

JUNE 2008

Live Wire is a monthly newsletter published for members of Choptank Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 430, Denton, MD 21629

Toll Free:

1-877-892-0001

Outage Reporting:

1-800-410-4790,

toll free,

24 hours/day,

7 days/week.

Automated Customer

Service Line:

1-800-311-8556, toll free

410-479-4206

(Caroline Co.)

Internet site:

www.choptankelectric.coop

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At-Large

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Celebrating

**70 years of service
to our members**

1938-2008

LIVE WIRE

Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc. Vol. 13, NO. 6

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Fanfare for 70 years at annual meeting

As late as the mid-1930s, nine out of ten rural homes were without electric service. The farmer milked his cows by hand in the dim light of a kerosene lantern. His wife labored over the wood-burning range and washboard.

With electricity unavailable to rural areas, their economies were kept entirely and exclusively to agriculture. Factories and businesses preferred to locate in cities where electric power was easily acquired.

Such was the case in rural areas of Maryland's Eastern Shore until a group of farmers in Caroline County latched on to the new electric cooperative movement made possible when President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) in 1935.

The Executive Order establishing the REA and the passage of the REA Act a year later marked the first steps in a public-private partnership that has, over the last 70 years, bridged the vast expanse of rural America to bring electric power to businesses and communities willing to organize cooperatively and accept responsibility for the provision of safe, affordable and reliable electric power.

REA funds enabled that group of Caroline farmers to incorporate as Choptank Cooperative in 1938, and energize the first 78 miles of line in Caroline in December 1939. The name was changed to Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc. in 1942.

The co-op and hundreds of its members celebrated its rural beginnings at the 70th annual meeting at the Talbot County Community Center in Easton on April 26.

Choptank hosted about 700 members and guests for a breakfast meeting, which featured celebratory music and entertainment as well as the serious business of the cooperative.

Fred Hubbard, president and CEO, told the crowd Choptank "is still making a difference at 70." He cited major projects completed in 2007 including under-



The bluegrass music of the "Oil City Ramblers" had guests dancing in the aisles at the annual meeting.



A service bucket truck from the St. Michaels District greeted members by flying "Old Glory."

ground service updates in Ocean Pines in Worcester County, and the rebuilding of the transmission line into the Allen Substation near Federalsburg. He said the co-op built over 48 miles of overhead and 85 miles of underground lines, and replaced 1,274 poles in 2007. The CEO also thanked residents of the St. Michaels area for their support during the first full year of operations following the co-op's acquisition of that territory.

Mr. Hubbard spoke on the "energy challenge" facing rural America. Unveiling a new nationwide program of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, "Our Energy, Our Future," he said, "Congress must make sure America has affordable electricity to power our homes and businesses, while meeting climate change goals. Otherwise, there may not be enough for all of us tomorrow."

He added, "Now is the time to begin this tough conversation with your elected officials. Legislators must act responsibly today to make sure America has the electricity it needs in the next ten years, and beyond. Ask your legislators how they plan to meet America's growing demand for electricity. By working together, we can find the right solutions."

An original video featuring four Caroline County members reminiscing about the time before the REA came and how electricity made a difference in their lives was premiered during the meeting. The video will soon be featured on www.choptankelectric.coop.

Elections for three positions on the Choptank Electric Board of Directors were also held. Members returned incumbents Carl R. Widdowson, Somerset County, president of the board, Jeffrey D. Rathell Sr., Talbot County, vice president, and W. Fred Schrader, Cecil County representative.

Also on the program was Hilary Staver, a senior at Queen Anne's County High School, who spoke on being Maryland's representative to the Youth Leadership Council for the NRECA.

Entertainment for the event was provided by the "Oil City Ramblers" bluegrass band and "Last Comic Standing" Jon Reep aka "the hemi guy."

When the REA brought electric to life on the 'Shore

This is the second in a continuing series of memories from co-op members as Choptank Electric celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2008. It took the Rural Electrification Act in 1935 to get electricity to rural America, and it wasn't until 1938 people in rural areas of the Eastern Shore of Maryland were able to "hook up to the REA."

This month we hear from Walter L. West Sr., a member from Princess Anne, who was kind enough to enclose a photo of him pointing to the original "REA" letters on a utility pole in his neighborhood.

