



RATE ADJUSTMENT ENSURES RELIABILITY & SUSTAINABILITY



Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO

In my article last month, I discussed the different charges that appear on your electric bills. I also mentioned that our rate study was complete. Based on this study, there will be an increase in the residential facility charge and we will be switching to a “per day” facility charge on all accounts starting on October 1, 2023. Before I explain how much the increase is, I’d like to take a moment to review what the facility charge is.

The facility charge covers the costs associated with providing electricity to your home. This includes equipment, materials, labor, and operating costs necessary to serve each meter in OEC’s service territory, regardless of the amount of energy used.

An electric rate increase is a necessary measure to ensure the continued reliability, stability, and sustainability of our electricity infrastructure. As our society becomes increasingly dependent on electricity for everyday activities, from powering homes and businesses to supporting critical infrastructure, the strain on the existing power grid becomes more evident. The funds generated from a rate increase can be strategically allocated to modernize and upgrade power generation facilities, power lines, and distribution networks. By investing in equipment and technologies, we can enhance

the efficiency of energy delivery, reduce downtime due to maintenance, and improve overall grid resilience against natural disasters and cyber threats.

Over the last couple of years our costs have increased just like they have for every other business and person in the world. Transformers, poles, wire, etc. have dramatically increased in price and lead times. As I mentioned at our annual meeting, our wholesale power costs have also risen. We have taken measures internally to reduce our costs; however, it has come to a point where we need to increase our fees.

On October 1, the facility charge will change to a “per day” charge instead of a flat monthly fee (currently at \$32.25 for residential members). This charge will increase for residential members from the current per day charge of \$1.075 to \$1.25 per day, for an increase of approximately 3.76%. The restructure of the facility charge will align better with the other charges on your bill that are based on either an hourly consumption or a daily charge.

While increases are never fun to announce, this increase is necessary to continue to ensure reliable, stable, and sustainable infrastructure and service as I mentioned above. Please know that we continue to monitor our costs and do everything that we can to keep them at a minimum. If you have any questions about this increase, please feel free to contact our office.

EV RIDE & DRIVE

Wednesday, September 27 | 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative headquarters

489 N Oakwood St. on Hwy PP, just north of Interstate 90/94 in Oakdale

Take a ride or test drive an electric vehicle, learn about chargers and the new level two charger in the co-op parking lot, and hear about the electric vehicle charging rate available to members soon!

National Drive Electric Week™



AN ELECTRIC COOP CHILDREN'S CLASSIC

It's that time of year again when schedules get congested with school, homework, sports, and more. Although days start to run together, make sure to stop by one of the Little Free Libraries listed below to borrow and read a copy of "Wish Upon a Crawdad" by Curtis W. Condon.

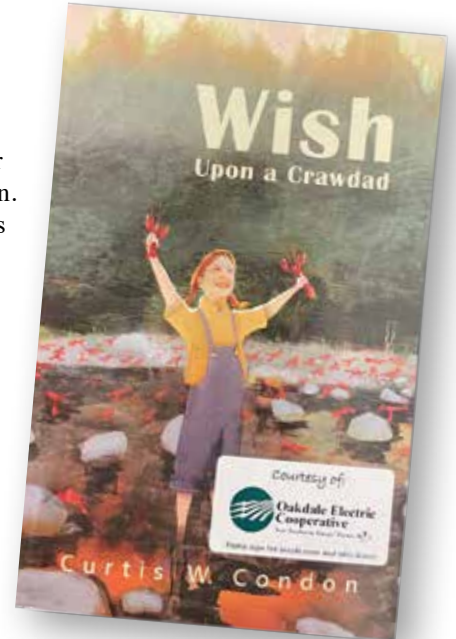
Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) exercised the seventh cooperative principle, Concern for Community, by distributing 12 copies of the award-winning book "Wish Upon a Crawdad." The story's backdrop takes place at the end of the Great Depression (1940), during the rural electrification years, and is told through the eyes of 12-year-old Ruby May Ryan. The book is destined to be an Electric Co-op Children's Classic and is recommended to readers who enjoy a nostalgic classic like "Anne of Green Gables."

"Today, kids don't know life without electricity, only that it charges their tablet," stated General Manager & CEO Chris Tackmann. "Delivering these books to Little Free Libraries is a way to reach some of our future co-op members."

The book is geared toward kids 9 to 12 years old, but members of all ages will enjoy this educational and fun story. Once a member is finished reading, OEC asks that you sign the

inside cover and return it to the same Little Free Library or pass it along to another.

To find location addresses, visit www.littlefreelibrary.org and search by charter number.



