



**Oneida-Madison  
Electric Co-op., Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

June 2023

# COOPERATIVE NEWS

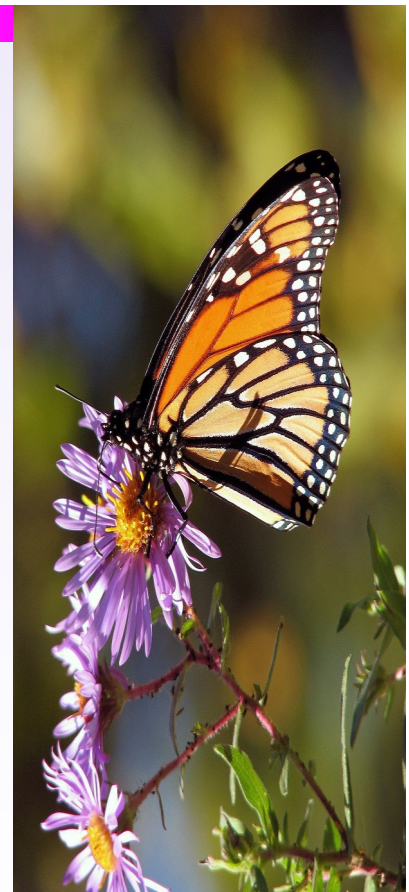
## 2023 Youth Scholarship Winners Go to Washington



Each year, OMEC chooses a student to represent our Cooperative and join Board members and the CEO in Washington, D.C. for the NRECA’s annual Legislative Rally. This year, the applicants were so impressive, we chose three of them. Kyle Peavey (left), Rachel Molloy (second from left), and Alexis Learned (second from right) were this year’s recipients.

Pictured above with Congressman, Brandon Williams, these young adults were able to participate in meetings with politicians on both sides of the aisle to lobby for legislation necessary for sustaining electrical cooperatives throughout the country.

*Continued on page 3*



### Notes & Information

Normal Office Hours are as follows:

7:30am-4pm, Monday-Friday

Office Location: 6630 State Rt 20

Bouckville, NY 13310

Call (315) 893-1851 **24 hours a day** for assistance with power outages and/or emergencies

### Your Board of Directors

Rudy Brouillette, President

Tom Stone, Vice President

Dan Saulsgiver, Secretary/  
Treasurer

Seth Howard

John Lehr

James Nassimos

Kurt Peavey

## Save Yourself (and the Cooperative) Time and Money By Doing This One Simple Step



### Moving? LET US KNOW!

To ensure you keep receiving your Capital Credits, it is imperative for us to have an updated address and phone number!

When you are a current member, your capital credits are directly applied to your account in the form of a bill credit. If you move off OMEC's line, you still get those capital credits in check form!

Don't miss out on YOUR money! Call the office at 315-893-1851 and have one of our helpful Member Services Representatives help you navigate the transfer of membership to the new owners AND maintain the money you've earned being a member!

We understand the inconvenience that comes along with losing power, probably better than most. In the 21st century we are dependent upon electricity more than ever, especially post-pandemic when many are still working from home. And while there's not a lot that any of us can do when it comes to Mother Nature, there is ONE simple thing you can do to keep outages and costs at a minimum. **CHECK YOUR METER!**

All of our meters are digital, so if a meter has a numerical display, it's on and functioning. If there is no display, it is off and so is your power. Why does this matter? If your meter is displaying a number and your power is off, it suggests there is an issue inside of your home, rather than with the Cooperative lines. A tripped breaker or blown fuse could be the issue.

Sending our crew out unnecessarily is a waste of their time and your money. Because we are a non-for-profit business, we're able to charge lower rates than other electrical utilities because we're not "making money" we're just covering operating costs. However, operating costs go up if we're getting the guys out of bed in the middle of the night to fire up the trucks, use gas to get to your house, just to find that there's nothing they can do.

We are happy to come to the rescue anytime, day or night, but make sure you really need us before you call.



Check the screen of your meter for a numerical display. If the screen is completely blank with nothing displayed, the power is off on the Cooperative's side. If numbers are visible, and your power is off, the issue is coming from within your home.

*Scholarship Winners continued from page 1....*

Kyle Peavey, of Madison Central School, is a scholar athlete, captain of the Morrisville-Eaton wrestling team, treasurer of his class and student council, as well as a member of National Honor Society. He is active in his church and participates in many community service projects. Kyle is considering studying engineering or physical therapy in college.

Rachel Molloy, of Cazenovia Central School, is another scholar athlete, captain of the Cazenovia ladies tennis team, and a member of National Honor Society. In addition, Rachel plays the cello in her school's string ensemble, does ballet and works with children of all ages learning to play tennis. She wishes to pursue medicine as a career in the future.

