other hand, those in the market for a good deal may want to visit later in the day. Oftentimes farmers market vendors will discount their products instead of risking waste.

## 4. Know Seasonal Produce

Having an idea of what produce is in season can help set expectations for purchases at the market. Research what grows in the area, talk to the farmers about what produce will be coming and plan shopping trips from there. Many farmers markets provide customers with a crop calendar at the information booth to show when various fruits and vegetables will be available.

## 5. Meal Plan Ahead

Going to the farmers market without a list or plan may lead to unnecessary purchases. To avoid waste, look around the kitchen and get an idea of which foods might pair well for meals in the week ahead. Use the seasonal produce available at the market for inspiration and explore using any leftover produce in a new soup, salad, sandwich or casserole recipe.

To find a farmer's market nearby use the Find a Farmers Market tool, found on the Michigan Farmers Market Association website: [mifma.org/findafarmersmarket/](http://mifma.org/findafarmersmarket/).

Fruits and vegetables in-season throughout the summer in Michigan include, but are not limited to:

- Apples
- Apricots
- Asparagus
- Beans
- Broccoli
- Blackberries
- Blueberries
- Cabbage
- Carrots
- Celery
- Cherries (tart and sweet)
- Cucumbers
- Greens (turnips, collards, kale)
- Peaches
- Peas
- Peppers
- Radishes
- Raspberries
- Spinach
- Squash (yellow, zucchini)
- Strawberries



THUMB ELECTRIC

# Energy Waste Reduction Rebate Program

Energy Star Rebate	For Energy Star appliances, LED bulbs and fixtures, Energy Star TVs, and much more.
In-Home Energy Audit	Get knowledge on the energy usage of your home and some free energy saving items as well!
HVAC Rebates	Installing a new furnace or AC system? Certain energy-efficient upgrades qualify for incentive dollars.
Appliance Recycling	Got an old refrigerator or freezer eating up your energy budget? Have it recycled and get cash back. Window AC & dehumidifiers qualify under certain conditions.

Agribusiness and commercial programs also available.

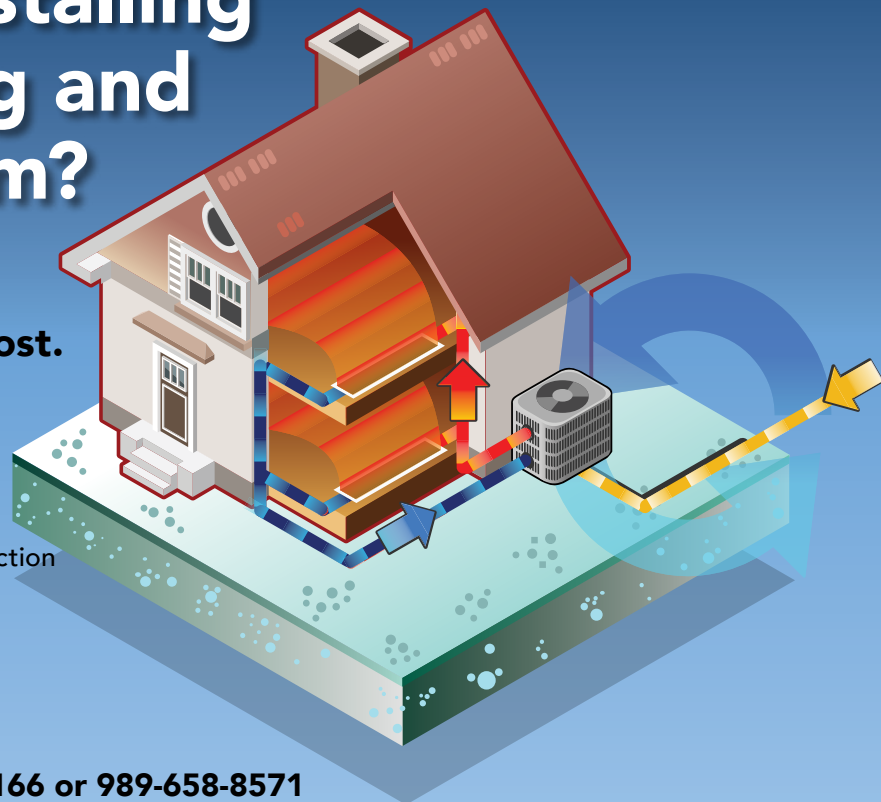
Call 989-658-8571 or 1-800-327-0166, or visit our website [tecmi.coop](http://tecmi.coop) today to learn specific details.

