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CHOPTANK ELECTRIC

Cooperative Living



For changes of address, please contact Choptank Electric Cooperative.

Choptank Electric Cooperative

Choptank Fiber

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO
HALLOWEEN TIP: PHANTOM LOADS

October brings cooler temperatures, changing leaves and of course, Halloween. While you may be preparing for trick-or-treaters and decorating your home for the season, there may be another kind of "ghost" lurking in your house: phantom loads.

Phantom loads, also known as standby power, are the electricity used by electronic devices even when they are turned off or are not actively being used. Many common household electronics, including televisions, gaming systems, computers, printers and kitchen appliances, continue to draw small amounts of electricity as long as they remain plugged in.

One device may not use enough electricity to make a noticeable difference on your monthly bill. However, when you consider how many electronics are plugged in throughout your home and how long they remain connected to an outlet, those small amounts can add up over time.

There are several simple ways to reduce phantom loads. Unplug electronics that are rarely used, such as seasonal decorations or guest-room appliances. You can also connect multiple devices to a power strip and turn it off when those electronics are not needed. Smart power strips can make this even easier by automatically cutting power to certain devices when they are not in use.

This Halloween, don't let phantom loads haunt your home. Take a walk through your house and look for electronics that may be using electricity even when they are not in use. A few simple changes can help reduce unnecessary energy use and keep these energy "ghosts" from lingering year-round.

At Choptank Electric, we are committed to helping our members make informed decisions about their energy use. Small changes in how we use electricity can make a difference over time. For more energy-saving tips and information about programs available to members, visit choptankelectric.coop/energy-efficiency.

From all of us at the co-op, have a safe and happy Halloween!



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



A Historic Property, Now Connected

By **McKayla Kiernan**, Communications Specialist

For more than 300 years, Worsell Manor has stood as a landmark in Warwick, Maryland, preserving a piece of the Eastern Shore's rich history. For over a decade, the historic property has also served as a wedding venue, welcoming couples and their guests to celebrate special moments. Now, Choptank Fiber is helping bring modern connectivity to the historic property, providing high-speed fiber internet throughout the entire venue. Worsell Manor can offer guests the modern connectivity they expect while preserving the charm and character that makes this Eastern Shore landmark so special.

Worsell Manor's history dates back to 1683, when the property originated as a 1,000-acre land grant from Lord Baltimore to Peter Sayer.

Today, the property retains its rural character and historic setting, with the manor house recognized as a fine example of mid-Georgian architecture and one of the few remaining examples of its period in Cecil County. Scott Millar and his wife, Barbara, purchased the property in 2012 after it had sat abandoned for 15 years, taking on the task of restoring and preserving a piece of the Eastern Shore's history. The property has since become a wedding and event venue while maintaining many of its original historic features. The all-original brick manor sleeps up to 16 guests and features five bathrooms, providing a unique setting for couples and their guests.

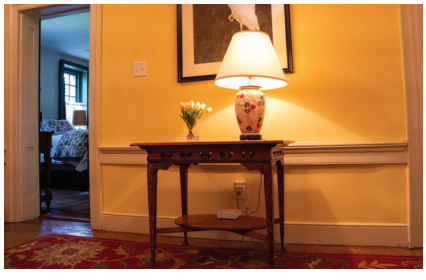


Preserving the property's historic character came with its own modern-day challenges, including reliable internet access. Before Choptank Fiber, Millar says the property relied on 5G and mobile hotspots, which were "sketchy and unreliable."

Choptank Fiber's installation provided coverage across the

> *"It's not very often that you get to go through structures that are older than our country,"*
>
> **– Evan Roe, Supervisor of Fiber Services**

entire property while keeping the technology as unobtrusive as possible. The project included an optical network terminal (ONT), gateway and six extenders, strategically placed throughout the property to provide reliable indoor and outdoor coverage.



"Working on Pleasant Farms at Worsell Manor was a unique situation," said Evan Roe, Supervisor of Fiber Services. "The owner wanted to bring the most modern Wi-Fi technology to the complex while not making it obvious against its 1680s facade."

