

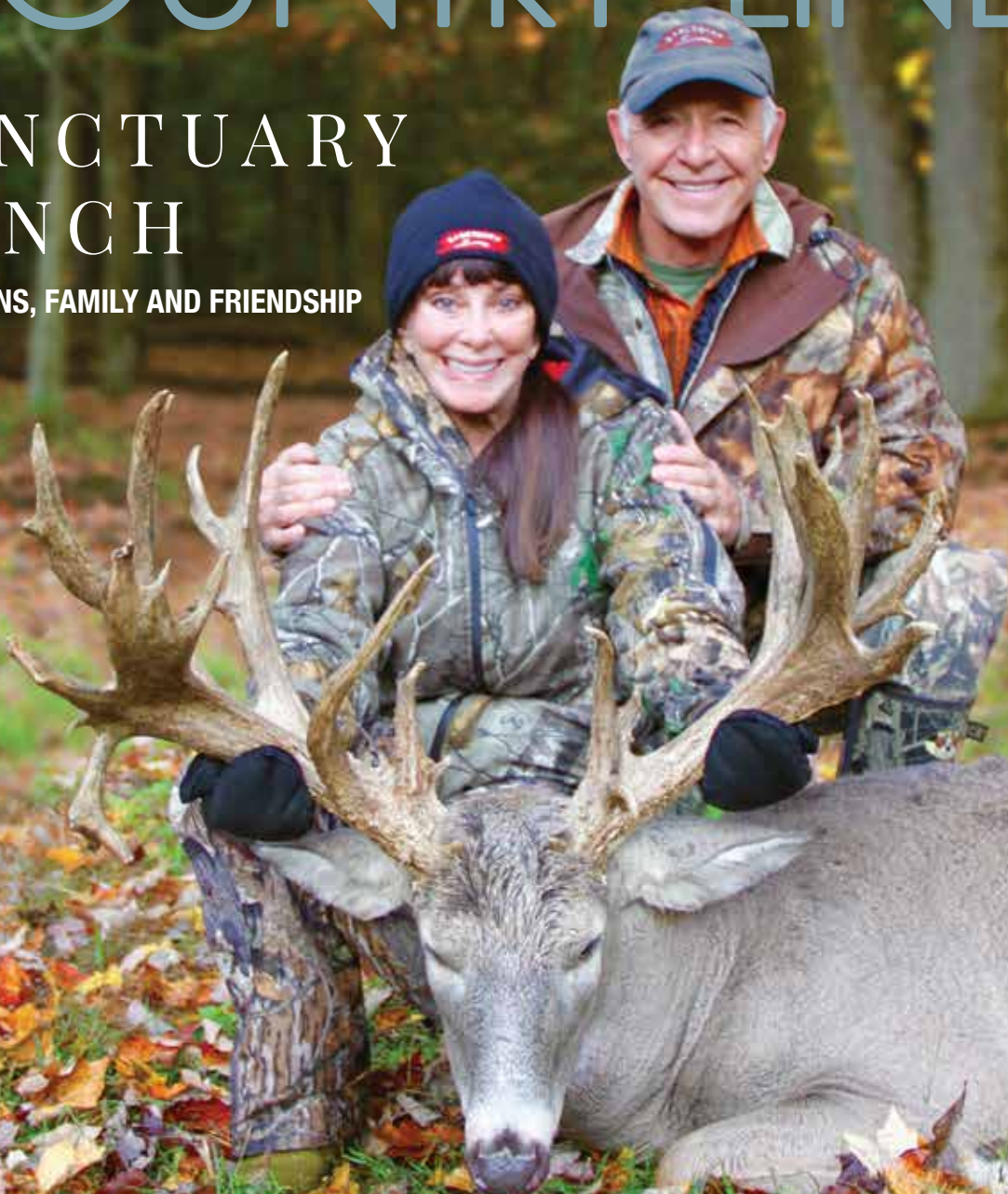
Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

November/December 2017

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

SANCTUARY RANCH

TRADITIONS, FAMILY AND FRIENDSHIP



**PIE&G Communities First
Fund Annual Report**

**PIE&G Linemen Are
Good Neighbors**



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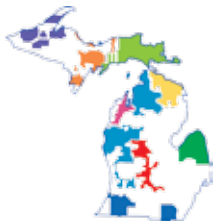
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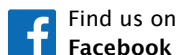
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Change of Address:

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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I Remember...

We invite members to share their fondest memories.

