O'CONNELL ELECTRIC

News and information for our employees, retirees, and friends

Special Holiday Message

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR EMPLOYEES & CUSTOMERS

O'CONNELL ELECTRIC COMPANY

Since 1911

Our strength as a full service electrical contractor is rooted in the diversity of our services

Corporate Headquarters

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Victor, NY 14564
585.924.2176

Albany

2360 Maxon Road Ext.
Schenectady, NY 12308
518.346.0077

Buffalo

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Lancaster, NY 14086
716.675.9010

Rochester

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Rochester, NY 14623
585.424.3472

Construction Services
400 Systems Road
Rochester, NY 14623
585.869.4630

Syracuse

Hancock Airpark
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Temperature Control	Victor/Rochester craig.ramsdell@oconnellelectric.com Syracuse donald.coon@oconnellelectric.com
Natural Gas	phil.matthews@oconnellelectric.com
Transportation - Airport - Bridge - Highway	richard.maher@oconnellelectric.com

www.oconnellelectric.com

NECA IBEW
POWERING AMERICA

ON THE COVER

Cable trays at Western NY Energy from the new electrical room to power the cooling system on site. Read more on Page 11.

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This newsletter is a publication of O'Connell Electric Company, Inc. For comments, inquiries, or to be added to our mailing list, email john.miller@oconnellelectric.com

A MESSAGE FROM

Victor Salerno

CEO and Co-Chairman

As we approach the end of calendar year 2021 our mutual effort and hard work continues to yield outstanding results. Engineering News Record (ENR) Magazine now has us ranked as the 26th largest US electrical contractor up from 29 last year. The Rochester Chamber of Commerce released its annual list of the regions fastest growing companies, ranking us at number 20 which, is pretty good for our size. Not bad for another "COVID" year.

Our backlog remains very strong now exceeding $300 million with some great additional opportunities continuing to be available to us. Much of this success is driven by our strong relationships with existing customers including general and mechanical contractors. Please continue to nurture any such relationships you may have.

One of my concerns going forward will be our ability to staff all of these new projects especially in light of many of the customers requiring anyone working on their property to have the COVID-19 vaccinations. For those who have not yet received the vaccine I would ask that you "PLEASE" consider getting it. This is especially important to protect "YOUR" family. We have a dear friend, unvaccinated, who contracted COVID-19 and we nearly lost her including her young daughter. They both ended up in the ICU and for a couple of weeks it was touch and go. Fortunately they have both recovered and all of our prayers were answered. When we were young, one of our greatest health concerns was getting polio, a very evil and harmful disease for young people. At the time most, if not all, young people were vaccinated to prevent them from getting polio. It worked and I can't remember the last time anyone has gotten this disease. Again, "PLEASE" consider getting the COVID-19 vaccine to primarily protect yourself and your family.

Have a great Holiday Season!

Thank you

Follow us online | **Submit your photos & news to be shared on our social media sites.**

O'CONNELL EMPLOYEES SAVE A LIFE IN HORRIFIC VEHICLE ACCIDENT

In September, electricians working on our Bitcoin Mining Project for Greenidge Generation in Dresden, NY were heading home for the day when they witnessed a horrific accident.

The accident occurred on Route 14 when a passenger vehicle turned into the path of a semi-tanker truck causing a head on collision with enough force to throw both vehicles about fifty feet off the road into a field. On impact, the passenger vehicle burst into flames. The driver was unresponsive and on fire.

Our employees, Matt Maher and Trevor Wasman, pulled off to the side of the road and immediately began emergency response actions. Matt, first to make it to the passenger vehicle, was able to open the driver's side door. Using his pocketknife, he cut the driver's seatbelt and dragged the victim from the car. The injured driver was still on fire and now in shock, and likely would not have survived if not for Matt's efforts.

Trevor Wasman took immediate action to control the scene by directing traffic while waiting for first responders to arrive.

The driver of the passenger vehicle was taken to Strong Hospital after suffering multiple injuries including broken bones and second degree burns. Had it not been for the immediate actions of Matt Maher, this event would have ended in tragedy.

We applaud the quick action and response efforts that all our employees took on this day!

