

# SMALL CHANGE THAT CHANGES LIVES

## Community Change Grants Available



OEC is committed to the communities we serve. We support local schools, community organizations, and agencies through donations and programs that OEC offers. Many OEC employees are active with local groups and organizations, which enriches the cooperative's relationship with the people we serve.

Since 1999 Oconto Electric members have had the opportunity to participate in a wonderful program called Community Change. Members can (\$47500) sign up to have their electric bills rounded up to the next whole dollar, with the extra money going into the Community Change fund.

Community Change has a board of directors (a group of seven volunteers who are co-op members not employed by OEC) that meets quarterly in March, June, September, and December to review applications for Community Change funds. Grants are awarded based on how much money is available and whether or not the purpose of the request is consistent with Community Change guidelines. The Community Change board has awarded over \$179,000 in donations since 2000.

### In 2018 grants were awarded to:

- Four House Fire Victims
- Two Ramps for Homes
- One Medical Assistance
- Oconto Falls Girl Scout Troop
- Kingdom Come Food Pantry (construction project)
- Nurse's Nook
- Home Respite Care
- Oconto Falls Senior Center
- Oconto Falls FBLA
- New Beginnings

### How to apply

If you know of a charitable or service organization, civic

group, or individual with unusual financial needs, you can encourage them to apply for a Community Change grant. Applications can be found at [www.ocontoelectric.com](http://www.ocontoelectric.com) or in the OEC lobby. Applications for the December board meeting must be submitted by November 15.

The Community Change board members would like to extend their sincere appreciation to all the OEC members who contribute.

community  
change



MY CO-OP





Oconto Electric linemen Tyler Schroeder and John Havemeier helped restore service to Alger Delta's six-county service area, which spans the Upper Peninsula from Lake Michigan to Lake Superior.

## COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

### Cooperative Principle #6

High winds on September 21 left thousands of Michigan residents in the dark. Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association called in ROPE (Restoration Of Power in an Emergency) crews to help restore power. Crews from Bayfield Electric, Eau Claire Energy, Oakdale Electric, and Oconto Electric stepped in to help.

ROPE is a very unique program of co-ops helping co-ops. It is managed by Dairyland Power Cooperative. In the event that a major storm causes extensive damage to a cooperative's distribution system, that co-op can call Dairyland Power to ask the ROPE program for help. Dairyland Power will then call neighboring co-ops that were unaffected by the storm to help restore power to the affected co-op's system.

So no matter who is involved, cooperative principle number six is a key factor in the success of co-ops.

## LIMITED-TIME INCENTIVE OFFER ON LOW-E STORM WINDOWS



This fall, Focus on Energy is offering a 25 percent discount on low-emissivity (low-E) storm windows at participating Lowes, Menards, and The Home Depot locations. Low-E storm windows use high-performance weather stripping to ensure a tight seal and produce a layer of insulating space between the window and the homeowner. The highly durable, thin coating on the glass decreases the loss of infrared energy through the windows without sacrificing light inflow. Low-E storm windows are extremely effective at storing the heat inside, shutting the cold outside, and improving energy efficiency in homes. Homeowners can save on monthly heating and cooling costs and get up to 50 percent sound reduction by adding low-E storm windows to the interior or exterior of their existing windows. To learn more about this limited-time offering, visit <https://www.focusonenergy.com/low-estorms>.

*Don't forget!*

**DAYLIGHT  
SAVING TIME ENDS  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4**

*set your clocks back*



**IT'S THANKSGIVING**  
**SO GIVE**  **THANKS**  
**AND BE HAPPY**

**Oconto Electric Cooperative**  
*will be closed on  
November 22 and 23 to  
celebrate Thanksgiving.*

**RadioShack** *will be closed on  
November 22 but will be open  
on  
November 23 to kick off the  
holiday shopping season.*

### Give the Gift of Energy

Do you have a friend or family member who is hard to buy for at Christmas? Try the gift of energy. (270701) If they are members of Oconto Electric you can pay their electric bill for a month, a year, or any amount in between. Go to [www.ocontoelectric.com](http://www.ocontoelectric.com) and click on billing and choose gift certificates or call Oconto Electric at 1-800-472-8410.





## DECK THE HALLS SAFELY

There's nothing like putting up lights and decorations to get you in the holiday spirit. It's something that many do each and every year without incident, yet the holidays are also one of the most hazardous times of the year when it comes to electrical fires and accidents. The utility safety organization, Safe Electricity, offer several tips as you deck the halls this season:

- When decorating outside, look up and around for power lines. Never throw lights or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- Keep ladders, equipment, and yourself at least 10 feet from power lines.
- Match plugs with outlets. Do not force a three-pronged plug into a two-pronged outlet or extension cord.
- Outside, use only lights, cords, animated displays, and decorations rated for outdoor use. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use them. Ensure outdoor outlets or extension cords are equipped with Ground Fault Circuit



Interrupters (GFCIs).

