



## Local County Fairs and River Days Festival a huge success

Your DTE Merrill office was proud to participate in the Isabella, Gratiot and Midland County Fairs this month. At each fair, we hosted an information booth to provide a space of outreach to our local communities. This proved to be a wonderful opportunity to meet many individuals we may not have otherwise met in person. We truly enjoyed engaging with each and every one of you.



We also teamed up with Coyne Oil & Propane and Boland Tire to make purchases and drive up bids at each of the livestock auctions. We'd like to congratulate all our 4-H youth for your outstanding year of hard work and perseverance. We hope that this year's experience has empowered you with skills to last a lifetime!



We are beyond thankful to the fair board, committees, sponsors and especially parents for supporting our youth in their 4-H endeavors. Your exemplification of the four clovers – Head, Heart, Hands and Health – has shown our children how a community can truly band together for something larger than themselves. We take pride in our culture at DTE, and part of that is watching these kids grow “to make the best better.”



Additionally, we'd like to give a shoutout to the team at the Midland Area Community Foundation for another successful River Days Festival! The weekend kicked off with a beautiful hot hair balloon glow on Main Street, followed by an outdoor movie, rock wall climbing, ziplining, axe throwing, concerts, fireworks and so much more.

We thank all of those that have so generously supported River Days over the years. Your contributions have allowed this festival to continue as a free, fun family event. We couldn't have been happier to be a part of this year's celebration, and we are already looking forward to 2022!



### *From Jason Hannath*

Time and again, those of us at the DTE Merrill office are overwhelmed and encouraged by the level of support and engagement shown by our local communities. We're honored to be a part of events like the County Fairs, River Days Festival, golf outings and more.

Engaging with so many local individuals and organizations has proven to us that we can play an active, positive role here, and continue to do so throughout the Meridian Wind project construction, commissioning and operation.

As fall draws near and project construction continues, we reflect on the positive impact we've had so far and how much more we can do in the future. We look forward to the events and opportunities to come, and hope you do too.



## Upcoming Girl Scout events



DTE is proud to continue empowering Girl Scouts to reach for the sky by sponsoring the upcoming Beer and Girl Scouts Nuts & Treats Pairing. Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan is partnering with Bell's Brewery this fall to bring you this fun-filled night at home!

The event will feature Girl Scout treats along with some of your Bell's favorites. Check out the link below to purchase your treats and follow the prompts to complete your kit purchase. The live event will be aired on Facebook Live on September 15 at 6:00 p.m.

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan is also hosting an online auction Wednesday, September 15 at 8:00 a.m. to September 21 at 11:45 p.m. By participating in this event and auction, you will support moving the Girl Scout mission forward, girl by girl!

Go to this link to learn more:  
[www.gshom.org/special-events](http://www.gshom.org/special-events)

## New photos of Meridian Wind

Last month, our corporate photographer visited the project site and took some amazing photos of our wind turbines and the construction process.

**View these photos and more at [empoweringmichigan.com/meridianwind](http://empoweringmichigan.com/meridianwind)**



## Golf, golf, and more golf!

August was a busy month for golf! DTE was able to sponsor golf outings hosted by Special Olympics of Michigan, Breckenridge Area Action Committee, Saginaw Promise, Hemlock-Merrill VFW and Erin Groeb Memorial Scholarship.

We are thankful to have such amazing community members that are always seeking ways to pivot their fundraisers so that we are all still able to gather safely for these meaningful causes. The commitment that these organizations have shown over the years is simply incredible and we applaud each and every one of you for the impact you continue to make year after year.



## Meridian Wind Project Updates

We are excited to report that our wind turbine component deliveries will be wrapping up early this month as scheduled. As they do so, please continue to be mindful of the delivery vehicles and proceed with extreme caution. The large crawler cranes will also be moving around the project site, so please be on the lookout for road closures in the area.

Throughout September, the project team will be focused on the assembly portion of the wind turbines. During turbine assembly, we ask that for your safety and the safety

of our crews, you keep a safe distance and observe the process from the county roads. Collection line crews will also be working throughout the project footprint to install the underground cable that connects the towers together, and our civil restoration crews will be following behind the large topout cranes to restore and decompact the work areas.

As the wind turbines continue to be erected, you will see more of our DTE trucks and technicians inspecting the wind turbines and other construction installation

to ensure it is safe and ready for operation in a few months. This is a normal part of our inspection process before transitioning into testing the equipment.

As construction nears 50% completion, we'd like to thank all the landowners and residents working with our teams during this time. A supportive community makes completing our tasks safer, easier and more efficient. We are extremely grateful to be welcomed and supported by your community during construction and through many years of operation.