From left to right - Trevor Wasman and Matt Maher, both LU 840 with Tom Parkes, President and COO.

AVANGRID | SAFETY COIN

At our Big Tree Substation project, a representative of AVANGRID presented a safety coin to Scott Riester, a Testing Technician in our Technical Services Group.

While O'Connell was preparing for an outage to energize the second house service transformer, Scott performed contact resistance measurements of the fuses set aside for this outage. While Scott was testing the fuses, he noticed some anomalies with the results and brought it to the attention of the team rather than just letting it go. This is an excellent example of our Human Performance Improvement initiative and *having a questioning attitude*.

"If you see something, say something and do something."

Congratulations, Scott. Thank you for your hard work and safety mindset.

OCE SAFETY MOMENT

FROM DAN OBERLIES - DIRECTOR OF SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT

As I write this message, we are heading into the final weeks of our 2021 safety year, which has been exceptional, however we have had some injuries and that is certainly not good. We need to continue our efforts every day to stop incidents and work toward zero injuries.

What has been good this year is what we have initiated and achieved: a Safety Excellence Award from NECA, kicked off our Human Performance Improvement Program, conducted high voltage awareness and electrical hazard awareness training, developed line clearance tree trimming safety training, hosted quarterly safety stand-downs, revised our subcontractor safety orientation, have seen a significant increase in *close call/good catch* reporting, launched the Office and Power Group Safety Committees, conducted several TapRooT® investigations that led to meaningful corrective actions, experienced a decrease in our OSHA measures and a decrease in our EMR, etc., and the list goes on!

In 2022, look for new and improved training offerings and safety program support. We look forward to further engraining Human Performance Improvement into our safety culture. We will continue to identify tools that allow us to work safer and more efficiently. As always, we welcome ideas from everyone for improving our safety program and culture. Please, send them along. The best safety solution and safety advancements come from our employees in the field executing all the tasks that involve risk.

A huge thanks goes out to every employee of O'Connell Electric. Your commitment to your own safety and the safety of your peers is greatly appreciated. We also thank our valued customers who have collaborated with us on safety and have challenged us to be a safer company with better safety programs.

There is no doubt, we are leading our industry when it comes to safety innovation and performance.

SAFETY SHOUTOUTS

"I would like to give a shoutout to our Safety Team – specifically Brian Chamberlain and Ondrya Magnato. I think we sometimes overlook the fact that these folks step up every time when asked to do so. Throughout the recent pandemic, both Brian and Ondrya supported my projects and field needs. They are always available for site specific questions, clarifications for required safe work practices as well as helping procure the correct safety equipment that is needed for the field to do their job safe. Thank you both!"

- Submitted by Phil Matthews, Project Manager

"Shoutout to Shaun Bagley, Foreman, and Nate Anastasi, Second Year Apprentice, both LU 86, for calling an "all stop" and reporting it appropriately. At a large job site in Rochester, Nate was operating a construction forklift in an area with multiple people giving him different hand signals. Nate recognized the confusing situation as the operator, stopped the forklift and called an "all stop". A single person was designated as the spotter and work resumed. Shaun reported what happened so others could learn from the situation for something that went right – calling an all stop. Shaun also called attention to Nate's courage to say something, mentioning that 'it takes a lot to stand up to crew members in situations like this, especially for a young apprentice.'"

- Submitted by Brian Chamberlain, Safety Coordinator

"I want to send a safety shoutout to David Goulette, LU 910 Foreman, who loaded and secured three sections of scaffolding, the cross braces, and planks in the back of my truck. Between the impact of hitting a full size deer at 50 MPH and my knee-jerk reaction of slamming on the brakes as hard as I could, that load could have easily come through the back window. As it was, nothing moved. David had it all anchored in a way so it would not shift."

- Submitted by Phil Yandow, Project Manager

FIELD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Happy Holidays and New Year from OCE's Field Safety Team!

Pictured Left to Right, Back Row - Mark Valerio, Richard Lattimore, Brian Chamberlain, Noah Gifford, Kim Denman, Mike Farah, John May, Trey Vaughan, Tom Carnevale, Doug Carpino, Guenther Mundorff.

