

# OEC Current

February 2021

## Looking into 2021:

### OEConnect Update:

We are very proud to announce that OEConnect has now connected over 2,500 customers. We celebrated connecting our 2500th service by giving new subscribers, Megan Robbins and Eric Tietjen, a new iPad Air to help their young family stay connected for schooling and all their needs. Congratulations to the Robbins/Tietjen family! OEConnect is still actively connecting customers so please call us if you have fiber on your property or within about 1,500 feet.

### Otsego Electric Update:

We need your help this winter! You can save money on your bill and help OEC at the same time. Please try to turn down the electric heat and try not to use large appliances during peak hours, between 7 am and 9 am in the morning and 5 pm and 9 pm in the evening. The very cold temperatures of the past week cause all of us to use more power so we exceed our hydropower allocation during peak hours. This extra power can cost much more than hydropower when it is unusually cold outside. The more you can help reduce these peaking power costs, the more all of us save! We also offer Marathon water heaters for sale here at OEC; they are the most efficient water heaters on the market. An efficient electric water heater coupled with one of our load control devices can also help shave peaks and they are green devices. You can also receive a \$2 monthly credit if we install a load control switch on your electric water heater! Call us for more information today.

## New Faces and Promotions:

A very wise man named Heraclitus once said: "The only thing constant is change." He said this over 2,500 years ago and it is still true, especially here at OEC recently. A couple of employees left us in December for other employment and we have welcomed a new face while others have changed roles.

First, we would like to welcome Orrin Higgins, Jr. to our team as a Fiber Technician II. He has years of experience in the fiber optic industry and we are happy to have him!



Fred Beardslee has changed roles from Brush Crew Foreman to Apprentice Lineman after being our Brush Crew Foreman for several years.

And Garrett Gott has transferred to the Brush Crew where he will be a Saw Operator. He has been working at OEC for over a year installing new OEConnect services.



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

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

## Payment Options

As we move into 2021, please consider signing up for automatic bill payment using either your banking account information or your debit/credit card. It is easy and convenient as the payments will come 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. If you sign up using your bank account information, we will apply a one-time \$5.00 credit to your account. We also have a great online payment option called SmartHub. You are able to pay your bill, view your previous and current monthly bills, and you can use it to reach out to the office if you would like information on your account changed or if you have any questions.

## Phone Services

We are currently offering a phone service (VOIP) to our internet subscribers 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 you can get a new number from us. The phone services include: unlimited local and short distance, long distance up to 2,000 minutes, call forwarding options, call waiting, caller ID and more features all included for \$29.95 per month (not including taxes). If you decide to get the phone service, 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 have the paperwork sent to you, please call the office.

## HEAP Assistance

We understand that during this time of year, especially with COVID-19, some of you may struggle paying heating and electric bills. If you need assistance with paying these bills, there are benefit programs such as HEAP and some organizations that may be able to help. New York State offers low-income New Yorkers HEAP benefits—all you need to do is see if you qualify. You can visit [myBenefits.ny.gov](http://myBenefits.ny.gov) or call one of these numbers:

The Department of Social Services of Otsego County (HEAP) can be contacted at 607-547-1700

The Department of Social Services of Chenango County—607-337-1500

The Department of Social Service of Madison County—315-366-2211

The Department of Social Service of Herkimer County—315-867-1220

Opportunities for Otsego (OFO) can be reached at 607-433-8000.

Catholic Charities—607-432-0061

Office of the Aging—607-547-4232

## Budget Billing 2021

It is about that time of year again when Budget Billing will become available. Budget Billing is available to make year-round planning a little easier. We are about to start re-evaluating existing budget bill accounts for 2021 in the next few months and we are accepting new accounts as well. The new budget year will begin in the May billing but you must bring your balance to a \$0 balance with the April billing. If your budget amount has changed, you will receive a letter from our office. Please call the office at 607-293-6622 if you have questions or would like to be enrolled.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

**Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static.**

Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)

