NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2026

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CHOPTANK ELECTRIC

Cooperative Living

LIGHTING UP YOUR HOLIDAYS ON THE SHORE



Choptank Electric Cooperative

Choptank Fiber

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Merry & Bright Energy Savings

As November begins, it's hard to believe the holiday season is just around the corner. Soon, we'll be gathering with family and friends to celebrate the season. While the holidays bring plenty of joy and warmth, cooler temperatures and more time spent indoors can also lead to increased energy use.

With additional guests in the home and more activities taking place inside, your household's energy use can add up. Fortunately, a few simple steps can help you conserve energy and keep your bills in check throughout the holiday season.

One of the easiest places to start is with your thermostat. Heating accounts for a significant portion of energy used in the average home, making your thermostat an important opportunity for savings. Consider lowering the temperature by a few degrees when you have family and friends visiting. With a full house, the added warmth from guests can help keep your home comfortable.

When decorating for the holidays, consider choosing LED holiday lights. LEDs use significantly less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs and last much longer, making them an energy-efficient choice for brightening your home throughout the season.

Of course, one of the best parts of the holidays is the food and the time spent together in the kitchen. When preparing meals, consider using smaller countertop appliances, such as air fryers, slow cookers and toaster ovens. These appliances can use less energy than a conventional oven, making them a convenient option for holiday cooking while helping you save energy.

As you make your holiday plans, I encourage you to incorporate these simple energy-saving and safety tips into your celebrations. For additional energy efficiency and safety information, visit choptankelectric.coop. From all of us at Choptank Electric Cooperative, we wish you and your family a safe, happy and energy-efficient holiday season.



Mike Malandro,
President & CEO
Choptank Electric Co-op

Write to us: P.O. Box 430 | Denton, MD | 21629
Member Service Center: 1-877-892-0001
Automated Member Service: 844-975-2746 Outage Reporting: 1-800-410-4790
CHOPTANKELECTRIC.COOP

Get Your HVAC Winter-Ready

As November settles in and temperatures begin to drop, your HVAC system will soon become one of the hardest-working appliances in your home. Before your system takes on the extra workload this winter, now is a great time to ensure it is optimized and ready to go.

Start with something simple. One of the easiest and most effective steps you can take is checking filters. A clogged or dirty filter makes it harder for air to move through your system, which can cause it to work longer and harder than necessary. Check filters regularly and replace them according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Vents matter too. Look around your home to make sure furniture, curtains, rugs and other household items aren't blocking any supply or return vents.

If you have a heat pump, your outdoor unit also deserves extra attention this time of year. Falling leaves, limbs and other debris can collect around the unit and restrict airflow, so keep the area around your outdoor unit clear. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's cleaning recommendations. If you have a traditional central air-conditioning system, your outdoor unit will likely remain idle during winter months, but it's still good practice to keep it clear of debris.

Don't overlook what you can't see. With forced-air systems, ductwork plays an essential role in delivering heated air throughout your home. Leaks, gaps or disconnected sections can allow conditioned air to escape before it reaches the rooms where you need it. If you've noticed rooms that never seem to be comfortable or have unusually high energy use, ask an HVAC professional to inspect your ductwork.

Fall is also an ideal time for a professional tune-up. A technician can inspect your heating system, identify potential problems and make sure it is operating safely and efficiently before the coldest weather arrives. Regular professional maintenance can also help extend the life of your equipment.

Finally, take more control of your energy use by proactively managing your thermostat. There's no reason to heat an empty house. Lowering the temperature when you're asleep or away can help reduce energy use. Better yet, a programmable or smart thermostat can make those adjustments automatically, taking one more task off your to-do list.

Your home heating system has an important job this winter. Giving it a little extra attention this fall to help the system operate more efficiently, reduce unnecessary energy use and potentially prevent an inconvenient breakdown on a cold winter night. To learn more about our Chop-A-Watt Energy Saver Program and see if you qualify, visit *choptankelectric.coop/chop-a-watt*.



Maximize System Performance. **Minimize** Energy Waste.

Whether your heating and cooling system is brand-new or 10 years old, regular maintenance can help your system run efficiently, keep energy costs in check and extend its life.

Filter Care
Every 2-3 months

- Check your air filter and replace it as recommended. A dirty filter can restrict airflow and make your system work harder.
- Keep return and supply vents clear of furniture, rugs and other obstructions. Dust them regularly.



