

#### This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Bi-Monthly Newsletter** 

Volume 73—Issue 1 January/February 2017

## Powering Our Rural Communities

## An Overview of Capital Credits

Capital Credits represent the investment you make in your Cooperative. Capital credits are the primary source of equity for most cooperatives, and allocating and retiring capital credits are two of the practices that distinguish cooperatives from other businesses. Each time you pay your electric bill, the funds are used to pay expenses incurred by DCEC to serve your electric needs. Any surplus is allocated to members each year based on their patronage and reflects their ownership interest in the Cooperative. When the financial condition of your Cooperative allows, capital credits are paid out to members based on the first in, first out (FIFO) process.

Each January the Cooperative completes year-end financial statements and determines "net margin" for the prior year. Funds are then allocated to all member-owners on the basis of their patronage for that calendar year, and are called capital credit allocations. These capital credits are paid at such times when the Cooperative's Board of Directors deem prudent to ensure the financial viability of the cooperative.

After reviewing Delaware County Electric Cooperative's financial position and determining it to be sound, the DCEC Board of Directors has approved a partial Capital Credits refund from 1990 in the amount of \$350,000. Current members who were actively receiving electric service from DCEC in 1990 have receive a credit on their 2016 December bill identified as "CAPITAL CREDIT REFUND". Members who are no longer receiving electric service from DCEC today but did so in 1990 should have received a check in the mail provided that their refund is \$5.00 or greater. Refunds of patronage capital are distributed only to members of record ("Members") of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative ("DCEC"). In cases where the Member is a corporate entity and not an individual, an individual may request to receive the capital credit distribution on behalf of a corporation entity if certain conditions are met. For additional information about how to request a distribution on behalf of a corporation please call the Billing Department at (607) 746-9290 or (607) 746-9288.

To review policies and bylaws pertaining to DCEC's procedure on allocation and distribution of Capital Credits please visit our website at <u>http://dce.coop/content/dcec-bylaws-policies</u>. For additional information or if you have any questions about Capital Credits, please call the Billing Department at, 607-746-9290 or 607-746-9288.

## DCEC's Annual Meeting will be September 22, 2017 at 4:30 pm



**CATSKILL HI-LINE** 

**FREE Trip to Washington D.C.** 

Do you know an 11<sup>th</sup> grader within DCEC's service area that would be interested in participating in an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C.? The Cooperative is looking for a student delegate to attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. This trip will include interaction with key people from around the country working in a field critical to the world's security, economy, and future - energy. Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc. representatives, including the 11th grader, will travel to Washington, DC on Sunday, April 23rd and return to Delhi on Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. They will join over 3,000 Cooperative leaders from more than 40 states, representing over 500 rural electric cooperatives. The student will make visits to Capitol Hill Congressional Members and/or their staffs from New York State. Plenty of time will be reserved for educational exploration as well.

In order to be considered students must meet the following qualifications:

- Be in their junior (11th grade) year
- Be a son/daughter of a member of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative
- Have at least a "B" average or better
- Participate in extra-curricular activities and community service

Students interested in being considered for this event must complete the application on page 5 and submit it to the office by the end-of-the-day on *February 23, 2017*. Applications can either be sent by regular mail or emailed to: <u>alicia.wyckoff@dce.coop</u>. *Continued on Page 5...* 



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### 50 Year Employee Wayne Marshfield will Retire this Year

50 years...5 decades...a half century...what does a career that has spanned that time look like? Delaware County Electric Cooperative's Wayne Marshfield personifies that. Wayne has spent the last 50 years dedicated to the cooperative and the members that it serves.

Wayne has exemplified the meaning of working for the members and the cooperative. He asked himself the question "How does this effect the members and is it the right thing to do for them" when he made important decisions over that half century. Wayne also weighed if these decisions would help keep the cost of electricity to the members down. Wayne prides himself on knowing that his career has been spent being an advocate for the member.

