

CAUTION

UTICOM 1/91

HIGH VOLTAGE

DO NOT ENTER THIS ENCLOSURE

UNDERGROUND POWER CABLES ARE LOCATED IN THIS AREA. BEFORE DRIVING STAKES or DIGGING, PLEASE CALL YOUR LOCAL CEC OFFICE.



DO NOT ERECT ANY STRUCTURE WITHIN 5 FEET OF THIS ENCLOSURE. DO NOT PLACE PLANTS WITHIN 5 FEET OF ACCESS DOORS.

CHOPTANK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Choptank Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

Choptank Fiber

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Safety Checklist – Page 17

P.O. Box 430 | Denton, MD | 21629

Member Service Center: 1-877-892-0001

Automated Member Service: 1-866-999-4574

Automated Outage Reporting: 1-800-410-4790

Text 'OUT' to: 1-800-410-4790

Use SmartHub to Manage Account, Track Usage and Report Outages →

WWW.CHOPTANKELECTRIC.COOP



MAY 2023

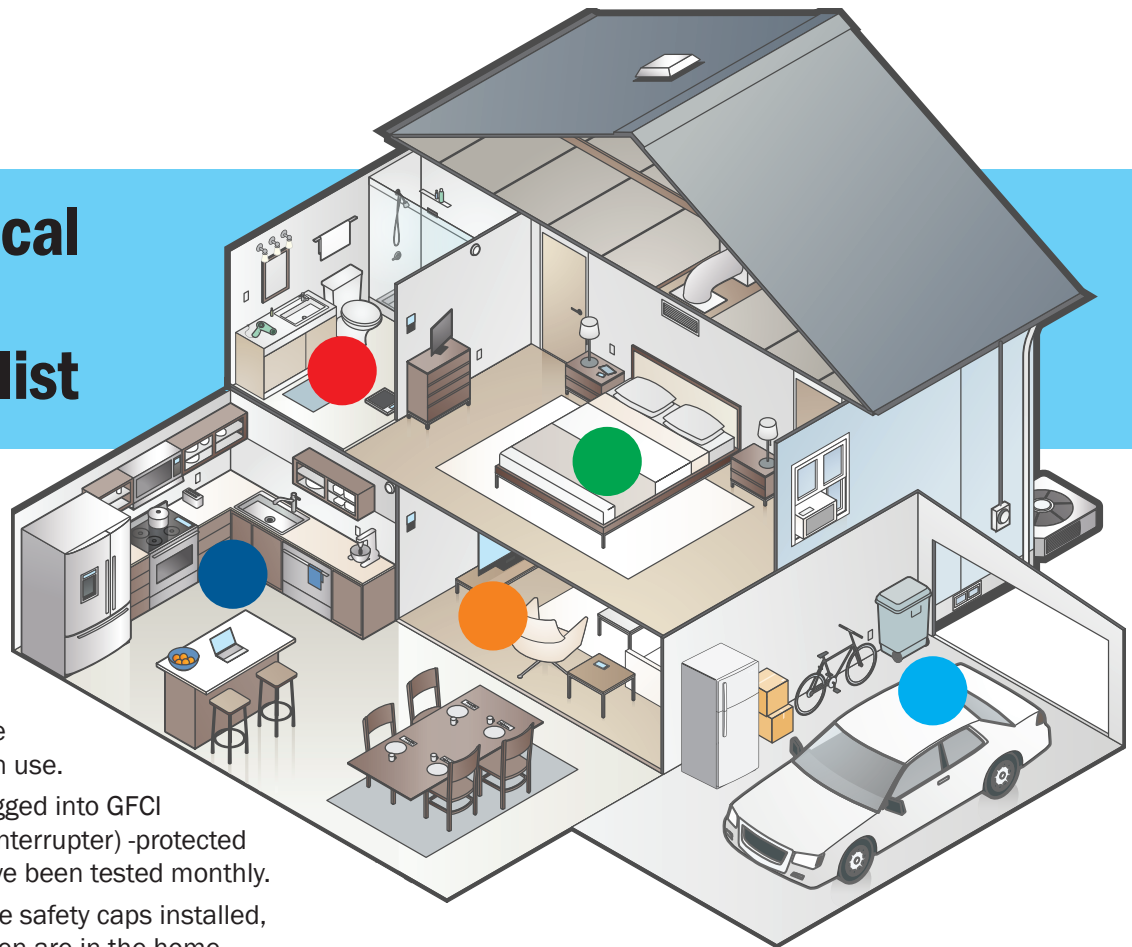
Junior Achievement Inspire Career Expo 2023

Our staff had the opportunity to meet and educate 8th grade students across the Eastern Shore March 15-16 at the Junior Achievement Inspire Expo at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center in Salisbury. We had our triple single demonstration and our lineman's tabletop challenge to encourage students to participate in hands-on learning and see what our lineworkers do every day at Choptank Electric Cooperative. Our team was able to discuss the benefits of working for a Cooperative, specifically as a lineworker. The students left with a memorable experience to help launch them into their future high school and career planning!