The Choptank Fiber team worked closely with the owners to provide coverage throughout the manor, barns and outdoor areas without compromising the property's historic appearance. Inside the manor, access points were hardwired and placed in inconspicuous locations throughout the three floors. In the barns, Ethernet lines were carefully routed along existing rafters. For outdoor coverage, two power-over-Ethernet access points were mounted near the top of an existing windmill behind the barn, positioned below the roofline so they would remain out of sight in photographs of the manor.

For Roe and the installation team, the project was about more than simply connecting a property to the internet. It was about finding a way to introduce modern technology without taking away from a place that has stood for centuries.



"Working with such an old and historic venue was a true honor to our team," Roe said. "It's not very often that you get to go through structures that are older than our country. It was very important to us to give the best coverage and service that we could, without being seen."

For more information about Worsell Manor, visit: *worsellmanor.com*



INCREASE YOUR **SAFETY YIELD** DURING HARVEST



Especially during the busy harvest season, help decrease the chances of an electrical related incident:

- Always use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines — at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never try to move or raise a power line for clearance; instead call us.

If your equipment does come in contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.



It only takes one shot to produce a repair cost of $20,000 with an extended outage.

CHOPTANKFIBER.COM/DSTL

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Co-op Month Word Search

Did you know October is National Co-op Month?

Read the following facts to learn how co-ops are unique, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.

B	T	A	M	L	J	S	T	K	S	N	B	M	T	M
S	R	G	T	A	C	F	V	E	S	I	S	U	J	P
Z	Q	Z	M	M	V	G	L	K	E	F	U	F	A	J
Q	R	F	R	M	N	P	C	W	I	Z	N	G	K	K
L	A	E	Q	B	I	N	P	C	T	N	V	K	T	W
H	K	V	H	C	X	I	C	B	I	H	Y	S	I	S
X	S	O	N	T	C	W	B	L	N	E	F	D	U	F
P	Z	I	M	R	E	R	I	W	U	L	H	F	K	I
C	R	C	Y	E	X	G	T	H	M	O	B	M	G	B
P	A	D	O	U	M	D	O	Z	M	C	J	W	Y	T
A	A	T	U	V	Z	B	X	T	O	A	Q	J	B	X
I	F	D	H	F	O	S	E	N	C	L	W	O	J	V
L	U	P	C	O	O	P	E	R	A	T	I	V	E	F
F	F	C	N	K	B	S	I	I	S	Q	D	S	U	Y
A	X	S	Y	X	Y	B	P	G	G	B	M	D	P	D

Fun Facts about Co-ops:

- Co-ops and their members work **together** toward a common goal.
- Co-ops are local organizations, so they understand the **communities** they serve.
- All co-ops operate according to the same set of seven cooperative **principles**.
- Concern for community is the seventh **cooperative** principle.
- Co-ops don't serve customers; instead, they serve **members**.
- Co-ops are led by the **local** members they serve.

2027 Notice of Election of the Board of Directors

In conjunction with the 2027 Annual Meeting of Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc., an election of directors will be held for Dorchester, Kent and Queen Anne's Counties.

If you are interested in being a candidate for one of these positions, please complete, sign and deliver a 2027 Petition for Nomination of Candidate for Director by 4 p.m. on Friday, December 18, 2026.

The completed petition must be delivered to the attention of the Credentials & Election Committee, c/o Dawn Bowie, Choptank Electric Cooperative either:

(a) by hand delivery or courier to the headquarters office, 10384 River Road, Denton, MD 21629; (b) by mail to P.O. Box 430, Denton, MD 21629; or (c) by email to Dawn Bowie at dawnb@choptankelectric.coop. Any applications received after Friday, December 18, 2026, will not be reviewed by the committee.

Members can obtain a copy of the 2027 Petition for Nomination of Candidate for Director, beginning November 2, 2026, on our website at *choptankelectric.coop* under Member Services, Annual Meeting or by calling our Member Service Center at 1.877.892.0001 to request a mailed copy.