## Thinking of Installing a New Heating and Cooling System?

**Thumb Electric may have a rebate to help with the cost.**

- Geothermal rebate up to \$1,200
- AC and Air Source Heat pumps up to \$450

There are many more Energy Waste Reduction rebates available. For a full listing, please visit our website or call our office.



Call: 1-800-327-0166 or 989-658-8571  
[www.tecmi.coop](http://www.tecmi.coop)





# Photo Contest

## Fan Spirit

1. "Go Trojans!" by Laurie Borysiak
2. "Take me out to the ball game!" by Janet Reed
3. "Go Pack Go" by Kathleen Johnson
4. "Go Blue!" by Sarah Callovi



### Share Your Photos!

Thumb Electric invites members to share their photos. Selected photos will be published in *Michigan Country Lines*.

Upcoming topics and deadlines are:

- **Fall Colors due July 20** for the September issue
- **Celebrations due September 20** for the Nov/Dec issue

To submit photos, and for details and instructions, go to <http://bit.ly/countrylines>

We look forward to seeing your best photos!



# Eggcellent

Jump start your day with these egg recipes!

## Crustless Quiche

Mary Gavlek, Great Lakes Energy

- ½ cup Bisquick
- 3 eggs
- ½ cup melted butter
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 1½ cups milk
- 1 cup shredded cheese
- cooked chopped meats of choice
- diced vegetables of choice

Preheat oven to 425 F. Mix together Bisquick, eggs, butter, salt, pepper, milk and cheese with a wire whip. Add meat and vegetables. Pour into a round pie plate or 9×9 square pan. Bake uncovered for 45 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes, serve and enjoy.



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



## Rise N' Shine Eggs

Kathie Riess, Cherryland

- 2-3 tablespoons butter
- 4 large eggs
- ⅓ cup grated sharp cheddar cheese
- ⅓ cup seeded and chopped tomatoes
- 1-2 teaspoons prepared horseradish (not cream style)
- Tabasco sauce, to taste
- salt and pepper

Melt butter in a skillet over medium heat. In a mixing bowl, whisk eggs until almost totally homogenized. Add eggs to skillet and stir gently. After they have begun to thicken, add remaining ingredients. Stir until cheese melts and is incorporated. Serve immediately.





## Potato Crusted Quiche With Morels, Ramps, Asparagus, Bacon And Swiss

Bonnie Langworthy, HomeWorks Tri-County

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 medium potatoes, peeled and sliced</li> <li>2 tablespoons oil</li> <li>½ cup ramps (leeks), chopped</li> <li>½ cup roasted red bell pepper, chopped</li> <li>¼ cup morel mushrooms, coarsely chopped</li> <li>¼ cup blanched asparagus, chopped</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>¾ teaspoon dried thyme</li> <li>8 strips bacon, cooked crisp</li> <li>4 ounces gruyere cheese, grated</li> <li>8-10 large eggs</li> <li>½ cup half &amp; half</li> <li>¼ teaspoon salt</li> <li>¼ teaspoon ground pepper</li> <li>• pinch of nutmeg</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

Preheat oven to 350 F. Lightly grease a 9-inch pie pan. Blanch potatoes in salted, boiling water for 1½ minutes. When cool, place a single layer of potatoes in the pan, slightly overlapping. Stand up slices (also overlapping) around edge. Heat oil in large skillet over medium-high heat. Add ramps (leeks), red pepper, morels, asparagus and thyme and sauté 5 minutes. Spoon mixture on top of potatoes. Crumble bacon on top of veggie mix. Spread cheese on top. Whisk together eggs, half & half, salt, pepper and nutmeg. Whisk until color lightens. Pour into pie dish. Bake for 35 minutes. Cool 25 minutes and serve in wedges.



