

## OEConnect Update

As we close out 2019, we would like to thank all of you, our members for the support this year. We have accomplished many great things this year that we are very proud of. We have almost finished the last part of the NY broadband grant main-line construction and we have built to all of our members. We still have lots of splicing to do especially in the Index Substation area including Hartwick, Middlefield and Westford but splicing is very difficult when it is under 20 degrees. Our numbers for internet subscribers keeps rising quickly and we are getting people on board faster than we expected at this point. We know you are all very anxious and we really appreciate the interest! We are currently working through our waiting lists and our install backlogs should go down faster now that we have hired a new installer, Garrett Gott. As we now are into winter, it is very important for us to point out that we cannot do underground drops but we have a solution so we can continue making progress. We will do a temporary drop by laying the fiber on the ground. There is some risk with this so we are requiring a signed waiver. Once the weather warms up in the spring (we hope!), we will come back and bury the fiber at no cost or you can put it in the ground yourself. We are continuing to do aerial drops also. We are still taking names for our waiting list so if you have not put your name on the list yet, please call the office. We are excited to keep growing in 2020 and we appreciate everyone's patience and support.



OEConnect would like to welcome Garrett Gott to our crew as an Installer. Garrett is from Edmeston where he lives with his wife. He went to SUNY Delhi for electrical construction and worked in that field before switching to fiberoptic. We are very excited to add Garrett to our crew!

## Phone Services

We are currently offering a Voice Over Internet Phone (VOIP) service that can replace your other phone service at a good price and great quality of service. You are able to keep your existing phone number if you would like or can get a new number from us. The phone service includes unlimited short and long distance, call forwarding options, call waiting, caller ID and more features which are all included for \$29.95 per month (not including taxes). If you decide to get the phone, you will also get a \$5.00 credit each month on your bill for bundling the internet and phone services. If you would like more information or the paperwork sent to you, please call the office.

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

**Gary Potter**  
*President*

Charles Arnold  
*Vice President*

Wendell Saunders  
*Treasurer*

Steve Child  
*Secretary*

Fred Braun, Jr.  
*Director*

Edward Clarke  
*Director*

Amy Parr  
*Director*

**Timothy R. Johnson**  
**CEO**

[www.otsegoec.coop](http://www.otsegoec.coop)

[www.oconnect.coop](http://www.oconnect.coop)

## Payment Options

As we move into 2020, consider signing up for automatic bill payment using either your banking account information or your debit/credit card. It is easy and convenient as it comes out automatically at the end of each month meaning your bill will be paid without the headache of having to remember to send in a check. We also have a great online payment option called SmartHub. You are able to pay your bill, view your monthly bills, previous and current and also reach out the office if you would like information on your account changed or have any questions.

## Winter Peaks

Please help us save you money! When temperatures drop low in the winter months, OEC's system "peaks" at certain times of day and we need to buy more electricity from the grid at higher prices than usual. You can save money and OEC can save money too by not using dishwashers, washers, dryers, taking showers (if you have an electric water heater) and other large appliances during Winter Peak hours of 6 a.m.-8 a.m. and 5 p.m.-9 p.m. You can also help by if you have an electric hot water heater by joining our Load Control Program. We will pay you \$2 per month to give us the ability to temporarily turn off your hot water heater during Peak Load times. You will not even notice that your water heater was off. Please call us if you would like to participate. Finally, you can get rebates for the purchase of new electric hot water heaters so please call if you would like to participate! It's easy and it's the Green Thing to do!

## We Won "An Act of Congress!"

We are so happy to announce that the RURAL Act was passed this December which effected more than 900 electric cooperatives throughout the nation, including Otsego Electric. This Act will save the co-op from having to pay taxes on the broadband grants we were awarded and from losing our tax-exempt status. We would like to thank everyone who supported us in getting the RURAL Act adopted into law.

## Looking for High School Juniors Interested in a Free Trip to Washington DC!

We have an excellent opportunity for an eleventh grader this year. We will be sending a student to Washington DC for the annual legislative youth conference where they will have opportunity to visit with US Senators and Representatives from New York State. Applications must be submitted by March 2<sup>st</sup>.

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

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Let the sunshine in! For additional warmth, open drapes over windows that receive sunlight during the day. Close them at night, which can reduce heat loss from a warm room up to 10%.

*Source: energy.gov*



All the employees and Board members at Otsego Electric Cooperative and OEConnect wish you Happy Holidays and a fantastic New Year!