

LIVE WIRE

Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc. Vol. 13, NO. 3

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MARCH 2008

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

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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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Frederick L. Hubbard

Board of Directors
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Jeffrey D. Rathell Sr.
Vice Chairman, Talbot Co.

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At-Large

A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

**Celebrating
70 years of service
to our members
1938-2008**

Time to vote for board of directors

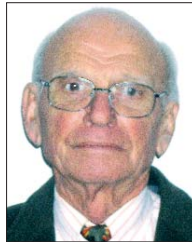
Three seats on the Choptank Electric Cooperative Board of Directors are up for election this year. Two races are uncontested and one features three candidates.

The incumbents standing for reelection are Carl R. Widdowson, the present chairman of the board, representing Somerset County, W. Fred Schrader of Cecil County, and Jeffrey D. Rathell Sr., who represents Talbot County.

Also running for the Talbot County seat with nominations by petition are Charles B. Albert and William F. Best.

Mr. Albert has been a member of Choptank Electric since the St. Michaels Electric Company was purchased by the cooperative. He and his wife, Virginia, moved to St. Michaels three years ago and have attended meetings of the Commissioners of St. Michaels, including ones associated with the selection process for selling the electric company.

He is retired from General Electric and Lockheed Martin, where he was a Principal Test Engineer in the Aerospace Division of both companies. Mr. Albert was involved in various satellite programs for communications, military and navigation, including GPS satellites. He was chairman of the Engineering Excellence Committee during the merger of RCA and GE aero-



ALBERT



BEST



RATHELL



SCHRADER



WIDDOWSON

space divisions.

Mr. Albert holds a Professional Engineering License from the State of Pennsylvania. He has just been appointed to the Waterways Advisory Board for the Town of St. Michaels.

Mr. Best and his wife, Betty, reside in St. Michaels. For 12 years, he was the Executive Director of the Maryland/DC Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) where he was responsible for membership, publications, coordination of all committee work and other duties, including working with the national organization as assistant chair of the affiliate group for ASBO International.

A graduate of Frostburg State Teachers College, he also holds Masters degrees from the University of Maryland. He was a high school teacher and assistant principal at several schools, as well as the principal of Easton High School. He also served as administrative assistant to the superintendent and assistant superintendent for the Talbot County Board of Education.

Continued on page 2

Celebrate 70 years of "co-op"eration

Member-owners of Choptank Electric Cooperative are invited to celebrate the 70th anniversary of their cooperative on Saturday, April 26, at the annual meeting. This year's event will be held at the Talbot County Community Center located on Rt. 50, just outside of Easton.

The meeting will open at 8 a.m. for registration, exhibits and a hearty breakfast buffet served by Krystal Q Caterers of Easton. Entertainment during breakfast will be good old-fashioned bluegrass by the "Oil City Ramblers" from Caroline County.

The business meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. during which time President and CEO Fred Hubbard will give his report to the members on Choptank business during 2007. Election for three positions on the board of directors will also take place during the meeting.

Entertainer for this special meeting will be comedian John Reep.

John who? If you're not familiar with the name, you will probably recognize him as the Dodge "Hemi guy". You know the one - he's the redheaded hillbilly in the Dodge Ram commercials who leans out of a beat-up car and utters the now-famous line: "That thing gotta Hemi?"

John has appeared on NBC's "Last Comic



Comedian John Reep aka "the Hemi Guy" will perform at the annual meeting.

Standing", Comedy Central's "Premium Blend" and in the half-hour special "Comedy Central Presents: Jon Reep".

He describes his show as "supersonic energy filled with non-stop characters, clever writing, and the one talent that separates me from all other comedians in the world: I'm the best redneck dancer since Elvis."

Also, look for John next year in the film, "Harold & Kumar go to Amsterdam."

Following John Reep's comedy will be a fitting end to a celebration: Door prizes. 10209

If you plan to attend, please return the RSVP form in this mailing or go to www.choptankelectric.coop to the RSVP page.



The Nominating Committee for the Choptank Electric Board of Directors met on Feb. 8. Standing, left to right: Thomas K. Gannon, Centreville; Gordon Behrens, Cordova; Jack Elliott, Salisbury, chairman; George Weaver, Greensboro; Paul Bounds, Berlin; Olin Davis Jr., Galena. Seated is Bernice Hevelow, Warwick.

