



LIVE WIRE

Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc. Vol. 12, NO. 3

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MARCH 2007

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Toll Free:
1-877-892-0001

Outage Reporting:
1-800-410-4790,
toll free,
24 hours/day,
7 days/week.

Automated Customer Service Line:
1-800-311-8556, toll free
410-479-4206
(Caroline Co.)

Internet site:
www.choptankelectric.coop

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Co-op issues "Call2Recycle"

With its eye on the environment, Choptank Electric Cooperative has joined a national program called *Call2Recycle*TM that helps people to conveniently recycle their used rechargeable batteries and old cell phones.

Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-ion), and Small Sealed Lead* (Pb) rechargeable batteries are commonly found in many portable electronics used in businesses such as cellular phones, laptop computers, two-way radios, bar code readers, and portable printers. Rechargeable batteries are also found in household electronics such as cordless telephones, cordless power tools and camcorders. When the battery is no longer rechargeable, Choptank Electric is assisting in the recycling process.

Choptank and more than 30,000 businesses nationwide are working in cooperation with the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC), a nonprofit public service organization that operates the *Call2Recycle* program. By participating in the RBRC Program, the cooperative is helping to conserve the earth's natural resources and to prevent rechargeable batteries and cell phones from entering the country's landfills.

Some states, including Maryland, have disposal bans for Ni-Cd and Pb batteries. These batteries are prohibited from being thrown in the trash and must be sent for recycling through manufacturer/distributor or



Richard Karn, "Al" in TV's "Home Improvement" is the national spokesman for the recycling program.

other collection programs.

It was estimated that by 2005, roughly 200 million cell phones would be in use in the United States, and approximately 130 million phones would be retired each year. More than 350 million rechargeable batteries are bought by consumers each 6 years. When the batteries no longer hold a charge, most are tossed into a trash can and eventually make it into the environment.

"We are pleased to join the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's national partnership with RBRC," said Fred Hubbard, president and CEO. "Co-ops around the nation are committed to the communities they serve and committed to being good stewards of the environment. To encourage consumer action in this recycling effort we are

placing special receptacles in our six district offices."

Mr. Hubbard said there will be RBRC-provided collection boxes at offices in Pocomoke, Berlin, Salisbury, Cambridge, Denton and Chestertown for co-op members and the general public to use. He said Choptank will be recycling its own rechargeable batteries as well.

The collected cell phones and batteries are sent to a recycling facility for processing. Metals are reclaimed from the batteries and prepared for use in new products such as new batteries and stainless steel. Cell phones are refurbished and resold when possible. All rechargeable batteries from cell phone are recycled. A portion of the proceeds received from the resale of phones benefits select charities.

Website redesign has new features

Ebilling will debut in April at www.choptankelectric.coop

Choptank's website has received a total facelift which will be unveiled on April 2.

While retaining much of the information now available, the site will have new features and should be easier to navigate.

A new, more efficient credit card processing system introduced at the co-op on Feb. 1 will spill over to the website.

Customer Service Representatives in the call center and district offices and several office specialist have started to process credit card payments by using the E-bill link from National Information Systems Cooperative (NISC).

With the E-bill link, the employee handling the credit card transaction will access the member's account, click on an E-bill link, and go directly into the process of authorizing the credit card. They will be able to tell the customer within approximately 30 seconds whether the card has been accepted or declined.

Not only will the new method increase efficiency, but the cooperative will also realize a savings in credit

card fees.

The cooperative plans to extend the change to its redesigned website. When a member signs up to pay his bill on-line he may also elect to receive his bill electronically via email. Even if the member does not choose to receive the bill electronically, he may still view a copy of the bill that has been mailed to him.

While members have been able to pay their bills by credit card through Choptank's website for several years, that process is not real time and the member could not view his bill.

Another added benefit of the new method is that in the near future Choptank will be accepting e-check through the Internet and over the telephone. This enables the member to pay a bill using their checking account but without having to use an actual paper check.