**Cocktails And Drinks:** due August 1  
**Holiday Favorites:** due September 1

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

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

Go to [micoopkitchen.com](http://micoopkitchen.com) for more information and to register.

## FEATURED GUEST CHEF

When Courageous Coffee's Tanya Schneider puts so much soul into roasting the perfect coffee beans, it seems a shame not to take advantage of all that heartfelt flavor. She shares a recipe that uses brewed coffee for the ultimate coffee companion.



## Cappuccino Muffins

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 cups all-purpose flour</li> <li>¾ cup sugar</li> <li>2½ teaspoons baking powder</li> <li>½ teaspoon salt</li> <li>½ cup milk</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>½ cup strong brewed coffee</li> <li>½ cup butter, melted</li> <li>1 large egg</li> <li>1 teaspoon vanilla extract</li> <li>1 cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

Preheat oven to 350 F. In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. In another bowl, combine the milk, coffee, butter, egg and vanilla. Stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Fold in chocolate chips.

Fill greased muffin cups two-thirds full and bake for 15-20 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean.

Serve with cream cheese spread (optional).

### Cream Cheese Spread

- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¼ cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips

Mix all ingredients together until well blended and spread on muffins.

*These muffins pair well with a cup of Courageous Coffee!*

Read the full story about Tanya Schneider, owner of Courageous Coffee, on page 14, and find this recipe and others at [micoopkitchen.com](http://micoopkitchen.com).

## Two TEC Students Attend Youth Tour

Pearl Daskam of Ubly and Jazmyn Warchuck of Ruth were chosen to attend the 2018 NRECA Youth Tour in Washington D.C. on June 9–14 as representatives of Thumb Electric Cooperative. Each year electric cooperatives throughout the state of Michigan and the country choose to send students to this leadership event. This year's itinerary included visits to the U.S. Capitol, museum tours, Washington D.C. landmarks and war memorials, and a show at the Signature Theatre. The students had the opportunity to meet with their legislators in action and to obtain leadership skills for their future endeavors. To apply for next year's 2019 Youth Tour event, please watch for information starting in the fall editions of *Country Lines*, our website at [tecmi.coop](http://tecmi.coop), or the Youth Tour website at [cooperativelyouthtour.com](http://cooperativelyouthtour.com).

## System Upgrades

Thumb Electric contractors will continue upgrading and rebuilding the 41.6KV transmission line between Ubly and Kinde this summer. The concentration of work is expected to be along M19 from M142 to Ubly, as well as removal of the old lines and poles from the deep right-of-way from Richardson Road to the Kinde substation. There will also be a few single phase rebuild projects this summer. Moeller Road between Crockard and Hellem roads in Dwight Township will be rebuilt, and Purdy Road between Parisville and Minden along with Minden Road between Purdy and Leppek in Paris Township, are all rebuilding projects slated for this summer.

## Tree Trimming Efforts Continue

Tree trimming continues at an aggressive pace during 2018. Removing trees from the power lines has helped many TEC members see their reliability greatly improve. Removing and trimming trees makes for fewer outages, and shorter duration of outages that do occur. Priorities will continue for line sections that are historically problematic lines, followed by scheduled circuit work. As time allows, less severe circuits will be maintained.

Members in Vassar, Dayton (especially Shay Lake area), Juniata and Indianfield townships will see crews as well as part of regular system maintenance, and we anticipate starting to work on circuits in Kingston and Koylton townships.

Due to a disease in the Ash tree, which is a very popular species of tree in our service territory, we have had to adjust our trimming locations. It has made planning a challenge at times, but we make every effort to contact members ahead of the trimmers.