Board elections

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Best has been involved in numerous professional affiliations, as well as serving on the Board of Directors for the Talbot County Mental Health Association and the Maryland Retired Teachers Association. He is a past president and membership chairperson of the Talbot County Retired Teachers Association.

Mr. Rathell has been a member of the Choptank Electric Board of Directors since 1998. In 2007, he was elected Vice Chairman of the board. He also served on the board of Choptank Security and was a member of the building committee for the new co-op headquarters in Denton. He currently sits on the Mid-Atlantic Cooperative Solutions Board of Directors, a Choptank affiliate.

Mr. Rathell resides in Cordova and is president of Rathell Farm Equipment Co. Inc., which has been a family-owned farm equipment business since 1956. He served on the New Holland National Dealer Council from 2000 to 2003, and was council president in 2001.

He has also served on the board of directors for the LEAD Maryland Foundation Inc. for three years and was elected secretary this year.

Mr. Schrader has been a Choptank Electric board member since 1983 and served as its secretary-treasurer from 1998-2006. He owns and operates Wil-O-Mar Farms, a dairy and crop operation, with his two sons.

He is a member of the Cecil County Farm Bureau and Land'O Lakes Dairy Cooperative. In addition, Mr. Schrader currently serves as the treasurer for the Upper Bay Ruritan Club and as the financial secretary for Zion United Methodist Church in Cecilton. He also served for 22 years on the Cecil County Fair Board.

He and his wife, Margaret, reside near Earleville.

Mr. Widdowson has been the president of the co-op board since 1983, and has been a board member since 1980.

He and his wife, Barbara, reside near Princess Anne, where he operates a grain farm.

Mr. Widdowson is a member of the board of Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, Choptank's power supplier. He is also the Maryland representative to the board of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

A long-time member of Post 94, American Legion, he is a member of the First Baptist Church of Princess Anne and also serves on the Somerset County Planning and Zoning Commission.

Maryland Legislative Corner



By Bob Behlke
*Vice President of
Consumer Affairs*

As many of you may know, Gov. Martin O'Malley initiated some standards for the electric utilities to follow that are intended to lower the stress on Maryland's electrical distribution system. Without going into great detail at this time, the overarching premise is for the distribution utility to have its members lower kilowatt hour consumption by 15% by the year 2015, and thus has been dubbed the "15 X 15" initiative.

This is an enormous task considering everything in the modern house that is powered by electricity. With more folks moving to larger homes with several televisions per home, multiple computers and chargers for every portable electric device, the per capita consumption is escalating.

Choptank Electric was required to submit a plan by Feb. 29 that will achieve the governor's goal of 15 X 15. There is no one magic bullet, thus it will be a multi-faceted approach 522046001 with such initiatives as

compact fluorescent bulb distribution, peak load curtailment and perhaps rebates on energy efficient appliances and equipment.

The number one item in the plan will most likely be education. Gov. O'Malley has expressed concern over the reported possibility of brownouts starting in 2012. We must all be better stewards of the electricity we frequently take for granted. Choptank will continue to make our members aware of energy-saving strategies and simple tips to apply at home.

Once Choptank's plan is approved by the Public Service Commission, we will work on cost calculations for the best avenues to pursue. This will not be a cheap endeavor. Please keep in mind we are all in this together, not just the co-op family, but every resident and business in Maryland will have to contribute their share. Remember the cheapest kilowatt is the one that is never used.

We expect other energy issues to come out of this year's legislative session that will further the 15 X 15 goal. As always, Choptank staff will do our best to keep our members informed when we plan to implement any of our initiatives, and we will keep you informed of our progress.

Choptank Security is sold to ASG

Choptank Security Systems Inc. has sold its business to ASG Security of Beltsville, MD, one of the nation's premier security companies, according to a joint statement from Fred Hubbard, president and CEO of Choptank Security, and Joe Nuccio, president and CEO of ASG.

Mr. Hubbard said, "ASG is an excellent company and I believe our security systems customers will be well-served by them. ASG will help meet the demands for those interested in the latest technologies and trends in the security industry."

One of the largest security companies in the Mid-Atlantic region, ASG Security has full-service offices in Maryland, Washington, D.C., Virginia, New Jersey and

Pennsylvania. ASG also has offices in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, and McAllen, Texas regions.

