



## ELECTRIC VEHICLE ADDED TO OEC'S FLEET

This winter, Oconto Electric Cooperative (OEC) added an emissions-free Chevy Bolt to our fleet. Electric vehicles (EVs) are quickly gaining popularity as prices are decreasing, range is expanding (meaning more miles per charge), and public charging stations are increasing.

OEC decided that by leasing an EV, we would be able to study the car and the electric charging demand. What better way to educate our members about EVs than to test one ourselves?

Have you ever driven an electric vehicle? If not, you are in for a treat. While an internal combustion engine must rev up to speed, an EV has full power at its disposal instantly. Of course, there are limits on this 0–60 mph capability to prevent inexperienced and over-eager drivers from launching themselves into accidents and speeding tickets.

These cars are unbelievably quiet. They drive very smoothly and the controls are easy to navigate. One of the best perks is not having to stand outside in the winter cold and pump your gas. Our EV can get up to 238 miles per full charge.

Last year the sales of EVs in Wisconsin increased by 24%; however, this is less than 1% of the state's market share. Also, when assessing public charging points in the state, we find that there are a little over 500 of them, certainly not enough to support a growing EV fleet, and only 143 of these are level 3 chargers.

A level 3 can charge 100 miles on an EV in 30 minutes, whereas a level 2 can only charge a quarter of this in twice the charging time (25 miles in one hour). That's a big difference if you're on the road and in a hurry.

If you decide to purchase an EV, be sure to let us know. The service to your home is sized to meet the demands of your house as they existed when the service was connected. Adding the EV charger creates a risk of overloading the wires and transformers powering your home. Overloaded services can fail and leave you in the dark with an uncharged EV.

We also offer our load management program. This program allows OEC to manage electricity use during times of high demand and shut off electricity to the water heater, air conditioner, and to the electric car. In exchange, electricity is available at a lower cost: 4.9 cents per kilowatt hour compared with the normal rate of 11–12 cents.

Our EV will be on display at our Member Appreciation Picnic August 1.



## ELECTRIC CARS PROS AND CONS

### PROS

#### **Quiet and Quick**

An EV is very quiet and rides very smooth. When you step on the accelerator the power is delivered immediately to the wheels.

#### **Home Recharging**

You don't have to stand at a gas pump and wait for the tank to fill up. You can pull up to your home charger, reach for the plug, insert it into the charging inlet, and walk away.

#### **Cheaper to Operate**

The cost per mile to fuel an EV is approximately one-quarter to one-third the cost of gasoline (on a cost per mile basis). To maintain an EV you just rotate your tires and keep them properly inflated. There is no exhaust system so there is no need to change oil.

#### **No Tailpipe Emissions**

The benefit is that you are improving air quality for you, your family, and your community.

### CONS

#### **Limited Range**

Most popular electric cars have between about 125 and 300 miles of range.

#### **Long Refueling Time**

You can't just pull into a gas station and fill your tank and be on your way. Depending on the type of charger, it can take hours to fully recharge the batteries.

#### **Higher Cost**

Current EVs range in price between \$35,000 and \$45,000. That is comparable to an equipped small to mid-sized gas-powered vehicle.

#### **Lack of Consumer Choice**

In the past, EVs were compact and purely electric or a midsize plug-in hybrid. Consumers are favoring crossover SUVs. Car makers are working on meeting that need.



# Youth Leadership Congress

UW-River Falls | July 14-16, 2020

## Learn and Lead

The annual WECA Youth Leadership Congress is a dynamic three-day event for the youth leaders across Wisconsin to develop their leadership skills while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative businesses.

### Who is eligible to attend?

- Oconto Electric Cooperative (OEC) will sponsor students to attend the 2020 YLC at UW-River Falls, July 14–16, 2020.
- Student must be a son or daughter (or under legal guardianship) residing in the same household of an active OEC member.
- Student must be entering his/her sophomore, junior, or senior year in the fall of 2020.

### What does it cost?

All costs are covered by OEC, including transportation to and from UW-River Falls.

### Interested? Here's how to apply...

Space is limited. Deadline to sign up is June 8, 2020. For details contact Katie Jagiello at OEC by calling 800-472-8410 or email [kjagiello@ocontoelectric.com](mailto:kjagiello@ocontoelectric.com).