- Jeremiah's Crossing, Babcock – Charter #1315
- Plymouth Township Hall, Elroy – Charter #104581
- Little Free Library, Lake Delton – Charter #111628
- Lake Cabin, LaValle – Charter #162568
- iLEAD Charter's Little Library, Mauston – Charter #84158
- Little Free Library, Necedah – Charter #107331
- Castle Rock Estates, New Lisbon – Charter #103817
- Kollin Bolchen, New Lisbon – Charter #22667
- Oakdale Electric Cooperative, Oakdale – Charter #90207
- Pittsville Cloverbuds 4-H, Pittsville – Charter #2563
- Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Tomah – Charter #106846
- Warrens Little Free Library, Warrens – Charter #2333

What is a Little Free Library?

A Little Free Library is a free book-sharing box where anyone may take a book or share a book. Founded in 2012, Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization with a mission to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers and expanding access to books around the world. Oakdale Electric Cooperative started a Little Free Library in 2017 that is located to the left of the headquarters entrance doors.

Search the Little Free Library map and find one closest to you by visiting: www.littlefreelibrary.org.

A TRUE COMMUNITY LEADER, LEADS BY EXAMPLE

Where would small towns be without individuals who volunteer, donate, and lift up others around them? Fortunately, Tomah has many of those selfless individuals, with one particular person in mind. This recipient wears many hats like City of Tomah mayor, owner of Murray's on Main, and volunteer. However, some might say that the hat he wears best represents his selflessness for the community he lives in. Oakdale Electric Cooperative is pleased to present the latest Selfless Service Award to Mike Murray.

Mike Murray is a well-known name around town, as he is a native to Tomah. However, his reach goes beyond his name recognition. Mike has influenced teens as a driving instructor and is a strong supporter of Special Olympics. He utilizes his business, Murray's on Main (MOMs), as an avenue to host Special Olympics fundraisers and a percentage of gratuity from MOMs goes into the charitable giving fund, MOM's Purse.

Shelby Scott, pictured above, nominated Mike for the Selfless Service Award. "Mike is willing to help anyone out and encourages others to care for their community too," stated Shelby. She mentioned that when the Tomah pool



Shelby Scott and daughter with Mike Murray.

didn't have enough lifeguards to open, Mike donated money for youth to get their lifeguard certification so the pool could re-open. "He does these things for his community and he does it with honest intent of helping others," Shelby added.

From donating pizzas to youth organizations, to conducting fundraisers, Mike Murray is an asset to his community. Several nonprofits have

been on the receiving end of MOM's Purse such as Families First, Family Promise of Monroe County, Treasured Chests, and more. A selfless individual, leader, and smiling face, Mike Murray is well deserving of the Selfless Service Award. Shelby concluded with, "Mike truly is a leader by example and an advocate for the community he calls home."



Mike Murray and his mom, Virginia Murray.

MOM's Purse

MOM's Purse is a charitable fund for giving back to the community in honor and memory of Mike's mom, Virginia Murray, who passed in 2021. "The thought came from the fact that we wouldn't survive if it weren't for mom's purse," stated Mike. Portions of gratuity from Murray's on Main's large events go into MOM's Purse as well as proceeds from charitable fundraisers. Being that Mike is highly involved with and an activist for individuals with special needs, a Special Needs Christmas Party is held each year to provide a safe, joyful, and welcoming environment during the holidays. He concluded with, "Because she was so giving and taught me how to work hard and do for others, it seemed fitting to form a charity in honor of her...MOM's Purse."

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) attended the community gathering National Night Out in Tomah and Necedah on Tuesday, August 2. Safety & Loss Control Manager Ben Bella narrated a mock car crash and explained important life-saving procedures if your vehicle were to be in an accident with a utility pole and line. Youth that visited the OEC booth were encouraged to partake in an activity by wearing lineworker protective gloves and assembling various nuts and bolts, such as a lineworker would on the job every day.

Review Ben's questions and answers below to know what to do to save your life.

Q: What should I do if I am in an accident involving a power line or other electrical equipment?

A: DO NOT get out of your vehicle. It is always safer to remain inside a vehicle, which acts as an insulator and keeps you out of the path of stray electricity. Call 911, and tell the dispatcher a downed line or other electrical equipment is involved. Power company personnel will be dispatched to the scene to de-energize the power.

Q: Is there any reason I should exit the vehicle?

A: Yes, but only when your vehicle is on fire or you see smoke. If that is the case, make a clean jump from the vehicle with your feet together and without touching the vehicle. Then hop with feet together or shuffle keeping your feet on the ground as far as you can, 50 or more feet away is preferred.

Q: What else can I do?




A: Roll your window down and yell to others not to approach the scene. They could be shocked or electrocuted if they walk or run over the energized area or touch anything that is energized.

Learn more by visiting <http://safeelectricity.org/license-to-live/>.



Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO


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Jackie McGlin, Editor



**Oakdale Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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 833-526-0293

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