

YOU'RE MORE THAN A CUSTOMER



Author Anthony J. D'Angelo observed that, "Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community."

To a large degree, this reflects OEC's philosophy toward our consumer-members and the broader service territory that we serve. As a cooperative, we have a different "bottom line." While our priority is always to provide reliable and safe energy, there is another equally important part of this equation. Your well-being and that of the larger community that we serve are of paramount concern.

To us, you are not just a customer; you are a member of our co-op and without you, we would not exist.

In 1937 OEC was founded to fulfill a vital need in our community that would not have otherwise been met. Concerned local leaders came together to build this co-op and bring electricity where there was none.

At that time, members of the community understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped to create OEC. For most people, our founding and its circumstances have been long forgotten. Over time, folks in the community may have come to think of us as simply another energy provider. But we are not. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and we are able to do this because of members like you.

Since our inception, we have sought feedback and engage-



ment from you and that of the larger community to guide our long-term decisions. This is why we hold annual meetings and other events throughout the year to engage with you and obtain your feedback.

We strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. We're always looking to explore more options that will help you manage your energy use such as monitoring your usage on SmartHub, and we offer many convenient ways to pay your bill. In short, we are always seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment, evolving technol-

ogy, and shifting consumer expectations.

OEC members help guide important co-op decisions that improve and enrich the community. We value the perspective of our board members, who are members of the co-op and community—just like you.

As a local business, we have a stake in the community. (228902) That's why we support our local schools and communities through our programs like Community Change and OEC Employee Charity. When you support these efforts, you are supporting the community and making it a better place for everyone.

While the times may have changed, our mission and outlook have not. We view our role as a catalyst for good. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our community now and in the future.



ANNUAL 2019 MEETING MARCH 30



Congratulations

The following employees were recently recognized for their years of service.

20 YEARS

**Jack Pardy
Kevin Thomson**

15 YEARS

Byron Nolde

10 YEARS

Amy Winkler

5 YEARS

**Chris Adams
Zach Beyer
Justin Schenkoski**

The following directors were recently recognized for their years of service.

20 YEARS

David Hischke

10 YEARS

**Todd Duame
Vern Gisenas**



SMART TIPS

SPACE HEATER SAFETY

Space heaters can be a cost effective option when heating no more than one or two small areas.



Review and follow all manufacturer directions.

Place them out of high-traffic areas and on a hard, level floor surface.



Keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items.

Plug them directly into outlets. Avoid using an extension cord.



Turn them off before you leave the room or go to sleep.

*Learn
more at:*

**Safe
Electricity.org**



UNDERSTANDING POWER OUTAGES

While OEC does everything it can to reduce the possibility of outages to your home or business, they do occur. There are a variety of reasons power outages can occur, including severe storms causing mass destruction, tree limbs coming into contact with power lines, vehicles crashing into utility poles, and animals such as squirrels causing short circuits while climbing electrical equipment.

Whatever the reason, rest assured that OEC is working as fast as it can to get your power restored quickly and safely. While each utility has its own system for restoring power during an outage, many of the following steps will be similar from utility to utility.

The number one focus of OEC will be public safety. This means crews will clear lines and equipment that could pose safety hazards to the public. Next, it will turn its attention to power generation facilities that generate the actual electricity that powers your home or business. After that come transmission line and substation equipment repairs. Then, OEC will focus on feeder lines that can serve one to 3,000 customers, tap lines that provide power to 20 to 30 homes or businesses, and then connections to individual customers.

How long it takes to get your power restored depends on the extent of the storm's destruction, the number of outages, and when it becomes safe for utility personnel to get to the damaged areas.

Whether long or short, it pays to know what to do when the power goes out so you can keep your family safe. The utility safety organization, Safe Electricity, suggests you:

- Call your electric utility immediately to report the outage.
- Use safe alternative food preparations. A barbecue grill is an excellent way to prepare food. Always grill outside.



- Have a storm kit (with items like flashlights, battery-operated radio, batteries, and first-aid supplies) prepared for use during power outages.
- Turn off electrical appliances and unplug major electronics, including computers and televisions. Power sometimes comes back in surges, which can damage electronics. Your circuits could overload when power returns if all your electronics are still plugged in and on. Leave one light on to indicate that power has been restored. Wait a few minutes and then turn on other appliances and equipment—one at a time.

For more information visit SafeElectricity.org.



Collection box will be in the OEC lobby Feb. 18–March 8

URGENT NEEDS:

- Soaps: Laundry, Dish, Soft, Shower Gel, 2-in-1 Shampoo
- Trash Bags (shelters especially need these for bedrooms!)
- Diapers (sizes 3-6 and Pull-Ups)
- Deodorant (unscented)
- Wet Wipes for Babies
- Toilet Paper
- Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
- Paper Towels
- Disposable Razors
- Tampons and Pads (pads for young teens)

Donations received in the Oconto/Marinette area will be distributed locally.

More information at thefamily.net or 800-236-9364

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You'll spend less time running the dryer for lighter-weight items, which saves energy.

Source: energy.gov





BUSINESS SHOWCASE

BILL'S AUTO BODY

Have you ever been heading home from work and enjoying the beautiful scenery going by, when suddenly out of nowhere a deer jumps out in front of you? You have no time to stop and BAM! You just hit a deer and now your car is in need of repair.

"Seventy-five percent of my repairs are due to deer hits," said Bill Koch, owner of Bill's Auto Body in Pound.

Bill has been working on cars since he was in high school. "Oconto High School had a good auto program and that is where I picked up my passion for auto body repair," said Bill.

After high school Bill worked at a local

dealership for five years in their collision center. He then bought out the collision portion of the dealership and opened Bill's Auto Body, which has been specializing in collision repair for 20 years.

Bill does free estimates and works with most insurance companies. Bill will also help people with covering their deductible by lowering the cost on a part or a discount on the labor, something dealerships can't offer.

If your vehicle has been in a collision, schedule an appointment with Bill today by calling 920-897-2102. Business hours are Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Bill's Auto Body is located at 9232 W White Potato Lake Road, Pound, 54161.

If you have suggestions for businesses that are on OEC's power lines, please email 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 January account numbers belonged to Joseph Borowitz, Lena, and Louis Wierichs Jr, Greenville.

Byron C. Nolde, CEO

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Katie Jagiello, Editor



Chicken Joes

Submitted by Katie Jagiello, OEC Employee

- 1 Large Rotisserie Chicken Shredded
- 1 Cup Chopped Celery
- 1 Medium Onion Chopped
- 1 Can Cream of Mushroom Soup
- 1/2 Bag of Seasoned Stuffing Mix
- 32 oz. Chicken Broth

Sauté the celery and onions in a little butter until they are soft. In a large bowl mix the chicken, celery, onion, cream of mushroom soup, and stuffing with half of the chicken broth. Add more broth as it is needed so that it is moist.

Place in a slow cooker and cook until warmed through and stuffing is mushy. Stir occasionally. You may need to add more broth as it cooks.

Serve on fresh bakery buns.

This is great to serve at parties. The chicken can be substituted with turkey.

If you have a recipe (429800) that you would like to share, please email kjagiello@ocontoelectric.com or mail it to OEC, PO Box 168, Oconto Falls, WI 54154.