### Take the opportunity to...

- See what makes the cooperative business model different and successful, then apply this knowledge to fun and challenging cooperative activities.
- Identify and learn how to develop your own leadership skills.
- Discuss cooperative careers with professionals in the industry.
- Be entertained and challenged by highly acclaimed motivational speakers who understand teens and address topics that are important and relevant in your life.





## ANNUAL MEETING RESCHEDULED

In light of Governor Evers declaring a Health Emergency in response to COVID-19, and OEC's concern for our membership and employees' well-being, we will be postponing the Annual Meeting of Members that was scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2020.

The meeting will now take place on Saturday, May 16, 2020.

## REMEMBER TO THANK A LINEMAN ON APRIL 13

Lineworkers serve on the front lines of our nation's energy needs, and on April 13, 2020, Oconto Electric Cooperative (OEC), along with other electric cooperatives across the country, will honor the brave men and women who work hard to keep the lights on.

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are at the heart of our co-op.

When a storm hits, they set aside their personal priorities because Mother Nature doesn't work around holidays, vacations, and birthdays. A service-oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineworker.

OEC is proud to honor the seven lineworkers who maintain 1,500 miles of power lines in our service territory.

OEC invites all co-op members to take a moment and thank a lineworker for the important work they do.

**Brian Arndt** (Journeyman Lineman) Employee Since 1997

**Scott Bancroft** (Journeyman Lineman) Employee Since 2012

**Ron Friedman** (Journeyman Lineman) Employee Since 1999

**John Havemeier** (Line Foreman) Employee Since 1989

**Tyler Schroeder** (Journeyman Lineman) Employee Since 2012

**Ben Wilcox** (Journeyman Lineman) Employee Since 2007

**Kevin Thomson** (Equipment Operator) Employee Since 1997

## CHANGE TO OUR PHONE SYSTEM

OEC will be making a change to its phone system on April 1, so don't be alarmed when you call.

To better serve our members, our phone system will be automated with two simple options. Press 1 to make a payment. Press 2 to talk to a member services representative. (705600) We are still here for you, the member, we are simply making it easier for you to make payments.



**OEC will be closed  
April 10 to observe  
Good Friday**

**HAPPY EASTER!**

MY CO-OP

## 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

### 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



### 2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



### 3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



### 4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



### 5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This spring, consider using a rain barrel to save energy. Rain barrels capture rainwater from a roof that can be used later for watering your lawn, garden or indoor plants.





## BUSINESS SHOWCASE

### PETE'S MUSTARD



Pete's Gourmet Mustard is produced in small batches from an old family recipe in Oconto Falls by OEC members Mark and Brenda Athey.

Mark's dad made the mustard for some of the local bars as a hobby. A year after his passing, Mark's mom thought that he should get the recipe. So, in 1994 he and Brenda started their small business. Produced in a state-approved family kitchen, Pete's Mustard is extremely flavorful and ranges in degrees of heat from Whimpy (mild) to 10X (the hottest mustard you may have ever tasted). The more the X's the hotter it is.

The mustard is good on just about anything: pretzels, pizza, sandwiches, basting roasts or turkeys and so much more.

In 1995 Mark and Brenda entered the Napa Valley contest and won 10th in the world with their Regular Mustard.

Pete's Mustard can be found at Witt's Piggly Wiggly, Maplewood Meats, Kugels Cheese, Sequins Cheese, Abrams BP, some of the local bars, just to name a few.

*If you have suggestions for businesses that are on OEC's power lines, 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. March account numbers belonged to Todd Peterson, Oconto Falls, and Brandon Schoeborn, Lena.

#### Byron C. Nolde, CEO

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#### Katie Jagiello, Editor



### Streusel Top Fruit Pie

Submitted by Nancy Seefeldt, OEC Member

- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup cooking oil
- 2 Tablespoons milk

Lightly spoon flour into cup, level off. Combine ingredients in order listed to form a soft dough. Press pastry evenly in 9" pie pan.

- 3/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1/3 cup flour
- 4 cups sliced fresh peaches or 2 1lb 13 oz cans of sliced peaches.

Combine in bowl and mix well. Spoon into unbaked crust.

- 3/4 cup flour
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/3 cup butter

Combine to form crumb mixture and spoon over peaches. Bake at 350° for 40 to 45 minutes until topping is golden brown.

I use the same recipe for apple & blueberry pie. Three of my grandkids have made this pie for the Oconto County Fair and won blue ribbons for their pie making.

*If you have a recipe that you would like to share, please email [kjagiello@ocontoelectric.com](mailto: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. (210601)*

