

The Spotlight



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February 2024

HOPPE FAMILY RECEIVES CENTENNIAL FARM RECOGNITION

Since 1921, the Hoppe family has nurtured an 80-acre farm in Alpena, Michigan, raising cattle and cultivating crops. This farming legacy continued with Eugene Hoppe, who took over from his father, Florian, in 1947. Eugene and his wife, Leona, grew their family while tending to corn, wheat, oats, hay, potatoes, beef cattle, and ten dairy cows.

In 2022, Leona Hoppe passed the farm to her son, Ron, and his wife, Jackie. This remarkable commitment to one piece of land for a century earned the Hoppe family the prestigious Centennial Farm status.

The Centennial Farm Program began in 1948 with the State of Michigan's Michigan Historical Commission and received support from various

Pictured (left to right): Jackie and Ron Hoppe (husband and wife), C.E.O. Tom Sobeck, Director Kurt Krajniak, Director Sally Knopf, and Rosemary Rosenbrock. Seated in front is Leona Hoppe, mother to Ron and Rosemary.

entities, including Detroit Edison Company, Consumers Power Company, farm groups, and local electrical cooperatives like Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANTS

PIE&G partners with CoBank's Sharing Success program to empower our communities. Eligible entities include 501(c)(3) charities and public-purpose organizations within our service area. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Apply from January 1 to March 1.

Details:

- www.pieg.com/content/sharing-success. Contact Melissa at 800-423-6634, ext. 1011, or mvanschoten@pieg.com for eligibility.
- Mail applications to PIE&G CoBank Sharing Success, P.O. Box 308, Onaway, MI 49765, or
- Email mvanschoten@pieg.com. Include the designated charity's IRS 501(c)(3) tax exemption notification or taxpayer identification number if applicable.

COMMUNITIES FIRST FUND GRANT RECIPIENTS

\$2,000 was awarded to the McLaren Northern Michigan Foundation for the McDonald Adult Partial Hospitalization Program.



Photographed: Tom Sobeck, C.E.O., and Izabela Babinska, McLaren Northern Michigan Foundation Relations Officer.



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GAS LINE SAFETY TIPS

To ensure safety around our natural gas lines, here are some vital reminders:

- **Gas Leak Emergency:** In case of a gas leak, call our dedicated hotline at (800) 655-8565, available 24/7. Please note, this number is exclusively for gas leak reports. For other inquiries, contact us during regular business hours.
- **Immediate Danger:** If you encounter a broken or open gas line with a gas release, call 911 immediately.
- **Pipeline Markers:** Underground gas pipelines are marked periodically with yellow markers. Remember, these markers may not indicate the exact location or direction of the lines. Before any digging, dial 811 (MISS DIG) for free utility marking within three business days. Removing or damaging pipeline markers is illegal and carries penalties.
- **Pipeline Integrity:** PIE&G takes regular measures to maintain the integrity of our natural gas pipeline system. This includes inspections, corrosion control, leak surveys, and pipeline replacements when necessary. Our team is trained to monitor and respond swiftly to gas emergencies, ensuring your safety.

To help keep our community safe, stay informed about these guidelines, even if you're not a PIE&G natural gas service user.



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SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GRADUATING SENIORS:

Applications due March 1, 2024

The PIE&G Communities First Fund has awarded scholarships to graduating high school seniors since 1999. The award is \$1,000, payable upon completing the first semester. Plus, four additional \$500 scholarships are available.

Scholarship applications are accepted between January 1 and March 1. Eligibility requirements and applications are available online at pieg.com or by calling (800) 423-6634, ext. 1011.

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

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