

Season's Greetings



**Oakdale Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

FROM OAKDALE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Chris Tackmann, General Manager/CEO

“The holidays.” It’s a time of reflection. I’m grateful for my own family as well as my co-op family. At Oakdale Electric Cooperative, we’re driven by a sense of mission and purpose. Our team feels a strong connection to our community and

our members, because we live here too.

While many of our community-focused programs and activities ramp up this time of year, we have several programs and services in place to help our members year-round. I’d like to remind you about some of these offerings in hopes you’ll find them beneficial.

We hope you’ll take advantage of SmartHub, an app that empowers you to monitor, manage, and pay your energy bill conveniently through your phone. We also offer energy efficiency programs to save you money and energy. Visit our website to find more information on the many incentives that we offer through ourselves or through our partnership with Focus on Energy.

Our Operation Round Up program helps our community members pay for their various needs. By simply choosing to “round up” your energy bills to the next whole dollar amount, you can help others right here in our community. Through members’ generous donations, we’ve been able to give nearly \$100,000 to those in need since the program started in 2002. If you’d like to participate in our Operation Round Up program, please contact our office or sign up through SmartHub.

In addition to helping members save today, we’re focusing

on the future. In our area, we’re seeing increased interest in renewable energy sources. Recent innovations and advances have led to significant cost decreases in renewable energy, making it more feasible and accessible. In recent years, Dairyland Power Cooperative (the company that we purchase our electricity from) has been able to adjust our fuel mix by incorporating more renewables. Today, 24% of our fuel mix is comprised of renewable energy sources, the majority of which is wind and solar. There are plans for more in the near future.

You may have noticed our electric vehicle (EV) around town. We invested in an EV to promote greater understanding of electric vehicles and promote their use, especially given the focus on electrification of the transportation sector. Going forward, you will hear more from us on EVs and our plans for the future.

But the most important investment we make is in our local youth. OEC has logged hundreds of volunteer hours supporting schools, youth clubs, and programs along with providing close to \$500,000 in scholarships for local students. Each year, through our Youth Tour program, we send high school seniors to Washington, D.C., for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action.

At the heart of all of these programs is you—the members we proudly serve. Looking back, I’m grateful for so many wonderful community partners and for the positive impact we can continue to make.

This holiday season, I wish you and your loved ones peace, joy, and prosperity. Speaking on behalf of our team at Oakdale Electric Cooperative, I know the future will be bright, because of you. Happy Holidays!



Cooperative principle seven, Commitment to Community – Employees Paul, Maribeth, and Dale set up Oakdale Electric’s holiday light display at Riverside Park Campground in the City of New Lisbon. The display is lit up December 3 through the holiday season.

HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING DRIVE

Do you have a pile of holiday lights that don’t work anymore? Or maybe you’re replacing them with ENERGY STAR LED lights because they are 75% more energy efficient, and last 25% longer, too. No matter what the reason, don’t throw out your holiday lights—RECYCLE them at the co-op!

December 1– February 1, 2022

489 N. Oakwood St., Tomah, WI 54660
(collection bins located at the co-op’s front entrance)

Please remove light strands from bags and boxes and place them into the bins.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

CO-OP COMES TO YOU II

After much success last year, Oakdale Electric brought back the Co-op Comes to You 2 giveaway contest in October, collecting nearly 1,600 entries from members across their five-county service territory.

The total prizes given away increased to 200 this year in order to show an even greater appreciation for members. Those selected won a bushel basket filled with local goods, as well as co-op promotional goods. New this year, half of the baskets were designated for youth members. Each adult bushel basket was filled with a craft kit, ½ peck apples, \$10 Kwik Trip gift card, succulent, chili mix, caramel apple dip, soup mug, soup ladle, and rake. The youth bushel baskets included a rake, \$10 Papa Murphy's gift card, caramel corn, hot cocoa mix, football, pumpkin lawn bags, and insulated mug.

Employees hit the road again this year delivering the bushel baskets to each member's residence. "All seven districts, had at least one member that won a bushel basket," stated organizer Deana Protz. She furthered, "Delivery was a cooperative effort, with employees graciously stepping up to help." Routes were created to be as efficient as possible, and in three days, all baskets were distributed.

We're looking forward to going on a road trip again next year with the Co-op Comes to You, but until then, enjoy the scenic route!

To view the complete listing of all cooperative businesses supported, please visit oakdalerec.com/co-op-comes-you.