When the redesigned website debuts in April, it will also feature a first of its kind, eLearning University dedicated to providing local entrepreneurs

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Choptank members inducted into Maryland Ag Hall of Fame

Maryland has its own Agriculture Hall of Fame to honor leading families in a profession upon which this state and nation was founded.

Governor Martin O'Malley joined over 700 agricultural leaders from across the State on February 2 to induct two farming families into the Governor's Agriculture Hall of Fame. The Malkus family of Blackwater Farms, Choptank Electric members in Dorchester County became the 32nd recipient of the prestigious recognition during the annual Maryland Agriculture Dinner. The Donald Dell family of Cranberry Meadow Farm in Carroll County became the 33rd recipient.

"It is my honor to stand along side the Dells and the Malkuses to recognize their outstanding accomplishments, commitment and contributions to farm, family and community," said Governor O'Malley. "In honoring these two families, who represent more than a century of farming in Maryland, we also honor the dedication and hard work of every farmer in this state."

The Malkus family, Milton Jr., Ted, Calvin, Sonny, Bill and Pat, operate Blackwater Farms, a 3,200 acre diversified grain farm in Dorchester County. They produce corn, soybeans, small grain, straw, timber and hogs. The Malkuses are stewards of the land, using various soil and water conservation practices and participating in farm-land preservation.

The family members are also agricultural leaders and active in the community, serving in numerous roles on the Maryland Soybean

Board, Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association, Farm Bureau, Soil Conservation, the Dorchester County Forestry Board, Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce and the Maryland Agricultural Commission. Ted is the Dorchester County representative to the Choptank Electric Trust Board of Directors, and Milton most recently served as a member of the cooperative's nominating committee.

"All of Maryland agriculture has benefited from the efforts of the Dell and Malkus families, and we are honored to welcome them into the Maryland Agriculture Hall of Fame," said Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Lewis R. Riley. "Through their efforts, both families have made valuable contributions to agriculture and to their communities."

"They are a unique family in that they have been progressive and adopted new practices that would improve their operation while remaining humble and appreciative of their neighbors and local community. They have given so much to their church, community, agriculture, as well as their family and friends," said Ronald Wade, retired UMD Extension Ag Agent, who has known the Malkus Family since 1956.

The Governor's Agriculture Hall of Fame was begun in 1991 by then Governor William Donald Schaefer to honor agricultural leaders who exemplify high standards of achievement and commitment to the industry and their communities.

(Source: Maryland Department of Agriculture)

Site Redesign

Cont. from page 1

and small businesses with the real world tools and information they need to be successful.

"SmallBizU" is being launched to encourage small business development in local communities.

Co-op members will have complete access — free of charge — to 25 core courses, each about three hours long, at www.smallbizu.org/nreca through a link from the Choptank site.

SmallBizU will focus on delivering state-of-the-art small business education with courses featuring the 3M's: Money, Marketing, and Management.

SmallBizUTM

"Co-op members will be able to click on the SmallBizU icon on our website and go straight to a self-tutorial that covers every facet of small business start-ups," said Deborah Rementer, manager of key accounts. "It's value-added for members and will provide opportunities for those who want to launch a small business, entrepreneurs, youngsters interested in starting their own enterprise, retired members with an idea and graduate students," she added.

Courses range from beginner level classes such as Marketing 101 and Finding Money, to more advanced courses such as Market Insight and Research and Strategic Planning and Execution.

The courses are Web-accessed and self-tutorial in format, typically ranging from 170 to 200 slides presented over a three to four hour period. Course presentations require Web access through a Windows PC and Internet Explorer.

Each course is delivered via the internet full of animated slides accompanied by voice-over narration, PowerPoint presentations, worksheets, toolsets, and access to a comprehensive knowledgebase.

SmallBizU tells you how it's actually done in a small business, not in a textbook. The creators of the courses have honed their skills at real small businesses.

The SmallBizU icon can be found on the home page of Choptank's website.

"We are excited to unveil our redesigned website," said Anne Whaples, manager of cooperative communications. "It is easy to navigate and there is a wealth of information available."