Wayne has shaped the cooperative in several very important ways. Wayne developed the "service map" that is still used in the trucks today. Based on the towns and locations, each meter was assigned a "map location". It currently appears on your bill as the "service location". This is crucial for your lineman to identify poles, wires, phases and meters that make up our service territory. Wayne was also instrumental in bringing the load management system to the Co-op. This program allows for devices to be placed in your home that regulate your electric hot water tank. When our substations get near our allotted hydro power, the system will regulate usage from the hot water tanks that help us to minimize the much more expensive incremental power being metered at the substations. By doing this, the Co-op minimizes extra expenses that appear in your monthly "Power Cost Adjustment" that you see on your bill each month. Wayne also was key in the implementation of the "smart meter". The first smart meters were installed approximately 15 years ago. The cooperative was able to "read" your meters electronically but more importantly the meters alerted us when the members were out of power or experiencing excessive blinks with their service.

Over the years, Wayne has become the face of the Co-op. He served in the field in the earlier years and also in the office so he knows most of the members personally and professionally. Wayne has also served his community as the Town of Hamden Supervisor for over 20 years in which he interacted with some of the same Co-op members. In 2014, the Delaware County Historical Association asked Wayne to give a presentation on the Rural Electric Cooperative (affectionately known as "The REA") history and its very important place in our rural community.

Wayne was recognized for his years of service, dedication and contributions a few years back when he receive the George D. Aiken award. The Aiken award is given by the Northeast

Continued on Page 3...

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Wishing you much joy & happiness as you begin a new chapter in your life. You will be missed.

Happy **Retirement!** 



## Dedicated and committed to the members

- Instrumental to developing and administering the Load Control Management program
- Created the "service location" which improved tracking data and mapping of the entire co-op infrastructure
- Winner of the prestigious George D. Aiken Award



### Marshfield Continued from Page 2...

Association of Electric Cooperatives. The award is considered to be prestigious and reserved for the individuals that have shown exemplary contributions to the preservation and advancement of the rural electric cooperatives. It goes without saying that Wayne was very deserving of the award and a very fitting tribute to his unprecedented career and overall contributions to the members of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

We will miss Wayne and wish him nothing but the best in his much deserved and wellearned retirement.

"I have received awards in the past, but they are nothing compared to the feeling I have for being an advocate for the Cooperative member, the members are the back bone of the Cooperative. After my retirement in 2017, I will in my other avenues of life still be able to share my conservative values for our members indirectly, mostly as taxpayers. Fifty years with one firm is remarkable in itself, it was also rewarding, a learning experience and an occupation where I was able to give back as well as to receive. Thanks to all for the beautiful and rewarding ride."

### Secure Pay-by-Phone & NEW Automated Phone System

Delaware County Electric Cooperative has made paying your bill as convenient and easy as possible for our members. In doing so we are subject to laws and regulations protecting the use of certain payment methods. DCEC is making every effort to comply with the latest industry standards and guidelines to protect that information and decrease risk factors that are associated with payment fraud. One way that DCEC is accomplishing this is through our secure payments automated phone system. This system is secure and available to all members 24/7. To use this option you would simply call 1-844-209-7162 and have your account number or your phone number associated with your account available. DCEC is committed to providing a high level of member service and setting security standards that are in the best interests of our members in protecting their confidential financial information.

Another new convenience is an automated phone system that allows members to record and receive status updates on unplanned outages. Members even get the option to be notified with a "Call Back" when power is restored to their service address. In addition to outages this new system will call members when they are delinquent with a payment or before disconnection. Members will have the option to "OPT OUT" from ALL automated notifications but please note after doing so you will not receive ANY automated calls from the Cooperative. That includes planned outages notifications, call backs when power is restored, expired credit card, etc. Please be aware that in accordance with New York Power Authority regulations, you will continue to receive calls from Cooperative staff if there is a risk of disconnection for non-payment during the winter season, which starts in November and ends in April. If you would like additional information about the new automated system please feel free to contact the office at (607) 746-2341, option 3.

