

Choptank  
Fiber



Choptank Electric  
Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup>  
Cooperative



## SEPTEMBER 2022

- 16** Youth Tour Experience 2022
- 18** Talbot Fishmobile Is Upgraded
- 21** Hunter Safety: Don't Shoot The Lines

**ABOVE** Mason Johnson, Apprentice Lineman with pole replacement work in Dorchester County.

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





## USS WISCONSIN

**We visited the Battleship USS Wisconsin that took part in World War II. We learned about the historical significance of the ship and how sailors used to live day-in and day-out.**



# Youth Tour 2022!

## A great time exploring Virginia

For the past five decades we have been taking local high school juniors and seniors on life-changing experiences during our annual Youth Tour trips. Over the years, these students have toured some of the finest museums in the world and visited America's most historic monuments. They have met with elected officials and learned firsthand how our government works and how it relates to cooperatives. This year, we toured in and around the James River in Virginia and learned about the impact electric cooperatives have on our communities. Thank you to Community Electric Cooperative, to all of the Delegates, to the chaperones and to the youths themselves. We can't wait for next year!

> [www.choptankelectric.coop/youth-tour](http://www.choptankelectric.coop/youth-tour)

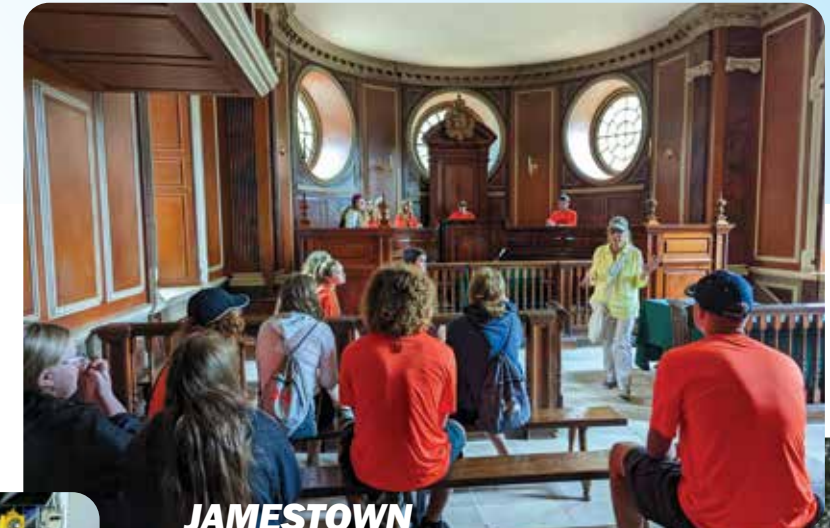
**Education sessions with elected officials included Del. Jackie Glass, District 89; Del. Shelly Simonds, House District 9 (and former Youth Tour Participant); and Del. Emily Brewer, House District 64. They came to speak about bipartisanship, working together to effect change on both sides of the aisle, and what issues they directly impact on the local level. The kids were engaged and loved learning about how they could impact the community themselves.**



## VIRGINIA ELECTED OFFICIALS



## AIR & SPACE MUSEUM



## JAMESTOWN & BUSCH GARDENS



**We visited the Air and Space Museum in Hampton, VA where we learned about air planes, science experiments, and space!**



**Busch Gardens on Wednesday! Thursday started early with "Career & Opportunities" by some co-op chaperones. Then, we spent the rest of the morning on a private guided tour of Jamestown!**



## COMMUNITY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**During the tour of Community Electric Cooperative, we learned about electricity and the safety protocols that go along with it. We saw how lineworkers climbed poles and worked on power lines.**

**Our Norfolk Botanical Gardens visit.**







## EXTREME BUS MAKEOVER!

### Trust donates to Fishmobile for educational renovations

**E**ducating and engaging minds about the Chesapeake Bay's ecosystem and its inhabitants is the sole purpose of the Phillips Wharf Environmental Center. Located in Talbot County, their Fishmobile, which runs from April through November, is at the center of their educational programs. The traveling exhibit has seen just about everything from formal garden parties and private events, school functions, and fairs. Since COVID began there was some down time. "COVID hurt our outreach programs, so we used this opportunity to our advantage," said Kristen Lycett, Ph.D. and Executive Director of the Phillips Wharf Environmental Center. "While the bus was sitting unused, we wanted to redesign the exhibits and get the

bus back into working order." Redesigning and updating displays is time-consuming and costly, so Lycett looked to the Operation Round Up program and the Choptank Electric Trust Board to aid them. "We're so thankful for the donation and the opportunity to touch more people's lives," said Lycett. "With this funding, we were able to update most of our exhibits and pay for some necessary repairs to the bus."

The Fishmobile is dedicated to showing people what underwater life is like in the Chesapeake Bay and helping people feel more connected to the aquatic environment. With the grant money provided by the Trust, they were able to update their shadow box displays that enclose

fossils found locally, updated their hands on bins that give guests the opportunity to touch and feel real fossils, added a "Trash in the Bay" display, salinity display, and updated their water tanks that house many seasonal creatures also found in the bay. Mechanical problems with the bus were also repaired.

With their displays updated and the bus back up and running, the Center is looking forward to being back on the road once more. The educational aspect of the Fishmobile is multifaceted. History of the bay and the region, how our daily activities affect wildlife, and the interactive tanks all create an immersive learning experience.