Alexis Learned, an honor student at Otselic Valley Central School, is an officer in the Student Government, a volunteer in her church's nursery working with younger children, and is employed as a hostess and front desk receptionist at a local restaurant and inn. Alexis is looking to pursue a degree in public relations or politics after high school.

Please join us in congratulating Kyle, Rachel and Alexis on their huge accomplishments!

*Your map location number, found on your billing statement, may be found somewhere in this newsletter! If you find it, contact our office by Aug 1st and your account will be credited \$10!*

## **June is National Dairy Month**

Beginning in 1937, National Dairy Month started as a way to promote the consumption of dairy products during the warm weather months. Today, we celebrate Dairy Month as a way to not only enjoy our favorite dairy products, but also to recognize the farmers who work hard to cultivate and sustain the agricultural roots in our rural community.

In addition to being delicious, dairy products are full of vitamin D, calcium, protein, and potassium! So grab yourself an ice cream cone or an icy cold glass of milk this month and salute your local dairy farmer!

And don't forget that Madison County's Open Farm Day will be July 29, 2023! You can get your passport at your local Madison County library, farmer's market, or Price Chopper stores beginning in July or you can download them from the Madison County website, <https://openfarmdaymadisoncounty.com/open-farm-day-passport/>

## **COMING SOON!**

**Oneida-Madison  
Electric  
Cooperative's**

**80th Annual  
Meeting of the  
Members**

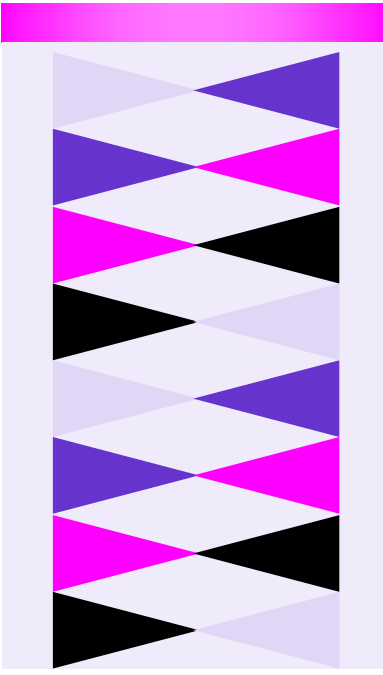
Friday, October 6,  
2023

Madison Central  
School

Food! Fun! Music!  
Community!







## Planning on Purchasing an Electric Vehicle?

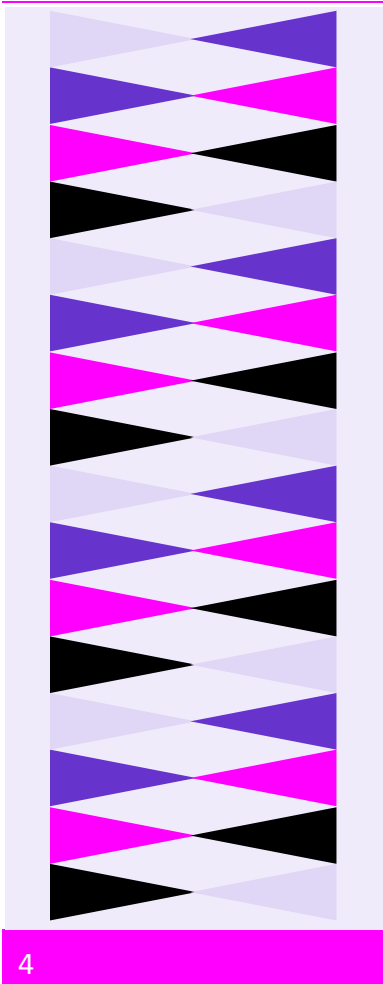
The future is here! With most major vehicle manufacturers now producing all electric vehicles (EVs), and pricing becoming more attractive, it's likely you might be considering purchasing an EV. Perhaps some of you trendsetters already have.

A crucial part in ensuring your electric distribution system remains reliable is understanding how much power is being consumed; we call that "load". It is also key that we understand the geographic location of that load. Transformers and reclosers (oil-filled circuit breakers) are individually tailored to meet the expected load, both on the distribution line and at the home. Adding additional load to the line or home can result in an "overload" which can cause outages and damage equipment.