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

Guidelines

1. Approximately 200 words
2. Digital photos must be at least 600 KB
3. Only one entry per household, per month
4. Country Lines retains reprint rights
5. Please include your name, address, email, phone number and the name of your electric co-op
6. Submit your memories online: countrylines.com or email to cdorr@meca.coop

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Most PIE&G natural gas rates and charges are not regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission.

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Your Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative

What's So Great About PIE&G?



Tom Sobeck
President & CEO

That's easy! We're a cooperative, and it is you, our members, that make PIE&G such a great organization. Several events over the past few months tell our cooperative story and I'm proud to be a part of it.

October was National Cooperative Month. It only seems fitting then, that your board chose October to retire and refund capital credits to highlight the cooperative

business model. Last month, you likely received a capital credit retirement check. Your board of directors took action to retire and refund over \$2.6 million back to members.

We also conducted another successful annual meeting, and you elected three people to serve you on the board of directors. It's both an incredible opportunity and a big responsibility for those three individuals to help lead your cooperative into the future. The board spends a great deal of time educating themselves and working to understand the important issues PIE&G faces as we deliver energy to you in the safest, most economical and most efficient means possible.

The cooperative principles focus on people coming together for their common good to promote our communities in ways that "for profit" entities frankly cannot. Your cooperative spirit is shown when you voluntarily round up the change on your electric and gas bills to contribute to worthy causes through the Communities First Fund. This fund has distributed more than \$1.4 million locally, supporting education, human services, police and fire protection and much more. These deserving organizations provide essential services that help kids, parents, friends and neighbors in our communities. Please take a few minutes to read the Communities First Fund Annual Report on pages 12-13 in this issue of *Michigan Country Lines*, and if you're not in the program, then please consider enrolling. If you're already in the program, thank you! Your donations are appreciated, and your small change adds up to make a big difference in people's lives across northeast Michigan.

Making our home a better place to live and raise a family—that's the cooperative difference—and also what's so great about PIE&G! ■



PIE&G Linemen Are Good Neighbors

On a weekend trip to visit the summer cottage on Black Lake, PIE&G members John and Linda Miller drove into Onaway to buy fuel for their jet skis. After an enjoyable day on the lake, the Millers relaxed for the evening at the cottage. Early the next morning, John Miller received an unexpected call from the Presque Isle County Sheriff's Department. Imagine his dread when he was informed that his wallet had been found. He hadn't even realized it was missing!

Lucky for John, PIE&G linemen Randy McLean and Don LaLonde were on duty and found the wallet lying in the road that Sunday. According to McLean, "Don and I were on call driving along in the work truck, and we noticed something lying in the road up ahead. We pulled over and there was a man's wallet, credit cards, ID, insurance cards and a sizable amount of cash—scattered all over the place and in the ditch along the road." After gathering everything up, the linemen turned the wallet and its contents over to the Sheriff's Dept.

It didn't take long for Linda to call the co-op to praise the linemen for going above and beyond the call of duty. "We were so grateful that PIE&G's linemen were in the right place at the right time. After the Sheriff's Department called, John realized that he had placed his wallet on the back of his truck at the gas station, but drove away, forgetting it was still there. We just know that had someone else found it, we probably never would have heard from them. I can picture your linemen on the road retrieving our money, John's license, credit cards, registration and everything else that he kept in his wallet. It could have been a disaster. We just wanted PIE&G to know how much we appreciate these guys. Thank you, PIE&G!" ■

Your Board In Action

At their most recent meetings, the PIE&G Board of Directors:

- Approved \$1,180,400 for the 2018 General Plant Expenditures (Capital) Budget.
- Approved the 2017 annual meeting notice to members.
- Reviewed and revised Board Policy 302 – Disclosure of Documents, Records & Information.
- Conducted the annual review of Board Policy 204 – Financial Policy.
- Increased the 2017 Capital Budget by \$37,500 to \$1,691,540.
- Approved cooperative participation in the Low Income Energy Assistance Fund (LIEAF) for 2017–18.
- Appointed individuals to the 2017 Nominating Committee and the Election and Credentials Committee.
- At its special member regulation board meeting in September, approved establishing the 2018 Power Supply Cost Recovery (PSCR) factor to a maximum of (-\$0.00059)/kWh for bills rendered on or after Feb. 1, 2018.

Low Income Energy Assistance Fund Charge Decreased

Gov. Snyder signed into law Public Act 95 in 2013 and created the Low Income Energy Assistance Fund (LIEAF) authorizing the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) to raise up to \$50 million annually for low-income energy assistance payments. The money would come from a surcharge of no more than \$1 per meter per month for all Michigan electric utilities participating in the LIEAF program.

