

LIVE WIRE

Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc. Vol. 11, NO. 7

Inside

Scholarships,
p. 2

Winning "Kids",
p. 3

JULY 2006

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

President and CEO
Frederick L. Hubbard

Board of Directors
Carl R. Widdowson
Chairman, Somerset Co.

David W. Bruning
Vice Chairman, Worcester Co.

William F. Schrader
Secretary-Treasurer, Cecil Co.

Olin S. Davis III
Kent Co.

Francis A. Callahan Jr.
Caroline Co.

W. Franklin Moore
Queen Anne's Co.

Jeffrey D. Rathell Sr.
Talbot Co.

Peggy D. Trader
Wicomico Co.

William L. Spicer
Dorchester Co.

Francis A. Ruffo Sr.
At-Large

Choptank pursues purchase of Berlin electric utilities

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Berlin have agreed in principle to sell the Berlin Utilities electric department to Choptank Electric Cooperative.

Under the terms of a resolution approved May 22 by the Mayor and Council of Berlin, Choptank will acquire all electric distribution assets as well as other related and available assets in the Town of Berlin territory. The municipal utility now serves about 2,000 meters. Berlin electric consumers will become members of Choptank Electric Cooperative with all of the privileges of co-op membership.

Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC) in Glen Allen, VA will acquire the generation assets of Berlin, including the municipal power plant, and ancillary and supporting equipment. Old Dominion is the power provider to 12 member cooperative systems, including Choptank, in Maryland, Virginia and Delaware.

Fred Hubbard, Choptank president and CEO said, "We look forward to sharing the benefits of cooperative membership with the residents of the Town of Berlin.

"We are very familiar with this area, having served territory surrounding Berlin as well as Ocean Pines for over 45 years," Mr. Hubbard said. "We look forward to working with the town and participating in programs and events as we do in communities throughout our service area."

Mike Wheatley, senior vice president of corporate services said, "We believe this acquisition will be mutually beneficial to the town and Choptank. The co-op will increase its presence in the area with more members and have more employees available to work on the system. We will also be able to spread costs

over a wider base, which will be to the mutual benefit of all members."

Mr. Hubbard said ODEC has an outstanding track record as a power provider of looking out for its members and a history of keeping costs down. ODEC is a reliable and extremely capable partner on the generation side."

The pending sale of the electric utility approved by the resolution of the Town of Berlin will be subject to a public referendum as well as Maryland Public Service Commission regulatory approval.

"This is a mutually beneficial relationship between two very compatible partners, because both the Town of Berlin and Choptank Electric Cooperative put the customer first. We at Old Dominion intend to continue providing a reliable, affordable source of power for Berlin residents for many years to come," said Jack E. Reasor Jr., president and chief executive officer at ODEC.

Mayor Thomas A. Cardinale said a number of entities had been interested in purchasing the utility. "The Mayor and Council believe the terms of this proposed agreement to sell the entire utility to Choptank Electric justifies consideration by the citizens of Berlin."

The resolution requires that prior to any final agreement to sell the electric utility, a majority of the town's registered voters must approve of the sale in a special election. The Mayor and Council indicated a referendum would be held as quickly as possible.

Electric consumers in Berlin will also get some rate relief from Choptank Electric. Under the terms of this agreement, consumers using an average of 1000 kilowatt hours per month will pay approximately \$25 per month less than they are now paying.

Get ready for racing thrills on the Choptank

Choptank Electric, as a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, has been a supporter of the Cambridge Power Boat Regatta Assn. (CPBRA) since 2000. As a sponsor the co-op has helped the all-volunteer CPBRA to build the reputation of the annual Cambridge Classic as a top event on the American Power Boat Assn. (APBA) racing circuit, while expanding the positive impact on the local economy and maintaining the event's family-oriented atmosphere.

This year's 95th Classic will be held July 28-30 on the Choptank River at Great Marsh Park in Cambridge. Two titles will be up or grabs this year. The APBA has designated this Classic as the North American Championship and Cambridge will also be the first leg of the Maryland Cup. Points earned at Cambridge will be combined with those earned at Kent Island August



Spectators can get a close-up look at racing boats in the pits in Cambridge July 28-30.

5-6 and Port Deposit on September 2-3. The Maryland Cup has been designed to encourage racer participation at all three events.

Approximately 100 race teams in 11 classes of the world's fastest inboard hydroplanes and runabouts will compete for national points and prize money in addition to the prestige of being crowned North American Champion during the Classic.