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***"It is important that you, the prospective buyer, understand the types of charging levels available and how they will impact your existing home electric service, your electric bill and the effect your new EV may have on your distribution system"***

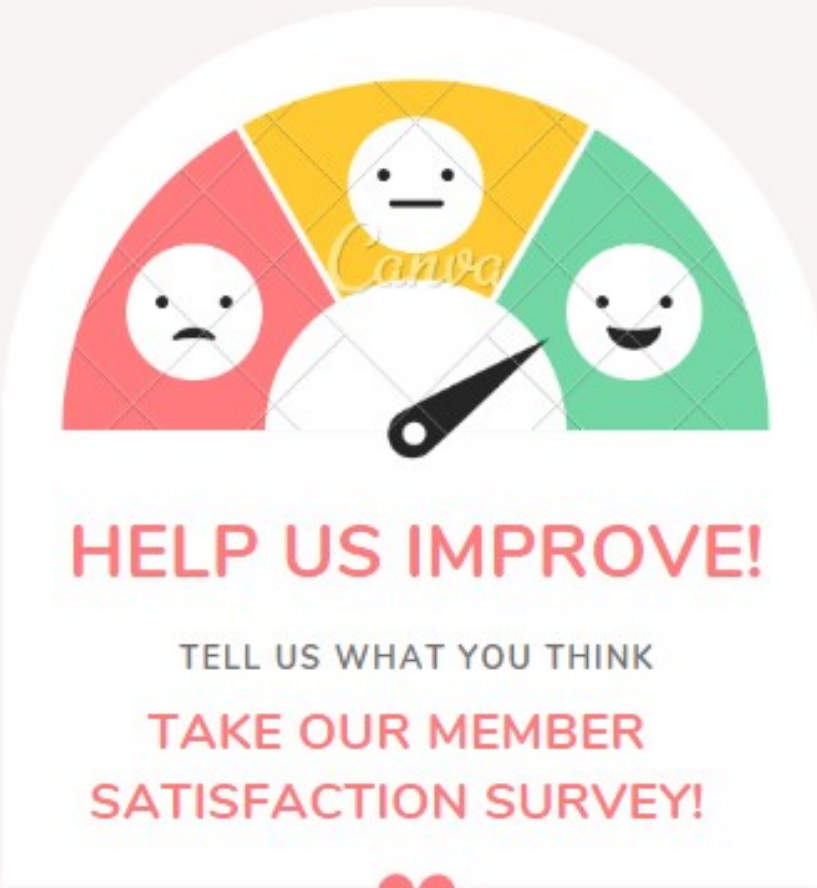
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In direct relationship with load, comes cost. OMEC has an allocation of low-cost hydro power purchased from the New York Power Authority, anything above and beyond that allocation is purchased at market rate and can become very costly. Your system typically peaks in the morning, as you get ready for your day, and again in the evening around dinner time. Charging EVs at those times of day could prove very costly for the Cooperative. It is important that you, the prospective buyer, understand the types of charging levels available and how they will impact your existing home electric service, your electric bill and the effect your new EV may have on your distribution system.

The good news is, OMEC wants to help! We encourage you to discuss your potential purchase with a qualified electrician, our General Manager, or staff. We want to be proactive about upgrades to Cooperative-owned equipment and transformers, if needed.

It only seems appropriate to quote pioneer automaker, Henry Ford, "If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself".



**HELP US IMPROVE!**

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

**TAKE OUR MEMBER SATISFACTION SURVEY!**

<https://oneida-madison.coop/member-satisfaction-survey>

### Take our Member Satisfaction Survey!

After the great response we received from our Annual Meeting Survey, we decided to implement our new Member Satisfaction Survey! This completely anonymous questionnaire is only 16 questions long and takes less than 5 minutes to complete.

Your feedback provides us with invaluable information on how you'd like to see YOUR cooperative operate. Remember, as a member, you are more than a consumer, you are an owner! We can't fix what we don't know about! Let us know what's working and what isn't and we'll do our best to fix any issues brought to our attention.

Log on to our website at <https://oneida-madison.coop> and look for the Member Satisfaction Survey link in the top right of the screen. We look forward to hearing from you!

### Save the Date!

The office will be CLOSED  
for the following holiday:

**Independence Day**

**Tuesday, July 4, 2023**



As always, in the case of an  
outage or emergency, please  
call **315-893-1851**

24 hours/day, 365 days/year

For the most up-to-date  
information regarding news,  
outages, contests, and more,

Like and Follow us on

Facebook!

And don't forget to check out  
our website!

<http://oneida-madison.coop>





## Understanding Cooperative Members Eligibility for NYSERDA Funding

With the implementation of our new Member Satisfaction Survey (see page 5 for more details) we had a member ask us the following question:

“Are we eligible for the same incentives as other electric companies (NYSEG), i.e. heat pump water heaters, Solar, heat pump rebates?”

CEO, Brian Bell, had this response:

“Many of our members looking to install distributed energy resources (DER), like solar or wind, ask the question, “Why don’t I qualify for most New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) grants?” I’d like to take this opportunity to explain the funding sources for NYSERDA grants and why we here at the Cooperative believe our members, despite being ineligible for certain funding, are still on the forefront of the clean energy movement.

