



BLP employees Bob Scamehorn, Shawn Kuck and Chris Morse flipping pancakes & sausage at the Flyin' Heroes Breakfast.

## BLP SUPPORTS FLYIN' HEROES PROGRAM

Employees of the Grand Haven Board of Light & Power participated in a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser, giving a total of \$603.00 to the Flyin' Heroes program to help support our local veterans.

Flyin' Heroes is a program that utilizes the sport of fly fishing to promote therapeutic growth and rehabilitation of U.S. military veterans who are struggling with PTSD. The goal of Flyin' Heroes is to create memorable fly fishing experiences that unlocks the healing power of the water and fosters lasting relationships.

- 100% of contributions are used to provide memorable fishing opportunities for veterans.
- Participants experience a unique 4-6 hour guided float on the Pere Marquette River, Muskegon River and/or the White River with a streamside lunch.
- All fishing tackle, rods and waders are provided by Flyin' Heroes and veterans get to keep the equipment so they may continue fly fishing after the float.
- Flyin' Heroes is a Michigan non-profit organization that is funded through donations.

## NEW GENERAL MANAGER DAVID WALTERS

The Grand Haven Board of Light & Power is proud to announce that David Walters will take over the general manager position being vacated by retiring general manager Annette Allen. Mr. Walters comes to the Board of Light & Power from the Michigan Public Power Agency in Lansing, Michigan and is a 25-year veteran of the public power sector. David holds an MBA from Grand Valley State University, a B.S. in Civil Engineering and specializes in operational and planning activities associated with running a municipal electric utility. He will begin joining the utility on January 19, 2015.



Created in 1896, the Board of Light & Power is one of more than 2,000 community-owned electric utilities serving homes and businesses across the United States. We are locally-controlled by a five-member Board of Directors elected by Grand Haven residents with approximately 13,500 customers in the greater Grand Haven area.

### Your Board of Directors:

**Jack Smart**, Chairperson

**Gerald Witherell**, Vice Chairperson

**Larry Kieft**, Director

**John Naser**, Director

**Jim VanderMolen**, Director



**PLUGGED IN** is a publication of the Grand Haven Board of Light & Power. Questions and comments may be submitted to our **Customer Service Department at:**

1700 Eaton Drive, Grand Haven, MI 49417

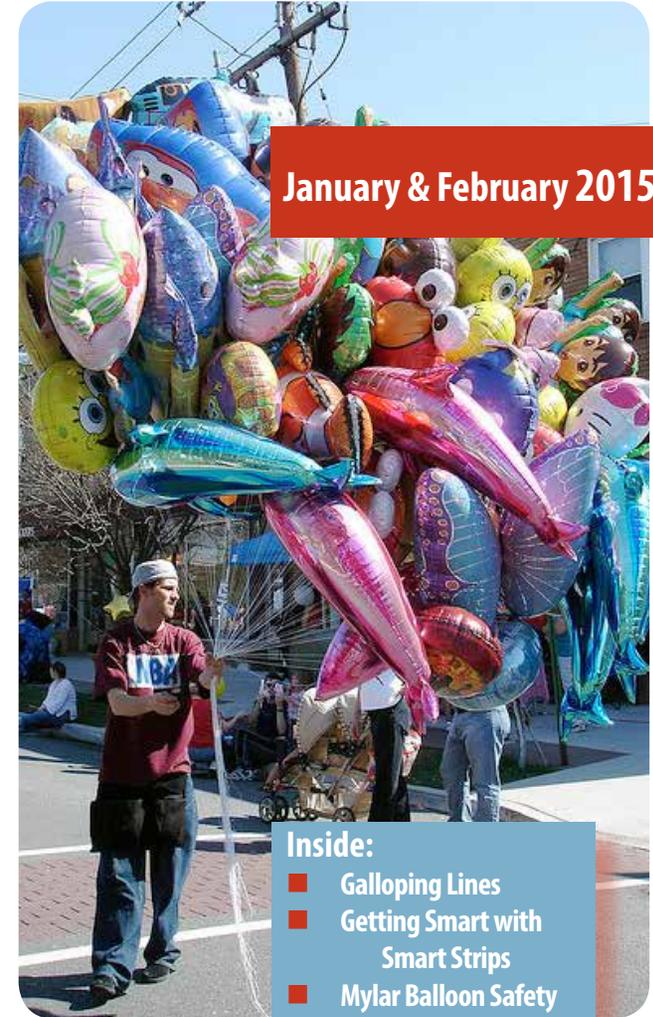
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# PLUGGED IN

