



Ruth Carriveau, executive director of Oconto County Commission on Aging, Inc., and Oconto Falls Police Chief Brad Olson accept money from Oconto Electric employees. (1869005)

## GIVING THANKS BY GIVING BACK

### Oconto Electric Co-op employees distribute \$17,000

November is a time of year for reflections and giving thanks. OEC employees are grateful for those who participated in our fundraising efforts for our 2019 employee charities. We reached an all-time high this year raising \$9,500. CoBank, one of the co-op's lenders, also donated \$7,500 as part of its Sharing Success Matching Grant program.

Employees were able to present \$8,500 to Oconto Falls Law Enforcement. They recently obtained an armored vehicle through the U.S. military at no cost. The armored vehicle is being funded strictly through fundraising and grants, at no cost to the local taxpayers. The plan is that all local departments can utilize the armored vehicle as a rescue vehicle in the event that there is a victim or downed officer. At this time, there is no such vehicle in Oconto County. If there is a situation, local law enforcement currently depends on Marinette or Brown County for assistance.

Police Chief Olson said that the money received will be used on a Motorola radio like the squads have and also on

some lights and spotlight.

Oconto County Commission on Aging, Inc. also received \$8,500. They have been operating their Oconto County Elderly Nutrition Program (Meals on Wheels) since 1980. Good nutrition is critical to good health. Poor nutrition is the greatest threat to an older adult's independence. This program is funded by state and federal grants and contributions from participants. The funds they were given are going toward a new delivery van.

"I am speechless, I want to cry," said Carriveau. "We've never had a check this big.

We are so grateful and the money is going to a great cause. THANK YOU!"

Since 2004, OEC employees have awarded \$113,000 to charities and organizations.

We are accepting applications for our 2020 Employee Charity until Saturday, November 30, 2019. Applications can be found on [www.ocontoelectric.com](http://www.ocontoelectric.com) or at the office.



**Employee Charity**  
Oconto Electric Cooperative



# community change

## 20 YEARS OF CHARITABLE GIVING

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 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 \$27,000 to house fire victims and over \$161,000 in donations since 2000.

### In 2019 grants were awarded to:

- Two House Fire Victims
- Machickanee Players
- Oconto Falls Dollars for Scholars
- Wisconsin Bookworms
- Oconto Falls Community Library
- American Legion
- One Medical – Accessible Shower
- St. Anthony School
- Oconto County Health & Human Services
- Over the Hill in Underhill
- Oconto Falls Police Department
- Lena Public Library
- We Believe – Helping Families at Christmas
- Family Hardship

### 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 18.

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



**Oconto Falls Library started offering free sewing classes in 2016 with machines that were purchased from rummage sales. The machines were all different models and starting to have issues. Community Change was able to award the library \$600 so the library could purchase three of the six machines requested. Individuals have made book bags, pillow cases, and a local Girl Scout group made dog toys to sell for the new dog park in Oconto Falls.**



*To Community Change,*

*Mary Lou and I would like to offer a special thank you to the board of OEC Community Change program for help funding our shower project for Mary Lou. We are grateful to you and to the many people who help make this possible.*

*When Community Change started how many years ago, it was a no-brainer for us to help the community by rounding up our electric bill and then adding the extra dollar to it. It's such a easy way to make a charitable contribution for a good cause. Believe me I never thought one day we would be a recipient of it. We are blessed by so many generous people.*

*Again thank you,  
Roman and Mary Lou Wos*



# 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, 2019. One winner will be picked each day starting December 1–12, 2019.

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, PO Box 168, Oconto Falls, WI 54154  
kjagiello@ocontoelectric.com

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK? ☐ YES ☐ NO

DO YOU USE THE SMARTHUB APP? ☐ YES ☐ NO IF YES, WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DO YOU

USE IT FOR: ☐ PAYMENT ☐ VIEW YOUR USAGE ☐ REPORT OUTAGES



## Veterans Day, November 11

*For your leadership,  
teamwork, resiliency, and  
dedication to our safety  
and freedom, we thank all  
veterans and active duty  
military for their service.*



MY CO-OP

*don't forget!*

**DAYLIGHT  
SAVING TIME ENDS  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3**

*set your clocks back*



**ITS THANKSGIVING**  
SO GIVE THANKS  
AND BE HAPPY

**Oconto Electric Cooperative**  
will be closed on  
November 28 and 29 to  
celebrate Thanksgiving.

**RadioShack** will be closed on  
November 28 but will be open  
on  
November 29 to kick off the  
holiday shopping season.

## Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Trim your holiday energy costs by choosing energy efficient LED lights! LED holiday lights use less energy and can last up to 40 seasons. They're also easier to install—you can connect up to 25 LED strings without overloading a wall socket!

Source: energy.gov





## BUSINESS SHOWCASE

### BUILDING ART AND SOUL, LLC



Owner Vicki Mutchler works on an upcoming fall project for kids. Items on the back wall are just a few of the projects she has to offer.

I'd like to introduce Vicki Mutchler, owner/artist/teacher of Building Art and Soul, LLC, located in Coleman. Vicki has always loved to paint and do crafts, so in December of 2015 she started her business out of her garage with friends. The business continued to grow, so in February of 2019 she moved into her current location.

Building Art and Soul, LLC is a do-it-yourself workshop where you can make wood signs, crafts, decorative home decor, 3D projects, as well as custom signs. Vicki has also started to add some furniture painting workshops.

"There are classes for all ages and skill levels. I started Building Art and Soul, LLC because families and friends need to spend more time together where they can be creative, laugh, talk, and make memories at an affordable price," said Vicki.

She can host up to 20 people at a time for classes. Bachelorette parties,

kids birthdays, and business events are becoming very popular. Classes average about three hours and you get to take your project home with you that day.

There is a gift shop that features local consignment pieces, gift certificates to buy, and Vicki is a retailer of Miss Lillian's No Wax paint.

Saturday, November 16, she will be hosting her 6th Annual Holiday Gift Extravaganza, featuring her work and the work of at least 15 other talented local crafters. Vicki hopes to see you there!

#### Building Art and Soul, LLC

200 Sunset Ave., Coleman, WI 54112

Phone: 920-883-8511

Hours: Nov. 1–Nov. 15, Open Friday

and Saturdays, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Nov. 16 back to regular hours Wednesday–Saturday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Facebook: VSM Designs/Building Art and Soul, LLC

Website: [buildingartandsoul.com](http://buildingartandsoul.com)



## Cheesy Hashbrowns

Submitted by Laurie Pivonka, OEC Member

1 Can Cream of Chicken soup  
16 oz. Sour Cream  
2 Cups of Shredded Cheese  
2 lbs. Hashbrowns, Cube Style  
Salt & Pepper to Taste  
Ham, Browned Hamburger, Sausage (Optional)  
Mix the first three ingredients together, then stir in the hashbrowns.

#### Topping:

2-3 Tablespoons Butter  
2 Cups Crushed Cereal (Chex, Cornflakes, etc.)  
Melt butter and blend in cereal. Spread over top of hashbrowns.

Oven: Bake at 400 degrees for about 1 hour.  
Crockpot: High for 4 hours or Low for 8 hours

If you have a recipe that you would like to share, please email

[kjagiello@ocontoelctric.com](mailto:kjagiello@ocontoelctric.com) or mail it to Oconto Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 168, Oconto Falls, WI 54154.

*If your recipe is printed, you will receive a gift. (272300)*

## 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 Gerald Bardouche, Little Suamico, and Don R. Porter, Abrams.

### Byron C. Nolde, CEO

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### Katie Jagiello, Editor

