



LIVE WIRE

Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc. Vol. 12, NO. 10

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Cooperative Month celebrated with dedication, Change a Light kick-off

The new corporate headquarters of Choptank Electric was formally dedicated October 3 with a triple celebration of the building, National Cooperative Month and the Change a Light, Change the World campaign.

Co-op members, state and local officials, directors, employees and staff attended the occasion. President and CEO Fred Hubbard told the crowd, "In 2008 we will be celebrating our 70th anniversary and we continue to answer the call. With the opening of this new headquarters building, we can better serve the public."

Recounting the July 13, 2004 fire at the former headquarters that prompted new construction, Mr. Hubbard said in the weeks following that event, it became obvious employees could not work in the cramped quarters caused by the fire.

"You should always try to gain something positive from a negative, and that is what we've done," he noted.

Board Chairman Carl Widdowson added, "We've been here almost 70 years, and we had already outgrown the old building. (The fire) did give us an opportunity to do something about the overcrowding. We needed to get something done."

Corporate headquarters houses administrative, financial and engineering offices, consumer affairs, information technology and the call center. The former headquarters has become the Denton district office, which is open for customer services, bill payment and electric operations.



Choptank kicked off the Change a Light campaign on Oct. 3 with Lisa Wothers, co-chair, Sen. Richard Colburn, CEO Fred Hubbard, Del. Jeannie Haddaway and Del. Richard Sossi.

CEO Hubbard gave kudos to State Sen. Richard Colburn (R-37th) for his assistance with the permitting process. Sen. Colburn said, "This is a momentous day for Choptank Electric and the citizens they serve. As other cooperatives throughout the country celebrate National Cooperative Month, I can't think of a better time to dedicate the new headquarters of our own co-op."



Sen. Richard Colburn

"As Choptank Electric turns 70 next year, it is impressive to see how far you have come and exciting to think what the future might hold," said Sen. Colburn, who is a long-time co-op member from Dorchester County.

Employees also used the special occasion to kick off the Energy Star Change a Light, Change the World campaign, a partnership between the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and organizations across the country to encourage individuals to help save energy at home, starting with a switch to energy-efficient lighting.

Anne Whaples, manager of co-op communications and campaign co-chair along with Lisa Wothers, manager of financial and regulatory affairs, said, "Choptank is volunteering to help preserve our country's energy resources by encouraging our members and employees to change at least one light at home to a compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) that has earned the government's Energy Star for energy efficiency."

She said, "Over the life of a single CFL, you can save an average of \$30 or more in electricity costs. Every CFL uses 75% less energy than a standard incandescent and lasts as much as 10 times longer."

"Please join us in taking the pledge. It's a simple commitment that will go a long way to assure that the energy resources we rely on and the environment we live in are preserved for generations to come."

Mrs. Whaples said Choptank has set a goal of 2,500 pledges and asked everyone attending to "help us reach and exceed that goal by pledging to change just one light at home."

Members are asked to go to www.choptankelectric.coop and click on the "Change a Light" icon to go to the Pledge website. Select **Choptank Electric** from the organization list to register your pledge. While supplies last, Choptank has 14-watt CFLs for sale for \$2.00 each at all district offices. Two to a customer please.

What's Your Number? Read about our new game, P. 3!



PRACTICING WHAT WE PREACH — Workmen install the chandelier in the lobby of the Denton headquarters. The fixture holds 24 compact fluorescent energy-saving bulbs.

Consider efficiency and safety for winter

As temperatures fall, Safe Electricity encourages people to take steps now to improve both home energy efficiency and safety during the home heating season.

Energy dollars can pour out of homes through drafty doors, windows, uninsulated attics, walls, floors, and basements while safety risks go unnoticed. A small investment of time can pay big dividends in keeping your home safe and warm this winter. “Most winterizing steps can pay for themselves relatively quickly with heating bill savings,” said Molly Hall, director of Safe Electricity. “Weather stripping and caulking are inexpensive and among the simplest, most effective ways to boost efficiency and cut energy costs year round.”