**We will send out a postcard to members to let them know trimmers will be in the area and, at times, we will try and call members to provide notice. If you have an updated phone number, please call us with your new contact information.**

## Access To Rules & Rates

Please be advised that the following information is available to Thumb Electric Cooperative members:

1. Complete rate schedules;
2. Clear and concise explanation of all rates that the member may be eligible to receive;
3. Assistance from the cooperative in determining the most appropriate rate for a member when the member is eligible to receive service under more than one rate;
4. Clear and concise explanation of the members' actual energy use for each billing period during the last 12 months.

The information can be obtained by contacting Thumb Electric Cooperative at 1-989-658-8571 or 1-800-327-0166.



# Got Sticker Shock? Think Long-Term!

Don't be fooled into a short-term "new customers only" program, only to get sticker shock when the program ends. Compare apples to apples and ask what current long-term customers are paying.



*Our goal is to secure the best pricing for those customers who are loyal to us. Thank you for your continued support.*

- No gimmicks or new customer "gotcha" pricing.
- Budget-friendly metered and scheduled fill programs.
- Pre-buy available at guaranteed price.
- Available to members and non-members of Thumb Electric Cooperative.
- Competitive pricing that grows TEC member equity.

*Call for details and current pricing.*

**989-658-8571 or 1-800-327-0166**

(Not regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission)





# Courageous Coffee

The  
Perfect Blend

By Emily Haines Lloyd



While coffee is a daily part of many people's lives—there are some folks for whom coffee is more than a ritual, it's a calling.

For Tanya Schneider, her fascination with coffee started early in life.

As a young girl, she would get up in the morning with her father, an otherwise busy man, and watch him sit down with a simple coffee cup and relax. By the time she was six, she'd asked for her first mug of coffee, served with an ice cube and a dash of milk. It was love at first sip.

Years later Schneider began to educate herself more deeply. She read books on the growing seasons of coffee beans and how to roast them. While Michigan weather would never allow her to grow her own beans, it couldn't keep her from roasting them.

Armed with her first coffee roaster, which was the size of a toaster oven and only roasted about a quarter-pound of beans at a time, Schneider trial and errored her way into her craft. She saved money along the way with a bigger dream in the back of her mind.

In 2010, Schneider, who is employed with HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative, had an opportunity to roast her coffee for military care packages that were being assembled at work.





"It felt so good to roast for someone else, instead of just myself and my family," said Schneider. "I knew that if this ever grew—the purpose would have to be bigger than myself."

In 2016, Schneider found herself on a mission trip to Belize with a group of individuals from church. In the evenings, she and the other women on the team sat together and shared stories about their lives and connected with one another. Schneider shared with them that she'd just started a business the month before—Courageous Coffee.

"I shared that I roasted coffee—mostly for family and friends—and I told them of my mission to make a difference by roasting coffee," said Schneider. "I was so amazed by their support and it gave me a huge boost of confidence that I really needed in order to move forward."

At that moment, Courageous Coffee went from a quiet passion to a full-blown dream come true.

Soon after the mission trip, she and her husband bought the future home of Courageous Coffee—a 12x12 Amish-built building that found itself on the back of the couple's property. Next came a larger, upgraded roaster and a few 150-pound bags of quality coffee beans. By the end of the year she'd sold her first bag of coffee to a co-worker. Within a few months several local businesses were carrying Courageous Coffee for sale and it was available for purchase online at [mycourageouscoffee.com](http://mycourageouscoffee.com).

Since then, Schneider has been roasting her heart out. In line with her early vision to have her business serve others, 10 percent of all proceeds are donated to nonprofit causes.

For Schneider, Courageous Coffee is an homage to perfect moments over a cup of joe and a knowing nod to seemingly impossible dreams. Bold, strong, courageous—it really is the perfect blend for coffee. And for life.

