

September 2018

# MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Midwest Energy & Communications



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Coming This Fall

Changing The  
Landscape Day  
Of Service

Discovering Nature's  
Classroom

## BRINGING SPIRITS HOME

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Embraces Its Roots



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Michigan's Electric Cooperatives  
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# In This Issue

September 2018 // Vol. 38, No. 8



## ON THE COVER

Earth-friendly Iron Fish Distillery has won 10 national awards for their spirits since launching their company just 18 months ago. Read more about Iron Fish's mission and how they got their start on page 14.

## 6 SAFETY

Carbon Monoxide Causes  
And Prevention

## 10 MI CO-OP KITCHEN

Shake Things Up With Easy-To-Make  
Cocktails

Christin McKamey & Our Readers

Iron Fish Distillery Shares Their  
Salted Maple Old Fashioned Recipe

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

## 14 FEATURE

Bringing Spirits Home: Iron Fish  
Distillery Embraces Its Roots

Rob Marsh

## 18 MI CO-OP COMMUNITY

Best Of Michigan: Best Cider Mills  
When the air turns chilly, check  
out these fall favorite cider mills to  
stay warm!

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

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## Guest Column

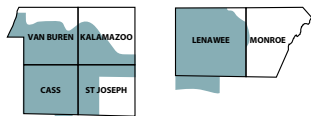
*Country Lines*  
invites members to  
submit stories.

### 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

## 2018 International Project Postponed

The Bolivia electrification project featured in previous issues of *Michigan Country Lines* magazine has encountered an unexpected setback. Due to unforeseen in-country circumstances, the project will not be completed this year as planned. Michigan's electric co-ops are evaluating other potential international outreach opportunities.



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Midwest Energy & Communications is an equal  
opportunity provider and employer.



# 80 Years (And Counting) Of Power-Filled Experiences

**Robert Hance**, President/CEO

In 2015, Michigan's electric cooperatives sent 10 linemen to Buena Vista, Guatemala. They worked side-by-side with local residents to bring electricity to the remote, mountainous village. When work was completed, the community celebrated together as electric lights came on for the very first time. That moment marked the beginning of new opportunities and a new future for the 54 families that call Buena Vista home.

We're currently considering another project for 2019, bringing power to two small communities in Bolivia. These opportunities come out of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International Program. For more than 50 years, NRECA has developed and implemented electrification programs across the globe, bringing electricity to more than 126 million people in 43 developing countries. The work is supported by charitable donations of time, money and materials from more than 300 electric cooperatives across the country.

Electric co-ops know a thing or two about bringing electricity to people who don't have it. After all, it was the co-ops who brought electricity to rural America when no one else would.

Our conversations about Bolivia come on the heels of a milestone celebration in our own history of rural electrification. On July 30, 1938, Fruit Belt Electric Cooperative energized its first lines, bringing long-awaited electric service to 133 consumers in rural southwest Michigan. We celebrated that anniversary both as a nod to the past, and a celebration of the present and future as we continue to transform life and living in the rural space.

We've powered rural homes and businesses in our service territory for 80 years, and today we serve nearly 36,000 consumers across southern Michigan and northern Indiana and Ohio. But ours is not a status quo approach. Operating under our vision of creating vibrant, relevant, sustainable rural communities, we continue to transform your rural experience by investing in our grid to add layers of value to your service experience. That investment also is allowing us to offer the most advanced communication platform available: fiber internet. Some argue that high-speed internet is as important today as electricity; we're reliving our mission from 80 years ago and stepping up to bring this critical service to the rural space where others won't.

I've often wondered what it was like to sit in a rural farmhouse in 1938 and experience electric lights for the first time, although I get a sense of that excitement when folks share their first true high-speed internet experience. We're transforming rural life, right in our own community and thousands of miles across the globe as we live out our vision of creating vibrant, relevant and sustainable rural communities.

# MEC NEWS OF NOTE

## Board Assigns 2017 Patronage Capital

As an electric cooperative, we are different from our investor-owned counterparts in that our consumers, through their patronage, provide capital for the co-op. You are more than simply a consumer; you are a member and owner.

Midwest Energy & Communications maintains a patronage capital account for each consumer, and allocates any operating margin ("profit") back to each consumer based on the amount of electricity purchased. We use the total of these accounts to provide the equity base necessary for financial stability, and return it to consumers over time as approved by the board of directors.

At their April meeting, the board authorized the allocation of the 2017 net margin totaling

\$4,123,617.84. Your portion of this allocation is not payable at this time and does not represent a reduction of your electric bill, but rather indicates your equity share in our cooperative's 2017 margin.

Please notify us of any address changes so we can forward payments when patronage capital is retired. If a current or former consumer fails to claim cash retirement of patronage capital or other payment from the cooperative within five years after payment has been made available at the last known address, that payment will be added to the cooperative's general fund.