GOOD CREDENTIALS — Jeffrey Rathell, vice president of the Choptank Board of Directors, receives the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate from Glenn English, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Assn. Mr. Rathell, who represents Talbot Co., completed the coursework in a program designed to provide the basic knowledge and skills required of cooperative directors. The certificate was presented during an NRECA Region I Meeting.

“As you take steps to winterize your home, you can also inspect for electrical hazards and eliminate electrical fire and shock risks,” added Jay Solomon, University of Illinois Extension Engineering Educator. “As you check around outlets and other places where air can leak, also check for overloaded outlets and cover plates that are warm to the touch.”

Approximately one-third of all house fires nationwide occur during the home-heating season. Many winter fires can be attributed to faulty and improper use and maintenance of heating equipment.

If an electric space heater is used, make sure the wiring is adequate, and check for cord fraying, splitting wires, or overheating. Do not place a portable heater in high-traffic areas and keep it clear of curtains, bedding, clothes and furniture. Never use extension cords with space heaters.

“Don’t overlook simple energy-saving steps such as opening curtains to let sunshine warm your home, and closing them at night to keep warmth in,” said Ms. Hall, “and make sure fireplace dampers are closed when not in use.”

Upgrades planned for Ocean Pines cabinets

Choptank Electric operations crews have begun a major project to upgrade underground service cabinets in Ocean Pines.

This project will replace electrical cabinets that have been in service for over 30 years with new state-of-the-art circuit switching cabinets that will increase safety and reliability.

The co-op will be scheduling outages in the Ocean Pines community of up to 8 hours in length and may involve up to 1,000 members at a time during this project.

Members in Ocean Pines will be notified of the dates and times of each outage and will receive a call two days before the outage takes place. Work started in October and is expected to continue for several months.

Building a new power pathway through Delmarva

You may have recently heard about the Mid Atlantic Power Pathway (MAPP) project proposed by Pepco Holdings (parent company of Delmarva Power). This \$1.05 billion project is a transmission line that starts at Possum Point in Virginia, runs through Calvert Cliffs, Md., crosses the Chesapeake with underground cable to the west of Vienna, Md., continues through Maryland to the Indian River in Delaware, moves north and eventually ends up in Salem, N.J.

This project will bring power from a much-needed additional source and direction. The sole source of power for the entire Delmarva Peninsula is now through Northern Delaware at Delmarva Power’s Keeney facility.

Some may remember May 14, 1996, when the entire Peninsula went dark, affecting 386,000 customers. This major outage was caused when someone installed a small part backwards while performing routine maintenance at Keeney. This caused 15 high voltage breakers to open simultaneously which lead to the blackout.

In addition to adding a source of power from another direction, the transmission line will also relieve overloads on some existing transmission lines.

Large transmission projects like this are expensive to build and it is difficult to obtain approvals for them. MAPP has been on the drawing board for about a year. The first approval needed is from the PJM (Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland) regional power grid. In late August the project received approval from a PJM committee that recommended the project be approved by the full PJM board which voted on the project in October. If approved by the full PJM Board, PHI Engineering will proceed with obtaining environmental and other permits necessary in the 524550000 several states the line will travel through. The line will be built in stages and is expected to be completed in 2014.

What does this mean for Choptank and Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (Choptank’s power supplier)? It means another source of power for the Peninsula and therefore improved reliability. However, it remains to be seen whether this line will bring additional benefits in terms of having a mitigating impact on the cost of providing power to the Delmarva Peninsula.

All co-op offices will be closed on Thursday, November 22, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Linemen show off their skills at first-ever rodeo

It was a rodeo without bucking broncos for Choptank Electric Cooperative operations employees on October 8 when 30 apprentice and qualified linemen competed in the first Lineman's Rodeo held by the Denton-based co-op.

The linemen exhibited their skills in overhead transformer changing, overhead grounding, switching cabinet evolution, hurt man rescue and two "mystery events" near Denton at Choptank's new training facility.

Fred Hubbard, Choptank's president and CEO, who is a former lineman, welcomed competitors and event judges who came from neighboring utilities, line contractors and the ranks of co-op retirees.