## Bolivian Expedition Blend Fundraiser



Courageous Coffee's next service mission to give back is a specialty blend that's brewing to support the next *Partners for Power* project by Michigan's electric cooperatives.

This September, linemen from Michigan electric cooperatives are headed to Bolivia to bring reliable electricity to the community of Yata. The people of Yata are an ambitious bunch. But before many of them can realize their dreams, they need access to reliable electricity.

When you buy a bag of Courageous Coffee's *Bolivian Expedition Blend*, you help support the project. To learn more about the project and other ways to get involved, visit [partnersforpower.org](http://partnersforpower.org).

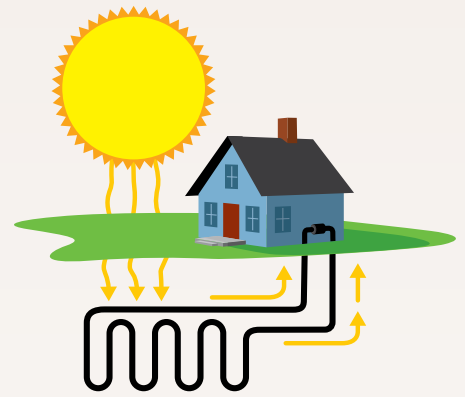


Join Tanya in her kitchen as she explains how she brews the perfect cup of coffee using the pour over method. A short instructional video is available at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com).



# Renewable Geothermal Heat

Geothermal is a simple technology that uses the earth's renewable energy to provide high-efficiency heating and cooling. In winter, the system draws heat from the ground and transfers it to your home. In summer, it extracts heat from your home and transfers it to the ground. **Contact the energy experts at Thumb Electric Cooperative at 800-327-0166** for honest answers on your energy choices, or call any of the trained and certified installers listed here.