She said "Weather Bug," a site featuring local and national weather forecasts is also a new feature.

"We think members will like the new features, especially e-bill, and I encourage everyone to explore other parts of the site such as real time outage information, Job Line, Touchstone Energy Home Energy Audit and our award-winning Power Kids pages," Mrs. Whaples said.

Beware counterfeit trademarks

Trademark counterfeiting has reached the electrical sector. Counterfeiters have targeted well-known industrial and consumer brands, and registered certification marks of testing and certification laboratories, according to Tom Mills, co-op supervisor of safety, training and compliance. "Counterfeit electrical products can pose significant safety hazards and left undetected, can cause death, injury and substantial property loss in the home and the workplace," he said.

The electrical products targeted by counterfeiters apply to those used by both consumers and industries. The list includes control relays for industrial equipment, lamps, electronic lamp ballasts, dry cell batteries, lithium ion batteries, smoke detectors, fuses, circuit breakers, electrical receptacles, ground fault circuit interrupters, conduit fittings, power strips and surge suppressors, electrical cord sets (extension cords), power cords, telecommunications cable, and electrical connectors.

Mr. Mills noted that the following tips

could help avoid potentially dangerous counterfeit electrical products:

Look for the CSA, UL or ETL-SEMKO Certification marks. If you have concerns about the marks, contact the certifier.

Buyers should beware of bargains that seem too good to be true. Products may be cheap because they are counterfeit or defective.

Use established vendors who purchase their goods from legitimate distributors and genuine manufacturers. Fly-by-night vendors may not be willing to grant refunds for electrical products that do not perform as they should.

Check the warning label. It should be free of grammatical errors and not conflict with information elsewhere on the package.

Look for the name and contact information of the manufacturer. If this information is missing, consider purchasing electrical products elsewhere.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), www.esfi.org



Bruce Hubbard, right, accepts congratulations and a plaque recognizing his 43 years with the co-op from CEO — and brother — Fred Hubbard.

Bruce Hubbard bids farewell after 43 years

Alec Bruce Hubbard retired from Choptank Electric Cooperative in March after 43 years of service.

“Bruce” was hired on April 1, 1964 as an Apprentice Lineman for the co-op’s Cambridge District. He progressed through the apprentice program and became a Journeyman in 1967.

Bruce transferred to the Denton District in 1969. He became a Chief Lineman for the Denton District in 1977, a position that he held until he was named Contractor Coordinator in 1990. He continued in this

position until his retirement.

As Contractor Coordinator he acted as liaison between contracting crews and Choptank Electric. He was responsible for quality control of their work in meeting co-op specification as well as coordinating materials for the crews.

Bruce, his wife Dinah Kaye, and their family live near Denton.

The Hubbards have been a very active foster family in Caroline County for many years and have been foster parents to over 140 children.

Choptank Electric Trust Grants for January

Crossroads Community Inc., Queen Anne’s Co., Central A/C/ in rehabilitation residence, \$5,000
 Habitat for Humanity, Talbot Co., HVAC system, \$3,850
 Mid-Delmarva Family YMCA, Wicomico Co., swimming scholarships, \$5,000
 Vienna Vol. Fire Co., Dorchester Co., portable power packs, \$661.95
 Eldorado-Brookview Vol. Fire Co., Dorchester Co., replace roof, \$5,900

Caroline Co. Parks and Recreation, youth basketball jerseys, \$1,000
 Union Asbury Methodist Church, Somerset Co., church sign, \$500
 Samaritan Group, Inc., Kent Co., emergency winter shelter program, \$3,000
 Assistance to disabled individuals:
 Home repairs, \$1,180; bariatric bed, \$2,500; electric scooter and van lift, \$2,500
 lift chair, \$700

CHOPTANK SECURITY

Choptank Security offers the very best in wireless, supervised security technology, plus LifeGard, the personal home emergency system.