"Remember the old gospel hymn "Send the Lights?" Well, Choptank sent the light to our farm in 1938. The light we had before that was an Alladin lamp that did pretty good until the mantel would burn off. Then you'd better have a spare or you were in the dark until you got it replaced.

"I remember before water pumps and hot water heaters I used to wash using a wash basin after heating the water on the woodstove. Sometimes I'd take the water upstairs. It might be colder, but you had more privacy.

"Pop had three small chicken houses. I carried water by hand from the pitcher pump and filled the jars and I also carried five-pound buckets of feed to scoop out for the

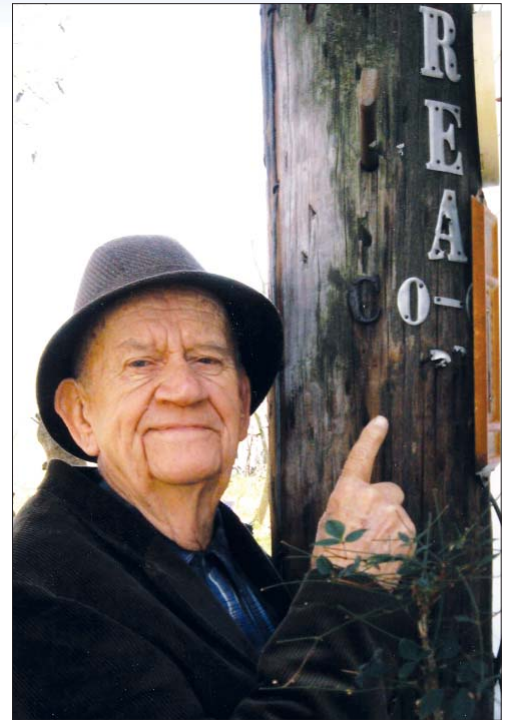
chickens. Electric pumps and feeders changed all that.

"Electricity made possible the convenience of hand tools such as Skill saws and hand drills. They made building and repair chores easier.

"When I think about what I value in my life, of course my wife comes first. Having food, clothes and a place to live are important, but you know, I believe electricity "lights up your life" right in there with all of the other things and it sure helps all of them tremendously.

"I'm so glad REA's electricity came into my life at age 14."

We're still looking for memories. Write a letter, send an email or fax, and if you've got photos, we'd like to have those as well. We'll feature the stories throughout the year on our website and in the Live Wire. Send memories to: Anne Whaples, Choptank Electric Cooperative, PO Box 430, Denton MD 21629; email annew@choptankelectric.coop; fax to 410-479-1014; or call 877-892-0001, ext. 8640. We'd love to hear from you! Many thanks to Mr. Harding and Mr. Cawley for sharing their memories this month.



Walter L. West Sr.

"Straight Talk" for our members



By Bob Behlke
Vice President,
Consumer Affairs

Carbon, the basic building block of life on Earth, has recently become a celebrity of sorts. While most students receive a formal introduction to carbon in science class, those of us who missed out on (or have forgotten) the lessons can find a quick summary in the following sentences:

Carbon (noun): A naturally abundant, non-metallic element that occurs in all organic compounds and can be found in all known forms of life. Diamonds and graphite are pure forms.

Concentrated carbon also makes up the fossil fuels we use to produce approximately 70 percent of our nation's electricity (primarily coal and natural gas). When those products are burned, carbon combines with oxygen and gets released into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide.

For better or worse, carbon dioxide molecules can last for a century or more in the atmosphere, where they soak up heat. Prior to the Industrial Revolution, the atmosphere contained 280 parts per million. Atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide are currently at 390 parts per million and climbing, with some projections estimating 450 parts per million by 2040. As result, carbon dioxide is considered a "greenhouse gas" blamed for contributing to climate change.

In the United States, power plants that burn fossil fuels produce about 2.4 billion tons of carbon dioxide every year, which is about 39 percent of the nation's man-made output (the largest single source). Since one pound of the gas would fill a beach ball a few feet across, imagine almost 5 trillion beach balls being made every year—enough to fill more than 600,000 football stadiums!



Our Energy, Our Future
A Dialogue With America

There are several ways to reduce the amount carbon dioxide in the air, some of which take place naturally. Forests, for example, act as a sponge for 15 percent of all carbon emissions in North America. Researchers are even working to develop "synthetic trees" that use absorbent filters to capture carbon dioxide from free-flowing air and prepare it for commercial use or permanent storage deep underground.