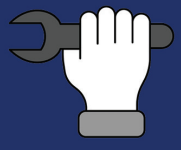
Outdoor Unit Care
Once or twice a year

- Keep leaves, grass and other debris at least 2 feet away from the outdoor unit.
- Gently rinse dirty condenser coils with a garden hose, following your manufacturer's recommendations.



Proactive Service
Twice a year

- Schedule professional tuneups in spring for cooling and fall for heating.
- Have ductwork checked for leaks or disconnected sections, and seal leaks with mastic or foil-backed tape.



Thermostat Smarts
Year-round

- Adjust your thermostat when you're asleep or away. In summer, set it a little higher; in winter, a little lower.
- Consider a programmable or smart thermostat to automatically manage temperatures and save energy.





A little maintenance can go a long way.
Contact your Choptank Electric Cooperative if you have questions about home energy use.

Photo Credit: Lennox

Turkey Fryer Safety

Keep holiday meals joyful—avoid fires and injuries

Deep-frying a turkey can be delicious, but it's also one of the riskiest ways to cook. Before you plug in or fire up a fryer, follow these safety tips:

Set Up Safely

- Use outdoor fryers at least 10 feet away from buildings, garages and overhangs.
- Place the fryer on a flat, sturdy surface and don't move it once it's heating.
- Never leave a fryer unattended.
- Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away.

Prevent Burns and Fires

- Wear oven mitts and use long utensils to avoid contact with hot surfaces and oil.
- Test the oil level before cooking. Fill the fryer with water and lower the turkey in to see how much liquid is needed. Dry everything completely before adding oil.
- Use a fully thawed and dry turkey—never fry a frozen one.
- Use a thermometer to make sure oil is at the recommended temperature.
- Avoid overloading outlets if using an electric fryer. Unplug other appliances before use.



Smart Tip

Consider using an electric fryer or going oil-free with an air fryer for safer indoor cooking options.





Ready for an Adventure?

Youth Tour Applications Now Available!

Are you a high school junior ready for an unforgettable summer adventure in Washington, D.C.? Choptank Electric Cooperative is looking for five high school juniors to join the Cooperative at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) 2027 Youth Tour, taking place June 19-23 in Washington, D.C.

This all-expenses-paid experience is more than a trip to the nation's capital. Throughout the week, students will build leadership skills, make new friends from across the country and get a firsthand look at our country's government and history.



Youth Tour participants will have the opportunity to:

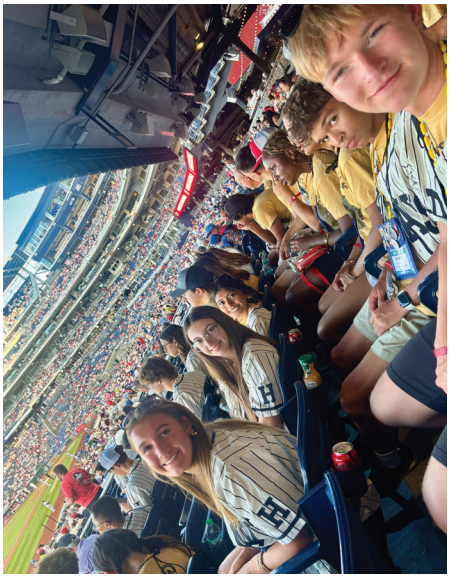
- Meet with members of Congress and Maryland's elected officials
- Tour the U.S. Capitol and Capitol Visitor Center
- Visit Arlington National Cemetery
- Explore monuments, museums and other D.C. landmarks
- Enjoy a dinner boat cruise on the Potomac River
- Cheer on the Washington Nationals at a baseball game
- Connect with more than 2,000 students from across the country

Choptank Electric Cooperative selects Youth Tour representatives through an application process that includes a digital application and a virtual interview.

To qualify, students must be high school juniors whose parent or guardian is a Choptank Electric Cooperative member. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29, 2027.

Applications are available now at *choptankelectric.coop*. Students can also contact their school guidance office or call Choptank Electric Cooperative at 1-877-892-0001 for more information.

Don't miss your chance to be part of an experience you'll remember long after the summer is over. Build leadership skills, make lifelong connections, explore Washington, D.C., and discover what it means to be part of the cooperative community. Apply today!





https://choptankelectric.paperform.co/

★ Thank you for your service ★

to our country and the cooperative.