On July 21, 2017, the MPSC issued an order reducing the monthly surcharge from 96 cents to 93 cents per meter for September 2017 through August 2018 billing months. The surcharge is limited to electric bills only and to one electric residential meter per residential site. The decrease is effective on PIE&G's electric bills generated on or after Oct. 1, 2017, for service rendered in September. Annual bills will be prorated accordingly.

Home Heating Assistance Programs • 2017–2018 Season

Program: Winter Protection Plan
Contact: Your Local Utility Company

Income Guidelines 2017–2018	
# in Household	150% Poverty Guide Maximum Income
1	\$18,090
2	24,360
3	30,630
4	36,900
5	43,170
6	49,440
7	55,710
8	61,980

Add \$6,270 for each additional member.

Note: All customers 65+ are eligible regardless of income. Customers are responsible for all electricity and natural gas used. At the end of the protection period, participants must make arrangements with their utility company to pay off any money owed before the next heating season.

The **Winter Protection Plan (WPP)** protects enrolled seniors and low-income customers from service shut-offs and high utility bill payments during the winter months (Nov. 1–March 31). If you are eligible, your utility service will remain on (or restored with the WPP) from Nov. 1 through March 31, if you:

- pay at least 7% of your estimated annual bill each month, and
- make equal monthly payments between the date you apply and the start of the next heating season on any past due bills.

When the protection period ends (March 31), you must begin to pay the full monthly bill, plus part of the amount you owe from the winter months when you did not pay the full bill.

Participation does not relieve customers from the responsibility of paying for electricity and natural gas usage, but does prevent shut-off during winter months. You qualify for the plan if you meet at least one of the following requirements:

- are age 65 or older,
- receive Department of Health and Human Services cash assistance, including SSI,
- receive Food Assistance,
- receive Medicaid, or
- household income is at or below the 150% of poverty level shown in the Income Guidelines chart at left.

Senior citizen customers (65 or older) who participate in the WPP are not required to make specific payments to ensure that their service will not be shut off between Nov. 1 and March 31. Service for seniors can be restored without any payments.

Program: Home Heating Credit
Contact: Mich. Dept. of Treasury

# Exemp.	Max. Income	# Exemp.	Max. Income
0–1	\$13,271	4	\$27,071
2	17,871	5	31,671
3	22,471	6	36,271

Add \$4,600 for each exemption over 6.

You can apply for a **Home Heating Credit** for the **2017** tax year if you meet the income guidelines listed at left or you qualify based on alternate guidelines including household income, exemptions, and heating costs. Additional exemptions are available for seniors, disabled claimants, or claimants with 5% or more of their income from unemployment compensation.

If you qualify, you may receive assistance to help pay for your winter heating bills. **Forms are available mid- to late-January wherever tax forms are provided or from the Michigan Dept. of Treasury (517-636-4486, or michigan.gov/treasury).** The Home Heating Credit claim form must be filed with the Michigan Dept. of Treasury **no later than Sept. 30 each year.**

Program: Earned Income Credit
Contact: U.S. Treasury Dept.,
 Internal Revenue Service
irs.gov/EITC
 Michigan Dept. of Treasury
michigan.gov/treasury

The **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** is a refundable federal income tax credit for low-income, working individuals and families who meet certain requirements and file a tax return. Those who qualify will owe less in taxes and may get a refund. Even a person who does not generally owe income tax may qualify for the EITC, but must file a tax return to do so. If married, you must file jointly to qualify. File Form 1040 or 1040A and attach the EITC.

You may claim a **Michigan earned income tax credit** for tax year **2017** equal to a percentage of the federal earned income tax credit for which you are eligible. Visit the website or see the MI 2016 tax booklet for details.

Program: Crisis Assistance Program
Contact: Local Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) michigan.gov/mdhhs

State Emergency Relief Program (SER): michigan.gov/mdhhs You do not have to be a DHHS client to apply for help with a past due bill, shutoff notice, or the need for deliverable fuel through the SER. This program, available Nov. 1–May 31, provides most of its utility assistance during this crisis season. However, limited assistance is available outside the crisis season. If you receive a DHHS cash grant, you may vendor part of it towards heat and electric bills. Contact your local DHHS or call the Home Heating Hotline, 855-275-6424.

Program: Low-Income Home Weatherization
Contact: Local Community Action Agency

You may be able to receive help with weatherizing your home to reduce energy use if you meet low-income eligibility guidelines (200% of poverty guidelines) and funding is available. **Weatherization** may include caulking, weatherstripping, and insulation. Contact your local Community Action Agency for details. Visit mcaaa.org to find one in your area.

