



WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY

Committed to our communities since 1937

“To move forward, you have to give back.”

This quote from Oprah Winfrey reflects the special bond and obligation that ties Oconto Electric Cooperative to the community we serve. With Valentine’s Day approaching, we can’t think of a better time to express how much we love this community and serving you, the members of the co-op.

We know when we helped to bring electricity to rural Wisconsin many years ago, the quality of life improved for all. Through the years, other issues needed to be tackled, and we have been at the forefront of helping to address some of those issues. (762001) We want to help meet the long-term needs of our community to ensure it continues to thrive—because just like you, we live here too.

While our top priority is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to you, equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the consumer-members (that’s you!) we serve. This focus to benefit the larger community is central to the way we operate as a cooperative. OEC knows that electricity is a critical need for modern-day life, but it takes more than poles and power lines to make a community.

Over time, our co-op has evolved to meet the changing needs of our community, thereby improving the quality of life for everyone. And that can mean many different things. It can mean programs for our youth, such as education scholarships; the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community’s youth to Washington, D.C., for a week-long

immersion to experience democracy in action; or the Youth Leadership Congress held at UW-River Falls. 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 2004, OEC employees have awarded \$113,000 to charities and organizations through their Employee Charity fund.

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—and we couldn’t do any of this without you, our members.

We all benefit from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower OEC through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

As a local business, we are proud to power your life and bring good things to our community. We hope you will continue to guide our efforts by sharing your perspective as we plan for the future. The energy landscape is undergoing dramatic change fueled by evolving technology and consumer desires for more options. While the larger environment in which we operate is constantly changing, one thing remains the same. By working together, I’m certain that we can continue to do good things for our community.





WHAT IS SMARTHUB?

SmartHub is a web and mobile app that allows you to take control of all aspects of your utility account. Pay your bill, manage your use and contact us with service issues quickly and easily online or on your mobile device.



Manage Your Account



View and Pay Your Bill



Monitor Usage 24/7



Report Service Issues



Receive Important Updates

SMART COMMUNICATION

SmartHub goes beyond bill payments and usage tracking. This online and mobile app is also a powerful communication tool. Report service interruptions and route account on the go.

SMART ENVIRONMENT

Going paperless with SmartHub is easy. With convenient access to your bill anytime, anywhere, doing your part to save the environment is easy too.

SMART PAYMENTS

With SmartHub, you'll be notified when your bill is due and can pay securely online or in the app, anytime, anywhere. Sign up for auto payments, set up secure preferred payment method, and let account management go into auto pilot.

SMART USAGE

Saving money just got easier. Track your usage and take the guesswork out of your bill. Through detailed graphs, you'll be able to monitor usage 24/7 and track your consumption, finding ways to reduce and save. (1056001)



ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 28, 2020

MEMBER WARNING

There is an online bill pay website that appears to be affiliated with Oconto Electric Cooperative, but it is not. Doxo.com is a third-party website that allows people to pay their electric bills via their site. However, Doxo.com may charge the member extra fees and your cooperative cannot control when we will receive the member payments from Doxo.com. This could possibly result in a late payment from the member or even disconnection due to non-payment. To make sure you're paying Oconto Electric Cooperative directly, visit SmarHub, your cooperative's online bill payment portal.

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DOXO.COM IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH OCONTO ELECTRIC CO-OP

SAFETY FOR SENIORS AT HOME



MainStreet Messenger allows seniors to be safe while being independent and living at home.

- You're never really alone with this personal emergency response program
 - Help is only moments away with push of a button
 - Installation within days

PEACE OF MIND FOR ONLY A DOLLAR A DAY!

OCONTO ELECTRIC
OEC
COOPERATIVE

(920) 846-2816

Serving parts of Oconto, Marinette & Shawano Counties
www.ocontoelectric.com



BUSINESS SHOWCASE

BRIANSREPAIRABLES.COM

When you walk into Briansrepairables.com, you will kindly be greeted by Bear. He is the friendly dog of Brian Loberger, owner of Briansrepairables.com.

Brian started his business venture in 2011. What started out as part-time quickly grew into full-time. In 2016 Brian needed more space so he bought what was the old Candle Glow building in Abrams. He repurposed as much as he could from the existing interior while he transformed it into his showroom, office, and warehouse.

So you might be wondering, what is Briansrepairables.com? Brian's business is very unique and offers a few things. If you are looking for a project to do, he sells repairable Harley Davidson motorcycles. Brian is also a dealer for Titan Lifts and is the only lift dealer in the area to have lifts in stock ready to go and working displays to test out. He sells 2-post auto lifts, 4-post auto lifts, mid-rise scissor lifts, motorcycle lifts, automotive rotisserie, tire changers, tire balancer, and other service equipment.

Briansrepairables.com is located at 3080 County Rd. EE, Abrams, WI 54101. For more information you can go to www.briansrepairables.com, find him on Facebook, or call 920-639-9665. Brian is typically at the shop from 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Friday and 8 a.m.–noon on Saturdays.

Because he works alone, he sometimes has to close the doors to run an errand or go to an appointment. It's best to check with him first, especially if you're traveling a long distance.



Briansrepairables.com is one of the 27 solar members that OEC currently has.

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. January account numbers belonged to Louann Hagen, Little Suamico, and Donald Marshall, Two Rivers.

Byron C. Nolde, CEO

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Katie Jagiello, Editor



Recipe Corner

Mom's Meat Loaf

Submitted by Jodi Dettman, OEC Employee

2 Eggs
3/4 Cup Milk
2/3 Cup Finely Crushed Saltines
1/2 Cup Chopped Onion
1 Teaspoon Salt
1/2 Teaspoon Sage
Dash Pepper
1 1/2 lbs Lean Ground Beef
1 Cup Ketchup
1/2 Cup Packed Brown Sugar
1 Teaspoon Worcestershire Sauce

In a large bowl, beat eggs, add milk, saltines, onion, salt, sage and pepper. Add beef and mix well. Shape into an 8 1/2" x 4 1/2" loaf in an ungreased shallow baking pan. Combine remaining ingredients; spread 3/4 cup over meat loaf. Bake at 350° for 60-65 minutes or until no pink remains; drain. Let stand 10 minutes before slicing. Serve with remaining sauce. Yield 6-8 servings.

If you have a recipe that you would like to share, please email kjagiello@ocontoelectric.com or mail it to Oconto Electric Cooperative, PO Box 168, Oconto Falls, WI 54154. If your recipe is printed, you will receive a gift.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Are you using your fireplace efficiently? Remember to turn down the thermostat when burning a fire, and close the damper when a fire is not burning. Source: energy.gov