### **Attention Co-op Veterans**

Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc. has always supported our United States veterans and therefore is pleased to announce an opportunity to show our appreciation for all of the veterans that this cooperative serves. The Coop's business associate, CoBank, located in Denver, Colorado has just announced the launch of a program for Veterans with disabilities

called "No Barriers". CoBank has partnered with the nonprofit group NO Barriers USA to sponsor up to 50 veterans from rural areas to participate in outdoor expeditions that challenge them mentally and physically and help them to transform their lives.

We encourage our members to submit a letter to the cooperative office to nominate a deserving veteran in your community with a VA disability rating. To submit your letter, please visit our website at <u>www.dce.coop/</u><u>content/no-barriers-usa</u>. If you would like to understand more of the program, please visit <u>www.nobarriersusa.org</u>.



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### President's Message: Financial Goals & Objectives

On behalf of the members of the Cooperative who elect us, your board of directors sets the strategic direction for the Cooperative. Changes in economics, regulations, technology, and energy markets are among the factors evaluated by the board on a regular basis. One of the most important elements of the strategy developed by the board of directors is the Cooperative's Financial Goals and Objectives.

Your board has established a set of Financial Goals and Objectives, which directs the Cooperative's staff to increase the percentage of the Cooperative owned by you our member and decrease the percentage mortgaged to our lenders. While meeting all of the Cooperative's commitments to our lenders, maintaining competitive electric rates, and making annual payments of capital credits to members, the Cooperative has also recently reduced our debt to our lenders by over \$500,000 per year.

In October of 2016 the Financial Goals and Objectives were revised to prepare the Cooperative for upcoming anticipated challenges and opportunities. We anticipate the need to make a major financial investment in Cooperative's headquarters facilities. To be prepared to make that investment, the updated Financial Goals and Objectives call on the Cooperative to develop a \$500,000 capital facilities cash reserve fund. In addition, the Cooperative will continue to strive to increase the percentage of the Cooperative owned by our members and decrease the percentage mortgaged to our lenders.

Each year your board of directors considers the financial condition of the Cooperative with respect to



Board President Steve Oles

these Financial Goals and Objectives before deciding how many capital credits can be paid to members through the annual retirement of capital credits. At the end of 2016, the Cooperative was able to retire \$350,000 in capital credits to our members. The decision to retire those capital credits was made by the board of directors after careful consideration of the established Financial Goals and Objectives. For more details about the Cooperative's Financial Goals and Objectives, please visit the DCEC website at <u>www.dce.coop/sites/dcec/files/PDF/Policies/ Financial\_Goals\_2016Dec27.pdf</u>

### **DCEC Completes Interconnection with NYSEG for Service to Greene Lumber**



DCEC Linemen working on the interconnection with NYSEG on Route 23 near Zimmerman Road in Harperfield

During October 2016, DCEC crews completed the construction of an electrical interconnection with NYSEG that allows NYSEG to provide electrical distribution service to the Greene Lumber Company mill at Route 23 near Butts Corners in the town of Davenport. The interconnection was placed into service on October 13, 2016. In order to provide the electrical distribution capacity that had been requested by NYSEG and Greene Lumber at the interconnection point in a safe and reliable manner, DCEC modified, upgraded and extended its operating electrical distribution system connected to its Kortright substation. Changes to the

DCEC system included the construction of a new three phase line along Route 23. Additional changes included the installation or relocation of several step transformers and dual voltage rated transformers which allowed for continuing service to existing member/consumers. System upgrades included the installation of new circuit voltage regulating equipment, circuit protection equipment and power factor correction equipment.

The DCEC Line Department and Right of Way Maintenance Crew completed the necessary field construction and right of way clearing work, respectively. Assistance was provided by the Otsego Electric Cooperative for selected construction tasks. DCEC staff completed the field engineering, staking and document preparation.