Front Row - Mike Halko, Ondrya Mangato, Scott Rohr, Jeff Harter, Matt Yonts.

Questions or Concerns?
Contact Jeff Harter, Committee Chairman at jeff.harter@oconnellelectric.com

OUTSIDE LINE ALL-HANDS MEETING

In October, our Power Group's Transmission and Distribution teams gathered for several hours in multiple locations across NY State and the New England area to conduct an All-Hands Meeting. This annual event is used to provide safety and industry updates, share corporate news and information as well as provide an open forum for our field workforce to discuss specific topics and share any concerns.

A particular point of interest this year was having local law enforcement officers attend a meeting with our largest group of employees to personally discuss commercial traffic laws and share common violations they see on the roads. Officers demonstrated a full commercial vehicle inspection and answered questions about interpreting certain laws and regulations.

In all, 280 linemen and inside electricians supporting operations for the T&D team attended the meetings.

ENR New York BEST PROJECTS OF 2021

ENR New York recently announced the region's "Best Projects of 2021" which happened to include several submissions for projects that O'Connell was proudly involved with. Although this contest is targeted toward engineering and construction firms, it is still notable to share that our IBEW crafts men and women played a hand. This year more than two dozen projects won in 33 categories. Winners were named for Best Project and Award of Merit.

SU VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER

RIT CYBERSECURITY INSTITUTE

SU STADIUM

O'Connell supported two projects that won Best Project and one for Award of Merit:

Category: Higher Education/Research

Best: National Veterans Resource Center at Syracuse University - Submitted by LeChase Construction

Merit: Rochester Institute of Technology Global Cybersecurity Institute - Submitted by LaBella Associates

Category: Sports/Entertainment

Best: Syracuse University Stadium Roof Replacement - Submitted by The Hayner Hoyt Corporation

NFPA 70E TRAINING

Recently, our Technical Services Group hosted multiple classes for NFPA 70E training to ensure many of our customers remain compliant while working around energized electrical equipment at their place of work. The course is an important part of meeting the NFPA's requirements to training qualified personnel on safe work practices and how to implement them.

FOREMAN DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

2021 - 2022 PROGRAM

Our continued success with projects will hinge on developing well-rounded foremen that think and act in a leadership capacity inspired to exemplify the core values necessary to motivate our employees to perform at the highest level of craftsmanship. After the success of our first Foreman Development Program in 2019, we're glad to have kicked off our second program this year while navigating COVID-19 restrictions. Foremen were nominated to participate in the program consisting of thirteen modules covering topics ranging from OCE-specific procedures, leadership, and communication techniques. With each class, participants will be exposed to everything from estimating a project through startup, material management, labor relations, man-loading and managing production through documentation, change management and project closeout. Three cohorts will complete the program simultaneously. One group started in Victor this Fall, while two more will begin after the first of the year in 2022.

Our first cohort started our second Foremen Development Program this Fall. Two more are scheduled to start in early 2022.

Left to right: Bruce Vassallo (OCE Instructor and retired Division Manager), Tom Clapper LU 86, Scott Philp LU 86, Mike McMullen LU 86, Brandie Lushbaugh LU 86, Robert Murphy LU 86, Luis Cartagena LU 86, Tim Pearson LU 86, Tom Murphy LU 43 (OCE Instructor)

Happy Holidays

AND A PROSPEROUS, HEALTHY NEW YEAR

As the Holiday Season comes to an end, there is still so much to be thankful for. We are grateful for our working relationships and friendships with each and every employee and business partner who has continued to shape our company.

Our holiday wishes to you, your families, and your business for a happier, healthier, more peaceful, and prosperous New Year in 2022!

We look forward to working with you in the years to come.

All of us at O'Connell strongly feel that we have been very blessed and are fortunate for the relationships we have with our vendors, customers and communities we live and work in.

This holiday season we decided to share this good fortune in your honor by making charitable donations to local organizations in the communities where each of our offices are located.

Rochester

Hope Hall School

Established in 1994, Hope Hall School provides an opportunity for educationally marginalized children to become successful lifelong learners. Serving students in grades 3 through 12 from 18 school districts in the Greater Rochester Area, Hope Hall's nurturing, non-threatening, creative atmosphere encourages students to take risks in learning and helps them reverse the cycle of academic failure.

