



Choptank Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



YOUR JULY 2022 CO-OP NEWS



2022 *Fair & Festival* SCHEDULE

TALBOT COUNTY FAIR

Easton, July 15 - 16

SOMERSET COUNTY FAIR

Princess Anne, July 29 - 30

CAROLINE / DORCHESTER COUNTY FAIR

Denton, August 3 - 6

BLESSING OF THE COMBINES

Snow Hill, August 6

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY FAIR

Centreville, August 8 - 13

WICOMICO COUNTY FAIR

Winterplace Park,
August 19 - 21

WORCESTER COUNTY FAIR

Snow Hill, September 16 - 18



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

Toll-Free: 1-877-892-0001

Outage Reporting: 1-800-410-4790

Automated Member Service: 1-866-999-4574



Right-of-way sprayed with traditional select herbicides to keep certain vegetation controlled.



This is the same field after a year.



This was where the goats were placed at the beginning of the project.



This is the same field after the study was completed.



Goats or No Goats? That's the Question

**By Elizabeth Hallett, Manager of Marketing & Communications*

Rights-of-ways are essential to how utilities across the country provide and maintain reliable, affordable, and safe electricity for our consumers. With that in mind, Choptank Electric Cooperative also looks for additional ways to be forward-thinking and ensure efficiency and sustainability not only for providing power, but also for our environment here on the Eastern Shore.

In 2018, Choptank Electric Cooperative partnered with Washington College and Chino Farms to study our right-of-way efforts and see which way was more effective: select herbicides and traditional mowing, or alternatively using goats as a more natural and environmentally friendly way of keeping vegetation in our rights-of-way contained.

The results of splitting a right-of-way into sections and studying the effects were eye opening. It was found that goats grazing were ineffective in

keeping the rights-of-way clear and they also damaged once thriving vegetation that helped pollinators. Additionally, the goats did not eat the invasive species that needed to be removed. From the detailed study, it stated, "The field goat browsing study showed that browsing goats are ineffective at controlling 3-year-old woody species. Their feeding preferences also reduced the site's pollinator benefits and native herbs that corresponded to an increase in invasive plants, woody trees, and shrubs."

"It was a great study to conduct for our area," said Bryan Hall, Vegetation Management Coordinator for Choptank Electric Cooperative. "And while it didn't work out like many had hoped, participating in these types of studies is the only way we can continue to stay effective for our members and the environment."

"At Choptank Electric Cooperative, we employ the best vegetation management practices so that our

members receive the most reliable, safe, and affordable electricity on the Eastern Shore," Hall continued. "Using proven traditional vegetation management activities such as tree trimming, tree removal, mowing, and herbicide application to clear non-compatible vegetation from within and around the varying utility resources is our best bet for providing that service for our members."

To learn more about this study, or if you have questions about our vegetation management program, or have a specific question regarding trees and how they impact electrical service, please visit www.choptankelectric.coop or contact Bryan Hall at 410 479-8557.

**Excerpts and study originally written by Richard A. Johnstone, President, IVM Partners, Inc.; Michael R. Haggie, Botanist, Haggie IVM; and Bryan Hall, Forester, Choptank Electric Cooperative; published in Utility Arborist Newsline, March-April 2022.*



Thanking Our Members '22 Annual Meeting a Success

By Bobby Schaller, MultiMedia Manager

Thank you to all of our members and guests who joined us for our 84th Annual Meeting. On a sunny and brisk day, we were blessed with the opportunity to hold a live event, as well as streaming it online. If you missed it, you can view the event on our website under the 'annual meeting' link.

Business was called to order at 6 p.m. on April 28 by Board Chair Jeff Rathell followed by Craig Mathies' heartfelt opening prayer. A solemn moment of silence was given for long-time director Carl Widdowson and serviceman Gavonn Bailey, two men who embodied what Choptank

Electric Cooperative stands for. Board Treasurer Doug Scott reported on a strong financial year, highlighting revenues of \$134.7

Thank you to all the members, volunteers and vendors; we couldn't have done this without you!

million and an operating margin of \$6.2 million. Scott noted that the cost of purchased power constitutes about 54 cents of every \$1 on the electric bill.

President and CEO Mike Malandro reported to members that we have successfully continued our mission of providing affordable, reliable electricity to the 55,599 member accounts we serve, and noted that we keep the power on at an outstanding 99.98% of the time. He then took questions and comments from the crowd.