DCEC and its power supplier, the New York Power Authority (NYPA), worked together to install metering equipment which accurately measures the power quantities delivered at the interconnection point including an accounting for system losses on the DCEC system. DCEC appreciates the patience and understanding of those member/consumers that were subjected to interruptions of service during the project that allowed DCEC personnel to safely complete their work.

DCEC was pleased to be able to participate in this project along with the Delaware County Industrial Development Agency, the Greene Lumber Company and NYSEG to help foster economic development in Delaware County.

### The Cost of Clean Energy in NYS

New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo has set an aggressive state-wide goal of 50% renewable electricity by the year 2030. All electricity consumers in NYS will play a role in helping to achieve that goal. In order to encourage new renewable energy development by private companies, the State is starting a Renewable Energy Credit (REC) market. All companies that sell electricity directly to retail consumers in the State will be required to purchase a portion of their power supply from qualifying renewable energy projects. The Cooperative will begin purchasing RECs in January of 2017 in order to meet this obligation.

In addition to RECs to encourage new renewable energy development, the State is requiring companies like the Cooperative to purchase Zero Emissions Credits (ZECs). The money collected by the State selling ZECs will be used to temporarily subsidize the Upstate NY nuclear power plants, which currently produce approximately 17% of the State's electricity without releasing Carbon Dioxide or other greenhouse gas emissions to the air. The Governor views nuclear as a "bridge" to a renewable energy future. The Cooperative will begin purchasing ZECs in April of 2017 in order to

### FREE Trip to Washington D.C....*Continued from Page 1*

A completed application must include:

- Completed application form (see below).

1-page student essay describing yourself (including where you go to school, favorite subjects, extra-curricular activities, and community service you have been involved in) and what you hope to get out of participating in the trip.
Letter of recommendation from a teacher or administrator from your school, including your academic transcript

showing an academic standing of at least a "B" average or above.

## Generlink Transfer Switches

Plugs into 200 amp Meter Socket 20 ft Cord to Connect to Generator | Built in Surge Protector Accommodates 10,000 watt Generator

Available for Purchase at our Office

For More Information or to Confirm Compatibility Contact DCEC at (607) 746-2341.

meet this obligation.

mix.

The combination of RECs and ZECs will cost the

Cooperative approximately \$226,000 in 2017. The cost will

grow as we approach the target date of 2030 to achieve the

state-wide goal 50% renewable electricity. If you are

familiar with the Cooperative's existing power supply

toward our obligations for RECs or ZECs. Existing

renewable resources are considered part of the State's

baseline, which is already approximately one quarter renewable as of 2016. All companies that sell electricity to

retail consumers will contribute a proportionate share

toward achieving the state-wide goal, regardless of how

much renewable energy is in their existing power supply

The impact on the cost to an average residential member

during 2017 will be approximately \$2.85 per month. The

month. If you use more or less than 900 kWh per month,

average residential member uses about 900 kWh per

then the cost impact on you will vary accordingly.

portfolio, then you know that the Cooperative is already

approximately 90% renewable, but we get that renewable

energy from existing hydropower plants that do not count



- Attach a copy of your family's DCEC electric bill proving their membership in the Cooperative. Be available to meet with the DCEC General Manager and Board within one week's notice.

<u>Student Delegate Application:</u> Name:
Address:
Phone:
Email Address:
Parent or Guardian:
School:

## 2017 Board of Director Nominations & Nominating Committee

As a democratic organization, Cooperative members vote each year to elect directors to represent them on the DCEC Board. Elections for director positions occur at the DCEC's Annual Meeting in September. DCEC currently has 7 directors representing three regions of the DCEC's service territory (see DCEC Board Regions chart below). Directors serve 3-year terms. In accordance with the DCEC bylaws, a Nominating Committee considers members interested in serving on the board and nominates candidates for the election. If you are a bona-fide residential member of the Cooperative, at least 21 years old and are interested in being a candidate, or if you would like additional information, please contact the DCEC office.

