

# OEC Current

## Broadband Update

Despite the cold weather in January, our contractors are continuing to hang main-line fiber and they are trying to splice fiber together. Fiber is difficult to splice in temperatures below 20°. We have hooked up a few test accounts in the Laurens area and we are currently scheduling several more drops and installations in that area. We also have a few phones hooked up for testing and they are working well. We have some work to do on the network programming side of things before we add more accounts but we are making progress every day.

Please be aware that we will be offering phone service, managed Wi-Fi, and Wi-Fi extenders along with our Broadband internet service. We will not be hosting e-mail accounts, so you will need your own.

Please visit [www.oeconnect.coop](http://www.oeconnect.coop) or follow OEConnect on Facebook @OECONNECTNY for broadband updates.

## SmartHub

Are you looking for an easy and convenient way to manage your account and pay your bill?

SmartHub allows you to access your account online or on your mobile device. You can manage your account, pay your bill and view your statements. SmartHub also allows you to check your monthly usage and to communicate with customer service.

Download our SmartHub app for more information or to get started. If you would like help setting up the phone app, please call our office. Save on envelopes and stamps by paying online.

## We Are Looking to Send a Student to Washington, D.C.!

We have an excellent opportunity for an eleventh grader this year. We will be sending a student to Washington, D.C. on an all-expenses paid trip for our annual Legislative Conference where he or she will have opportunity to tour D.C. sites and to visit with US Senators and Representatives from New York State. Applications must be submitted by March 1<sup>st</sup>!

Please visit our website at [www.otsegoec.coop](http://www.otsegoec.coop) for the application paperwork.



Otsego Electric Cooperative  
P.O. Box 128,  
Hartwick, NY 13348

Office Hours  
7:30 – 4:00  
Monday – Friday

Phone:  
**607-293-6622**

Pay-by-Phone  
**1-844-843-6842**

After Hours and Outages:  
**1-866-591-3192**

Call **Dig|Safely. New York**  
before you dig at **811** or  
**1-800-962-7962**

## Board of Directors

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## Life Support

If you are currently on Life Support equipment and would like to be added to our Critical Customer List, it is important that our office be notified so we may add your account to our Critical Customer List. We will notify you in advance of a planned power interruption. In the event of an unexpected outage such as an ice storm, please inform our office that you are affected and we will give you the best information we have available so that you may implement your emergency plan backup. The duration of outages is very hard to predict usually so you will need to have a plan in place in case your equipment will not run for an extended period of time.

Please contact our office if you would like to be sent the life support form. The form will need to be completed and returned to our office.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at (607) 293-6622 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and we will be glad to assist you.

## Food Bank

February is National Canned Food Month and Otsego Electric Cooperative will be collecting canned food and non-perishables to be donated to the local food bank. If you have any food you would like to donate, please bring it to the office.

We also are a year-round Food Bank drop-off location for donated food.



## Winter

We started the year with some very cold days. We also had a few days with below zero temperatures. We know some of our members will have higher than normal bills due to January's cold weather so, if you are having a difficult time paying your bill in February, please contact us and we can help with payment arrangements.

Here are a few tips to keep your costs down:

1. Use the sun for free heat—if you have south-facing windows open the curtains during the day to let sunlight in and close those window coverings when the sun goes down.
2. Bundle up when it's cold—Instead of turning the heat up, put on a cozy winter sweater, warm socks, and extra layers. Keep throw blankets on your couch and add an area rug to insulate the floor.
3. Only heat rooms in use—If you have rooms that you never use, like guest rooms or large storage areas, close and seal off the vents in those rooms to be more energy efficient and direct the flow of air to the rooms you use the most. Energy bills average about \$183 per month. You can save approximately \$200 each year by using a space heater in the rooms where you need it and by setting the thermostat to 62 degrees.

If you are going to use a space heater, remember to be safe and follow all manufacturers' recommendations.

- Do not leave space heaters unattended!
- Make sure you have working smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms.