## AirTech Heating LLC

Kinde, MI 48445  
989-551-6555

## All-Temperature Geothermal Systems

1103 E. Caro Rd., Caro, MI 48723  
989-673-5557

## Ameriheat, Justin Faber

2891 E. Forester Rd., Deckerville, MI 48427  
810-376-4534

## B & D Heating, Cooling & Plumbing

1148 North Van Dyke, Bad Axe, MI 48413  
800-515-1117

## Burkhard Plumbing & Heating

638 E. Huron Ave., Bad Axe, MI 48413  
989-269-7532

## Certified Temperature Innovations

3107 Custer Rd., Carsonville, MI 48419  
810-300-7748

## Roots Heating and Cooling

4074 Huron St, North Branch, MI 48461  
810-688-4813

## Geo Renew Systems, Inc.

3045 Grange Hall Rd., #7, Holly, MI 48442  
248-531-0325

## Geomasters, Inc., Plumbing & Heating

57 Ward St., Crosswell, MI 48422  
810-679-2251

## Geothermal Systems of Lapeer, LLC

6689 Orchard Lk. Rd. #188  
West Bloomfield, MI 48322  
810-240-2116

## Holland Heating and Cooling

9160 Lapeer Rd., Davison, MI 48423  
810-653-4328

## Ingell Refrigeration

1115 4th St., Port Huron, MI 48060  
810-982-4226

## J & B Plumbing & Heating

7641 Pigeon Rd., Pigeon, MI 48755  
989-453-3931

## Jack McCain Plumbing & Heating

9651 Weale Rd., Bay Port, MI 48720  
989-453-2277

## Kowaleski Heating & Cooling, LLC

3977 Ruppel Rd., Port Hope, MI 48468  
989-550-0739

## Kulek Heating & Air Conditioning

14421 Jeddo Rd., Yale, MI 48097  
810-387-4452

## Kundinger & Kroll

31 E. Main St., Sebewaing, MI 48759  
989-883-2770

## Lakeshore Improvements Plumbing & Heating

7825 Big Gulley Rd., Palms, MI 48465  
989-864-3833

## Michigan Energy Services

8445 Main St., Whitmore Lake, MI 48189  
888-339-7700

## NRG Control

3690 Washburn Rd., Vassar, MI 48768  
989-670-2543

## Newton-Johnson Plumbing & Heating

114 Enterprise Dr., Vassar, MI 48768  
989-823-2341

## Orton Refrigeration

31 W. Sanilac Rd., Sandusky, MI 48471  
810-648-2252

## Preferred Heating

7736 Arendt, Melvin, MI 48454  
810-378-5454

## Priority Service by Porter & Heckman

3056 Davison Rd., Lapeer, MI 48446  
810-644-8576

## Shetler Plumbing & Heating

7184 Nitz St., Pigeon, MI 48755  
800-547-3651

## Superior, Inc.

3442 Cemetery Rd., Cass City, MI 48726  
989-872-3305

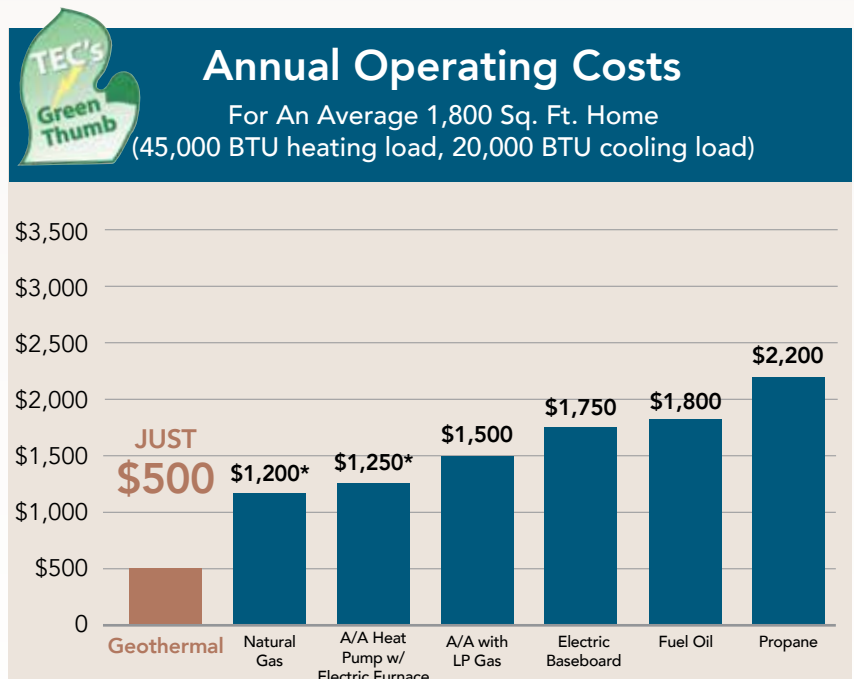
## Thumb Cooling & Heating

8430 N Van Dyke Rd, Cass City, MI 48726  
855-206-5457

**And:** 837 South State, Caro, MI 48723  
989-672-4948

## Well Connect-Terra Caloric

PO Box 307 Alpena, MI 49707  
989-356-2113



Factors Used: **Electric Baseboard**, **Air-Source Heat Pump (A/A)** and **Geothermal**—based on TEC's 7.790¢/kWh dual-fuel rate. **Liquid Propane (LP) gas**—based on \$2.00/gal. and 90% efficient furnace. **Fuel Oil**—based on \$2.20/gal. and 80% efficient furnace. **Natural Gas**—based on \$1.08/therm., 90% efficient furnace including \$9/mo. service charge. (Electric baseboard costs do not include air conditioning.)

\*All electric system comparable to natural gas!