## We Want To Hear From You

We are dedicated to providing you with reliable energy and telecommunications services, as well as high levels of customer care. Your

thoughts and opinions can help us create a better service experience for you and fellow consumers.

As we continue to evaluate different technology opportunities and applications, we're interested in knowing more about what you're using, how you're using it, and what you'd like to see in the future to enhance your rural experience. For example, would you like to learn more about smart home tools and applications, video streaming services, basic network connection troubleshooting or other cutting-edge tech services?

Please take a moment to fill out our technology survey at [teammidwest.com/techsurvey](https://teammidwest.com/techsurvey). It will be available until Sept. 15, and your answers will help us shape the tools and resources we provide you and fellow consumers.



MEC consumers (left to right) Kenneth Heikes, and Ron and Sally Carpenter joined us for our 80th anniversary festivities.

## Happy 80th Anniversary

On July 30, 1938, Fruit Belt Electric Cooperative energized its first lines, bringing long-awaited electric service to 133 consumers in rural southwest Michigan. We celebrated that anniversary on Monday, July 30, 2018, both as a nod to the past and a celebration of the present and future as we continue to transform life and living in the rural space.

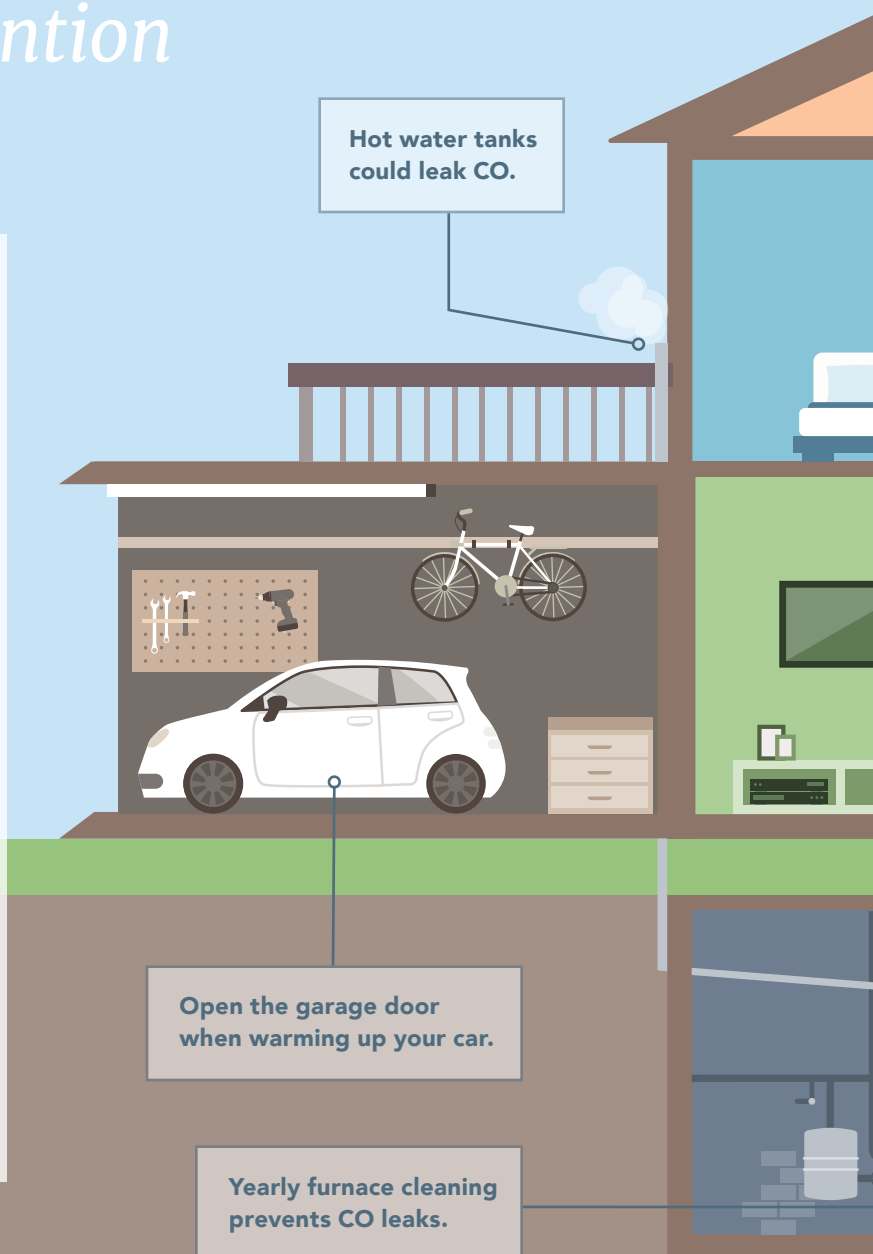
We even located a couple of individuals with active accounts dating back to 1938. Ron Carpenter and Kenneth Heikes are both still connected to the land that their grandparents farmed in 1938 and they joined us for cake and fellowship.