Racing begins Friday at about 10:30 a.m. with qualifying heats through the day. Racing will resume at 10 a.m. Saturday with the North American Championship finals beginning at noon. On Sunday, a separate event will have all classes competing for national points and prize money on the record-approved 1.25 mile course.

Admission and parking are free, with bleachers

Continued on page 3

\$6,000 in scholarships awarded by Choptank Electric Trust

The Choptank Electric Trust in May awarded six \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors. The scholarship program, which began in 1999, has given \$33,000 to cooperative scholars.

Award winners were: Lara Angel, Stephen Decatur High School, Berlin. Lara plans to attend Oklahoma City University and major in political science with the goal of becoming an attorney. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the Worcester County Legal Interns Team, school band and received a Presidential Service Award. She was Miss Maryland National Teenager in 2005 and is active in the youth ministry at her church.

Lara is the daughter of Sherryl Angel.

Thomas Bramble Jr., Queen Anne's County High School, Centreville. Thomas plans to attend Virginia Polytechnic Institute and major in animal and poultry sciences, with a possible career goal in veterinary medicine. He was active in 4-H and Future Farmers of American at local, state and national levels. Thomas raised the Grand Champion Bred and Owned Heifer at the 2005 Maryland State Fair. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bramble Sr.

Benjamin Brown, Easton High School. Benjamin is headed for the University of Maryland-College Park, where he will major in landscape architecture. He has been active in 4-H at all levels, and was in the school

band, choir, student government and National Honor Society. He is also active in his church.

Benjamin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Brown.

Nathan Brunet, Stephen Decatur High. Nathan will attend Rutgers University to major in business administration. An honor roll student, he received the Presidential Service Award. He was in the band, and on the football and truck teams. Nathan served as a tutor in the After School Program for middle schools and is active in Temple Bat Yam.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Brunet.

Joya Canfield, Stephen Decatur High. Joya is considering several colleges and will major in biology with plans to enter the bio-medical field. She was on the Distinguished Honor Roll, track team, student government and in the choir. Joya was also active in Relay for Life, and the Diakonia Homeless Shelter.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Canfield.

Emily Chambers, Stephen Decatur High. Emily plans to go to Hood College and major in business and marketing. A member of the Key Club, she was also on the honor roll and active in the Legal Intern Program.

She gave many hours of volunteer time to the Salvation Army, Red Cross and the Berlin Nursing Home and is also active in her church.

Emily is the daughter of Sharron Chambers.



ANGEL



CHAMBERS



CANFIELD



BRUNET



BROWN



BRAMBLE

Choptank Electric Trust grants awarded in May

The following Choptank Electric Trust grants were awarded in May by the Trust board of directors: Chesapeake Fields Institute, \$3078, computer equipment; North Dorchester High School After Prom Party, \$300; Chesapeake Culinary Center, \$800 for kitchen equipment; appliances for disabled individuals, \$1,683.

For more information or an application, call 1-877-892-0001 or go to the website at www.choptankelectric.coop and go to Operation Round Up.

Prepare now for hurricane season

Hurricanes are nature's most enormous storms and are born and thrive in the ocean, but they can also have disastrous effects far inland from the coast.

Here are some tips for "weathering the storm:"

Before the storm secure garbage cans, lawn furniture or anything that could fly around and cause damage.

Trim back dead or weak branches from trees.

Make an itemized list of all your personal property for insurance verification purposes.

Keep these supplies at home during the hurricane season in a separate "Hurricane Supplies Kit" so they are easy to find when you need them:

Canned or package foods, milk and beverages (at least a three-day non-perishable food supply)

Water (for drinking purposes, one gallon per person per day; fill bathtub and other containers)

First aid kit

Water purification tablets (can be purchased at your local pharmacy) Bleach (without lemon or any other additive).

Extra prescription medicine

3/4" plywood boards to board up windows

Lantern

Fuel

Fire extinguisher

Battery-operated radio

Flashlights

Extra batteries

Toiletries

Can opener (non-electric)

Eating utensils

Matches

Emergency cooking facilities

Baby food, diapers and formula

Portable cooler

Mosquito repellent

After any major storm watch for live electrical wires and do not go near downed lines.

When returning home that has flooded, be sure the electrical current is turned off, and do not attempt to turn on any electrically operated light or appliance until an electrician has checked your system.