Please review the Bylaws (under Governance on the website) for additional requirements regarding Board of Director positions. The election results will be announced at the 2027 annual member meeting, which will be held on Thursday, April 22, 2027, at the Fountains Wedding & Conference Center located at 1800 Sweetbay Dr., Salisbury, MD 21804.

Register for Girl Power® Eastern Shore

The 2026 Girl Power Eastern Shore event will take place on November 5 at Choptank Electric Cooperative's Training Center in Salisbury, Maryland. Throughout the day, participants will rotate through interactive demonstrations, outdoor activities, classroom sessions and presentations led by utility professionals. Safety is a key focus of the program, with students learning about topics such as utility pole climbing techniques, bucket truck operations and safe work practices.

Girl POWER®

To learn more or register for Girl Power, visit *vmdaec.com/girl-power-camp* or scan the QR code. Registration for the Salisbury event closes October 29, 2026.



Choptank Electric Cooperative BUZZ

Choptank congratulates the following employees on their promotions:

Linnie Vann
journeyman Lineman

Jimmy Creighton
Apprentice Lineman 4th Class

Hunter Rodgers
Apprentice Lineman 2nd Class

Welcoming New Employees



Byron Allison
Electronics Technician I

Experience: Queen Anne's County Government and Talon Security

Hobbies: Spending time with friends and family, cooking, lifting weights, playing sports, learning new things and video games

Looking forward to: Learning, sharpening my skills and being part of an amazing organization

Choptank OUT IN THE FIELD

We enjoyed talking with members at the Queen Anne's and Dorchester/Caroline County Fairs this summer!











THANK YOU FOR ROUNDING UP!

For 50 years, the **Pony Express 4-H Club** has helped local youth develop confidence, responsibility and lifelong skills through their love of horses. Founded in 1976, the club now has more than 45 members who participate in a variety of activities throughout the year.

Members have opportunities to strengthen their horsemanship skills through trail rides, speed shows and other activities, while the annual fair gives them a chance to showcase the hard work they've put into their project horses. Through 4-H, members also learn important skills such as public speaking, record-keeping, organization and responsibility.

The horse barn serves as an important gathering place for the club and its members. In July, the Choptank Electric Cooperative Trust donated $3,499 to support improvements at the horse barn, including a new PA system for the arena. The new system will help improve communication during events and provide a better experience for members, families and spectators.

Club leaders Shannon Dill and Jana Hutchison, along with numerous volunteers, play an important role in providing members with opportunities to learn, compete and grow.

As the Pony Express 4-H Club celebrates its 50th anniversary, its legacy continues through the generations of young people who have learned valuable lessons through their experiences with horses and 4-H. The club looks forward to continuing that tradition and creating new memories for its members for years to come.

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***

August 2026 Trust Awards

- Col Tench Tilghman Sons of the American Revolution. . . $1,000
- Eastern Shore Wellness Solutions $2,802
- Eldorado Brookview Volunteer Fire Dept $3,000
- Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce $500
- NCHS Band Association of Parent & Students $4,811
- Saddlin' Up for Breast Cancer Ride. $700
- Women & Girls Fund of the Mid Shore. $2,500

The total of approved applications for August was $23,484, which included $8,170 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.

President & CEO

Micheal E. Malandro

Board of Directors

John J. Burke Jr.
Chairman, Cecil Co.

Robert B. Thompson
Vice Chairman, Ocean Pines District

Donna Richardson West
Secretary, Worcester Co.

Amy Ireland Brandt
Treasurer, Caroline Co.

Douglas D. Scott
Dorchester Co.

Kristen E. Nickerson
Kent Co.

Robert E. Arnold
Queen Anne's Co.

Craig N. Mathies Sr.
Somerset Co.

Jeffery D. Rathell Sr.
Talbot Co.

Matthew R. Holloway
Wicomico Co.