Yes, I am interested in a no cost home security/life safety analysis at my home. Please call me to set up an appointment:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Best time to call _____

Send me information about Choptank Security’s maintenance program.

Send to: Choptank Security Systems, Attn: June Lederer
 P.O. Box 310, Denton MD 21629



Recent outages on co-op system

Sinepuxent, 1.10, 293 members, 3 hr. 30 min., dig in
 New Hope, 1/18, 471 members, 50 min., equipment fault
 Oil City, 1/18, 967 members, 2 hr.; 37 members, 1 hr., unknown
 Hobbs, 1/18, 1344 members, 2 hr., unknown
 Edgewood, 1/20, 251 members, 2 hr., accident
 Ocean Pines, 1/26, 1802 members, 30 min., overload; 2/2, 1628 members, 1 hr. 35 min., equipment fault
 Earleville, 2/14, 1096 members, 1-7 hrs., ice storm related, wind/trees; Kennedyville, 2/14, 139 members, 1-4 hrs., ice storm related, trees/accident
(Please note: Outages listed are for 200+ members)

Reminder:
Applications for 2007 Choptank Electric Trust Scholarships are due March 31.
For info call 1-877-892-0001, x3074

Watt’s the Answer?

Win \$10 credit on your bill in our monthly trivia contest. Readers sending the correct answer are entered in a drawing. Entries must be postmarked/dated by April 5.

Watt’s the Answer for March: Disney’s EPCOT is celebrating its 25th year. What does EPCOT stand for?

Send to: Watt’s the Answer? Choptank Electric, P.O. Box 430, Denton MD 21629 or annew@choptankelectric.coop. Please provide account or phone number.

The January winner is Robert Lutz Sr., White Marsh. The answer for the purposes of the contest is “celery.” “Negative calorie” theory is part urban legend, but does have some truth to it. The snopes.com urban legends page says: To be a source of “negative calories,” food must have fewer calories than we use eating it. Since everything contains calories, this concept appears impossible, but there are foods whose energy content is not released into our bodies because we lack the ability to break them down. Cellulose in plants contains a good amount of carbohydrates, but they are in a form we cannot digest, so we fail to absorb their calories.

Celery has about 6 calories per stalk, and although it’s loaded with latent energy, the amount we can extract from it is negligible thanks to the plant’s cellulose composition. Its ingestion can result in negative calories, but the effect has nothing to do with chewing. It is the bodily energy devoted to the digestion of celery that uses calories.

SHORE GOOD TO KNOW

Pine Steppers Square Dance Club workshop every Wed., 7 p.m., Ocean Pines Community Hall. 410-835-3534 or 208-6777.

Vietnam Vets of America, 1st Thurs., 7 p.m., Easton VFW. 410-943-1374. Lower Shore, 3rd Thurs., VFW 194, Salisbury. 410-651-0904.

Bay Country Chorus (barbershop), every Mon., 7 p.m., Miller Hall, behind Trinity Cathedral, Goldsborough St., Easton. 410-770-8262.

Bingo: Willards VFC, Thurs., 7 p.m., Lions Bldg., 410-835-8678; Pittsville VFC, Fri., 7 p.m. 410-835-2323; Federalsburg VFW, Thurs., 7:20 p.m. 410-754-5020; Hurlock Legion, Fri., 7:30 p.m., 410-943-8205; Denton Legion, Tues., 6 p.m., 410-479-2708; Redmen, Fruitland, Mon., 6:30 p.m. 410-742-6859; Willards Lions, Tues., 7 p.m. 410-835-2328;

Peninsula's barbershop chorus, every Tues. 7:30 p.m., Wicomico Civic Ctr., Flanders Rm., Salisbury. 410-641-8927 or 410-543-8628.

Ocean Bay Chorus, Sweet Adelines, every Mon., 7 p.m., Wicomico Civic Center, Flanders Room, Salisbury. 410-749-0991.

Ocean Waves Square Dance Club workshop, every Tues., 7 p.m., Wicomico Civic Ctr., Salisbury. 410-742-2398 or 883-3723.