The Salvation Army

Dedicated to doing the most good in our communities, the Salvation Army is an organization that seeks to meet human needs without discrimination. In the greater Rochester Area, this includes emergency and family services, hunger relief, youth empowerment, housing support, combating addiction, combating human trafficking, emergency disaster services and sharing God's Love.

Syracuse

Hospice of Central New York

Hospice of CNY is a dedicated network of doctors, nurses, social workers, grief counselors, chaplains and family caregivers working together to provide comprehensive comfort care to patients and families facing end-of-life and life-limiting illness.

Food Bank of Central New York

Food Bank of Central New York serves as the main food distribution hub for hundreds of partner agencies that comprise the emergency food network in an 11-county service region across central and northern New York. The food bank provides more than 22.5 million pounds of food – the equivalent of 18.7 million meals – to hungry families, children, and elderly every year.

Buffalo

Veterans One-Stop Center

The Veterans One-Stop Center of WNY provides supportive services to veterans and their families in a convenient single location. The Center empowers veterans to achieve economic success, housing stability, and emotional health and well-being by offering a wide holistic range of social and health services needed to complete the transition from military to civilian life.

NAMI Buffalo & Erie County

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Buffalo & Erie County has served Western New York since 1984 and continues to support, educate, and advocate for families and caregivers of individuals affected by mental illness.

Albany

City Mission of Schenectady

The purpose of City Mission of Schenectady is to establish and maintain programs and ministries that address the physical, social, and spiritual needs of the poor as well as those who are under-resourced.

Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York

This food bank has been helping to feed the poor and hungry since 1982. It is the only organization of its kind in Northeastern New York. The organization collects and distributes food to charitable agencies serving hungry and disadvantaged people in 23 counties. From Plattsburgh to Newburgh, the food bank provides over 55 million pounds of food a year to 1,000 agencies.

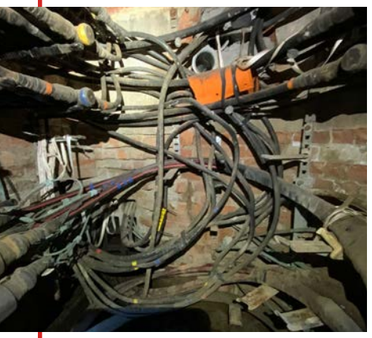
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT UPDATES

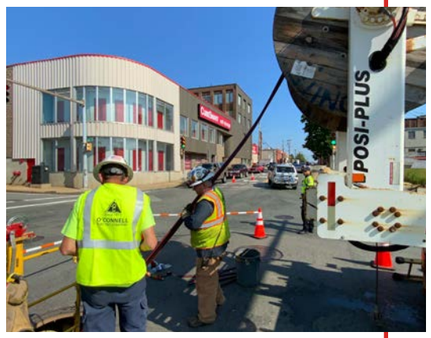
Still in its infancy, our new vegetation management team has experienced significant growth since we started offering additional services for our utility customers this Spring. In the beginning months we had just a few crews supporting tree trimming work for our make-ready projects across the state. When our line crews started seeing the operational efficiency of having in-house tree trimmers, demand increased significantly. We quickly hired a general foreman and site safety representative to the team, and today, have more than 50 dedicated vegetation management employees.

We are fortunate to have an abundance of work scheduled to keep these new crews busy, which has allowed us to scale the division as well as properly train a diverse group of vegetation management personnel. Now with two general foremen on staff, we have successfully bid and completed multiple projects for customers including the Buffalo Airport and Pennsylvania Power and Light (PPL), along with our continued make-ready work.

Feedback from our customers has been very positive. PPL has contracted us to provide tree and brush removal services at more than a dozen substations and is also considering hiring us to support T&D work soon. We have also been bidding work for our large utility customers with anticipation of being awarded several projects for 2022.

It has been an exciting year for our Vegetation Management team. We are continuing to enhance and evolve our strategy to support sustained growth for this division long into the future.