Jim Harvey, operations lineman trainer, said such rodeos are held throughout the electric utility industry with events designed

to improve the quality and speed of line work, which should then improve service to Choptank members. Harvey and Senior Operations Manager Mike Woodward were co-organizers of the event.

"We have 22 new linemen and this is a great training tool and a good way to get them to show off their training," said Harvey. The event was also planned around the "BuckSqueeze" climbing belt recently introduced to the co-op's linemen. In comparison to a traditional climbing belt, the "BuckSqueeze" has a locking mechanism that insures the lineman will not fall out of the pole. Since there was not a risk of a lineman falling during the rodeo, the organizers saw it as both good training and good fun.

The utility hopes to field a team to compete in the future in the annual Gaff-N-Go Rodeo held in Lynchburg, VA. Linemen from all over the East Coast compete in that event, which is sponsored by Central Virginia Electric Cooperative.

Kelly Hubbard, a chief lineman from the Salisbury District, was the 237686501 big winner at the Choptank rodeo. He took first place overall for qualified linemen and was first in three of six events. Hubbard resides in Dorchester County and has been with the co-op for 18 years.

Following is a complete list of winners.
Overall - Qualified Lineman Division:
 1st, Kelly Hubbard, chief lineman, Salisbury District; 2nd, Dennis Grafton, serviceman, Cambridge District; 3rd, Danny Melvin, chief lineman, Denton District. **Overall - Apprentice 1 Division:** 1st, Patrick Short, Chestertown; 2nd, Jason Gaskill, Berlin; 3rd, Nathan Smith, Denton. **Overall - Apprentice 2 Division:** 1st, Paul Miles III, Denton; 2nd, Randy Combs, Denton; 3rd, Kevin Hauf, St. Michaels.

Winners in Categories: VFI cabinet evolution, 1st Kelly Hubbard; 2nd Jason Gaskill; 3rd Josh Mitchell, apprentice, Denton. **Overhead grounding,** 1st Dennis Grafton, 2nd Chuck DeHoff, chief lineman, Chestertown, 3rd Jeff Coppage, apprentice, Cambridge. **Mystery Event I:** 1st Kelly Hubbard, 2nd Kevin Hauf, 3rd Jason Gaskill; **Transformer Exchange,** 1st Patrick Short, 2nd Dennis



A judge watches as linemen compete in one of two "mystery" events featured at the rodeo.

Overall winners: Qualified Lineman Division, Kelly Hubbard, right, chief lineman, Salisbury, top; Apprentice II, Paul Miles III, Denton, left, and Apprentice I, Patrick Short, Chestertown.

Grafton, 3rd Danny Melvin. **Mystery Event II:** 1st Jeff Coppage, 2nd Dennis Grafton, 3rd Taylor Thomas, apprentice, Salisbury, **Hurt Man Rescue:** 1st Kelly Hubbard, 2nd Nathan Smith, 3rd Chuck DeHoff.

Awards were presented to the winners by CEO Fred Hubbard at the close of the day.

Watt's the Answer is now a number!

The answer is... "Watt's the Answer" is going on hiatus. The Live Wire is now giving you two chances to win a \$10 credit on your bill in our new monthly contest. Readers will need to search the newsletter for two hidden account numbers within the text.

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

OK — we admit this is a sneaky way to get you to read the newsletter, but there's lots of good information here and we want you to know about it!

So look through the Live Wire and if you find your account number, 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 anew@choptankelectric.coop.

Watt's the Answer winners for August and September are: Mary Ellen Black, Denton, who knew a golf ball flies farther with dimples, and the Rev. Guy Butler, Berlin, who knew a harp surrounds the lamp bulb.

Thanks to all our loyal trivia participants!

Got photos?

In 2008, Choptank Electric will celebrate the 70th anniversary of its charter in 1938. While this will be a year-long celebration, the special anniversary will be officially observed at Choptank's annual meeting on April 26, 2008 at the Talbot County Community Center, Rt. 50, Easton.

At that time, we will feature a pictorial display showing the co-op, its employees and members through the years. We are looking for photos from members, retirees and friends of the co-op. If you have photos dating from the late 1930s up until the early 1980s, won't you share them with us?