Electrical Safety Checklist



BATHROOM

- All electrical appliances are used away from the sink, tub, toilet and/or shower.
- All appliance cords are unplugged when not in use.
- All appliances are plugged into GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) -protected outlets, and GFCIs have been tested monthly.
- All unused outlets have safety caps installed, especially when children are in the home.
- All lighting in your shower area is vapor-tight.

KITCHEN

- Back of refrigerator has room for air circulation and its coils are free of dirt and buildup.
- All electrical appliances are placed and used away from the sink.
- All appliances are plugged into GFCI - protected outlets, and GFCIs have been tested monthly.
- All electrical cords are not cracked, frayed or damaged in any way.
- Appliance cords are not hanging from tables or counters and are unplugged when not in use.

FAMILY ROOM

- All unused outlets have safety caps installed, especially when children are in the home.
- All light switch and outlet covers are not cracked or broken.
- All electrical equipment (lamps, electronics, etc.) are being used without the use of extension cords.
- All power outlets, power strips and surge protectors are not overloaded.
- All electronics have room for air circulation.

BEDROOM

- All smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in working order, and are placed outside all sleeping areas and on every level of the house.
- All light fixtures throughout the home are using bulbs not exceeding the fixture's maximum wattage.
- No electrical cords are resting under rugs or furniture.
- Electronic devices, such as phone chargers, are unplugged when not in use.
- Window unit air conditioners are plugged in on their own dedicated circuit.

GARAGE

- All electrical cords are not cracked, frayed or damaged in any way – and are never used on a permanent basis.
- Appliance cords are unplugged when not in use.
- All appliances are plugged into GFCI - protected outlets, and GFCIs have been tested monthly.
- Any garage-stored appliances, like refrigerators and freezers, have dedicated 20 - amp appliance circuits.
- All storage boxes are placed away from wiring and plugs.



Keep Your Bill Down As Temperatures Rise

By Katie Lockett, Marketing, Communications, Education Manager

Spring and summer are opportune times for home upgrades and DIY projects. If you're planning to make improvements to your home, consider upgrades that promote better efficiency.

Here are a few projects that can help you save energy and money – and increase the comfort of your home.

Installing a smart thermostat is one of the simplest ways to manage home energy use and keep summer bills in check. Smart thermostats are easy to install and allow you to control your heating and cooling system from your phone. You can purchase an ENERGY STAR®-certified smart thermostat for as low as \$100, which can save you 8% on annual heating and cooling costs, about \$50 per year. This upgrade

will quickly pay for itself, and you'll gain insight into better ways to heat and cool your home with the data from the app.

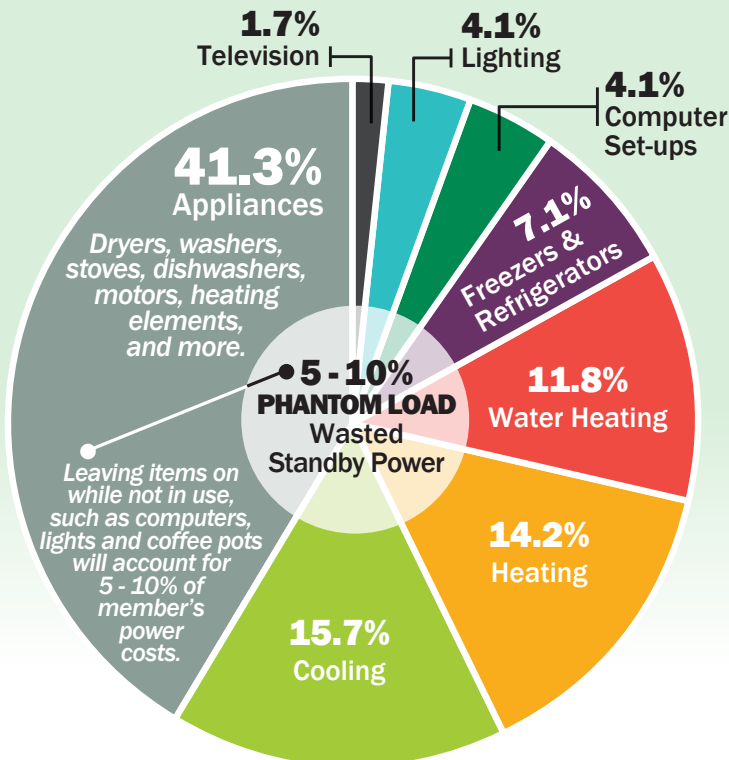
Speaking of smart, additional devices like smart LED bulbs also offer convenient control and help boost energy savings at home. With smart lighting, you can set a schedule for when and how your lights should be turned on or off. And the next time you head out to run errands and realize you left the lights on, all you have to do is turn them off through your phone. Smart lights come in a variety of shapes, colors, and brightness levels – and you can purchase bulbs for indoor or outdoor use. Schedule outdoor smart lights to illuminate your home at night and when you're out of town for better security.