Delmarva Chorus, Sweet Adelines, every Mon., 7 p.m., Ocean Pines Community Center. 410-641-6876.

Disabled American Veterans Chap. 34, 4th Thurs., 1 p.m., Meuse VFW Post 194, Salisbury. 410-749-4518.

Chesapeake Christian Riders CMA #453, 1st Thurs, Bob Evans Restaurant, Easton, 6 p.m. All welcome. 410-943-8325.

Pinochle Group, every Wed., 9:45 a.m., 410-641-8836, Bridge Club, every Wed., 10 a.m., 410-641-7667, Ocean Pines Yacht Club.

Pepper Steppers Square Dance, 2nd Sat., 8 p.m., First UM Church Hall, Chestertown. 410-758-1454 or 778-4578.

Heartland Quilt Guild, 1st Thur., 7-9, Choptank Electric mtg. rm., Denton, 410-482-8131.

Women Supporting Women (breast cancer group), 3rd Wed., 7 p.m., Atlantic Business Ctr., Ste. 213, Berlin, 410-641-2849.

Eastern Shore Bluegrass Assn., show & jam, 2nd Sun., 1 p.m., Marydel Fire Co. 302-674-3149 or 492-1048.

TOPS weight loss: Tuesdays - 6:30 p.m., 1st Baptist, Marydel, 410-482-6694; 6 p.m., 418 Dutchman's La., Greensboro; 6 p.m., Caroline Nsg. Home sun room, 410-482-2658; 6 p.m., Worcester Co. Health Dept. Thursdays - 7 p.m., Christ UMC, Salisbury, 410-546-4197/543-9039; Church of God, Easton; 6 p.m. 410-822-2630/673-2248; National Assn. of Retired Federal Employees, 3rd Thurs., call for mtg. places, 410-749-6635/742-8073; Chap. 2274, 4th Thurs., Hall's Restaurant, Ocean City, 11:30 a.m., 410-641-2755.

Activity Singles Klub, Easton, 2nd Wed., 410-822-7468.

Health Prog., pregnant women & children to age 19. Kent, 410-778-7035, QA, 410-758-0720, Tal., 410-819-5690, Car., 410-479-8004.

Eastern Shore Stamp Club, 1st Tues., Wicomico Library, Salisbury, 6:30 p.m. 410-208-2929; Tidewater Stamp Club, 2nd & 4th Tue., 7 p.m., 14 S. Harrison St., 2nd fl., Easton. 410-822-6471.

Duplicate bridge: Riverside Homes, Salisbury, Mon., 7 p.m. 410-835-8343; Tred Avon, Wed., noon, Talbot Community Ctr., Rt. 50, Easton. 410-226-5126.

Queen Anne's Chapter, Barbershop Harmony Society, Wed., 7:30 p.m., Centreville UM Church, Rt. 213. 410-827-7993.

All you can eat breakfast, Eldorado-Brookview Firehouse, 3rd Sun., Sept.-May, 7:30-10:30 a.m. \$6. 410-883-2520.

Overeaters Anonymous, Sat., 10 a.m., Christ UM Church, Ed. Blg., Salisbury. 410-376-0164; Fri., noon, Family Connection Ctr., 29 Broad St., Ste. 209, Berlin. 410-629-0679.

Friends of the Ocean Pines Library, 2nd Mon., 10 a.m., main mtg. room of library. 410-208-2760.

Merry Widows & Widowers Social Club, 3rd Tues., 2:30 p.m., Ocean Pines Country Club. 410-208-6207; Beach Singles 45+, last Tues, 6

p.m. 410-208-3974; Delmarva Singles, 50+, 1st Wed., 6 p.m. 410-742-8310 or jasuth@intercom.net.

Denton Alcoholics Anonymous, 105 Gay St., Thurs., 8 p.m.; Co-Dependents Anonymous, Sun., 6:30 p.m., Christ UMC, Ed. Bldg., Salisbury. 410-376-0164; Dual Recovery Anonymous Wor. Co. Library, Pocomoke, Mon., 7 p.m.