Another process is called "carbon capture and sequestration," through which carbon dioxide can be isolated, or captured, in an advanced coal power plant and stored underground. When the technology becomes available on a commercial scale, the result could be huge reductions in the amount of carbon dioxide that is released into the atmosphere.

Technology holds the key to tackling challenges connected to climate change.

Sources: American Heritage Science Dictionary, U.S. Energy Information Administration, National Rural Electric

Looking for B&Bs

Do you own a bed and breakfast served by Choptank Electric?

If you do, we'd like to feature it on our website, www.choptankelectric.coop. There is now a listing of golf courses served by the co-op on the website and we'd like to add B&Bs.



To be featured on our new B&B page, please send the name, location, phone and any amenities you'd like to have listed to annew@choptankelectric.coop. If you have a website, please send the address and we'll add a link from our site to yours. Include a photo if you wish.

If you have questions, call Anne Whaples at 877-892-0001, ext. 8640.

All Cooperative offices will be closed on Friday, July 4. On this Independence Day, please remember the veterans of our Armed Forces and those now actively serving in the cause of freedom. Please drive with care!

Bids awarded for wind power on shore

Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC) and Delmarva Power of Wilmington, Del. have selected the winning bidders for providing wind power to serve their respective customers in the Mid-Atlantic region.

ODEC, the primary power provider for 12 member electric distribution cooperatives in Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, including Choptank Electric, joined with Delmarva Power in March to seek competitive bids from entities proposing to build wind power generation.

The winning bidders, which were selected after a thorough analysis of the proposals by the management of ODEC and Delmarva Power, guaranteed prices for 15- to 20-year contracts for both energy and renewable energy credits. The wind power proposals could result in up to 460 megawatts of additional electricity for Delmarva Power and the electric distribution cooperatives served by ODEC.

Contract negotiations with the winning bidders got underway in May. Final approval by the ODEC board of directors is required

for the generation-and-transmission cooperative to enter into any contractual agreements.

"We welcome this opportunity to obtain and provide a renewable form of electricity to the more than one million members served by our electric distribution cooperatives throughout the Mid-Atlantic area," said ODEC president and CEO Jackson E. Reasor, Jr. "As the energy demands of this region grow, it is ODEC's goal to further diversify our portfolio of power supply resources. Renewable resources, when feasible and economic, will play a growing role in our diversification efforts." 990188703

ODEC currently owns 11.6 percent of the North Anna Nuclear Power Plant in Louisa County, Va. and 50 percent of the Clover Power Station in Halifax County, Va. The cooperative also owns and operates the Louisa Generation Facility in Louisa County, Va. and the Marsh Run Generation Facility in Fauquier County, Va. Additionally, ODEC owns 50 percent of the Rock Springs Generation Facility in Cecil County, Md. For more information, visit www.odec.com.

Ceiling fans get "most effective" honor

Circulating fans include ceiling fans, table fans, floor fans, and fans mounted to poles or walls. These devices create a wind chill effect that will make you more comfortable in your home, even if it's cooled by natural ventilation or air conditioning. Ceiling fans are considered the most effective of these fans.

If you use air conditioning, a ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4° F. with no reduction in comfort. In temperate climates, or during moderately hot weather, ceiling fans may allow you to avoid using your air conditioner altogether. Install a fan in each room that needs to be cooled during hot weather.

Ceiling fans are only appropriate in rooms with ceilings at least eight feet high. Fans work best when the blades are seven to nine feet above the floor and 10 to 12 inches below the ceiling. Fans should be installed so the blades are no closer than eight inches from the ceiling and 18 inches from the walls.

Larger ceiling fans can move more air than smaller fans. A 36- or 44-inch diameter fan will cool rooms up to 225 square feet,

while fans that are 52 inches or more should be used in larger rooms. Multiple fans work best in rooms longer than 18 feet. Small- and medium-sized fans will provide efficient cooling in a four- to six-foot diameter area, while larger fans are effective up to 10 feet.

A larger blade will also provide comparable cooling at a lower velocity than a smaller blade. This may be important in areas where loose papers or other objects will be disturbed by a strong breeze. The fan should also be fitted to the aesthetics of the room—a large fan may appear overpowering in a small room.