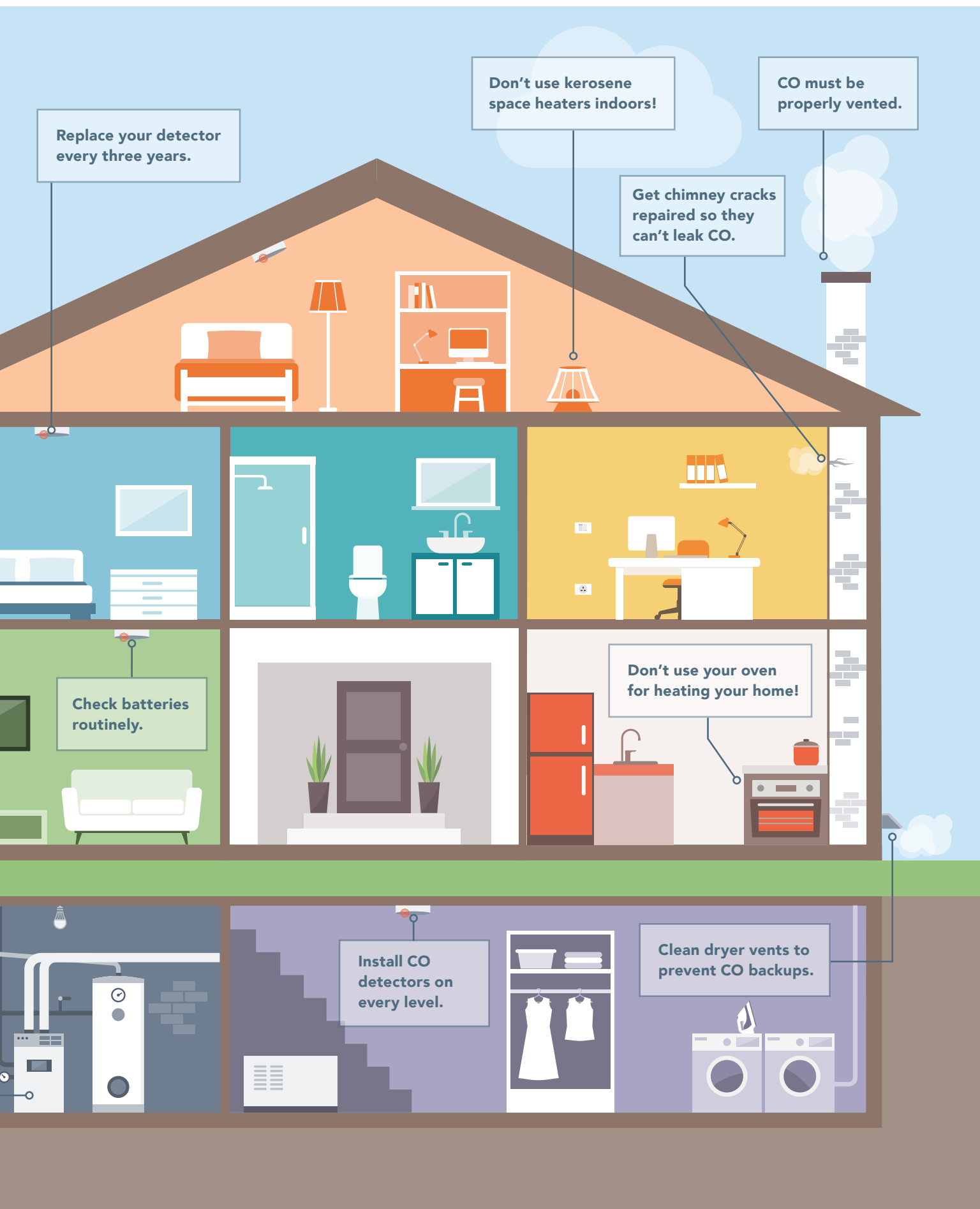
# CARBON MONOXIDE

## *Causes and Prevention*

### **CARBON MONOXIDE FACTS**

- CO poisoning is responsible for 20,000 ER visits every year.
- ER visits for CO poisoning are highest in the midwestern states.
- CO is a colorless, odorless gas which makes it more dangerous since it is invisible to the senses.
- Symptoms of CO poisoning include: nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness, confusion, chest pain, and decreased level of consciousness.
- Children are more vulnerable to the poisonous effects of CO.







# Get Cozy And Save Energy

Cooler weather is on the way. Now is the time to take action and upgrade your outdated, inefficient furnace. Doing so will help you save energy and money for years to come, and also ensure consistent, evenly-distributed air throughout your home—improving your overall comfort.

Plus, cash incentives are now available from the Energy Optimization program!