Program: United Way
Contact: Call 2-1-1 or UWmich.org/2-1-1

2-1-1 is a free phone service operating 24 hours daily to provide information about help that may be available in a particular area with utilities and other needs. Learn more at UWmich.org/2-1-1.

Program: Medical Emergency Protection
Contact: Local Utility Company

You are protected from service shut-off for nonpayment of your natural gas and/or electric bill for up to 21 days, possibly extending to 63 days, if you have a proven **medical emergency**. You must provide written proof from a doctor, public health or social services official that a medical emergency exists. Contact your gas or electric utility for details.

Program: Shut-off Protection for Military Active Duty
Contact: Local Utility Company

If you or your spouse has been called into **active military duty**, you may apply for shut-off protection from your electric or natural gas service for up to 90 days. You may request extensions. You must still pay, but contact your utility company and they will help you set up a payment plan.

Program: Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Emergency Grant Program
Contact: MI Veterans Trust Fund

The Trust Fund provides temporary assistance to veterans and their families facing a financial emergency or hardship including the need for energy assistance.

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund at 517-284-5299 or michiganveterans.com

Program: MI Energy Assistance Program
Contact: Utility or 2-1-1 in late November

Agency assistance through Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP), includes services that will enable participants to become self-sufficient, including assisting participants in paying their energy bills on time, budgeting for and contributing to their ability to provide for energy expenses, and being energy efficient. Shut-off protection is provided Nov. 1–April 15 for all residential customers.

Switch Things Up With Stylish, Efficient Lighting For Your Home

By Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen

Saving energy starts with choosing the correct bulb. Efficiency standards for incandescent bulbs between 40 and 100 watts, which came into effect in 2012, led to the halogen bulb (also known as energy-efficient incandescent). These bulbs are at least 25 percent more efficient than the old incandescents. The other two common types of household bulbs, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and light-emitting diodes (LEDs), are even more efficient.

Energystar.gov estimates that you can save \$75 a year by replacing the five most-used incandescent bulbs or light fixtures with ENERGY STAR® certified LED or CFL lighting. Of the three types, LEDs tend to save more money over the long run and LED prices have decreased in recent years. A downside of CFLs is that they contain a small amount of toxic mercury that can be released into your home if one breaks.

When you're considering which type of bulb to buy, consider both watts and lumens. Watts indicate how much energy (and therefore, money) is used to produce light. Lumens indicate how much light the bulb produces. A handy comparison is that an 800-lumen bulb is about equal to the amount of light from a traditional 60-watt incandescent bulb. Lumennow.org offers an excellent guide to understanding bulbs.

Bulbs also give off different colors of light, known as color temperature. If a bulb burns out—or in the case

of an LED, as it dims over time—it can be challenging to find a replacement that matches other lights in the room. If the contrast bothers you, you may want to purchase and install bulbs of the same brand and wattage for the entire room or area at the same time.

Installing dimmers instead of on/off light switches is a good way to save energy while giving you greater control of the amount of light in the room. Not all bulbs are dimmable, so be sure to check the label on the bulb. It's worth considering whether you have the right number and the right location for light switches. We recommend hiring a licensed electrician if you decide to install new lighting and switches.

The Lighting Research Center website (<http://www.lrc.rpi.edu/>) provides a resource page with many sample lighting layouts for every room in the home, which you can find by entering the phrase "lighting patterns for homes" in their website's search engine. Home décor sites also give excellent lighting explanations, plans and ideas.

It's always a good idea to check with your local electric co-op as they may offer energy audits or lighting product rebates.

With a little planning, you can have a well-lit, energy efficient home you'll enjoy for years to come! ■



A Tribute To Jim Hough



1932-2017

An exceptional journalist, Jim Hough was the "people's columnist" at the *Lansing State Journal* for 25 years. After retiring from the newspaper, he wrote a regular column in *Michigan Country Lines* for over two decades. His column, *Right at Home*, received rave reviews and was a favorite among our readers. With his passing in October, we pay tribute to him and his contributions to *Michigan Country Lines* magazine.

Five Ways To Save Energy At Your Holiday Party

It's the most wonderful time of the year—but also one of the most expensive. Control your energy use with these simple tips. You'll keep costs down while providing your guests with a comfortable, lovely atmosphere!

