



Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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People You Can Count On

www.otsegoec.coop

March/April 2018

Broadband Project

Otsego Electric Cooperative and its internet subsidiary, OEConnect, LLC will be extending its new state-of-the-art fiber optic network to members who have no high-speed service available at their homes. The initial phases of construction will primarily be to homes that were identified in the recent grant awards from the New York Broadband Office of \$3.9 million and \$10 million. However, the Cooperative will also then build to members who were not included in the grants. The network design of the project is underway. We have over 500 miles of lines to build just under the grant process alone.

We received our first shipment of fiber-optic cable on February 20, 2018. We now have contractors hanging cable in the Laurens area along County Route 10. The contractor we are using for the aerial construction, splicing, and drops is Universal Communications, LLC. You may have seen their bucket trucks in the Laurens, Oneonta and Mount Vision areas.

We are still a little way away from doing drops to homes, and installs, but we will be offering at least two residential broadband packages, speeds up to 100Mbps and 1Gbps along with managed Wi-Fi and Phone service. We are hoping to add a few accounts in May and then start to increase home installs from that point forward. There are still many things we need to complete to get to the point of adding our first customer, but the project is certainly underway.

The reality is this will be a multi-year project and we cannot estimate when we will build to every house. We will eventually get to every member's home who wants service but our focus right now has to be on building to the locations that we are getting reimbursed for. The grant terms require us to prioritize the reimbursable areas first.

Thank you for your support for this project and for your patience and understanding. We will continue to provide updates to the membership as construction progresses.

Keep an eye on our website—and social media pages—for new career opportunity postings. Please like our Facebook page and follow our Twitter page to get the quickest updates.

(This deployment of broadband service is supported by a grant awarded to Otsego Electric Cooperative by New York State through the New NY Broadband Program.)

Surveys

We will be doing a member satisfaction survey during the week of March 12, 2018. Most surveys will be done by phone, some will be e-mailed. We are working with TSE Services, a cooperatively owned market research organization.



Marlette Scholarship

This scholarship is given every year in memory of Howard Marlette who was an active member of the community and his church and he served the Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc. for 37 years as a Director. He also served as President of Otsego Electric Cooperative from 1992 to 2004, President of the New York State Rural Electric Cooperative Association from 1986 to 2004, and Howard was honored with the George D. Aiken Award in 2002. To honor Howard's service to his community and his involvement in the Otsego Electric Cooperative, his family and friends give a scholarship to a deserving student who plans to further his or her education after high school. Applications are available at www.otsegoec.coop and must be submitted to Otsego Electric Co-op, Attn: Jim Foote, P.O. Box 128 Hartwick, NY 13348 by May 1, 2017. Scholarships are awarded by the Marlette family.

Please call our office at **607-293-6622** for scholarship application information. Applications are due by May 1, 2018.

New Bill Print Design

We will be giving the Otsego Electric Cooperative and OECBlue bills a slight makeover in April 2018 with a slightly new bill design. We haven't changed the look of the bills in a long time, so we took the opportunity to make a slight cosmetic change.

www.otsegoec.coop

There is a service map location number in this newsletter. Your map location number is located on your bill. If you find your map location number in this newsletter, call the office within 15 days and your account will be credited \$25.

Nominating Committee

All members are hereby notified that, as defined in the bylaws of Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc. the Board of Directors will appoint a Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will meet during the month of June to select a list of nominations for director.

Article 4, Section 3 of the bylaws follows:

NOMINATIONS. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than thirty days nor more than seventy-five days before the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations and elections consisting of five members who shall be selected from different sections of the project area so as to insure equitable representation. No member of the Board of Directors may serve on such committee. The committee, keeping in mind the principle of equitable representation, shall review, certify and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least twenty days before the meeting a list of nominations for directors. Any fifteen or more members acting together shall make nominations by petition not less than seventy-five days prior to the meeting. In the event adequate nominations are not received and certified, the nominations and elections committee will have the authority to appoint nominees. The Secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the notice of the meeting or separately, but at least ten days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected and the names and addresses of the certified candidates.

The 2018 Annual Meeting of the Members is scheduled to be held August 15, 2018. The meeting will be held at the Laurens Central School at 6:00PM. Elections for two board seats will occur at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

If you are interested in running for the Board of Directors, petitions are available at the Cooperative office or at our website at www.otsegoec.coop.

Petitions must be submitted on or before Thursday, May 31, 2018.

Budget Billing

If you are interested in budget billing please contact our office before May 1, 2018. Going on a budget is a great way to even out your payments throughout the year and stretch your dollars.

We look at your average year use and determine what rate you should pay per month based on your past years history.

If you would like more information please call during March to sign-up.



Area Lights

If you have a Co-op owned Area Light that is flickering at night, please call the office and we will come out and change it. We would like to get any lights that are not working properly repaired as soon as we can.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight for maximum energy efficiency. Test the seal by closing the door over a piece of paper (so that it's half in and half out). If you can easily pull the piece of paper out, your seal may need to be replaced or the latch may need to be adjusted.

Source: energy.gov



Have you tried Smart Hub?

You can now check your daily meter reads through your Smart Hub account.

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Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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 **811** or
1-800-962-7962

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**Our Annual Meeting
will be
August 15, 2018**

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