"One of the great things about the Fishmobile is it brings the

## It's Larry!

**While the animals who live in the tanks are seasonal, they do have a permanent resident who is beloved by everyone. His name is Larry the Diamondback Terrapin. He's a fan favorite, and offers the center an opportunity to talk about pet responsibility.**

Chesapeake Bay onto land so we can share that with our guests. They may have only seen these animals in a specific setting or haven't spent much time on the water in general and, therefore, haven't had much interaction with these animals or the environment," said Lycett. "We allow people to experience animals in a more natural setting and see them in the water, interact with them. It's amazing to see the faces of our guests light up in wonder."

"This service is near and dear to many in the community," said Mike Boyle, representative for Talbot County on the Choptank Electric Trust Board. "And being able to re-energize its displays means better education for future generations,

and for our adult community members as well."

For more information about the Choptank Electric Trust and how you can apply, members can visit our website or call our Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001.

For more information about the Phillips Environmental Center and their mission, you can visit

> [www.phillipswharf.org](http://www.phillipswharf.org)





## Chop-A-Watt Brings Relief to Low-to-Moderate Income Families

We understand the importance of reducing energy use and saving money on your bill. Tackling home improvement projects to increase energy efficiency can have big rewards, but the process is often daunting and expensive. For this reason, we are looking for members that could benefit from our Chop-A-Watt program. This program would accomplish energy efficiency in your home, **at no cost to you!**

The Chop-A-Watt Home Energy Saver Program is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants must meet the income eligibility requirements and the program is directed toward low-to-moderate income members.



Members who qualify could receive up to \$7,000 in weatherization improvements to their home. This includes upgrades to water heaters, appliances, insulation and heating and cooling systems.

**For more information and to see if you qualify** > [www.choptankelectric.coop/chop-a-watt](http://www.choptankelectric.coop/chop-a-watt)



**HAPPY LABOR DAY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED Monday, September 5**

**MEMBER GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE** view online at > [www.choptankelectric.coop](http://www.choptankelectric.coop)

- Use care when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Inspect the height of equipment to determine clearance.
- Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away (in all directions) from power lines.
- Remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
- If a power line is sagging or looks to be dangerously low, please call us immediately.



## The Choptank Electric Cooperative BULLETIN

### Annual Meeting Date Announced

Our Annual Meeting date will be Thursday, April 27, 2023. The location of the Annual Meeting will be announced in the fall of 2022.



## DON'T SHOOT THE LINES

### Hunter safety in regard to power lines

By Bobby Schaller, MultiMedia Manager

Our cooperative is made up of 55,000+ members; we all rely on the safety and up keep of our power grid. Our power lines and utility poles are the foundation of how we all enjoy the comforts, convenience and the power of reliable electricity and quality internet. An increasing, and unfortunate, issue that's occurring is our power lines being shot by hunters and gun enthusiasts.

We know the majority of hunters practice safe hunting and they understand the potential hazards when discharging a firearm. We encourage these experienced hunters who are familiar with the area to help identify locations of electrical equipment to the younger,

less-experienced hunters and gun enthusiasts. Tampering or misuse of our fiber and electric lines can not only put you in danger but will also affect all other members that are down-line. Just one fiber line damaged by a shot can have a repair cost of \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Manager of Government Affairs, Matt Teffeau addressed the Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission during their May meeting. "We had a very successful meeting with the Wildlife Advisory Commission, they were very supportive and grateful Choptank Electric Cooperative was launching this hunter safety awareness initiative. The suggestion to include additional information in hunter

safety education classes about the Don't Shoot the Lines campaign was made by members of the Commission," Teffeau said.

Maryland law has several provisions that prohibit hunters from damaging the property of another. Please be advised that if you or hunters you allow on your property cause damage to Choptank's equipment, you could be fined by the Department of Natural Resources and/or held liable for the cost of repairs.

Please respect yourself, your fellow members and our power infrastructure. Thank you for being a valuable member of Choptank Electric Cooperative; please find helpful safety tips below.

> [www.choptankelectric.coop/DSTL](http://www.choptankelectric.coop/DSTL)

### BASIC ELECTRICAL HUNTER SAFETY RULES TO FOLLOW

- 1 Be aware and take note of your surroundings.
- 2 Do not shoot at or near power lines, fiber lines or electrical equipment.
- 3 Familiarize yourself with the location of power lines and equipment on land where you shoot/hunt.
- 4 Do not shoot at, or near, birds perching on utility lines with any type of firearm, including pistols, rifles, shotguns or bows.
- 5 Take notice of warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.
- 6 Keep a safe distance from power lines and electrical equipment when hunting. Accidents can be easily avoided if you do so.
- 7 Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- 8 Damage to the conductor can happen, possibly dropping a phase on the ground. If it's dry and the electricity goes to the ground, there is the possibility of electrocution and fire.
- 9 Never use utility poles or towers to support equipment used in your shooting activity.
- 10 Never climb poles or place deer stands on utility poles. Energized lines and equipment on the poles can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.
- 11 Do not place decoys or any other hunting / shooting equipment on power lines or other utility equipment. Anything attached to a pole besides utility equipment can pose an obstruction, and a serious hazard, to electric cooperative employees as they perform utility operations.



# 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 we are doing a good job! Thank you, all!



*Clayton Farms in Denton, MD sent us a Thank You note of sweet corn to show their appreciation. It doesn't get any sweeter than that. Thank you, Clayton Farms!*

## 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.

### July 2022

- Cambridge Empowerment Center - \$10,000
- Berlin Heritage Foundation - \$500
- One Mission Cambridge - \$1,000
- Eldorado Brookview VFC - \$500



**The total of approved applications was \$25,595, which included \$13,595 for individual home and medical expenses.**

**Correction: August's Cooperative Living Trust Awards were June's awards mislabeled as May's. We apologize for the mistake.**



**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.

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Micheal E. Malandro

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### 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.