- Never string more than three strands of lights together unless the packaging says it is safe to do so. The lights could overload and start a fire.

- Do not staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords. Use plastic or insulated hooks to hang lights.

- Do not attach cords to utility poles.

The outside of your home is not the only place where you need to be cautious of electrical dangers. Use care when placing and decorating trees inside your home. Place

fresh-cut and artificial trees away from heat sources such as registers, fireplaces, and radiators, and water fresh-cut trees frequently. Turn lights off before you go to sleep. A timer can be a great help with this.

Safe Electricity wishes you and your family a safe and happy holiday season. For more information on holiday safety tips, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAYS



Just complete this drawing ticket and mail it, drop it off, or email it to Oconto Electric Cooperative, and you could win one of 12 gift certificates valued at \$25.

Only one entry per membership. Entries must be received by November 30, 2018. One winner will be picked each day starting December 1–12, 2018.

*Must be an OEC member to be eligible to win. Excludes OEC employees and directors.*

Return this form to Oconto Electric Cooperative  
7479 REA Road, P.O. Box 168, Oconto Falls, WI 54154  
[kjagiello@ocontolectric.com](mailto:kjagiello@ocontolectric.com)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE# \_\_\_\_\_ ACCOUNT# \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT TOPICS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THIS MAGAZINE? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## BUSINESS SHOWCASE

# TURN YOUR TROPHY ANIMAL INTO YOUR OWN LIFELONG MEMORY

In 2007, Chad Angus and Karleen Dorn opened Whitetails Plus Taxidermy in Oconto Falls. Chad's passion for hunting is what prompted them to learn the art of taxidermy.

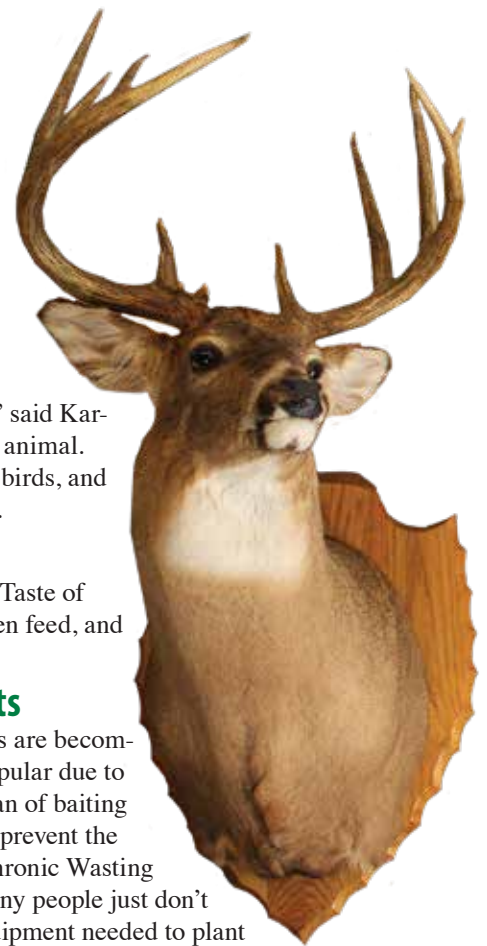
### Taxidermy

"I love how each animal that comes into the shop has a unique story to go with it," said Karleen. The strong tradition of deer hunting in Wisconsin makes deer their number-one animal.

They are a full-service studio that offers big game, deer, bear, small animals, fish, birds, and more. They strive to provide a high-quality, long-lasting mount at an affordable price.

### Pet Food Center

Whitetails Plus Taxidermy carries dog and cat foods including Victor, Earthborn, Taste of the Wild, N&D, Nutri Life, and more. You will also find a variety of bird seed, chicken feed, and horse feed supplies.



### Food Plots

Food plots are becoming more popular due to the recent ban of baiting deer to help prevent the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease. Many people just don't have the equipment needed to plant their own food plots, so in 2017 Chad decided to offer up his food plot services to others. He can assist you with soil preparation, lime/liquid calcium, spraying/killing weeds, mowing, planting, fertilizer/lime and seeds upon request.

If you'd like to learn more, stop in person at 3880 Elm Lawn Road, Oconto Falls, WI 54154 or call 920-848-7529.

*If you have suggestions for businesses that are on OEC's power lines, please email [kjagiello@ocontoelectric.com](mailto:kjagiello@ocontoelectric.com) or call Katie at 920-846-2816.*

## HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBERS

Oconto Electric Cooperative hides two account numbers in the local pages of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* each month. If you spot your account number, call our office before you receive the next issue, and OEC will give you a \$15 credit on your electric bill or a \$25 credit if you have a load management receiver. The October account numbers belonged to Jason Fischer, Green Bay, and Scott Quicksell, Shawano.

### Byron C. Nolde, CEO

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### Katie Jagiello, Editor