Recent outages on the Choptank system

Ocean Pines, 5/16, 5 min., 1,357 members, loose connection

East New Market, 5/18, 1 hr. 17 min., 250 members, contractor dig in

West Denton, 5/18, 40 min., 133 members, equipment fault

Earleville, 5/25, 1 hr. 15 min., 46 members, animals/birds

Golden Hill, 5/27, 1 hr. 15 min., 24 members, lightning

Longwoods, 5/26, 45 min. 31 members, animals/birds

Costen, 5/27, 1 hr. 10 min., 1,144 members, animals/birds

Airey, 5/28, 1 hr., 88 members, fire

Costen, 5/29, 4 hrs., 129 members, underground cable

IB Corners, 5/30, 1.5-2.25 hrs., 70 members, underground cable

Kennedyville, 5/30, 30 min., 57 members, overhead conductor

6/1-6/2, multiple outages throughout service area due to lightning and wind, 565 members, outage times from 1 to 5 hours

Longwoods, 6/2, 1 hr. 20 min., 644 members, accident

Edgewood, 6/3, 2 hrs., 40 members, animals/birds

Edgewood, 6/3, 1 hr., 40 members, animals/birds

Princess Anne, 6/4, 3 hrs. 15 min., 111 members, underground cable

Barclay, 6/3, 1 hr. 20 min., 145 members, overhead recloser

Employees take new positions

Two management employees were promoted to newly established positions at Choptank Electric Cooperative's Denton headquarters.

Jim Harvey was named Operations Lineman Trainer and Mark Harris as Supply Chain Manager.

A 21-year veteran at Choptank, Mr. Harvey began as a communications clerk and transferred to the Apprentice Lineman Program in 1985. He became a journeyman in 1988 and chief lineman in 1990.

Mr. Harvey has been Manager of Regional Operations for the Chestertown District since 2000. As the Operations Lineman Trainer, he will implement a structured training program for the Distribution Division. He is responsible for



HARVEY

initial training and periodic re-training of linemen to develop safe work practices, improve efficiency and enhance reliability of service to members.

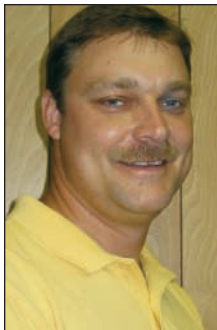
He and his wife Lisa have two sons and reside in Greensboro.

Mr. Harris began with Choptank in 1999 as a storeroom attendant's helper and became a Planning Assistant II later that year.

In his position as Supply Chain Manager, he will plan, direct and coordinate the purchase of materials, supplies and tools for the co-op.

He will also develop purchasing procedures for the organization.

Mr. Harris lives in Easton and has a daughter, Bailey.



HARRIS

Hubbard named to Md. Chamber

Fred Hubbard, President and Chief Executive Officer at Choptank Electric, has been appointed to the Maryland Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

The Maryland Chamber is a non-profit coalition of 850 businesses that employ more than 340,000 people in the state. Its mission is to maximize opportunities for its members to grow and prosper. The Maryland Chamber is the only business organization whose primary focus is lobbying decision makers in Annapolis to promote a statewide, pro-business agenda.

Mr. Hubbard has been CEO since 1991 and has been at Choptank for 47 years. He also serves on the boards of Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, the Virginia, Maryland and Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives and NCSC, a cooperative banking institution.

Also named to the Chamber board was Joseph Slater, President and CEO of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative.

Racing

Cont. from page 1

positioned along the shore. Pit areas are open to the public with owners and drivers available to show their equipment and talk with fans. Concessions for food, drink and souvenirs are available and staffed by local non-profit organizations.

On July 29, a combined car show with the Lower Delaware Mustang Club and the Mid-Shore Cruisers will include approximately 100 cars competing for prizes. Cars will be on hand from 11 to 4 adjacent to the parking area.

Choptank Electric will host a hospitality tent for members and employees to thank them for their support and enjoy activities of the weekend.



HUBBARD

"Power Kids" site gets national award

Choptank Electric Cooperative recently took honors in the 2006 "Spotlight on Excellence" awards program, sponsored by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators. The Denton-based cooperative received an Award of Excellence in the Best Web Site Category for "Power Kids."

Anne K. Whaples, manager of cooperative communications, was part of a team from five cooperatives that developed the award-winning entry. "Power Kids" is a web site directed at young people which features information on electricity and electrical safety, and as well as games with electrical themes. It can be viewed at www.choptankelectric.coop.

In addition to Choptank, the other cooperatives from Virginia were Northern Virginia, Rappahannock, Central Virginia and Northern Neck. All are members of the Virginia, Maryland and Delaware

Association of Electric Cooperatives.