Worcester Chorale, Wed., 7 p.m., Community Church, Rt. 589, Ocean Pines. 410-208-1999.

Line Dance, 2nd Fri., 7:30 p.m., Fraternal Order of Police Lodge, Kitt's Hummock Rd., Dover DE. 410-699-1074. Beginners line dance lessons, 6 p.m., Harrington, DE area. 410-699-1074 info.

Talbot Humane Society, Easton, low cost spay/neuter clinic, every Thurs. for cats. Call for appt., 410-822-0107.

Dorchester Swingers Square Dance, 1st Fri. 8 p.m., Maple Elementary School, Cambridge. 410-822-7535 or 410-228-8294.

"Just for Me" story times, Wed. in April, Dorchester Library, Cambridge, 10:30-11, Hurlock, 10-10:30. Ages 2-4. Book Babies, Tues. in April, Cambridge, 10:30-11, 9 to 24 mo. Registration needed. 410-228-7331.

Free computer classes, Basic Intro to Word Processing, April 2, Denton, April 3, Greensboro, April 26, Federalsburg, repeats in June. Sign up necessary at each location.

Caribbean music with Attiba from Trinidad, steel drums, Mar. 16, 7 p.m., Caroline Co. Library, Denton. 410-479-1343.

Cystic Fibrosis benefit "Focus on a Cure for CF" sporting clay tournament, Pintail Point, Queenstown. 410-827-7029.

Quilt Gathering, Ruthsburg Community Ctr., Mar. 17, 10-3:30, admission, lunch available. 410-364-5689.

Fabulous Hubcaps, Mar. 23, Sailwinds Park, Cambridge, floor show, dance. Order tickets, 410-228-7245.

Classical guitarist Peter Fletcher, Mar. 24, 7 p.m., Caroline Co. Public Library, Denton. 410-479-1343.

Fruitland Easter Parade, Mar. 31, 10 a.m., egg hunt follows at Fruitland Little League Park, 11:30 a.m.

Easter crafts/stories, April 4, 4-5, Dorchester Library, Hurlock, ages 5-10. 410-943-4331. April 7, 10:30-11:30, Central Library, Cambridge. 410-228-7331. Please register.

Preston Vol. Fire Co., Toy & Tractor Show, April 6, 6-9, April 7, 9-4, at firehouse. 410-673-7126 or 7874. www.prestonvfd.org

Dorchester Swingers, square dance, April 6, 8-10:30 p.m., Pleasant Day Adult Day Care, Rt. 16, Cambridge. 410-822-7535.

Spring Celebration, April 7, Main Street, Berlin, 10-5, breakfast with the bunny, games, entertainment, more. 410-641-4775.

Sudlersville Vol. Fire Co. Truck Pull, April 7, 3 p.m., Queen Anne's Co. 4-H Park, Centreville. \$2 admission. 410-438-3155.

Book discussion, "One Man's Mission to Fight Terrorism & Build Nations," April 9, 7-9, Caroline Library, Denton.

Antiques Show/Sale, Literacy League of Dorchester, Sailwinds Park, Cambridge, April 14, 10-6, April 15, 10-4. \$8 admission.

Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra Concert, Community Church, Ocean Pines, April 22, 3 p.m., Adm. 888-846-8600.

Mason Dixon Classic Chevy Club Benefit Poker Run, April 22, 10 a.m., West Side Intermediate School, Hebron. 410-641-3184.

Ward World Championship Wildfowl Carving, Ocean City Conv. Ctr., April 27, 10-6, April 28, 9-6, April 29, 10-4. 410-742-4988.

Chesapeake Heart Walk, April 28, 9 a.m., registration, 10 a.m. walk, Terrapin Park, Stevensville. 410-758-8300.

SEND EVENTS: Shore Good to Know, Choptank Electric, P.O. Box 430, Denton, MD 21629; or anew@choptankelectric.coop two months prior to event if possible. Include phone number.