A more expensive fan that operates quietly and smoothly will probably offer more trouble-free service than cheaper units. Check the noise ratings, and, if possible, listen to the fan in operation before you buy it.

When buying window fans, look for the ENERGY STAR® label. Fans that earn the label move air 20 percent more efficiently, on average, than standard models.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Anybody home?

Is the name, address and phone number printed on your electric bill correct? If you have any changes, please fill out the form on the back of your payment stub and send it with your payment. It is very important this information is correct, especially for our outage reporting system. Thank you!

Choptank Trust Awards for April

- Dorchester Co. Historical Society – \$1,899.68 for two showcases.
- Mar-Va Theater Performing Arts Center – \$3,950 for storage shed.
- Taylor's Island Volunteer Fire Co. – \$5,000 towards purchase of tanker truck.
- Caroline Co. Public Schools Cosmetology Dept. – \$675 towards trip to New York
- Coastal Hospice – \$4,048 for Bereavement Program.
- Park Lane Church of God – \$995 for projection screen.
- Meeting Ground, Inc. (homeless families) – \$2,500 towards topographic survey.
- St. Michaels Museum at St. Mary's Square, – \$1,535 for drums for Fife & Drum Corps.
- North Dorchester High School Junior Class – \$300 gift card for supplies.
- Friends from Mount Harmon, Inc. (colonial plantation) – \$1,500 towards HVAC system.
- Busy Beavers 4-H Club – \$200 for supplies.
- Upper Shore Aging, Inc. – \$3,000 towards Meals-on-Wheels.

Individuals in need:

- \$2,500 for construction of wheelchair ramp.
- \$1,250 for construction of fence to create protected area for special needs children.
- \$580 for non-permanent wheelchair ramp.
- \$2,500 toward hearing aids.
- \$1,022 medical needs for two individuals.
- \$2,150 for repairs to home.

Moore is re-certified

Linda S. Moore, executive administrative assistant at Choptank, has successfully re-certified as Certified Administrative Professional (CAP) through the International Assn. of Administrative Professionals (IAAP).



MOORE

The CPS/CAP rating is the most prestigious designation offered to administrative professionals and is designed to promote the professional development of those in the field of administration. This achievement is a validation of current skills and a commitment to life-long learning.

Mrs. Moore successfully completed the Certified Professional Secretary (CPS) exam and tested for the Certified Administrative Professional (CAP) rating 2004. Holders of this rating must re-certify every five years. Re-certification is awarded through approved accumulated continuing education units achieved within five years from the last certification.

Mrs. Moore has been a member of Tidewater Chapter IAAP since 2003, and is currently Vice President. She was named Member of the Year for 2008. She serves as executive administrative assistant to the co-op's board of directors and Frederick L. Hubbard, president and CEO. She has been an employee since 1969.

There are 2 hidden co-op account numbers in this month's issue.

If one of the numbers is your Choptank Electric account number, let us know by the fifth of the following month, and you'll win a \$10 credit on your bill!

If you find your account number in this issue, send your name, address, account and phone numbers to: Anne Whaples, Watt's Your Number?, Choptank Electric, P.O. Box 430, Denton MD 21629 or annew@choptankelectric.coop.

DANCE: Pine Steppers Square Dance Club workshop Wed., 7 p.m., Ocean Pines Community Hall. 410-208-6331 or 208-6777; Ocean Waves Square Dance, 2nd Sat., 8-10:30 p.m., Mid-Shore YMCA, 715 S. Shumaker Dr., Salisbury. 410-873-2027 or 822-7387; Pepper Steppers Square Dance, 2nd Sat., 8 p.m., First UM Church Hall, Chestertown. 410-810-0926 or 410-778-4578; Line dance, every Fri., Frat. Order of Eagles, 107 Alexander Ave., Salisbury, beginners 6 p.m., dance follows. 410-749-1981

BINGO: Willards VFC, Thurs., 7 p.m., Lions Bldg., 410-835-8678; Pittsville VFC, Fri., 7 p.m. 410-835-2323; Fedsbg. VFW, Thurs., 7:20 p.m. 410-754-5020; Hurlock Legion, Fri., 7:30 p.m., 410-943-8205; Denton Legion, Tues., 6 p.m., 410-479-2708; Redmen, Fruitland, Mon., 6:30 p.m. 410-742-6859; Willards Lions, Tues., 7 p.m. 410-835-2328; Denton VFC, Fri., 7:30 p.m.