In accordance with DCEC bylaws, the Nominating Committee must prepare a list of candidates for membership consideration at least 60 days prior to the Cooperative's Annual Meeting. The 2017 Annual Meeting of the Members is scheduled to be held <u>September 22</u>, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

Elections will occur at the 2017 Annual Meeting for three board seats representing all three regions.

Region	Current Director
Northern Region	Edward "Rusty" Pick
Central Region	Paul Menke
Southern Region	Frank Winkler

BOARD DISTRICTS					
Northern Region	Central Region	Southern Region			
Gilboa	Bovina	Andes			
Jefferson	Delhi	Colchester			
Summit	Franklin	Masonville			
Davenport	Hamden	Middletown			
Harpersfield	Kortright	Sidney			
Stamford	Meredith	Tompkins			
Maryland		Walton			
		Bainbridge			

### RHEEM PRESTIGE SERIES HYBRID HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER

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Call (607) 746-9284 for cost and information

The Committee will meet from March through June at the DCEC office at 39 Elm Street, Delhi, for the purpose of identifying candidates for the above positions. The committee must be comprised of between 5 and 11 members representing the geographic diversity of the DCEC service area. Members serving on the committee are offered a modest stipend for their service. If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact the DCEC office at (607) 746-9299.

Nominations for directors are governed by Article 4 of the Bylaws. A director may be nominated either through:

- 1) The <u>NOMINATING COMMITTEE</u>. The Nominating Committee meets to identify at least two candidates to run for each seat up for election.
- 2) The second way is by <u>PETITION</u>. Any 15 or more members may petition the Cooperative to place a qualified member on the ballot. This must be done at least 45 days before the Annual Meeting.

Rules regulating director elections are outlined in DCEC's bylaws which are available on: <u>www.dce.coop/content/</u><u>dcec-bylaws-policies</u>. Voting for directors is covered by Article 3. Each member may cast one ballot for a nominee for each seat up for election. *A married couple holding a joint membership are considered one member and will receive one ballot*.

DCEC would like to thank the members who served on the 2016 Nominating Committee: David Bartlem (Andes) Thomas Courtenay-Clack (Jefferson), Camilia Eldidi

(Harpersfield), Frank J. Eppich (Hamden), Committee Chair Christine Hauser (Stamford), Carol LaTourette (Sidney Center), and Steven R. Mason (Delhi).

### **DCEC Updates Website**

To welcome in 2017, we are pleased to present a new and improved website. We've been busy over the last few weeks updating our website. And finally, we are proud to announce the release of our newly updated site. We have streamlined and cleaned up our site in order to better serve you, our members. We hope you will take some time visiting and exploring our new site: <u>www.dce.coop</u>

### Co-op Donates to Christmas Feeling Fund, Inc.

Every year for Christmas DCEC employees, retirees, and the Board of Directors donate toys toward a local toy bank within the DCEC service territory. For 2016, the Cooperative chose Christmas Feeling Fund, Inc. The children range in age from one to sixteen and live within Delaware County. We hope the toys were a welcome sight to those children on Christmas morning. We look forward to donating for another local charity again next Christmas season.



### **DCEC Promotions**

DCEC is pleased to report that the following employees have been promoted: Kyle Shuman has been promoted to Second Year Lineman Apprentice. Dave Schmidt has been promoted to a First Class Lineman. Michael Schafer has been promoted to a First Class Gloving Lineman. Ryan Sullivan has been promoted to the Operations Manager. Betty Ives has been promoted to the Operations Clerk.

# Congratulations!



Left to right: Kyle Shuman, Dave Schmidt, Michael Schafer, Ryan Sullivan, & Betty Ives

### Youth Engagement Programs

DCEC is looking to partner up with local youth clubs to promote and inspire energy conversation. Any local youth clubs including but not limited to 4-H, Boy Scouts of America, and Girl Scouts of

America should contact the DCEC office for more information. The participating organizations will sell donated LED light bulbs as fundraisers and they will keep all the proceeds to support their mission. Please contact Mark Schneider at (607) 746-9282 about additional information.