At the meeting's conclusion, \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to 10 well-deserving students seeking higher education. Bill credits were also randomly awarded to very happy members. Thank you and we hope to see you again next year!



Committed to Our Community

Over \$29,000 in scholarships awarded
to students across the Eastern Shore

We are committed to providing opportunities for our local students across the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

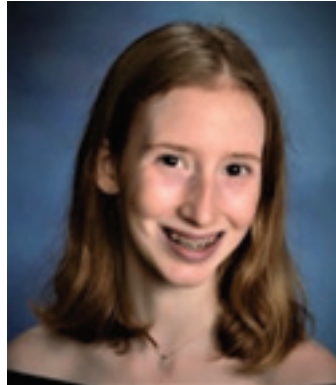
For information about scholarships, please visit choptankelectric.coop/scholarships

Or call our Member Service Center 1-877-892-0001.



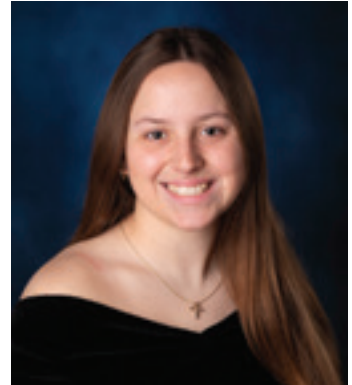
CARLEIGH BUCKLER

North Caroline High School
College: University of Maryland
Major: Business



RACHEL DAVIS

Easton High School
College: Northwestern University
Major: Biological Sciences



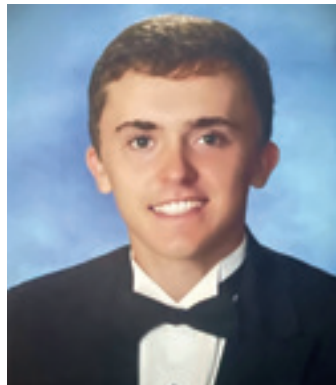
LOGAN RENEE LANKFORD

Washington High School
College: Salisbury University
Major: Exercise Science - Allied Health



BRIANNA PINDER

Cambridge S. Dorchester High School
College: Chesapeake College
Major: Nursing



SPENCER RADA

Easton High School
College: Norwich University
Major: Political Science & Int. Studies



EMMA SPERRY

Stephen Decatur High School
College: NC State University
Major: Applied Mathematics & Statistics

KATE ABBOTT

Worcester County
College: Undecided

BROOKLIN DAVIS

Wicomico County
College: Undecided

JOSHUA HORNER

Wicomico County
Frostburg State University

WYATT ALEXANDER

Wicomico County
College: Undecided

MADISON DONALDS

Wicomico County
College: Stevenson University

BROCK JOHNSON

Caroline County
College: Chesapeake College

In 2022, Choptank Electric Cooperative, with the Choptank Electric Trust Board and the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives awarded over 20 scholarships totaling over \$29,000 to students attending college in the fall of 2022.

Congratulations to all of our students who were awarded one of our various scholarships, and good luck this fall at school!



EMILY LYNCH

Parkside High School
College: Goucher College
Major: Biology, Pre-Med



LYNDSEY LYONS

Easton High School
College: Furman University
Major: Health Science and Spanish



RYLEIGH MILLER

Easton High School
College: Chesapeake College
Major: Surgical Technician



KENDAHL PARSONS

Stephen Decatur High School
College: Salisbury University
Major: English



JULIANNA TORRE

Mardela High School
College: Wor-Wic Community College
Major: General Studies



PEARL UVA

Colonel Richardson High School
College: University of Maryland
Major: Aerospace Engineering



MALLORY YOUNG

Parkside High School
College: Salisbury University
Major: Nursing

OLIVIA KEATING

Caroline County
College: Towson University

OLIVIA PETERSON

Talbot County
Northern Michigan University

OLIVIA ORDONEZ

College: Undecided

JOSHUA SHERWOOD

Talbot County
College: Chesapeake College



2021 Capital Credit Allocation

Choptank Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit member-owned utility. Any margins (profits) above the cost of service are allocated back to our member/owners based on how much electricity each member purchased during the year.

The 2021 capital credit allocation was processed in June 2022, after the 2021 financial statements were reviewed and audited. The 2021 capital credit allocation notice for active members was shown on their June 2022 electric bill in the left message area above the bill

stub. Inactive members with 2021 electricity billings were mailed a separate allocation notice.