BROCKTON, MA UNDERGROUND WORK

In March of 2021, O'Connell Electric underground crews were offered the opportunity to participate on National Grid's Brockton Underground Network Conversion project in Brockton, MA. What began as a trial effort to assist with two of potentially five proposed work steps has since resulted in O'Connell being awarded with the remaining seventeen work steps through 2022. This is a testament to the level of safety and quality our crews are providing.

Due to an aging and susceptible existing secondary network system, the Brockton underground network is being replaced with secondary radial feeds extending from newly installed underground equipment along with primary and secondary cable expansions to provide the city of Brockton with reliable power.

Our crews have worked diligently to complete manhole surveys, above/below ground equipment removals and installations, manhole racking and grounding, primary/secondary cable installation and removals, and primary/secondary cable splicing and terminations. All of this work is occurring while competing with downtown Brockton's city traffic, which can get pretty hectic!

DIVISION:
Power Group T&D

PROJECT MANAGER:
Doug Marolf

GENERAL FOREMAN:
Scott Rohr

WESTERN NEW YORK ENERGY

One of the largest bio-fuel producers in the Northeast, Western NY Energy is investing $33 million to expand its processing plant by 15,000 square feet. The space will be used to install a world-class distillation system capable of producing 15 million gallons of high-purity alcohol annually, allowing new customers access to hand sanitizer, beverages and pharmaceutical products.

The alcohol will be plant-based as are most products the company produces, which supports local growers and its many customers sustainability goals.

Western NY Energy is a locally owned company founded in 2004. It was the first bio-fuel plant in the Northeast United States and is currently the only large-scale facility in New York, producing over 60 million gallons of ethanol annually.

The expansion will add 10 full-time jobs in Orleans County, the company employs 55 now.

O'Connell was contracted to support the entire electrical infrastructure through all phases of the project.

DIVISIONS: Rochester Construction, Technical Services Group, Power Group

PROJECT MANAGERS: Phil Matthews, Rochester Construction; Todd Ennis, Technical Services Group; Rick Catalfo, Power Group

GENERAL FOREMEN: Jeff Yuzva, LU 237 and Roy Schumacher, LU 237

DUNKIRK STATION

O'Connell Electric was contracted by National Grid to perform the full construction and commissioning of their Dunkirk Substation Asset Separation Project.

The scope of work includes the full separation of National Grid's assets at the Dunkirk Station from the generation facility. Dunkirk is a 230/115/34.5kV station located directly outside of the NRG Dunkirk Steam Station. This substation is a shared facility co-owned by National Grid and NRG serving as an interconnection point for Dunkirk Steam to the electric grid at 230kV, 115kV, and 34.5kV transmission levels.

The plant was originally constructed in the early 1950's by Niagara Mohawk as the sole owner of the generation and transmission but has since been owned by NRG.

O'Connell was contracted to separate National Grid's assets from NRG and relocate all the relays and controls to a newly constructed control house in the center of the existing yard.

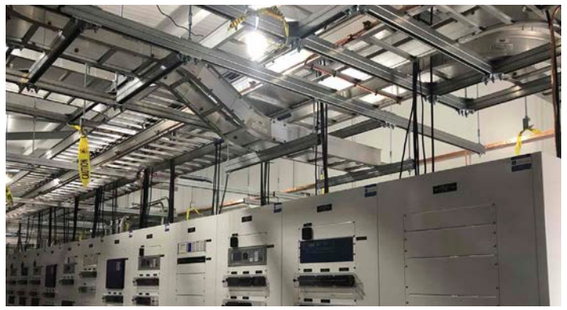
Our project team is also responsible for the entire testing/commissioning and cutover scope, which is an extremely complex and highly coordinated process.

Our crews have worked approximately 100,000-man-hours to date.