MUSIC: Peninsulaires chorus, Tues. 7:30 p.m., Wic. Civic Ctr., Flanders Rm., Salisbury. 410-641-8927 or 543-8628; Ocean Bay Sweet Adelines, Mon., 7 p.m., same location, 410-749-1194; Delmarva Sweet Adelines, Mon., 7 p.m., Ocean Pines Comm. Ctr. 410-641-6876; QA Barbershop Chorus, Wed., 6:30 p.m., Centreville UM Church, Rt. 213. 410-827-7993; Bay Country Chorus, Mon., 7 p.m., Miller Hall, behind Trinity Cathedral, Easton. 410-770-8262; Worcester Chorale, Wed., 7 p.m., Community Church, Rt. 589, Ocean Pines. 410-208-1999; Eastern Shore Bluegrass Assn., show & jam, 2nd Sun., 1 p.m., Marydel Fire Co. 302-674-3149 or 492-1048

Vietnam Vets of America, 1st Thurs., 7 p.m., Easton VFW. 410-943-1374. Lower Shore, 3rd Thurs., VFW 194, Salisbury. 410-651-0904

Disabled American Veterans Chap. 34, 4th Thurs., 1 p.m., Meuse VFW Post 194, Salisbury. 410-749-4518

Chesapeake Christian Riders CMA 453, 1st Thurs, Bob Evans Restaurant, Easton, 6 p.m. 410-943-8325

Mid-Shore A.B.A.T.E., 2nd Tues., 7:30 p.m., Easton VFW. www.midshoreabate.com

Women Supporting Women (breast cancer group), 3rd Wed., 7 p.m., Atlantic Business Ctr., Ste. 213, Berlin, 410-641-2849

TOPS weight loss: Tues., 6:30 p.m., 1st Baptist, Marydel, 410-482-6694; 6 p.m., 418 Dutchman's La., Greensboro; 6 p.m., Caroline Nsg. Home sun room, 410-482-2658; 6 p.m., Worcester Co. Health Dept. Thurs., 7 p.m., Christ UMC, Salisbury, 410-546-4197/543-9039; Church of God, Easton; 6 p.m. 410-822-2630/673-2248

Medical coverage for pregnant women & children to age 19. Kent, 410-778-7035, QA, 410-758-0720, Tal., 410-819-5690

Denton AA, 105 Gay St., Thurs., 8 p.m.; Co-Dependents Anon., Sun., 6:30 p.m., Christ UMC, Salisbury. 410-376-0164; Dual Recovery Anon., Wor. Library, Pocomoke, Mon., 7 p.m.

Wellness Community-Delmarva cancer support programs, Salisbury, Berlin, Easton. 888-806-0756

Overeaters Anon., Sat., 10 a.m., Christ UM Church, Ed. Bldg., Salisbury. 410-376-0164; Thur., 5 p.m., Buckingham Presbyterian, 20 S. Main, Berlin. 410-629-0679; Mon. 5:15 p.m., Health Ed. Bldg., Memorial Hosp., Easton; Fri. noon, St. Mark's UMC, Easton. 410-820-0006

Merry Widows & Widowers Social Club, 3rd Tues., 2:30 p.m., Ocean Pines Country Club. 410-208-6207; Beach Singles 45+, last Tues, 6 p.m. 410-208-3974; Delmarva Singles, 50+, 1st Wed., 6 p.m. 410-742-8310 or jasuth@intercom.net

Nat'l Assn. Active & Retired Fed. Employees, Chap. 1261, Salisbury area, 3rd Thurs., 410-896-2671; Chap. 2274, Wor. Co., 4th Thurs., Jordan's Rooftop, Ocean City, 11:30 a.m., 410-641-5570

Pinochle, Wed., 9:45 a.m., 410-208-0562, Ocean Pines Country Club; Bridge Club, Wed., 10 a.m., 410-641-7667, Ocean Pines Yacht Club.