The capital credits (margins) allocated to members' accounts for 2021 totals \$10,028,528. This is allocated between Choptank Electric, which totals \$8,100,285 and Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, Choptank's energy supplier, which totals \$1,928,297.

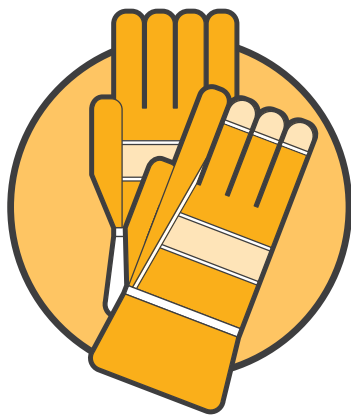
The Choptank Electric Board of Directors reviews the Co-op portion of capital credits each year and decides how and when to repay the

amounts allocated. Their decision is based on a variety of factors including the overall financial condition of the Cooperative. Any decision to repay the ODEC portion of capital credits would be entirely contingent upon refunds received from Choptank's energy supplier.

If you have questions about your capital credits, please contact our Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001. Please have your account number available when you call.

5 TIPS FOR HIRING AN ELECTRICIAN

A licensed electrician can help with a variety of home projects from lighting upgrades to full renovations. Keep the following tips in mind if you're looking to hire an electrician.



- 1. HIRE A LICENSED, QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN FOR THE JOB.** Look for a master electrician to manage the project. Master electricians have the most experience and will often oversee the work of a journey-level electrician or apprentice.
- 2. MAKE SURE THE ELECTRICIAN IS INSURED.** Seasoned electricians know the importance of protecting themselves in case of an accident.
- 3. READ ALL THE REVIEWS.** Hire an electrician that has several positive reviews – not just one or two. Read reviews on different sites, like Nextdoor, Yelp and HomeAdvisor, and consider asking your neighbors for recommendations.
- 4. DETERMINE YOUR BUDGET. GET TWO QUOTES.** Knowing your budget upfront helps move the process along. Prices can greatly vary, so get multiple quotes (at least two).
- 5. TALK TIMELINE.** Some electricians accidentally overbook projects. If your job is time-sensitive, convey that early on and discuss a realistic timeline with the electrician.

Any margins above the cost of service are allocated back to our member/owners

Margins are Returned to Members

Capital Credits Bring Christmas to July

The Choptank Electric Cooperative Board of Directors voted to return \$3.7 million to its members during the month of July.

Of the \$3.7 million to be returned, approximately 68% will be paid to long-time members who have Choptank Electric capital credits owed to them from 1994 and 2021. The other 32% will be paid to members who have been allocated Old Dominion Electric Cooperative capital credits from 2021.

Any active member who has accrued capital credits in 1994 and 2021 will receive a bill credit applied directly to their July bill. Inactive members must accrue \$100 before a check can be sent and must have a good address listed at the co-op to receive their check. The checks are scheduled to be mailed by mid-July.

From the moment you signed up to receive electric service from Choptank Electric, you became a member of Choptank Electric, not a customer. While investor-owned

utilities return a portion of any profits back to their shareholders, electric co-ops operate on an at-cost basis. Co-ops return their margins to the members. Choptank Electric allocates and periodically retires capital credits to its members. The amount received is based on how much electricity the member purchased during a year.

That's the cooperative difference, where members are first, every day.

FASTEST AND MOST RELIABLE INTERNET ON DELMARVA

Choptank Fiber

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FOR SERVICE HERE



WWW.CHOPTANKFIBER.COM

MEMBERS NOTES

Our members are the reason Choptank Electric Cooperative exists. Whether on social media, by phone, or through handwritten letters, we want to say thank you to our members who let us know when we are doing a good job! Thank you, all!

“I love getting my copy of Cooperative Living every month. It keeps me informed and up-to-date on the news that is happening as a member and an owner.

What I especially like to read are the employee retirement stories, these people have dedicated their lives to our electricity and that’s very special to me.”

- Member at Annual Meeting



Choptank Electric Cooperative

Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Choptank Electric, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is a not-for-profit, member-owned, electric distribution Co-op serving approximately 55,500 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, 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.

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 Maryland’s Eastern Shore.



May 2022

- Glad Tidings Assembly of God - \$1,000
 - 988 Crisis Number - \$12,000
 - Mary Mac Foundation - \$1,046
- Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church - \$2,000
 - Swim Ocean City - \$1,725

The total of approved applications was \$22,503, which included \$4,731 for individual home and medical expenses.