DIVISIONS: Power Group and Technical Services Group

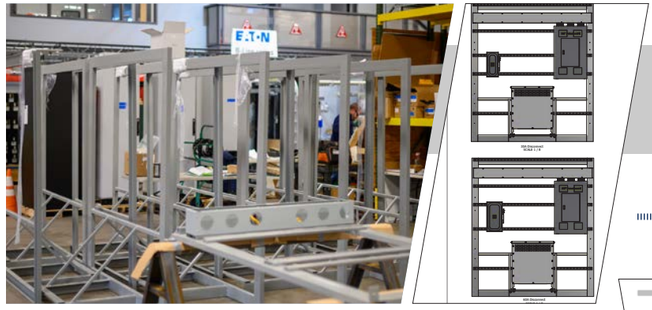
PROJECT MANAGERS: Chris Rittenhouse, Power Group and Chad Anderson, Technical Services Group

GENERAL FOREMEN: Mark Brunner, Power Group LU 86 and John Sargent, Technical Services Group Senior PE



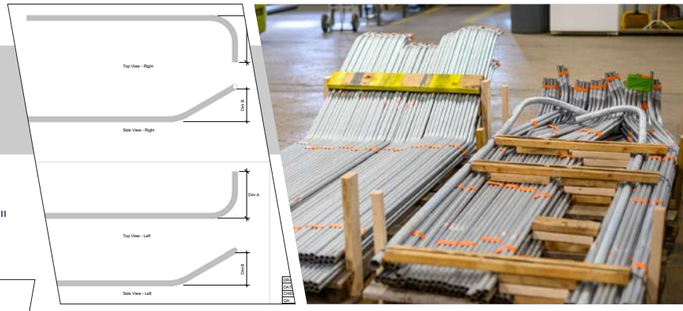
From Prefab to the Field

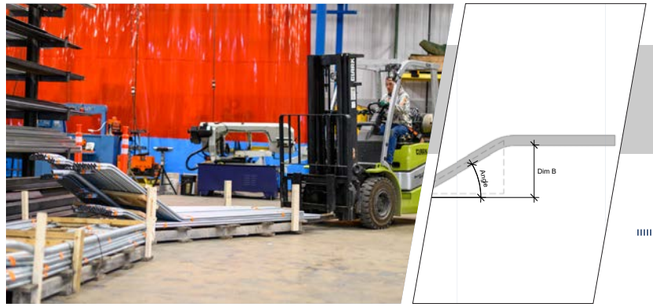
Updates from our Construction Services Team



Equipment racks for ROC1 - Amazon Distribution Center

Pre-fabbed conduit for Mohawk Valley Health System





Pre-fabbed conduit for Mohawk Valley Health System

FROM THE FIELD

Send us your pictures to be featured on our social media and in our newsletter!

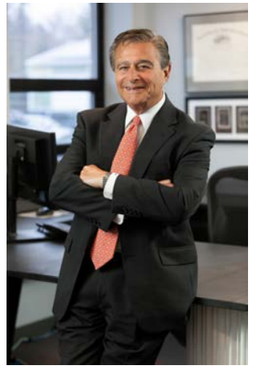
An intense and very focused day of work commenced on Sunday, November 7 as 55 crew members including two safety personnel and one mechanic, completed 21 structure replacements and a handful of re-frames for National Grid. The work had to be executed with very limited access to the structures and adjacent to an active railroad. Trucks were parked a mere four feet from trains while they passed by. O'Connell was granted an outage at 10:00 AM and completed the structure changes by 8:00 PM that night, hitting the target of completion within the one-day outage. An impressive feat considering all the planning, coordination and additional safety precautions that needed to be put in place.

"I want to share a huge thanks to everyone who was there and involved in the project."
– Tom Stewart, Superintendent, LU 1249

Employee News

New Employees and Position Changes

Timothy Boldt	General Counsel, Victor
Andrew Crossway	Project Coordinator Intern, Power Group
Juanita Holt	Materials Buyer, Victor
Karen Kime	Payroll Specialist, Victor
Richard Lattimore	Safety Coordinator, Power Group
Hannah McLaughlin	Project Coordinator, Power Group
Timothy (TJ) Nerau	IT Support Specialist, Victor
Matthew Smith	Project Manager, Power Group Buffalo
Danelle Telarico	HR Specialist, Victor



Congrats, Joe!

Joe Turri, General Counsel, was selected for inclusion in the 2022 Best Lawyers in America rankings.