The Council of Rural Electric Communicators honored the award recipients during a special luncheon at the Connect 2006 Conference held in San Antonio, Texas from May 17-19.

The Spotlight awards competition is an annual event recognizing the top-rated communication and marketing efforts by electric cooperatives and related organizations. Electric cooperative communicators and marketing professionals submitted more than 700 entries in the Spotlight on Excellence program, now in its 18th year. Faculty members from the University of Missouri - Columbia and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill judged the entries.

This is the third Spotlight on Excellence Award received by the Consumer Affairs Division at Choptank Electric Cooperative in ten years.

CHOPTANK SECURITY

Choptank Security offers the very best in wireless, supervised security technology, plus LifeGard, the personal home emergency system.

Yes, I am interested in a no cost home security/life safety analysis at my home. Please call me to set up an appointment:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Best time to call _____

Send me information about Choptank Security's maintenance program.

Send to: Choptank Security Systems, Attn: June Lederer
P.O. Box 310, Denton MD 21629



Watt's the Answer?

Win \$10 credit on your bill in our monthly trivia contest. Readers who send in the correct answer are entered in a drawing. Entries must be postmarked/dated by August 5.

**Watt's the Answer for July:
What does it mean when the
American flag is not flying above
the White House?**

Send to: Watt's the Answer? Choptank Electric, P.O. Box 430, Denton MD 21629 or annew@choptankelectric.coop. Please provide account or phone number.

The winner of the May contest is Jerome Krause of Berlin who knew Nolan Ryan's fastball made him the all-time strikeout king.

Pine Steppers Square Dance Club workshop every Wed., 7 p.m., Ocean Pines Community Hall. 410-835-3534 or 208-6777.

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

Bay Country Chorus (barbershop), every Mon., 7 p.m., Miller Hall, behind Trinity Cathedral, Goldsborough St., Easton. 410-770-8262.

Bingo: Willards VFC, Thurs., 7 p.m., Lions Club Bldg., 410-835-8678; Pittsville VFC, Fri., 7 p.m. 410-835-2323; Federalsburg VFW, Thurs., open 5:30 p.m., games 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 Lodge, Fruitland, Mon., 6:30 p.m. 410-742-6859; Willards Lions, Tues., 5 p.m., games 7 p.m. 410-835-2328;

Peninsulaires barbershop chorus, every Tues. 7:30 p.m., Wicomico Civic Ctr., Flanders Rm., Salisbury. 410-641-8927 or 410-543-8628.

Ocean Bay Chorus, Sweet Adelines, every Mon., 7 p.m., Wicomico Civic Center, Flanders Room, Salisbury. 410-749-0991.

Ocean Waves Square Dance Club workshop, every Tues., 7 p.m., Wicomico Civic Ctr., Salisbury. 410-742-2398 or 883-3723.

Delmarva Chorus, Sweet Adelines, every Mon., 7 p.m., Ocean Pines Community Center. 410-641-6876.

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. All welcome. 410-943-8325.

Pinochle Group, every Wed., 9:45 a.m., 410-641-8836, Bridge Club, every Wed., 10 a.m., 410-641-7667, Ocean Pines Yacht Club.

Pepper Steppers Square Dance, 2nd Sat., 8 p.m., First UM Church Hall, Chestertown. 410-758-1454 or 778-4578.

Wellness Community-Delmarva, weekly support groups for cancer patients/families, Talbot, Worcester, Wicomico. 888-806-0756.

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

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

US Submarine Vets, 3rd Sat., Dover. 410-482-6994/302-945-2448.

Eastern Shore Bluegrass Assn., show & jam, 2nd Sun., 1 p.m., Marydel Fire Co. 302-674-3149 or 492-1048.

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

Pine'er Craft Shop, Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, open every Sat. & Sun., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Line dance, Eastside Men's Club, Alexander Ave., Salisbury, every Fri. Beginner's lessons at 6 p.m. 410-749-1981.

National Assn. of Retired Federal Employees, 3rd Thurs., call for mtg. places, 410-749-6635/742-8073; Chap. 2274, 4th Thurs., Hall's Restaurant, Ocean City, 11:30 a.m., 410-641-2755.

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

First Saturday Writers Group, Ocean Pines Branch, Worcester Public Library, all welcome. 410-641-5515.

Children's Health Program, for pregnant women & children to age 19. Kent, 410-778-7035, QA, 410-758-0720, Talbot, 410-819-5670.

Eastern Shore Stamp Club, 1st Tues., Wicomico 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.