Al & Sam



Maribeth



Kaden & Travis



Stew & Quinten





Kurt & Tina



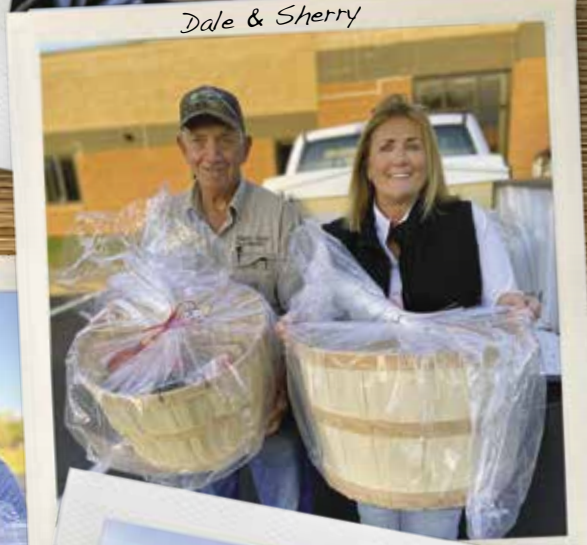
Chris



Jim & Paul



Linda



Dale & Sherry



John & Lori



Heather



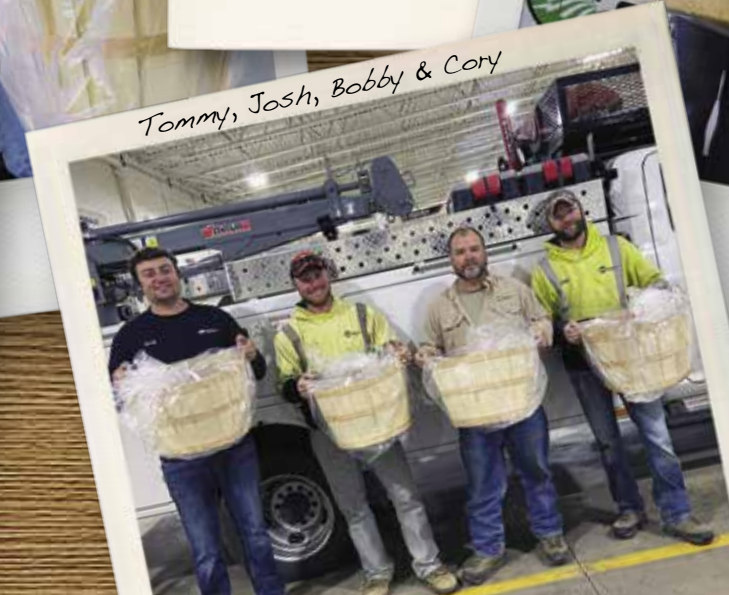
Todd



Deana & Rachel



Andy



Tommy, Josh, Bobby & Cory



James Sherman was named Oakdale Electric Cooperative's newest Selfless Service Award recipient. A beloved member of the Tomah community with an unparalleled zest for life, James was selected for his volunteer work with the City of Tomah Parks and Recreation Department.

"James was instrumental in rebuilding two community playgrounds, Winnebago Wonderland and Burnstad's Adventure Park. He power washes the Tomah Aquatic Center annually, sets up for National Night Out, participates in downtown clean-up events, and assists with flower and tree planting," nominator Parks and Recreation Director Joe Protz stated. He furthered, "He keeps spirits lifted on every job site he volunteers at."

Why does James volunteer? "I do it for the community and because the community needs me," James shared.

Whether he has known you his entire life, or your paths cross just once, James touches people's lives with his positive attitude, high energy, and fun-loving comments, including, "Let's get 'er done!" For those who have been on the receiving

end for one his enthusiastic thumbs up or hearty wave from outside his rural Tomah home, you simply can't help but smile from the inside out.

Yes, it's true, the community does need James.

As a thank you to James for his selfless service, Oakdale Electric Cooperative gifted him with a plaque and a \$250 donation. The employees of the co-op also presented James with an autographed hardhat with all 42 signatures, as well as a ride in a digger truck with an auger demonstration.

We couldn't agree more with Joe when he stated, "We all could learn from James's positive attitude and his care for helping out the community."

Do you know an individual who engages in community volunteerism, performing valuable services that benefit and improve quality of life within the communities served by the cooperative? Take a note from James, and let's get 'er done by nominating them for a Selfless Service Award. It takes less than two minutes to complete.

Visit www.oakdalerec.com/selfless-service-award.

"I do it for the community and because the community needs me."

— James Sherman

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP



Heading out of town for the holiday season? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles, and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet, even when they're not in use.

Correction: Director candidates must submit petitions by January 25, 2022.

Chris Tackmann, General Manager/CEO

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Deana Protz, Editor



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Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
24-Hour Emergency Power Restoration: 800-927-6151
Toll-free Online Bill Payment 866-392-4307

Diggers Hotline: For underground cable locates and power line clearance information, call 800-242-8511.