Best Lawyers RECOGNIZED BY

CONSTRUCTION FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

Jeff Gould, CFO, and David Adams, Director of IT and Quality Assurance, were recently published through the Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA) with an article titled "Cybersecurity Best Practices for Field Employees."

The article dives into what an actual "computer environment" entails and the security risks associated with such systems, which can get very complex.

say hello

Recent Additions to our O'Connell Family

Kayla and Aubrey Chase

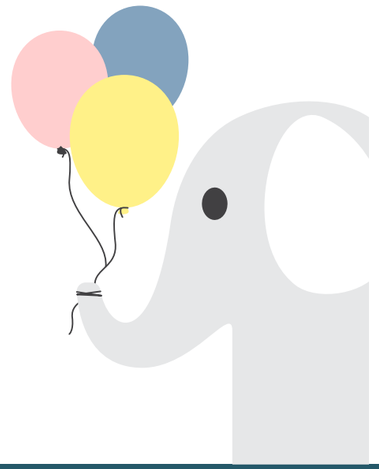
Dale Peters, Technical Services Group Consultant, welcomed twin granddaughters!

Colton Gerald Stewart

Meredith and Tom Stewart, Superintendent LU 1249, welcomed their third child October 14th!

Kira Lennox Seavey

Dwayne Palmer (Cheech), General Foreman LU 1249, welcomed another grandbaby!



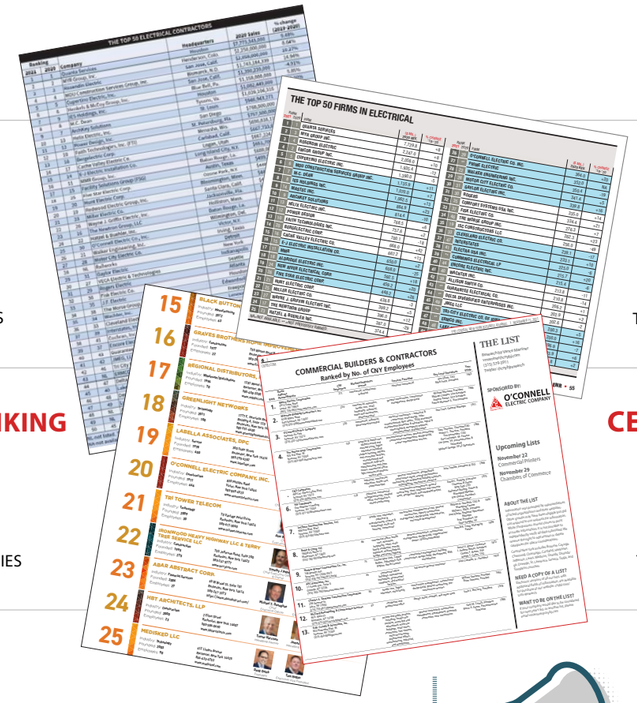
Congratulations

Recent Awards and Achievements

EC&M RANKING

#25

TOP 50 ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS



ENR RANKING

#26

TOP 50 ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

ROCHESTER TOP 100 RANKING

#20

TOP 100 FASTEST GROWING COMPANIES

CENTRAL NY RANKING

#3

TOP COMMERCIAL CONTRACTORS

TREE LIGHTING FOR HOSPICE OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

Our Syracuse Office pre-fabricated a thirty-foot tree for The Hospice of Central New York in preparation for the holiday season. OCE employees also installed permanent lighting to illuminate the trees in the solace/ prayer area. Looks great - Nice work, team!

EMPLOYEE SHOUTOUT

*"**Kelley Nudd** has helped the OCE Safety Team tremendously with her support in keeping track of all attendees for HPI and other training events into the JJ Keller System. Thank you for the help!"*

- Matt Yonts, Senior Safety Supervisor

*"**Josh Ringen** is always willing to help out with safety administration tasks - scheduling trainings, PM Safety Audit Counts, Toolbox Talks, tracking Tailboards and among other tasks. Josh always comes through, he is a huge help to our team!*

- Todd Forman, Safety Coordinator

Interested in making an employee shoutout?
Contact Marketing - John Miller or Lexie Poudrier

O'CONNELL
ELECTRIC COMPANY
Since 1911
830 Phillips Road | Victor, NY 14564