CHOPTANK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE VETERAN EMPLOYEES AND BOARD MEMBERS



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Journeyman Lineman



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Meter & Apparatus Tech



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Scott Maurer
Work Order & Material Coordinator



Brian Postles
Apprentice Lineman



Scott Smart Jr.
Journeyman Lineman



Bob Thompson
Vice Chairman of the Board



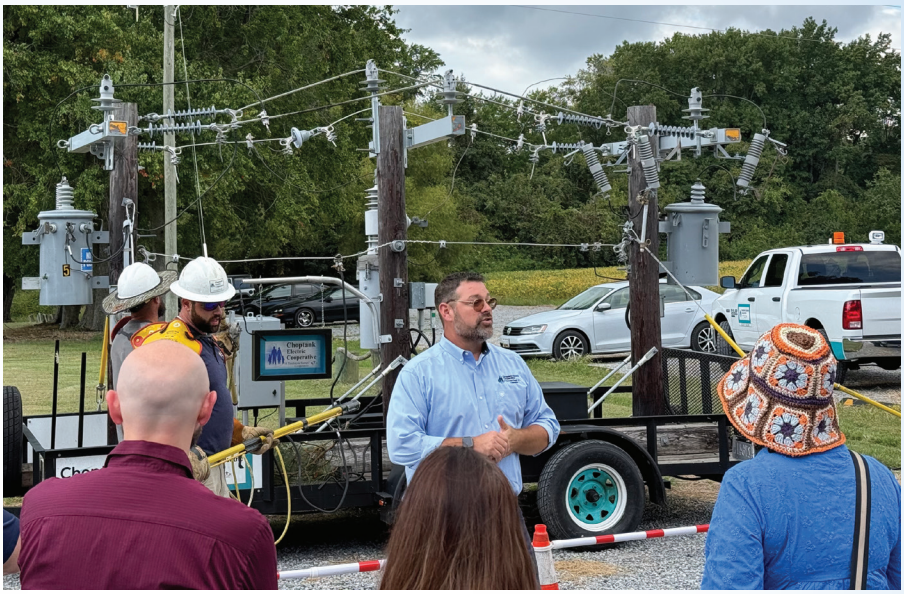
Marion Townsend
Meter & Apparatus Tech



Otis Wagner Jr.
Work Order & Material Coordinator

Choptank IN THE OUT FIELD





Our team gave a hotline safety demonstration to the Mid-Shore Regional Council during their "Everything Energy" tour around Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot counties in September.

Choptank Electric Cooperative BUZZ

Choptank congratulates the following employees on their promotions:

Tyler Blackiston

Journeyman Lineman

Austin Peet

Journeyman Lineman

Welcoming New Employees



Eric Smith
Apprentice Lineman 6th Class

Experience: Growmark FS, Rock Creek Line Construction

Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, farming and going out on the boat

Looking forward to: Learning and growing within the company, furthering my career and working closely with a good group of coworkers



THANK YOU FOR ROUNDING UP!

In August, the Choptank Electric Trust awarded $700 to The Red Devils Organization to purchase T-shirts for the 14th annual Saddlin' Up for Breast Cancer Ride. The event was held Sept. 19 at Tuckahoe Equestrian Center to raise funds and awareness to support breast cancer patients and their families on the Eastern Shore. The Red Devils Organization provides medical, family and transportation support services at no charge to breast cancer patients during treatment.

"We started the Saddlin' Up for Breast Cancer Ride at Tuckahoe Equestrian Center 14 years ago with 20 or so riders and a handful of donations," says Irene Pasta, an event coordinator. "The fundraiser has grown with the support of sponsors, riders and volunteers. It has been a journey and a beautiful ride. With all our heart, we thank you!"

This year, the event raised nearly $13,000 and featured a trail ride, live and silent auctions, a riding demonstration and a horse parade. For more information about the event and photos, visit their Facebook page: *facebook.com/saddlinupforbreastcancer.*

Choptank Electric Trust, Inc.

The Choptank Electric Trust is a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation funded by Operation Round Up donations from members of Choptank Electric. Funds from the Trust are distributed throughout Maryland's nine Eastern Shore counties. To apply or to find out more about this program:

> ***choptankelectric.coop/operation-round-trust-fund***

September 2026 Trust Awards

- Talbot Bible Church $777
- Eastern Shore Ballet Theatre. $1,000
- Haven Ministries $2,000
- Maryland Concerns of Police Survivors $2,000
- QA County Make a Difference Day. $1,000
- Salisbury Jaycees Foundation, Inc. $500

The total of approved applications for September was $17,602, which included $10,325 for individual home and medical expenses.

Choptank Electric Cooperative

Choptank Fiber

Choptank Electric and Choptank Fiber exist to provide reliable and cost-effective services that improve the quality of life for our communities.

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