# 2018 Annual Meeting Highlights



## EARLY BIRD PRIZE DRAWING WINNERS

- 1. TEC WATER HEATER ..... Linda K. Sadler, Decker
- 2. FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE ..... Frederick G. Kent, Caro
- 3. GAS GIFT CERTIFICATE ..... Phil Green, Millington
- 4. ENERGY EFFICIENCY GIFT CERTIFICATE ..... Kirk Dale, Marlette
- 5. FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE ..... Vicki LaBuhn, Ubly
- 6. GAS GIFT CERTIFICATE ..... Charles Witkovsky, Caro
- 7. ENERGY EFFICIENCY GIFT CERTIFICATE ..... James Fifield, Decker
- 8. FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE ..... Richard Sadro, Ubly
- 9. GAS GIFT CERTIFICATE ..... Larry Hyatt, Decker
- 10. ENERGY EFFICIENCY GIFT CERTIFICATE ..... Peter Wurmlinger, Croswell
- 11. FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE ..... David Segroves, Caro
- 12. LED WORKLIGHT ..... Harry Roggenbuck, Harbor Beach
- 13. BLOCK HEATER TIMER ..... Roxanne Phelps, Mayville
- 14. LED SHOP LIGHT ..... James Hinterman, Bad Axe

## FINAL PRIZE DRAWING WINNERS

- 1. SAMSUNG LED 32" TV ..... Nancy Carpenter, Caro
- 2. GAS GIFT CERTIFICATE ..... Miguel Torres Jr., Caro
- 3. ENERGY EFFICIENCY GIFT CERTIFICATE ..... Karen Gentner, Ruth
- 4. FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE ..... Joseph Radomski, Owendale
- 5. GAS GIFT CERTIFICATE ..... James Doerr, Ubly
- 6. ENERGY EFFICIENCY GIFT CERTIFICATE ..... Alan Smeaton, Millington
- 7. FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE ..... Leo Oparka, Harbor Beach
- 8. GAS GIFT CERTIFICATE ..... James Storm, Carsonville
- 9. ENERGY EFFICIENCY GIFT CERTIFICATE ..... John Richmond Jr., Filion
- 10. FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE ..... Mark Battel, Cass City
- 11. GAS GIFT CERTIFICATE ..... Shirley Diem, Carsonville
- 12. ENERGY EFFICIENCY GIFT CERTIFICATE ..... Stanley Wolschlagel, Bad Axe
- 13. FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE ..... Leonard Briolat, Ubly
- 14. LED WORKLIGHT ..... William Wisneski, Kinde
- 15. BLOCK HEATER TIMER ..... C. Edward Byrnes, Marlette

## CHILDREN'S PRIZE DRAWING WINNERS

- 1. BIKE (BOYS) ..... Oliver Bryan
- 2. BIKE (GIRLS) ..... Destiney Williams, Millington
- 3. TABLET ..... Charlie Smith, Cass City
- 4. TABLET ..... Kali Gotham
- 5. DIGITAL CAMERA ..... Leigiha Block
- 6. DIGITAL CAMERA ..... Kara Hernandez, Port Huron

## PRIZE DONATED BY BARTNIK PROPANE

- GAS GRILL ..... Charles Depcinski, Bad Axe

## PRIZE DONATED BY KAPPEN TREE SERVICE

- 10 BAGS OF MULCH ..... Dan Snow, Millington
- 10 BAGS OF MULCH ..... Karl R. Witkovsky, Cass City
- 10 BAGS OF MULCH ..... Teresa Marks, Otter Lake
- 10 BAGS OF MULCH ..... Donal Wismer, Palms

## SMARTHUB PAPERLESS BILLING DRAWING WINNERS

- \$50 BILL CREDIT ..... Erica S. Burns, Millington
- \$50 BILL CREDIT ..... Michael Popiel, Ruth
- \$50 BILL CREDIT ..... Lesley L. Kinsey, Millington
- \$50 BILL CREDIT ..... Kerry Penland, Mayville

Guess this photo and enter to win a \$50 energy bill credit!



## Where In Michigan Is This?

Identify the correct location of the photo above by July 20 and be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 electric bill credit. Enter your guess at [countrylines.com](http://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 May 2018 issue is Richard Fluegge, a Thumb Electric Cooperative member, who correctly identified the photo as Stafford Park in Port Hope. It's an icy view from the Port Hope Marina looking back at the famous historic chimney at Stafford Park.