1. Switch to LED holiday lights. LED lights use up to 90 percent less electricity and last up to 10 times longer than traditional string lights. Save even more energy by putting your lights on a timer.
2. Lower your thermostat an hour before guests arrive. Additional people in your home mean extra warmth at no cost to you! Keep guests comfortable by turning the thermostat down a few degrees before your gathering begins.
3. Turn off room lights when your tree is lit. Allow guests to focus on your spectacular tree by turning off as many lights as possible. The glow of the tree lights should be bright enough to help your guests navigate around the room.
4. Bake several dishes at the same time. Make the most of the energy that goes into heating your oven by cooking multiple dishes at once. Also, preheat your oven as late in the cooking process as possible to avoid wasting energy.



5. Use candles to create an inviting glow. Save electricity and produce an enchanting ambience in your home with candlelight. Use scented candles for an extra touch of holiday cheer!

For more energy saving tips or information about incentives available from our Energy Optimization program, call 877-296-4319 or visit michigan-energy.org. ■

Save energy while entertaining!

Hosting a holiday gathering? Remember these tips to keep energy costs down and spirits up:

- Switch to LED holiday lights
- Lower the thermostat before guests arrive
- Turn off room lights when the tree is lit
- Bake several dishes at a time
- Use candles for an inviting glow

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org PHONE: 877.296.4319

*Happier
Holidays*



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.

Powering Up After An Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark:



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES

1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines:

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

2. Distribution Substation:

A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if problems exist further down the line.

3. Main Distribution Lines:

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

4. Tap Lines:

If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools and homes.

5. Individual Homes:

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate a local issue.

PLEASING PIES

Sweet and savory pie recipes you will love and want to share.



Photos—Robert Bruce Photography

Fresh Pear Pie

Jan Glass, Great Lakes Energy

- 5 cups fresh peeled and cored pear slices
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 3 tablespoons butter, cut into bits
- 1 unbaked double pie crust, store bought or homemade

Preheat oven to 450 F. Toss sliced pears in lemon juice and set aside. Mix flour, sugar, spices and lemon zest. Add flour mixture to the pear slices. Pour the pear mixture into the unbaked bottom pie crust pressed firmly into a pie pan and dot the top of the mixture with butter. Add the top crust and cut slits for steam. Bake for 10 minutes at 450 F, then turn down oven temp to 350 F and bake for an additional 30 minutes. This pie is wonderful served with a nice vanilla bean ice cream.

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

Savory Onion Pie

Kris Hazeres, Alger Delta

- 3 cups thinly sliced Vidalia or other sweet onions
- 1 cup crushed Ritz crackers
- 1/4 cup melted margarine or butter
- 2 tablespoons margarine or butter
- 3/4 cup milk
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- dash of pepper
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- paprika, optional



Preheat oven to 350 F. Sauté onions in butter until tender but not brown. In a bowl, combine crackers and melted margarine; press into an 8" pie plate. Place onions in crust. Combine remaining margarine, milk, eggs, salt and pepper. Pour gently over onions. Top with cheese (add extra if desired). Sprinkle with paprika if desired. Bake for 30 minutes. Refrigerate any leftovers.

Sour Cream Raspberry Pie

Connie Pietila, Ontonagon County REA

- ¾ cup sugar
- ¼ cup flour
- 1 cup (8-ounce) carton sour cream
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- 4 cups fresh raspberries
- 9-inch unbaked pie crust

Crumb Topping:

- ⅓ cup sugar
- ⅓ cup brown sugar
- ⅔ cup flour
- ¼ teaspoon cinnamon
- 3–4 tablespoons butter



Preheat oven to 350 F. Mix together sugar and flour in a large bowl. In a small bowl, mix sour cream, beaten egg, vanilla and salt. Add to sugar mixture and stir well. Fold raspberries in gently. Place pie crust in a deep pie dish. Place

raspberry pie mixture in crust. Bake for 30 minutes. For crumb topping, stir together sugars, flour and cinnamon. Cut in butter until crumbly. Sprinkle over hot pie and bake another 35 minutes or until edges are golden. Let cool at least 2 hours before slicing.



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

“Flatbreads and Pizzas” due December 1

“Potatoes” due January 1

“Indulgent Desserts” due February 1

Go to micoopkitchen.com for more information and to register.

Featured Guest Chef

Chef Jim Wood of Sanctuary Ranch knows his way around venison. So, it's no wonder that his mouthwatering Venison Medallions with Mushroom Marsala Cream Sauce is a favorite at the lodge. Give it a try! It might just become your new venison go-to recipe as well.