First Monday, HIV/Aids support group in Salisbury, 1st & 3rd Mon. 5:30 p.m. 410-219-9000 ext. 101, 443-523-1745 or 443-523-1744.

Duplicate bridge: Riverside Homes, Salisbury, Mon., 7p.m. 410-

835-8343; Tred Avon Club, Wed., noon, Talbot Community Ctr., Rt. 50, Easton. 410-226-5126.

Living with Cancer, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Thurs., 4-5:30 p.m., Kent & Queen Anne's Hospital, cafeteria meeting room. 410-778-5550.

Eastern Shore Writers' Assn., 2nd Sat., place TBA. 410-482-6736.

Queen Anne's Chapter, Barbershop Harmony Society, Wed., 7:30 p.m., Centreville UM Church, Rt. 213. 410-827-7993.

All you can eat breakfast, Eldorado-Brookview Firehouse, 3rd Sun., 7:30-10:30 a.m. \$6. 410-943-0216.

Overeaters Anonymous, every Sat., 10 a.m., Christ UM Church, Ed. Bldg., Salisbury. 410-376-0164.

Friends of the Ocean Pines Library, 2nd Mon., 10 a.m., main mtg. room of library. 410-208-2760.

Merry Widows & Widowers Social Club, 3rd Tues., 2:30 p.m., Ocean Pines Country Club. 410-208-6207.

Beach Singles social club for age 45+, last Tues, 6 p.m. For info./mtg. place, 410-208-3974.

M.O.P.S. (Mothers of Preschoolers), 1st Tues., 9 a.m., Greensboro Baptist Church, 401 Sunset Ave., through May. Free. 410-482-8601.

Delmarva Singles, ages 50+, 1st Wed., 6 p.m. Info 410-742-8310 or jasuth@intercom.net.

Join 4-H Clubs, open to ages 5-18. Call local extension office, Talbot, 410-822-1244, Caroline, 410-479-4030.

Centreville Farmer's Market, Wed. & Sat., 8-1 at Courthouse. Fresh fruit, vegetables, baked goods, crafts. 410-758-1291.

P.S. duPont High Class of 1961 45th reunion, Oct. 21, 6 p.m., Delaware National Country Club, Wilmington. Looking for classmates. Call "Butch" McCulley, 410-641-6678.

Sudlersville Vol. Fire Co. Carnival, July 11-15, parade July 13, fireworks July 14. 410-438-3822 or www.svfc.com.

"Magic Pots & Recycled Bottles," puppets, July 24, Dor. Co. Library, Cambridge, 10:30 a.m., St. Andrew's Hall, Hurlock, 2 p.m. Free, ticket reg. required. 410-228-7331 or 943-4331.

Somerset County Fair, Civic Ctr., Princess Anne, July 25-30, exhibitions, livestock, tractor pull, more. 410-651-9689.

Magician Michael Chamberlain, Dorchester Co. Library, Cambridge, July 31, 10:30 a.m., St. Andrews Church Hall, Hurlock, 2 p.m. Free tickets, 410-228-7331 or 410-943-4331.

South Dorchester Folk Museum, Aug. 2, 7 p.m., Blackwater Refuge Visitors Ctr. "Elliott Is. Button Factory." 410-228-6175.

Blessing of the Combines, Snow Hill, Aug. 5, 12:30-4 p.m.; Tractor Pull, 4:30 p.m., John W. Smith Park. 410-632-1334.

Worcester Co. Fair, Byrd Park, Snow Hill, Aug. 11-12, 10-9, Aug. 13, 10-5. www.worcestercountyfair.com

Chestertown 300 Parade "Horses to Hummers," Aug. 12, noon. 410-810-1356 or www.chestertown.com/c-300

Seafood Feast-I-Val, Sailwinds Park, Cambridge, Aug. 12. All you can eat menu. 410-228-1211 or www.seafoodfestival.com.

Gospel Concert, Holiday Park, Greensboro, Aug. 12, 6 p.m. Food available. 410-482-6797.

Wicomico Farm & Home Show, Winter Place Park, Rt. 50 Easton, Salisbury, Aug 16-19. 410-883-2342.

BBQ chicken, Linkwood-Salem Fire Co., Rt. 50, near Cambridge, Aug. 18-19, 10 a.m. 410-221-0169.

Great Pocomoke Fair, Pocomoke City, Aug. 23-24, 6-10, Aug. 25, 6-11, Aug. 26, 9-11. www.thegreatpocomokefair.org

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.