**Energy Efficiency** Tip of the Month



A crackling fire in the hearth warms the house, but don't let it heat up your electric bill! Caulk around the fireplace hearth and keep the damper closed when a fire is not burning.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

### **Statement of Non-Discrimination**

Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc., is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <u>http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\_filing\_cust.html</u> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410	fax: (202) 690-7442; or email: <u>program.intake@usda.gov</u>
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USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

### Home Energy Assistance Program

Having trouble paying your energy bills? Heating Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded grant program that offers financial assistance to incomeeligible members who need help paying their energy related bills. Please contact your local Social Services office for additional information:

- Chenango County (607) 337-1500
- Delaware County (607) 832-5300
- Otsego County (607) 547-4355
- Schoharie County (518) 295-8334

2016-2017 HEAP Benefit Gross Monthly Income Guidelines		
Household Size	Maximum Gross Income	
1	\$2,300	
2	\$3,007	
3	\$3,715	
4	\$4,423	
5	\$5,130	
6	\$5,838	
7	\$5,971	
8	\$6,103	
9	\$6,236	
10	\$6,369	
11	\$6,671	

### **2017 Board Meeting Schedule**

January Board Meeting	January 24, 2017
February Board Meeting	March 7, 2017
March Board Meeting	March 28, 2017
April Board Meeting	May 2, 2017
May Board Meeting	May 30, 2017
June Board Meeting	June 27, 2017
July Board Meeting	July 25, 2017
August Board Meeting	August 22, 2017
September Board Meeting	September 26, 2017
October Board Meeting	October 24, 2017
November Board Meeting	November 28, 2017
December Board Meeting	December 19, 2017

\*All dates are subject to change. Please call the office to confirm meeting date before attending.

CATSKILL HI-LINE is a Publication of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc. and is published bi-monthly for the membership. The information contained herein is designed to communicate aspects of the cooperative to its members. Statements published do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Cooperative. The information has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, and the editor has exercised reasonable care to assure its accuracy.

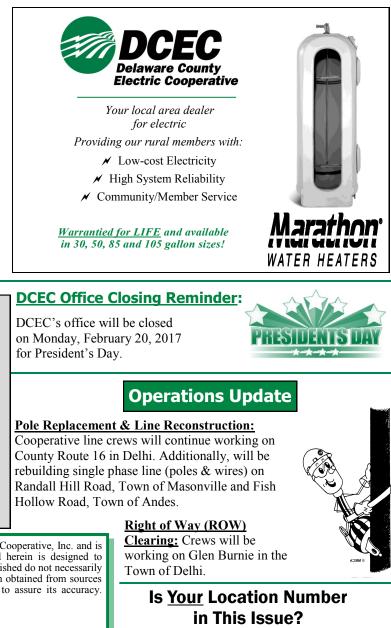
#### **Board of Directors**

President	Stephen Oles
Vice President	Hartley Russell
Secretary	Edward "Rusty" Pick
Treasurer	Frank Winkler
Director	Shawn Hartwell
Director	Paul Menke
Director	Steve Burnett
CEO/General Manager	Mark Schneider
Asst. General Manager.	Wayne Marshfield

Delaware County Electric Co-op., Inc. 39 Elm St., PO Box 471 Delhi, New York 13753-0471 607-746-2341 Toll Free: 866-436-1223 Fax: 607-746-7548 Email: office@dce.coop Web Site: www.dce.coop

### **Broadband Update**

The most up to date information and progress of the Delaware County Broadband Initiative (DCBI) project will always be available on the DCEC website, at www.dce.coop. This includes all progress updates, who to contact to install and connect internet service, and updated maps reflecting proposed expansion. If you have any questions about the project please call the office at (607) 746-2341.



Your service location number begins with two letters and is located on your bill next to your account number. Keep your eyes peeled for the "hidden location number" in this newsletter! If you find the number, and it is your service location you will receive a DCEC fleece sweatshirt! Good luck! JE 2-37-6B