## HVAC REBATES

(visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) for amounts)

New furnace with ECM blower motor

ECM blower motor replacement

Central Air-source Heat Pump

Mini/Multi-Split Air-Source Heat Pump

Ground Source Heat Pump

Wi-Fi-enabled or smart thermostat

*\*Combo bonus rebates available for purchasing multiple pieces of equipment.*

## What is an ECM Motor?

An electronically commutated motor adjusts operating speeds, ensures optimal airflow, and uses less electricity—saving you energy and money.

If you can't afford to purchase a new furnace, replace your existing blower motor with an ECM to improve efficiency. Since the blower motor uses about 80 percent of the total electricity consumed by the furnace, switching to an energy-saving ECM can make a major impact.

## Heat Pumps: Even More

Efficient heat pumps use electricity to move heat, rather than generate heat. Air-source heat pumps are the most common, and can reduce electricity use for heating by up to 50 percent. For homes without ducts, mini-split heat pumps are available.

Geothermal (ground-source) heat pumps achieve even higher efficiencies by transferring heat between your home and the ground. They can cost up to 75 percent less to operate compared to conventional heating or cooling methods. Consult your HVAC contractor for recommendations.

## Buy a New Thermostat

Wi-Fi-enabled and smart thermostats help control energy costs by allowing you to program and adjust temperatures remotely, 24/7. Smart thermostats can program themselves as they "learn" your behavior patterns and desired temperatures.

Visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) or call **877-296-4319** for additional energy-saving information and incentives.

## SAVE ON HEATING COSTS

Want to reduce energy use, save money, and enjoy a more comfortable home? CASH INCENTIVES are available now to help you invest in equipment upgrades:

- High-efficiency furnace
- ECM blower motor
- Air-source or ground-source heat pump
- Smart thermostat
- ...and more!

## VIEW ALL INCENTIVE OFFERS ONLINE!

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

PHONE: **877.296.4319**



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

get cozy



# Discovering Nature's Classroom

By Amy Pales



Developmental Kindergarten students collect dirt and sand in Frisbees for analysis during an outdoor lesson.



It may look like nothing more than digging in the dirt and running around, but when kids explore the outdoors, they burn off excess energy and discover the world around them while building skills that help them do better in the classroom. In fact, a recent research article published in *Frontiers in Psychology* looked at the effects of outdoor lessons on subsequent classroom experiences. The scientists found that “classroom engagement was significantly better after lessons in nature than after matched, classroom-based lessons.”\*

Just ask John Craig, Morenci elementary teacher, who recently received a Strengthening Schools Grant from MEC to help create an outdoor learning space behind Morenci Area Schools. The space includes trail cameras, bird feeders, bat houses and other supplies to create educational opportunities for the students throughout the year. The Morenci Garden Club also helped the students plant a small garden.

“One of my biggest challenges with Developmental Kindergarten is that the skills the students need to work on the most are difficult to do in a classroom environment.

Being outside gives us the space and surroundings to practice things like balance and attention to detail. We’re out here all year long and everything we do in a classroom, we do out here,” noted Craig in a recent interview.

From building letters with sticks and exploring geometry to writing in journals and drawing pictures to convey a thought, the students use the outdoor space and the wildlife around them to build upon what they learn in a traditional classroom setting. This outdoor space, which is a partnership between the elementary school and the Morenci Middle School STREAM (science, technology, rhetoric, engineering, arts, and math) program, is intended to provide students from several different grades with a unique and interactive opportunity to engage with their natural environment and bring academic lessons to life.

“The growth I have seen in my students is phenomenal. They have learned teamwork, social skills, motor skills and more. It’s incredible,” said Craig.

*\*Read the full study, “Do Lessons in Nature Boost Subsequent Classroom Engagement? Refueling Students in Flight” at [frontiersin.org](http://frontiersin.org).*



## Submit Your Grant Application

We are now accepting applications for the 2018-19 Strengthening Schools grant program year. Any teacher, administrator or school official in a public elementary, middle or high school serving students in the MEC service territory may apply for a grant of up to \$2,500 to support classroom needs, special projects, technology or academic clubs and organizations. School districts may be awarded multiple grants, not to exceed a total of \$5,000 during the annual award cycle. Submit your application at [teammidwest.com/grants](http://teammidwest.com/grants) by Oct. 15, 2018. Funds will be awarded in January 2019.



# Cocktails And Drinks

Shake things up with these easy-to-make, boozy drinks.

Photos—Robert Bruce Photography

## Mexican Sangria (pictured)

Mindy Aves, HomeWorks Tri-County

- 1 cup lime juice
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 bottles White Zinfandel wine
- 2 cups fresh orange juice
- ½ cup triple sec
- ½ cup tequila
- 2 cups frozen, seedless grapes (red, green, and purple)
- 2 cups sliced oranges or nectarines
- 1 cup sliced limes

Mix lime juice and sugar. Add wine, orange juice, triple sec and tequila. Chill until cold. Add fruit (may not need as much as called for.)