The photos (or negatives) will be scanned electronically and the photos returned. If you are able to identify people in the photos, please do.

Send your photos, with return address, to: Choptank Electric Cooperative, Attn: Anne Whaples, PO Box 430, Denton MD 21629. If you have questions or have too many photos to mail, please call Mrs. Whaples at 877-892-0001 ext. 8640. Thanks for your help with this project!

Pine Steppers Square Dance Club workshop 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.

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.

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.

Ocean Waves Square Dance, 3rd Sun., 6 p.m., Mid-Shore YMCA, 715 S. Shumaker Dr., Salisbury. 410-873-2027 or 822-7387.

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.

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.

Pepper Steppers Square Dance, 2nd Sat., 8 p.m., First UM Church Hall, Chestertown. 410-810-0926 or 410-778-4578.

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.

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; 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.

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

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

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

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.

Overeaters Anon., Sat., 10 a.m., Christ UM Church, Ed. Bldg., Salisbury. 410-376-0164; Fri., noon, Family Connection Ctr., 29 Broad St., Ste. 209, Berlin. 410-629-0679.

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

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.

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.

Worcester Chorale, Wed., 7 p.m., Community Church, Rt. 589, Ocean Pines. 410-208-1999.

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

Dorchester Swingers Square Dance, 1st Fri., 8 p.m., Maple Elem. Cambridge, Sept. - June '08. 410-822-7535.

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.

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

Md. Children's Health, medical coverage, pregnant women & children to age 19. Kent 410-778-7035, QA 410-758-0720, Tal. 410-819-5690.

Line dance, every Fri., Frat. Order of Eagles, 107 Alexander Ave., Salisbury, beginners 6 p.m., dance follows. 410-749-1981.

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

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

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

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

Ham & oyster dinner, Ruthsburg Comm. Ctr., Nov. 6, carryouts available. 410-758-0405.

St. Luke's Fall Bazaar, St. Michaels, Nov. 9-10, 10-3, jewelry, crafts, food, luncheon. 410-745-2534.

Ballroom Dance, Nov. 17, 8-11, early waltz lesson, 7 p.m., Asbury UM Church, Salisbury. Admission. 410-749-4914.

Turkey Trot, Nov. 17, 8 a.m., Denton Elem., 410-479-8120.

Magi Choral Festival, featuring Nat'l Christian Choir., Nov. 17, 7 p.m., Nov. 18, 2 p.m., Wi Hi Aud., Salisbury. 410-749-1633.

Yuletide sale & crafts, Nov. 17, 10-2, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Rt. 50, Easton, soup, fresh breads. 410-770-3843.

AUCE fried chicken buffet, New Hope Church, Willards, Nov. 17, noon. Carryouts, baked goods. 410-430-7104.

Vera Bradley Bingo, Ruthsburg Comm. Ctr., Nov. 18, 1 p.m., games 2 p.m. \$20 @ door. 410-758-0828 or 758-0477.

Juried country crafts guild show, Rock Hall Fire House, Nov. 23-24, 10-4. 410-778-1432.

Kent Assn. of Riding Therapy antiques show & sale, Nov. 23, 4-7, Nov. 24, 10-5, Nov. 25, 10-3, Chestertown Mid. School. Admission. 410-778-1857 or 778-0397.

AUCE breakfast, Ruthsburg Comm. Ctr., Nov. 25, 7-10. 410-758-2710.

Showell Vol. Fire Dept. "Gone Hog Wild," 7 Harleys given in 7 days, drawing Dec. 1, call 410-352-5916 for tix or www.showellvfd.com.

Queen Anne's Chorale, Christmas Concert, Dec. 2, 4 p.m., QAC High School. \$10 at door. 410-827-8618.

Lighting of the Green, Caroline Co. Courthouse, Denton, Dec. 6, 7 p.m. 410-479-8120.

Denton Holiday Parade, Dec. 6, 6 p.m., downtown. 410-479-2050.

Santa's Magic Worship, Martinak State Park, Nature Ctr. & Log Cabin, Dec. 8, 4-7, Dec. 9, 4-7. 410-479-8120.

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.