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

May 2018



Photo courtesy of Karen Murphy

## Best Beaches

We asked our members to share their favorite Michigan beach in our Great Lakes state—so take their recommendations to heart and enjoy!



### 1 Brimley State Park, Whitefish Bay

Brimley State Park, located on the shores of Whitefish Bay in the U.P., is one of the best beaches in Michigan in my opinion. It provides a non-traditional “beach” setting in the fact, that the water is a little cooler, the sand isn't the most pristine, and there isn't a fancy pier. What you will find is a beautiful, relaxing and picturesque scene of the beautiful Whitefish Bay. The very best part about this beach is that the Soo Locks are very close, so you will see freighter traffic throughout your day! Don't forget to download the “Boatnerd” app on your phone, so you know the names of the freighters you will see floating by! —Karen Murphy, Thumb Electric

### 2 Tawas Point State Park and East Tawas City Park Beach, East Tawas

We visit East Tawas for its beaches every year. There are wonderful cottages to rent, gorgeous sunrises and the water in the bay is shallow and warm for swimming. East Tawas also has the cutest downtown with great ice cream, antique shops, a chocolatier and more. —Joanne Preston, Midwest Energy & Communications

### 3 Aral Beach, Empire

Aral Beach is hands down my favorite in Michigan! It is located outside of Empire at the end of a dirt road in the middle of nowhere. Beautiful views of the Empire bluffs, very few people around and my four-legged friends are welcome. —Mindy Aves, HomeWorks Tri-County

### 4 Young State Park, Boyne City

Young State Park in Boyne City is a favorite. You can just enjoy the beautiful sunrises and sunsets, and walk the sandy beaches. Amazing! —Kristine Diegel, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op



## Best of Michigan

**Up Next: Best Cider Mills!** Apples, Cider and Doughnuts—Oh My! Share your favorite spot for these delicious fall treats. We will publish these gems in our September issue.

Submit your favorites at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) under the MI Co-op Community tab by August 1.



# Home Comfort Paid for by Energy Savings

1. Add A Well-Connect in Hours.
2. Cool for Pennies a Day.
3. Heat for Half for Decades.

— Call to Schedule a Free Home Site Visit —

**MADE IN MICHIGAN**



**well**  **CONNECT** Hybrid Geothermal

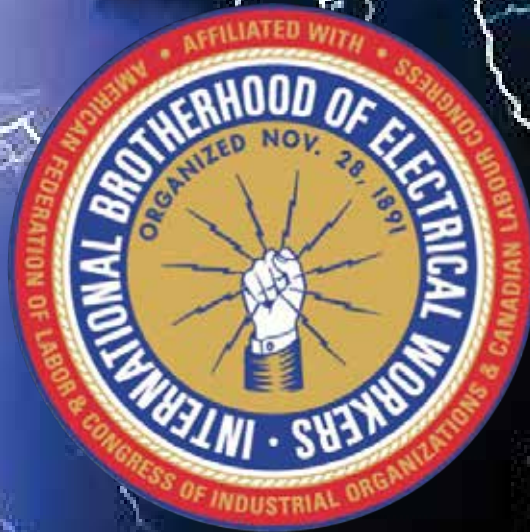
[wellconnectsaves.com](http://wellconnectsaves.com) 989-356-2113



Thumb Electric  
Cooperative  
[www.tecmi.coop](http://www.tecmi.coop)

# IBEW LOCAL 17

*Proudly Maintaining the Electrical Grid  
for Thumb Electric Co-op Members  
since 1945*



**IBEW Local 17  
17000 W. 12 Mile Rd.  
Southfield, MI 48076  
[www.ibewlocal17.org](http://www.ibewlocal17.org)**

**Overhead and Underground Utility Construction and Maintenance  
Traffic Signal and Roadway Lighting  
Substation Construction and Maintenance  
Line Clearance Tree Trimming  
Telecommunications  
Renewable Energy**