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



## French Blonde

Jan Updike, Cherryland

- 1 cup ruby red grapefruit juice
- 1 cup Lillet Blanc (available at larger liquor or wine stores)
- ½ cup gin (or less to make it less alcoholic)
- ¼ cup St. Germain elderflower liqueur
- 4 dashes of lime or lemon bitters
- garnish with a slice of grapefruit or another citrus

Mix all ingredients in a suitably sized pitcher. Chill if needed. Serve in a martini glass. Garnish with a slice of grapefruit or another citrus. Makes approximately 3–4 drinks.



## Celery Sipper

Jodi Moelker, Great Lakes Energy

- 2 cups chopped celery, including leaves
- 1½ cups sugar
- 1 cup water
- 1 tablespoon celery seeds

In a medium bowl, stir together the chopped celery, sugar, water and celery seeds. Let stand, stirring occasionally until sugar dissolves. Chill, covered, 8 hours or overnight. Strain through a fine-mesh sieve. Transfer syrup to a lidded jar or bottle and store in the refrigerator for up to two weeks.

For an alcoholic version, throw in an ounce or two of gin. For a non-alcoholic version, use celery sipper liquid to flavor soda water, adding a squeeze of lemon if desired. Serve immediately and enjoy!



## Fisherman's Punch

Arline Welty, Ontonagon REA

- 1 30-ounce bottle of 100% pure peach juice (no added sugar)
- 1 bottle (750 mL) dark rum
- 1 1-pint bottle (375 mL) brandy
- 5 ounces freshly squeezed lime juice
- 5 ounces freshly squeezed lemon juice

**Punch:** Chill the peach juice, rum and brandy. Squeeze limes and lemons. Pour all ingredients into a large plastic or non-reactive jug. Stir well to combine. Cover and place jug in the refrigerator to chill, at least 4 hours. If serving in a punch bowl, pour into a bowl over a large block of ice. Garnish with lime or lemon slices.

**Ice Block (Optional):** Wash and dry a rectangular cardboard milk carton. Cut off the top to create a rectangular mold. Pour filtered water to fill to 25 percent and add thinly sliced limes on top. Let freeze, and repeat process of adding water and limes, and freezing. This creates a block of ice with limes throughout, which looks nice in the punch bowl.



**Holiday Favorites:** due October 1  
**Pasta Perfect:** due November 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!

## FEATURED GUEST CHEF

Enjoy this creative cocktail from Iron Fish Distillery. Their true passion is to offer customers the craft of soil-to-spirit distilling from a family business that cares about their employees, community and the living land. Every step of the process—from growing and harvesting non-GMO grain to cultivating native yeast, milling, mashing, fermenting, distilling, aging, and bottling—is done by hand at their distillery. Cheers!



## Salted Maple Old Fashioned

- **Glass:** Rocks
- ½ Bar Spoon ( ¼ ounce ) of maple syrup
- 2-3 dashes of aromatic bitters
- 2 ounces maple bourbon
- **Garnish:** 5 salt flakes and an orange twist

Build ingredients in glass, combine with ice, and stir until chilled. This drink also tastes great with Iron Fish Experimental Barrel Finished Gin!

## Bourbon Whiskey Finished In Maple Syrup Barrels

**Bourbon Whiskey:** Iron Fish Distillery has some delicious local maple syrup, from the Griner Family Sugar Bush, that was aged in used whiskey barrels for months. Those whiskey barrels were then filled with a high rye bourbon and left to marry, resulting in a subtly sweet and deep flavor.

**Black Label Bourbon:** As the leaves began to fall, and while waiting for their own Iron Fish distilled whiskey to reach its prime, distillery staff came upon this spirit—a blend of corn, rye and malted barley in fired American oak barrels. The staff fell for it and gave it a trace of maple by finishing the spirit in aged whiskey barrels steeped in maple syrup. Settle in and enjoy this unique, thoughtful and distinct Bourbon—the beauty is in the contrast.

Both the Bourbon Whiskey and the Black Label Bourbon are available for purchase at Iron Fish Distillery.

Read the full story about Iron Fish Distillery, on page 14, and find this recipe and others at [micoopkitchen.com](http://micoopkitchen.com).



TOP: MEC crews trim trees at the Van Buren County Youth Fair.

BELOW: Jeremy Rogers works on a horse stable at the Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Watervliet.

BOTTOM: MEC employees work alongside community members to plant the VBC's Learning Garden in Paw Paw.



## Changing The Landscape **DAY OF SERVICE**

On June 15, over 110 of our employees and contractors stepped out to serve local community organizations throughout our service territory as part of our Changing the Landscape Day of Service.