Activity Singles Klub, Easton, 2nd Wed., 410-822-7468

E. Shore Stamp Club, 1st Tues., Wic. Library, Salisbury, 6:30 p.m. 410-208-2929; Tidewater Stamp Club, 2nd & 4th Tue., 7 p.m., 14 S. Harrison St., 2nd fl., Easton. 410-822-6471

Duplicate bridge: Riverside Homes, Salisbury, Mon., 7 p.m., 410-835-8343; Tred Avon, Wed., noon, Talbot Community Ctr., Rt. 50, Easton. 410-226-5126

Ocean Pines Camera Club, 2nd Mon., 7 p.m., OP Library. 410-208-2555

U. of Md. Cooperative Extension Service Master Gardeners Plant Clinic, Ocean Pines Library, Tues., 1-4. 410-641-5570

Friends of Ocean Pines Library, 2nd Mon., 10 a.m., 410-208-2760

Sons of Confederate Vets Maj. Gen. Arnold Elzey Camp 1940 & friends, 1st Wed., 7 p.m., Wic. Library, Salisbury 410-641-9305

Pine'er Craft & Gift Shop, Ocean Pines Community Ctr., 239 Ocean Pkwy., every Sat. & Sun., 10-4.

Federalsburg VFC, breakfast 4th Sun., 7-10. \$6, Children \$3; under 3 free.

Preston Vol. Fire Co., AUCE breakfast, 1st Sun., 7-10, \$6.

Free meditation group, Tues., 7 p.m., Sweetspot Arts, Ocean Pines, 410-641-6845 or susanbeverly2003@yahoo.com

Tri-County Bird Club (Wic., Som., Wor.) 4th Mon. (except Dec. & June-Aug.), Fox Rm., south entrance, Asbury UM Church, Salisbury. 410-742-5497 1157005

St. Michaels Museum at St. Mary's Square, 1.5 hr. walking tours to Frederick Douglass sites, Sat., thru Oct., 10:30 a.m. Fee. 410-745-3050

Writers Bloc writers group meeting 3rd Sat., Wicomico Library, Salisbury, 1 p.m. 443-260-0790

Missy's Quilting Bee, 1st Tues., 7-9, Choptank Electric mtg. rm., Denton. All welcome. 410-634-1163

Heartland Quilt Guild, 1st Thur., 7-9, Choptank Electric mtg. rm., Denton, 410-482-8131

Centreville Farmers Market, Sat., Wed., 9-1 thru Oct., Lawyers Row. New producers/vendors call D. Greiner, 410-364-5689

Strawberry Festival & Craft Show, June 7, 10-5, St. Luke's UMC, St. Michaels, lunch, bake sale, crafts. 410-745-2534.

Linchester Mill Arts & Music Festival, Denton, June 7, 12-5, open air market, food, music, hay rides, more. 410-673-1910

Delmarva Chicken Festival, Centre at Salisbury, June 20-21, arts, crafts, music, carnival, Giant Fry Pan. 410-749-0144

Relay for Life, Caroline 4-H Park, Denton, June 20-21. Luminaria ceremony at dusk. Food provided. 410-479-3188

Jeeps on the Shore, Great Pocomoke Fairgrounds, Pocomoke City, July 21-22. jeepsontheshore.com

East Coast Pullers Truck & Tractor Pull, June 28, 7 p.m., \$12, Great Pocomoke Fairgrounds. 410-632-3998

Scorchy Tawes Photography Exhibit, Julia A. Purnell Museum, Snow Hill, July 1-Aug. 22, Tues.-Sat., 10-4, Sun., 1-4. 410-632-0515

Jamboree in the Park, Northside Park, Ocean City, July 4, 5 p.m., fireworks 9:30 p.m.; Concert on the Beach, N. Division St., Ocean City, 8 p.m., fireworks 9:30 p.m. 800-OC-OCEAN

Concerts on the Beach, N. Division St., Ocean City, July 9, 16, 23, 8 p.m. Bring blanket or chair. 800-OC-OCEAN

Sundaes in the Park, Northside Park, 127th St. & the Bay, July 13, 20, 27, 6-8.

MAC Family Fun Day, Jolly Roger Amusement Park, Ocean City, July 19, 10-7. Advance tickets, \$30. 410-742-0505 ext. 113

Greek Festival, Convention Ctr., Ocean City, July 25-26, noon-11 p.m., July 27, noon-9. Food, dancing, fun. 410-524-0990

SEND EVENTS: Shore Good to Know,
Choptank Electric, P.O. Box 430, Denton, MD 21629;
or annew@choptankelectric.coop two months
prior to event if possible. Include phone number.