Venison Medallions

- ½ pound venison loin, cut into ½ inch thick medallions, coated in flour and salted
- Butter, enough to sauté
- ½ cup mushrooms
- ½ cup Marsala wine
- ¼ cup beef stock
- ½ cup cream
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- Salt to taste

In a large skillet over medium-high heat, add butter followed by venison medallions. Sauté for 1 minute. Add mushrooms, and sauté 1 minute, then flip medallions. Add Marsala and reduce 5 seconds. Add beef stock and reduce 5 seconds. Add cream and reduce until meat begins to bleed. Next, add Dijon, salt to taste and mix thoroughly. Arrange medallions on a plate and pour sauce over the top.

Read the full story about Sanctuary Ranch on page 14, and find this recipe and others at micoopkitchen.com.

Powering Communities, Empowering Members

2016 PIE&G
Communities
First Fund Awards:
\$49,800

The generosity of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op members and their desire to better their communities allows the PIE&G Communities First Fund to fulfill its philanthropic mission of distributing funds to help individuals and organizations in need across its service area.

Members who volunteer to “round up” their energy bill to the next dollar (averages 50 cents monthly) provide funds overseen by a nine-member, volunteer board of directors. Funds are granted through an application process and allow small contributions to make a **BIG** difference in northeast Michigan. To those who participate in the fund—**THANK YOU!** For those who would like to join the cause and help their community, please see page 13 of this issue.

2016 COMMUNITIES FIRST FUND GRANT SUMMARY

APPLICANT	AMOUNT	APPLICANT	AMOUNT
Presque Isle County Fair Association Materials, labor, fees for New Bldg Electricity	\$1,800	United Way of Northeast Michigan Presque Isle County Project Connect Supplies	\$1,500
J.A. Michigan Great Lakes/Tip of Mitt Classroom materials (Onaway & Cheboygan)	\$750	Hubbard Lake Sportsman & Improvement Assn HLSIA Fish Shelter Program	\$500
Cheboygan County Humane Society Classic Vet Mate Lift Gurney	\$1,000	District Health Department #4 Girls on the Run (Sunrise Side)	\$2,000
Mont. County Comm. On Aging Senior Ctr Kitchen Equipment	\$3,000	Cheboygan VITA Portable Printers	\$1,350
Presque Isle County Sheriff's Office Equipment—Vest, Gas Mask, Medical Kit	\$2,400	Onaway United Methodist Church Caring Closet—Food Pantry	\$2,000
New Beginnings Ministries Food Pantry	\$2,500	CallieAnn Schneider (HS Student) MI Ambassadors of Music-European Tour	\$500
Posen Consolidated Schools Greenfield Village Education—Fund admission & transport . .	\$1,500	Jonathan Schneider (HS Student) MI Ambassadors of Music-European Tour	\$500
Otsego Memorial Hospital Foundation Reach Out and Read—Purchase books for well-baby visits . .	\$1,000	Presque Isle County Historical Museum Publication “Steel Rails and Tall Timber”	\$2,000
Long Rapids Twp. Volunteer Fire Dept. Thermo Image Camera	\$2,000	Cheboygan Inverness Academy Teaching Materials—Forensic Science	\$2,500
Peace Lutheran Church Peace Project—Hygiene items	\$1,000	Roger City High School Industrial Arts Program—Wood Shop Equipment	\$2,000
Atlanta Church of Christ/The Caring Place The Caring Place—Food	\$2,500	College Scholarships 16 High School Seniors	\$15,500

PIE&G Communities First Fund Statements of Financial Position Dec. 31, 2016 and 2015

ASSETS	2016*	2015
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash	\$ 96,398	\$ 100,462
Cash – Restricted	3,000	3,000
Accounts Receivable	3,975	4,016
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 103,373	\$ 107,478
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	\$ 72,322	\$ 69,651
Unrestricted, designated	28,051	34,827
Permanently restricted	3,000	3,000
TOTAL NET ASSETS	103,373	107,478
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 103,373	\$ 107,478
ACTIVITIES AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		
REVENUE		
Contributions – Members	\$ 51,868	\$ 52,282
Contributions – PIE&G	13,703	9,458
Accounts Receivable	92	95
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 65,663	\$ 61,835
EXPENSES		
Grants	\$ 39,565	\$ 38,865
Scholarships	16,500	8,500
Professional Fees	3,500	750
Program Expense	8,895	7,361
Directors' Mileage Expense	1,308	1,266
TOTAL EXPENSE	69,768	56,742
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(4,105)	5,093
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	107,478	102,385
NET ASSETS, end of year	\$ 103,373	\$ 107,478

*2016 Financial Position Data is Unaudited.