### Southwest Michigan

Teams in southwest Michigan worked at sites throughout Van Buren County to make improvements and help organizations with special needs and projects. Additional volunteer support came from Tree Servants, one of MEC's contract crews, and Advantage Plumbing in Niles.

Some of the specific jobs and locations included working with the Paw Paw United Christian Services VBC and the Van Buren County Intermediate School District to plant roughly 400 plants and herbs for the VBC's Learning Garden; painting playground equipment for the city of Bangor; trimming trees, landscaping and painting at the Van Buren County Youth Fair; serving a Father's Day lunch for senior citizens at



the Paw Paw Senior Services Center; staining buildings and landscaping at local youth camps; and cleaning up a section of the Paw Paw River. We also collected and donated items to the Lawrence Public School District, Eleanor's Pantry in Paw Paw and Pretty Lake Camp in Mattawan.

One of the highlights of the day involved helping the Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Watervliet improve the stalls, arena and horse pasture along with painting the office space. Advantage Plumbing also fixed plumbing issues and donated and installed a water heater. "Our organization runs on roughly 8,000 volunteer hours each year and what you accomplished in one day was more than I could have possibly imagined," said Lynn Pica, farm manager at the center. "Your staff helped us out tremendously and truly improved the lives of those we serve."

## Southeast Michigan

Employees in southeast Michigan also volunteered their day by landscaping and cleaning up the grounds at the former Herrick Manor in Tecumseh, which is the new site for the Women & Children's Transitional Housing Program run by Neighbors of Hope.



ABOVE: Linda Carango (right) and Dixie Teague prepare food for the Paw Paw Senior Services Center.

BELOW: Denise Smith (left) and Kathryn Lee paint at Pretty Lake Camp in Mattawan.



Kirk Sander landscapes the grounds at the future Neighbors of Hope women and children's facility in Tecumseh.

## Facebook Posts From Our Day Of Service

# Partners & Friends

"Beautiful day with wonderful people. The Midwest Energy & Communications team visited our Women & Children's Transitional Housing Program for their 'Changing the Landscape Day of Action.' Over 120 of Team Midwest's employees are in the community doing meaningful projects and we are extremely grateful for their help."

### Neighbors of Hope

[facebook.com/neighborsofhope](https://facebook.com/neighborsofhope)

"Midwest Energy & Communications sent volunteers to clean and paint the children's park today. Thank you!"

### City of Bangor, Michigan

[facebook.com/BangorMI](https://facebook.com/BangorMI)

"A huge thank you to MEC for volunteering this past Friday. They cleaned and organized the home economics room and the pole barn. They also brought in several donations for our students. Thank you, Team Midwest!"

### Lawrence Tigers (Lawrence Public Schools)

[facebook.com/lawrencetigers](https://facebook.com/lawrencetigers)

"A collaboration with the VBISD and United Christian Services. This [learning garden] was established on June 15, 2018. Thanks to Team Midwest who helped plant everything."

### United Christian Services VBC

[facebook.com/ucsvbc](https://facebook.com/ucsvbc)



# BRINGING SPIRITS HOME

## Iron Fish Distillery Embraces Its Roots

By  
Rob  
Marsh

Every year Great Lakes steelhead return to their home in the Betsie River, running inland throughout northwest Michigan. Like these tenacious fish, the proprietors of Cherryland member Iron Fish Distillery in Thompsonville are returning the heritage of farm-distilled spirits back to the region.

Iron Fish is the only small-batch farm distillery in Michigan, but they are far from the first. "This area has a history of distilling small-batch spirits," said Richard Anderson, co-owner of Iron Fish. "Before Prohibition, there were plenty of people in this area distilling their own spirits on their farms."

These farms were a memory for Anderson's wife, Sarah, and her sister, Heidi, when they were young, spending their

summers visiting family in Benzonia. Heidi and her husband, David, later bought a seasonal home on the Betsie River, near the 120-acre farm that would later become the home of Iron Fish.

"It was a second-generation family farm that had been abandoned for a decade or so," said Anderson. "David and Heidi bought the land to save the farmhouse and barn and preserve the farm from being parceled up and sold."

While they enjoyed spirits, Anderson and his family didn't have plans to start a second career, let alone open a distillery on the property. It took a birthday trip to Scotland to give them the push they needed. "Touring distilleries in Islay, Scotland, we came across a farm distillery which really fed our passion for returning to northern Michigan to start our own farm distillery. That was when we began to take this idea that we could distill spirits seriously."

Within three years of returning from Scotland, Iron Fish became a reality.

From the beginning, Anderson quickly realized that they were doing something special. "Last year over Labor Day weekend, we just opened our doors. We didn't have the time to do a soft opening," said Anderson. "And within days of opening the tasting room, we sold out of our vodka!"