Mr. Nuccio said, "The Denton office will remain open and the local employees will continue to serve our customers. The current monitoring will also remain the same." Mr. Nuccio heads up ASG's senior management team, which has over 80 years of combined experience in the security industry.

"As we celebrate our 13th year of operation, we would like to thank our customers for being an integral part of our success," Mr. Hubbard said.

The security company was formed in 1996 as a subsidiary of Choptank Electric and has over 1,700 accounts.

**RSVP online for the
annual meeting**
www.choptankelectric.coop

Read the EnergyGuide label when appliance shopping

What's yellow and black and can help save you money? If you answered the *EnergyGuide* label attached to all new appliances, you're right. If you said it was a honey bee bringing you a free jar of honey, you really need to read this article.

In fact, the most important feature of any new home appliance or heat pump is the bright yellow label with bold black letters that the Federal Government requires must be displayed by retailers on every unit. This *EnergyGuide* label allows you to compare the estimated annual energy usage and operating cost show you can choose the model that will cost you less to operate over the long run.

Today's appliances are much more energy efficient than those manufactured even just ten years ago. The models that have earned the U.S. Department of Energy's *EnergyStar* designation are the most energy efficient and use 10-50% less energy than standard models.

A word of caution: while every new appliance must have an *EnergyGuide* label prominently displayed on the unit, not every unit includes the *EnergyStar* logo and designation. Be sure to look for this logo on the label if you want to purchase the most energy efficient model.

You will find the *EnergyGuide* label on all new refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, electric ranges, microwaves, clothes washers and dryers, water heaters, air conditioners and heat pumps. Since last July, all new home computer models also must include the *EnergyGuide* label and many have earned *EnergyStar* designation.60900

It really is simple to read the *EnergyGuide* label when appliance shopping. Here are some tips:

Top: At the top you will see the type of appliance and its features on the left. On the right are listed the manufacturer, make and model information.

Middle: This chart shows how much electricity in kilowatt hours (kWh) the appliance is estimated to use in one year. The lower the number, the less it costs to run. The most efficient models that have earned the *EnergyStar* designation will display this logo in this area.

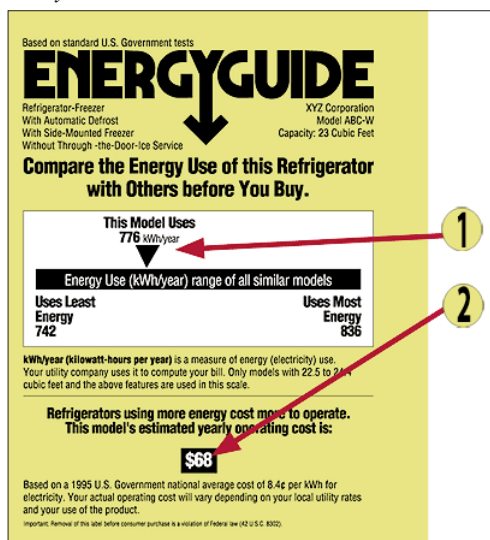
Bottom: In a box you will see a dollar sign and a number. This is the model's estimated annual cost of operation. Be aware that the amount shown is based on the average cost of electricity throughout the United States and may be out-of-date. To get a more accurate estimated annual cost, you should write down the per kilowatt hour (kWh) cost on your most recent bill from your electric cooperative. Take along a calculator and use this number to multiply the estimated annual energy usage shown on the

tag chart.

It sounds like a cliché, but replacing your old inefficient appliances with new energy-efficient models can really help lower your electricity use and your monthly bill. Plus, you'll be helping to conserve our environment, too.

For a complete list of *EnergyStar* appliances by type, brand and model and more information on how you can save energy around your home, visit www.energy.gov.

This is the second of a series of articles from Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, the energy provider for twelve of the electric distribution cooperatives that serve Virginia, Maryland and Delaware.



The EnergyGuide label gives you two important pieces of information you can use to compare different brands and models when shopping for a new appliance:
1 - Estimated energy consumption on a scale showing a range for similar models;
2 - Estimated yearly operating cost based on the national average cost of electricity.

Watt's Your Number?

Oops! The account numbers for this contest were omitted in the February issue. We'll make up for that in this issue of The Live Wire and by giving you 4 chances to win a \$10 credit on your bill in our monthly contest.

Readers need to search the newsletter for the hidden account numbers in the text.

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.