Inland Lakes High School Valedictorian,
Mallory Bunker—Scholarship Winner



Lewiston Chamber—Movies in the Park



The Baby Basket—Atlanta

HOW CAN I HELP MY COMMUNITY?

The PIE&G Communities First Fund was created in 1998. Funds for this program are generated when PIE&G members volunteer to "round up" their utility bills to the next whole dollar. The average contribution is about 50 cents per month per meter. All contributions are tax deductible.

Please call our Member Services Department at 800-423-6634 to join. You may also mail the completed enrollment form on this page with your utility payment.

Enroll To Help Your Community

Yes!

I want to participate in the COMMUNITIES FIRST FUND. Please enroll me and "round-up" my bill to the next highest dollar each month.

Name (please print) _____

Account Number _____

Mailing Address _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Include this coupon in your next bill payment, or mail to:
PIE&G COMMUNITIES FIRST FUND, P.O. Box 308, Onaway, MI 49765

SANCTUARY RANCH

Traditions, Family And Friendship

By Emily Haines Lloyd



The gathering area to share stories and admire trophies.

Photos courtesy of Sanctuary Ranch

It's daybreak at Sanctuary Ranch in Stanwood, Michigan. Ryan Bollman, general manager, takes his first sip of coffee long before the first rays of sunshine flicker in the morning sky. Walking into the woods in complete stillness, his breath caught in the cool air, he climbs into a deer stand, looks out through his "office window" and realizes he's not the average Joe or Jane pushing papers or punching a time clock.

Bollman spends his days a little differently than most desk jockeys. When running a business that is four square miles of gorgeous northern Michigan terrain and bursting with the largest, most sought-after Whitetail deer, the "daily grind" has a slightly different meaning.

Sanctuary Ranch is a one-of-a-kind, preserve trophy hunting experience that rivals any in the country.

While most nature-raised, hunted Whitetail are only one and a half to two years old, the Whitetail at Sanctuary Ranch are a mature five to six years old. These larger, majestic deer are a game hunter's dream, with Sanctuary home to some of the smartest and most elusive bucks that hunting aficionados have ever seen.

"When my dad [Pat Bollman] bought this land back in the late '70s, I don't think he could have imagined all that Sanctuary Ranch would become," said Ryan Bollman. "But his love of hunting and how much it meant to our family—that became the basis for everything we built moving forward."

Ask any of the hunters who return year after year what brings them back to Sanctuary Ranch and you don't hear about trophies. You hear words like *tradition, family and friendship*. This is what Sanctuary Ranch does that elevates the experience.



A father and daughter heading off for quality time.



Sanctuary's guides with some of the top 2016 trophies.

“The sun rose and revealed a magnificent landscape. It teemed with game to the horizon and was a grand site. Indeed, it was to be a very good day.

”
—Ernest Hemingway



A hunter reflecting on a cold, snowy and successful hunt.

Bollman and the entire staff take the time to know their clients—their likes, preferences, how they like to hunt and where. Sanctuary Ranch pairs hunters and groups with the perfect leader who takes hunters on an experience that is custom-made just for them. Then they come back to the lodge to eat great food, tell even better stories, and make new friends.

“It’s not just about pulling the trigger,” said Bollman. “Our hunters have a relationship, a connection, to the ranch. They feel like this is their hunting property, and they know we’re here to watch over it while they’re gone.”

And return they do. Year after year, with new generations joining older generations, these hunters create memories they’ll have forever, along with their majestic trophies. These experiences are why Sanctuary Ranch has built a clientele that is

practically anticipating their next trip before they’ve even left the ranch.

Bollman doesn’t get out in the woods quite as often as he used to, as his responsibilities on the property continue to grow. However, he doesn’t seem to mind entirely.

“Of course I love being out there and taking one of our hunters out for the day,” said Bollman. “But it’s not about me—it’s about creating that awesome experience for someone else. That’s what Sanctuary Ranch is all about. That’s the tradition we want to be a part of.” ■



**Please visit
sanctuary-ranch.com
for more information.**

Back To School



Returning to education or recreation?—Regina Young



Heading to the bus stop.—Mary Johnson



Back to school with friends!—Monica Field

Photo Fun

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op invites members to share their amazing photos. Selected photos will be published in *Michigan Country Lines*.

Upcoming topics and deadlines are: **Furry Friends** due **November 20**—Jan./Feb. 2018 issue and **Talented Kids** due **January 20**—March/April issue.

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

We look forward to seeing your best photos!