NYSERDA established what is known as the Clean Energy Fund (CEF). It is designed to deliver on New York State’s commitment to drive economic development and accelerate the use of clean energy and energy innovation through 2026. Authorized by the Public Service Commission (PSC) in 2016, the CEF was projected to collect approximately \$5.322 billion over ten years. CEF funding is collected through a System Benefits Charge (SBC). SBC charges are added to ratepayer bills of New York investor-owned utilities like NYSEG and National Grid. Currently those fees range from .004 to .005 cents per kWh. Those amounts may not seem like a lot on their own, but OMEC’s average residential and farm usage is 1,200 kWh and 3,000 kWh per month, respectively. If OMEC participated, an SBC would tack on extra fees ranging from \$4.80 to \$15.00 a month to your bill.

While we strongly believe in working towards clean energy goals, adding on extra charges that may end up outside of the communities that we serve does not seem the best way for cooperative members to contribute. We believe that all revenue collected from our membership should directly benefit our membership. New York State Electric Cooperatives have been on the forefront of clean energy for over 60 years. 87% of NYS Coops energy is clean, renewable power generated at the Robert Moses Hydroelectric Plant in Niagara Falls.

OMEC does not ask its members to subsidize individual DER projects. We encourage our members interested in DER to thoroughly research their potential projects and OMEC will always remain “cooperative” and helpful as they see those projects to fruition.”

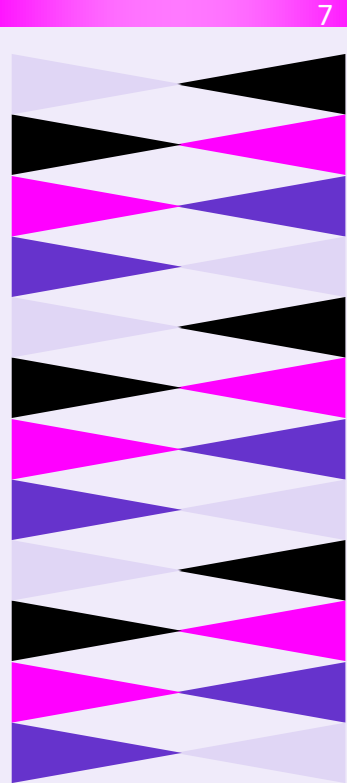


## OMEC Leaders Participate in Community Service Project

At the NRECA Annual Meeting held in Nashville this March, OMEC CEO and his wife, Brian and Amber Bell, Board of Directors President and his wife, Rudy and Karen Brouillette, and Board of Directors Secretary/Treasurer, Dan Saulsgiver, participated with Touchstone Energy and Meals of Hope to help package more than 25,000 meals to be delivered across the greater Nashville area. These donations help to stop domestic hunger across the country.

Out of the Seven Cooperative Principles, Concern for the Community, is the last and arguably the most important of them all. We are so proud of our leaders for giving back and reminding us that projects like these are what make the Cooperative Difference.

If you're interested in working with Meals of Hope, please visit their website at <https://mealsofhope.org/>



Top Photo, bottom row from left to right: Brian Bell, Amber Bell, Karen Brouillette. Top row: Dan Saulsgiver and Rudy Brouillette

Bottom left photo: packaged dried meals to be delivered

Bottom right photo: Brian Bell and Dan Saulsgiver with colleagues on the assembly line working to package meals



## At Home with Hazel

*This easy, no-bake icebox cake is made with simple ingredients and fresh strawberries making for a decadent dessert without having to turn the oven on!*

### Easy Strawberry Icebox Cake

Prep time: 10 mins. Chill time: 6 hours-overnight

Servings: 15

### Ingredients

- ◆ 3 boxes (3.4 oz each) instant cheesecake or vanilla flavored pudding– full fat
- ◆ 4 Cups whole milk, cold
- ◆ 2 Cups Cool Whip or whipped cream, full fat
- ◆ 1 box honey graham crackers (14.4 oz)
- ◆ 3-4 Cups fresh strawberries, washed, diced, and patted dry

### Instructions

1. In a large mixing bowl, add pudding mixes and milk. Whisk until smooth.
2. Gently fold in Cool Whip or whipped cream. Set aside.
3. In a 9x13 pan, line graham crackers to cover bottom.
4. Spoon 1/3 pudding mixture over crackers and spread evenly using a spatula.
5. Sprinkle 1/3 of the fresh strawberries evenly over the pudding. Top with more graham crackers.
6. Continue layering ingredients until they're gone.
7. Cover with plastic wrap and chill in the refrigerator for 6-8 hours or overnight.

### Tips

- ◆ To freeze, simply cover with plastic wrap followed by aluminum foil and store in freezer. When ready for use, allow cake to thaw for 30-40 minutes at room temperature.
- ◆ Try using chocolate graham crackers for a twist.
- ◆ This recipe works with most fruit, so try adding blueberries, rhubarb, or even bananas!