While it's not as trendy as incorporating smart technologies, sealing air leaks around your home is a simple, effective way to save energy and lower your bills. Applying new or replacing old weather stripping around doors and windows can instantly make your home more comfortable and reduce energy waste. Applying caulk to fill gaps can also improve the seal of your home. Caulk can be applied to a variety of areas, including windows, doors, bathtubs, and sinks.

If your home feels too warm during summer (and too chilly during

How Americans Use Electricity

The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows the combined use of dryers, clothes washers and dishwashers, small appliances and other electrical equipment accounts for the largest percentage of electricity consumption in American homes.





**Scan for more
guidance on
energy efficiency**

winter) even after you've sealed with weather stripping and caulk, your home may need additional insulation. Insulation is considered a more expensive efficiency upgrade; however, if your home is under-insulated, additional insulation can make a big impact on reducing energy use and costs. The cost of new insulation depends on a variety of factors like materials, size of the home, and whether you use a contractor. Typically, the project costs can be recouped in a few years and your home will immediately feel more comfortable.

Of course, there are additional

efficiency upgrades that can make a big impact on energy use, like replacing old appliances with ENERGY-STAR® models or replacing old, leaky windows with new, energy-efficient windows. But these upgrades can be a bit pricey.

If you're wanting to make your home more energy efficient but you're not sure where to start, your best bet is to enlist the help of an expert to conduct an energy audit of your home. An energy audit can easily identify areas to boost efficiency, and then you can determine the projects you want to tackle first based on your budget and needs.

Choptank Electric Cooperative's Chop-A-Watt Home Energy Saver Program

assists eligible members (based on income) through grants to accomplish weatherization projects and repairs in their homes to become more energy efficient. Learn more about the qualifications and apply today at > www.choptankelectric.coop/chop-a-watt

For more information about energy efficiency during warmer weather and to start making changes to save money before the summer months, visit > www.choptankelectric.coop/energy-efficiency

OFFICES  **MEMORIAL DAY**  **CLOSED**
MONDAY, MAY 29, 2023



Dedicated to Serving Members and the Cooperative

Chuck Dean to retire after 33 years with Choptank Electric Cooperative



Chuck Dean

Manager Regional Operations

Chuck Dean began his career at Choptank Electric Cooperative in 1990 as an Operations Maintenance Person. He advanced after five years to Machine Equipment Operator for another five years, then to Lineman for four years, Serviceman for eight years, and Manager Regional Operations for the last 11 years. Chuck was responsible for overseeing 13 employees, communicating with members, and scheduling jobs as the Manager Regional Operations in the Denton District. His favorite part of working for the Cooperative was “interacting with our members and getting their power back on,” says Chuck.

Lance Lockerman, Vice President of Operations at Choptank Electric Cooperative, shares, “Chuck has been a devoted friend and colleague for many years. He has always been someone who could be counted on to deliver positive results in a calm yet thorough manner. His years of experience in various positions are tough to replicate and his service will surely be missed. We wish him many years of good health and happiness throughout his retirement.”

When asked what he has learned throughout his career here, Chuck adds, “Always treat everyone with respect and don’t ask someone to do something that you would not do yourself.”

Chuck’s last day with the Cooperative is May 18. In his retirement, he plans to spend more time with family, travel and continue to work his lawncare business that he has run for 35 years.



Local Partner Spotlight

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum Event is June 8th

We are proud to partner with the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michael’s to help preserve and explore the history, environment and culture of the Chesapeake Bay region.