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op will be closed for the holidays on the following dates:

Thanksgiving: Thursday, Nov. 23, and Friday, Nov. 24

Christmas: Monday, Dec. 25, and Tuesday, Dec. 26

New Year's: Monday, January 1, 2018

As always, you may access your account anytime online at pieg.com or by calling toll free 1-866-999-4571. To report outages or other emergencies, please call **1-800-423-6634**. For gas emergency only, please call **1-800-655-8565**. To better serve you, please have your account number handy.

From our families to yours, have a safe and happy holiday season!



Linemen's Poem

Who dug the holes
And set the poles
And strung the silver wire?

The local boys
Who chased the girls
And set their hearts afire.

'Twas farmer boys
Who did the job
With tools that weren't the best,

They walked the lines
In those past times
And never stopped to rest.

They built their lines
Just like a fence
But further from the ground,

And dared the
Natural elements
To try to tear it down!

The years have passed
And to this day
The lines are still intact,

And every time
They break and fall
The linemen build them back!

Each time they hear
That old phone ring,
They dress and leave the "sack,"

They never know
When they leave home
What time they'll be coming back.

So when you're caught
In a real bad storm
And you are out of power,

Get on the phone
And call the boys
Regardless of the hour,

But never let
Your temper flare
And get all "shook" and nervous,

But wave to them
When they drive by,
And thank them for good service!

—Leonard LaFave

Leonard LaFave was a former Right of Way Agent for Presque Isle Electric Cooperative. This poem first appeared in the cooperative's employee newsletter circa 1971.

Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger Give Back To Community

By Jack O'Malley

The fall season brings colorful leaves, crisp air, and all things orange. Fall also ushers in firearm deer season, the biggest hunting season in Michigan, which draws as many as 700,000 men and women to the woods. For the serious hunters, deer season means fresh meat on the table and a chance to give back to communities.

The Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger (MSAH) program was founded in 1991 by a group of men and women who saw a unique opportunity to provide nutritious meals for those less fortunate. Started as a nonprofit organization, MSAH connects participating licensed game processors with deer hunters looking to process and donate all or a portion of their hunt. There are two different ways a hunter can donate game at MSAH participating processors:

Give-A-Pound—Successful hunters who have their deer processed at a participating MSAH processing facility have the option to donate a pound or more of their processed deer to local food pantries.

Whole Deer Donations—Successful hunters who drop off and donate their whole deer at a participating MSAH processing facility will have the deer processed at NO COST to them. The processor turns the venison into ground burger and is reimbursed through the MSAH fund for their work in the finished product.

The processed venison is then collected by a nonprofit community food bank, pantry or shelter

working in coordination with the processor. If a specific processor needs a nonprofit community food bank, pantry or shelter to work with, locations can be provided through the MSAH. This way, deer donated and processed can help their local community.

In 2016, more than 29,000 pounds of processed venison were donated through wild game processors working with the MSAH program to 35 nonprofit organizations. That processed venison equaled over 145,000 hot and high-in-protein meals for those throughout the state of Michigan who were in dire need.

Funding for the Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger program exists through an account created through Public Acts 116 & 117 of 2005 which states that sportsmen, sportswomen and non-hunters can voluntarily donate funds to the MSAH in different ways. Funds collected reimburse processors working with MSAH for the work they perform in the processing of the deer.

So, the next time you see a flash of blaze orange or camo, tip your hat and thank a hunter because



Jack O'Malley

good things are happening statewide thanks to their love of the sport.

To learn more about MSAH and how to donate your venison, please visit the website at sportsmenagainsthunger.org. ■



«« Where In Michigan Is This?

Identify the correct location of the photo on the left by December 15 and be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 electric bill credit.

Enter your guess at countrylines.com or send by mail to: *Country Lines* Mystery Photo, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Include the name on your account, address, phone number, and the name of your co-op. Our Mystery Photo Contest winner from the September 2017 issue is **Jeannine Uphouse, a Presque Isle Electric & Gas Cooperative member**, who correctly identified the photo as the Rosewood Walkway-Marquette in the Upper Peninsula.

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



September Photo



WAREHOUSE CLEARANCE SALE



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PIE&G

School Friday Folders



PIE&G is proud to have another successful delivery of "Friday Folders" for member students enrolled in local public elementary schools for the 2017–2018 academic year.

PIE&G has donated the student folders to member schools since 2003 to help teachers send important student papers home for parents' review. The laminated folders are custom printed with each school name, mascot and colors, and were distributed the first week of school in September.

The folders are purchased by PIE&G with financial support from Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, its national marketing alliance.



Best wishes to all kids and teachers
for a successful year of learning!