To date, Iron Fish has won over 10 national awards for their spirits, become the vodka provider for premium seating at Ford Field in Detroit, and started distributing their products to over 600 Michigan locations and throughout Chicago, Illinois. "It's going better than we thought," chuckled Anderson.

Iron Fish embraces their roots and takes full advantage of their farm's natural resources, using the property's grain for distilling spirits, growing their own cocktail garnishes in a bartender's garden, and supplying mash as cattle feed for local farmers. "We are a full ecosystem here. It's been our commitment to create a sustainable, working landscape."

This commitment to the land extends to their neighbors as well. In addition to hosting community and charitable events, Iron Fish partners with local farms and uses their products in Iron Fish spirits. "When someone drinks our white rum, they taste honey from Sleeping Bear Farms. And when someone drinks our gin, they taste sprigs of Concolor Fir from Antioch Tree Farm. We are perfecting the craft and art of distilling while giving back to our community."

Like the schools of steelhead working their way up the river, the people at Iron Fish Distillery are determined to continue the northwest Michigan tradition of distilling. All the while, they are supporting the land and the community who depends on it. 🐟



Iron Fish's four family partners, staff, and distribution representative gather to see their first pallet of spirits placed into statewide distribution. Iron Fish spirits can be found in over 600 Michigan locations as well as throughout Chicago, Illinois.



**For more information about Iron Fish Distillery and to access a special coupon code for a tour of the facility, visit [ironfishdistillery.com](http://ironfishdistillery.com).**

The coupon code is good for 50 percent off the cost of a tour through 2018, normally \$10. Enter CODE: **MCL2018** on the "Tour" tab of their website and complete the registration, by selecting the date, time and number of people.

Visit [ironfishdistillery.com](http://ironfishdistillery.com) to book a tour.



Visit [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) to learn more about Iron Fish Distillery and the craft beverage scene in Michigan on a special episode of the Co-op Energy Talk podcast, hosted by Cherryland Electric Cooperative.



# DISCOVER MORE

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## SUBMIT A NOMINATION TODAY!

*Michigan Country Lines* is on the hunt for entrepreneurial movers and shakers to showcase in our March 2019 magazine. We know co-op members are awesome and there is no shortage of pioneers, innovators and leaders in our service territory. Featured entrepreneurial endeavors can be small start-ups, large operations or anything in between.

**If you know a friend, neighbor or coworker we should consider, nominate them by December 31 at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com).**

**Self-nominations are accepted.**

### **Notice To Members Of Midwest Energy & Communications**

#### **Case No. U-16594 2017 Renewable Energy Plan Annual Report Summary**

Michigan law (MPSC) requires all Michigan electric utilities to get approximately two percent of their power supply from renewable sources by 2012 and increasing to 10 percent by 2015.

Under this requirement, Midwest Energy & Communications (MEC) submits an Annual Report to the MPSC regarding its Renewable Energy Plan. In 2017, MEC acquired a total of 101,821 renewable energy credits and 1,536 incentive credits from Thunder Bay—Four Mile. All credit transfers were directed through MEC's wholesale power supplier, Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc. Wolverine will continue to generate renewable energy and bank unused renewable energy credits for future use and compliance with statutory renewable portfolio standard requirements on behalf of all of its members.

The full report can be viewed on the MPSC website or by request at one of our offices.

### **Public Act 295 as amended by Public Act 342: The Clean Renewable And Efficient Energy Act**

#### **2017 Annual Energy Waste Reduction Report Midwest Energy & Communications MPSC Case Number U-18276**

During 2017, Midwest Energy & Communications (MEC) administered its Energy Waste Reduction (EWR) plan through the Michigan Electric Cooperative Collaborative in order to comply with PA-295. Previously, MEC, through the Collaborative, submitted its EWR plan with the MPSC. This EWR plan was approved by the MPSC. The Collaborative implemented the EWR Plan in 2017.

Overall MEC achieved a goal at approximately 110 percent savings. The full report can be viewed on the MPSC website or by request at one of our offices.



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 September 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 July/August 2018 issue is Kevin Dubord, an Alger Delta Cooperative member, who correctly identified the photo as the Shrine of Bishop Frederick Baraga. He was also known as the Snowshoe Priest who became the first Bishop of the Upper Peninsula and the Apostle of the Great Lakes.

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

### July/August 2018



## Best Cider Mills

Between the cider, doughnuts, hayrides and corn mazes, cider mills provide a great day out for families. Enjoy a perfect fall day at one of these awesome cider mills recommended by your fellow co-op members.