Join us on June 8 at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum to hear from

professional Lampist, Kurt Frostburg, as we sponsor the changing of the Fresnel Lens in the Hooper Strait Lighthouse. Check out the old lens in the Welcome Center and learn how the lighthouse has lit the way for boats and vessels passing through the shallow, dangerous shoals of Hooper Strait, the Chesapeake Bay across Tangier Sound to Deal Island, or places

along the Nanticoke and Wicomico Rivers for 70 years.

As a member of Choptank Electric Cooperative, you can receive 10% off your annual membership at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum! Visit > www.cbmm.org/support/membership and use code ChopTEN at checkout to receive 10% off today (cannot be combined with any other discounts).



Choptank's Jeff Rathell Elected to National Cooperative Board

At the March annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), Jeff Rathell was elected to serve on the Board of Directors. Jeff currently represents Talbot County members on the Choptank Electric Cooperative Board, where he has been Chairman for five years.

"I am excited to join the talented pool of Cooperative leaders who help guide our national organization," said Rathell. "The future of energy generation, transmission and distribution will be impacted by decisions made in Washington on Capitol Hill. I will make sure the voice of Maryland's Eastern Shore is heard when NRECA discusses how best to participate in the national dialogue."

NRECA is a member-driven organization, working to shape and respond to changes in technology, law, and public policy and support economic development in local communities across the country. The association's 48-person board is comprised of one locally elected director from each state in which a voting member of NRECA is located. Choptank Electric Cooperative has been a long-standing member of NRECA.

Choptank Electric Cooperative **BUZZ**

Choptank Welcomes New Employees and Congratulates Promotions



Dylan Kinnamon
Transportation and
Equipment Technician

Experience: Mechanic for Queen Anne's County Public Works
Hobbies: Farming, fishing, and hunting
Looking Forward To: Getting back to working on equipment.




Luke Smithmyer
Apprentice Lineman,
Chestertown District


Experience: Rock Creek Line Construction
Hobbies: Working out, hunting, and fishing
Looking Forward To: Upgrading, repairing, and maintaining the Choptank Electric power system.




Patrick Helgason
Apprentice Lineman,
Denton District

Experience: Northwest Lineman College
Hobbies: Exercising, running, and surfing
Looking Forward To: Expanding my knowledge of the trade and beginning a rewarding career here.

 Congratulations to **Brian Ward** who has been awarded the position of Contractor Coordinator in the Denton District office. Brian was previously a Choptank Engineering Fieldman. He began his new duties on March 27.

 Congratulations to **Adam Dukes** who has been selected to Engineering Fieldman 3rd Class. Adam will begin his duties in the near future.

 Congratulations to **Pat Short** for being awarded the position of Serviceman in the Chestertown District. Pat began his duties on March 21.

MEMBERS' NOTES

Our members are the reason Choptank Electric Cooperative exists. Whether on social media, by phone, or through handwritten letters, we appreciate when members let us know that we are doing a good job!

Thank you, all!

*Dear Choptank
Electric Cooperative,*

Wanted to give a big 'Thank You!' to the guys working to remove poles on Bowland Road and bringing one out here. It's appreciated!

- Norman Bush

Choptank Electric Trust Awards

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 in all nine counties of MD's Eastern Shore.

To apply, or to find out more about this program:

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

March 2023

- Betterton VFC - \$5,000
- Beach to Bay Heritage - \$750
- Chester River Chorale - \$1,504
- Easton Church of God - \$2,000
- Harriett's House - \$3,800
- Immanuel United Church of Christ - \$9,255



The total of approved applications for March was \$32,086 which included \$7,477 for individual home and medical expenses.



Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Choptank Electric, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is a not-for-profit, member-owned, electric distribution Co-op serving approximately 56,000 residential, commercial, and industrial members in all nine counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

President and CEO

Micheal E. Malandro

Board of Directors

Jeffrey D. Rathell Sr.
Chairman, Talbot Co.

John J. Burke Jr.
Vice Chairman, Cecil Co.

Douglas D. Scott
Treasurer, Dorchester Co.

Robert E. Arnold
Secretary, Queen Anne's Co.

Amy I. Brandt
Caroline Co.

Olin S. Davis III
Kent Co.

Matthew R. Holloway
Wicomico Co.

Robert B. Thompson
Ocean Pines District

Donna R. West
Worcester Co.

Craig N. Mathies Sr.
Somerset Co.

Choptank Fiber

Choptank Fiber, LLC

Choptank Fiber, LLC is a wholly-owned broadband subsidiary of Choptank Electric Cooperative. Choptank Fiber's goal is to install true Gigabit broadband with no data caps one community at a time until we serve all our members on the Eastern Shore.