Is your house full of "vampires"?

By Scott Gates

Most homes these days never quite shut down for the night. Although lamps may be off, dark rooms are typically spotted with tiny red and green lights of appliances and the glow of digital clocks.

All of those little lights, clocks, and seemingly "sleeping" appliances, however, are using more electricity than most would think. Sometimes called vampire electronics or "phantom load", these devices suck up 5 percent of all energy used in the United States and cost consumers more than \$3 billion every year.

For the average homeowner, vampire electronics can add 20 percent to monthly electric bills, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. To trim this excess energy use, you need to know where these vampires reside and keep them in check.

Take a closer look at appliances around your home. Those that use remote controls such as TVs, DVD players, ceiling fans, and stereos are suspect. Any digital displays, such as microwave and coffee machine clocks, are working against your electric bill. And many of those chargers around the house that keep cell phones, power tools, and MP3 players at the ready constantly draw power when plugged in.

Unplugging these vampires effectively drives a stake into their energy-consuming hearts. Power strips provide another way to thwart them. Simply plug appliances into a power strip, and switch it off when those appliances aren't being used.

In addition, unplug any battery-operated electronic device once charged. You wouldn't walk away from a flowing water hose, after all, and you certainly don't want to keep feeding those vampires.

Scott Gates writes on technology and energy efficiency for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Choptank Trust awards for Jan.

- Camp E.S.P.A. – \$9,500 for concrete slab and installation of poles for basketball court.
- Dorchester Co. Community Service Providers – \$3,700 to assist with emergency shelter care.
- Galena Lions Charities, Inc. – \$1,000 for lazy-eye program.
- Chesapeake College Foundation – \$2,000
- Individuals in need — \$3,108

Check out "Touchstone Energy Savers" at www.choptankelectric.coop

Pine Steppers Square Dance Club workshop Wed., 7 p.m., Ocean Pines Community Hall. 410-208-6331 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, 2nd Sat., 8-10:30 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, 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.

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. 1933211

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.

Federalsburg 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 410-778-7023, QA 410-758-0720, Talbot, 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.

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

Dorchester Swingers Square Dance, Maple Elem. School, Egypt Rd., Cambridge, 1st Fri., 8-10. Refreshments. 410-822-7535.

Free tax prep, AARP Tax-Aides, for appts.: Ocean Pines, Ocean City, Berlin or Gull Creek Ret. Ctr., 410-208-1458; Snow Hill, 410-632-1277; Pocomoke, 410-957-0391; Salisbury, 410-742-8569.

Fried oysters, chicken & dumplings, Immaculate Conception Church, Marydel, Mar. 8, 3-7, takeouts. 410-482-8939.

Basket Bingo, Pittsville Firehouse, Mar. 10, 5:30, games at 7 p.m. Tickets, 410-548-1404 or 835-2611.

Ballroom dance, Mar. 15, 8-11, early bird lesson, 7 p.m. Asbury UM Church, Salisbury. Admission. 410-749-4914.

Fried chicken buffet, New Hope Church, Willard, Mar. 15, 12-until. 410-543-8244.

Dessert Theater, Mar. 15, 7:30 p.m., Mar. 16, 2 p.m., Guerrieri Hall, Wor-Wic Comm. College, Salisbury. \$10. 410-543-4655.

Basket Bingo, Mar. 27, 5:30 p.m., games 7 p.m., Salisbury Moose Lodge, sponsored by Ocean Waves Square Dance Club. 410-883-3723 or 873-2027.

Basket Bingo, Denton Am. Legion, sponsored by Lockerman Mid. School PTA, Mar. 30, 1 p.m., games 2 p.m. 410-479-0459.

Caroline Public Library, Denton: Mar. 28, SSUUNA, dancer, percussionist, singer, 7 p.m.; April 4, Robin Spielberg, pianist, 7 p.m.; BOOKS PLUS, April 14, "Wished-For Country," 7-9 p.m.

Fried chicken buffet, New Hope Church, Willard, April 19, 12-until. 410-543-8244.

Queen Anne's Chorale Gala, April 26, 7:30 p.m., Todd Performing Arts Ctr., Chesapeake College, Wye Mills. Free concert "Made in America." 410-827-8168.

Mid-Atlantic Symphony Season Finale, Comm. Church, Ocean Pines, April 26, 7:30 p.m. 888-846-8600.

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.