News and Information from your Community-Owned Electric Utility

Grand Haven Board of Light & Power



January & February 2015

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**GRAND HAVEN  
BOARD OF LIGHT & POWER**

[ghblp.org](http://ghblp.org)

Community Owned. Locally Controlled.  
Not-for-Profit. Environmentally Responsible.

To find more information about the Flyin' Heroes program  
visit <http://flyinheroes.org>

Pay your bill online - visit [ghblp.org](http://ghblp.org)

# Galloping Lines

*Galloping power lines may sound ridiculous, but they really do occur and can be very dangerous.*



**1** **The most common cause of galloping lines is ice that builds up on one side of a power line as a result of strong winds.** This buildup creates an airfoil, which changes the flow of air around the normally round line. This change in air flow can cause the power line to start to bounce. These lines can bounce and buck so much they hit other lines, damaging themselves enough to cause a power outage or even fall to the ground.

**2** **Once galloping starts, there is not much a power company can do to alleviate it until winds die down.** This is why many power lines have objects, like twisted wire or angular pieces of metal attached to the line. These devices are placed on power lines to help reduce galloping lines and prevent potential danger.

**3** **If you encounter galloping lines, stay away, warn others to stay away, and contact the Board of Light & Power.** In addition to the possibility of power outages, there is a danger of the lines or other electrical equipment breaking loose and falling. **Never drive over a downed power line. If you are in a car that has come in contact with a downed power line, stay in your vehicle and call 911.**

*The BLP encourages you to pay attention to and be aware of weather forecasts so that you can be prepared and don't get caught off guard.*

**IF YOU SEE POWER LINES ON THE GROUND,  
call 911 IMMEDIATELY  
and STAY AWAY!**

## Getting Smart with Standby Power/Smart Strips



Our lives are full of electronic devices—at home, at work, at school and on the go. There are microwaves, coffee makers, computers, sound systems, gaming consoles and cell phones. While some of these may be added for our entertainment, most also add convenience to our lives. However, the extra energy that is being used every year on these items may not seem so convenient. It's true! These electronic devices are probably costing you money even when they are turned off!

**According to EnergyStar.gov, the average household spends about \$100 per year on standby power.** Standby power is the energy that is used by a device when it is turned off but still plugged in. Standby power can be useful when it powers remote control sensors, clock displays, cordless phones, and other items. If you have a device that doesn't need to be turned on quickly or isn't needed for the clock display, then you have an opportunity to save money and energy. A smart strip detects when the control unit is off and shuts down power to peripherals like DVD players and printers. **Purchase a smart strip and start saving money today!**

**\$10  
SMART STRIP  
REBATE**  
[mienergysmart.com](http://mienergysmart.com)

## CELEBRATING WITH MYLAR BALLOONS

Mylar balloons can brighten any celebration with their shiny surfaces and colorful images, but these helium filled balloons can ruin a party if not used safely. The Board of Light & Power encourages you to take a few moments to learn how to make sure Mylar balloons are used and disposed of safely.



- If you use Mylar balloons for a party or celebration, always make sure these balloons are both weighted and tied down so they do not fly away.
- Never purposely release a Mylar balloon into the air. These balloons can float back down miles away from where they originated, come into contact with power lines or substations, and cause power outages that put distant communities in the dark.
- If a balloon does get tangled in a power line, do not attempt to retrieve it yourself. Contact the Board of Light & Power to remove any objects tangled in power lines.
- Never tie Mylar balloons to children, especially with a metallic ribbon. If the balloon were to come in contact with electricity, the child could receive a fatal shock.

**When the celebration is over, be sure to deflate the balloons and discard them in a trash container.**

*The Board of Light & Power wishes you happiness and safety in all your special celebrations!*