### 1 Phillips Orchards & Cider Mill, St. Johns

Phillips Orchards & Cider Mill has the best cider, donuts, Michigan gifts and paintings. It's just about the neatest place to go. —*Marilyn Fitzpatrick, HomeWorks Tri-County*

### 2 VerHage Fruit Farms & Cider Mill, Kalamazoo

VerHage Fruit Farms & Cider Mill is by far THE BEST cider I have ever tasted! There are no preservatives and nothing added except real apples and sometimes other fall fruit. They also have homemade doughnuts, pick your own apples, shopping, music, hayrides, a zip line and more fun for kids at nominal prices. If you haven't been to VerHage Cider Fruit Farms & Cider Mill farm you need to go there! If you have...you already know what I'm talking about...They are open from the spring with all kinds of fruit and fresh baked goods through the holidays in December. —*Sue Gottlieb, Midwest Energy & Communications*

### 3 Klackle Orchards, Greenville

Klackle Orchards has something for everyone. You will not be disappointed by making a trip to Klackle! The donuts and cider are to die for. —*Shelly Dunn, Great Lakes Energy*

### 4 Friske Orchard & Farm Market, Ellsworth

Friskie Orchard & Farm Market is a bushel of fun! Families love the outdoor orchard playland and the animal petting zoo, self-guided nature walk, you-pick fruit and festive events—many of which include live music and wagon rides! They also have homemade doughnuts and pies, a fruit stand, Michigan products and so much more! —*Walter Dorr, Presque Isle Electric & Gas*

### 5 Knaebe's Mmmunchy Krunchy Apple Farm & Cider Mill, Rogers City

Knaebe's Mmmunchy Krunchy Apple Farm & Cider Mill is as unique as its name. It's a great place to indulge in all things fall! Plus, [cider mill goers can find] great wood-fired pizza and craft hard cider. —*Gerry Baller, Presque Isle Electric & Gas*



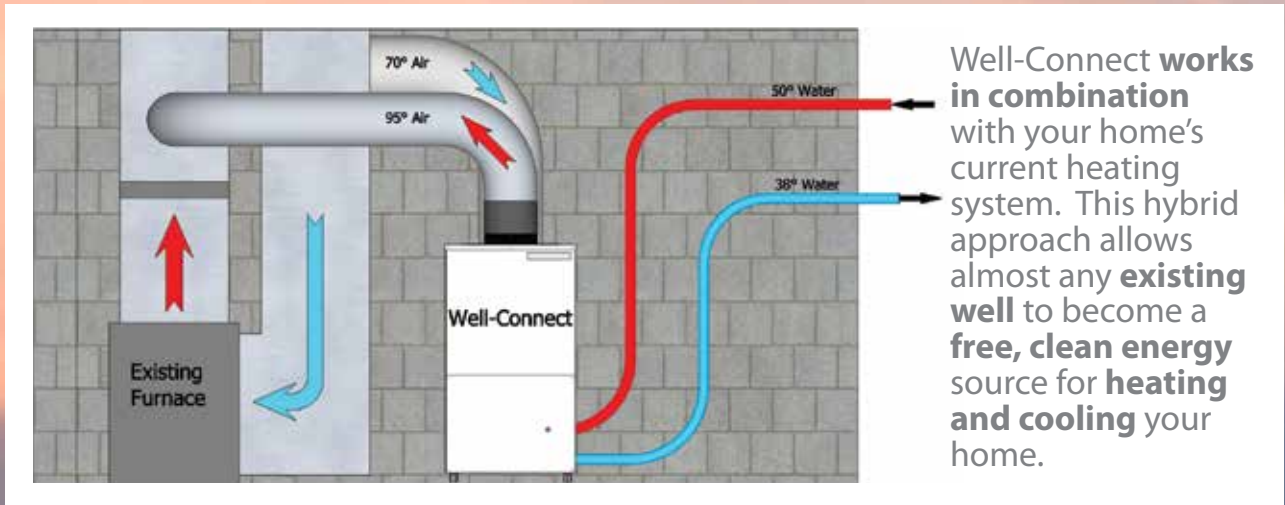
## Best of Michigan

**Up Next:** Share your favorite Michigan snowmobile trails. Help your fellow readers explore some new places this winter. We will publish these trails in our Nov/Dec issue.

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

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# CUSTOMER APPRECIATION EVENTS



## ADRIAN

Sunday, September 30

1 - 4 p.m.

Lenawee County Fairgrounds

- Elvis Tribute featuring Artists Doug Church, Colin Dexter, Jake Slater
- Colors the Clown & Co. and her animal magic show, face painting and petting zoo
- Bounce House
- Nelson's BBQ

## CASSOPOLIS

Sunday, October 7

1 - 4 p.m.

Cass County Fairgrounds

### FOOD TRUCKS

Redamak's

What the Truck Tacos

The Wiener Shack

We Will Wok You

The Pretzel Wagon

Love's Ice Cream

Mimi's Cupcakes

Mother Wilma's

Marshmallow Factory

### FUN

Top Secret Band

Zip Line Rides

Bounce Houses

Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides

Face Painting

Balloon Animals



RSVP required at [teammidwest.com/appreciation](http://teammidwest.com/appreciation) by Sept. 17, 2018.