

LIVE WIRE

Celebrating
80
1938 2018
Years of Service



Choptank Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



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Your secure, online bill payment system

Call Before Your Dig Think Before You Plant

Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

For more tips on smart tree planting in your community, contact your local electric cooperative or visit www.ArborDay.org.

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard... especially to power lines.

LARGE TREES

Height/spread of more than 40 feet, such as:

- Maple
- Birch
- Oak
- Sweetgum
- Spruce
- Linden
- Pine

MEDIUM TREES

Height/spread of 25 to 40 feet, such as:

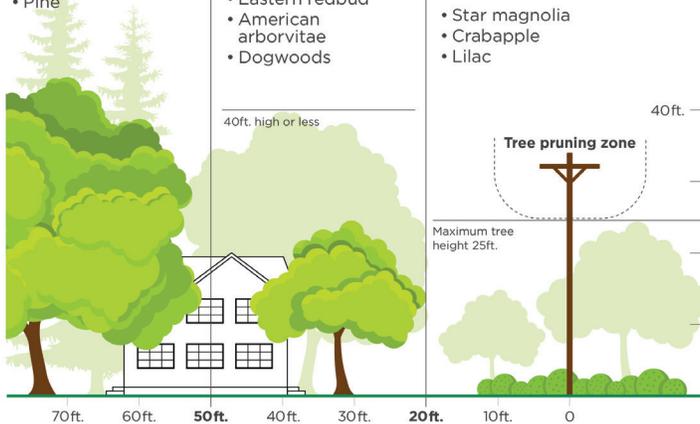
- Washington hawthorn
- Goldenrain tree
- Eastern redbud
- American arborvitae
- Dogwoods

SMALL TREES

Avoid planting within 20 feet of power lines. When planting within 20 feet is unavoidable, use only shrubs and small trees.

Height/spread of no more than 25 feet such as:

- Star magnolia
- Crabapple
- Lilac



Be safe! Always call 811 before you dig to locate any buried utility lines.

Source: The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Spring is an optimal time of year to dream up and achieve your landscaping masterpiece. Perhaps you're planning to build a new deck or installing a swimming pool to enjoy this summer. If any of your projects require digging--such as planting trees or shrubs, or setting posts--remember to dial 811 first. Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water and electric lines, can be a shovel thrust away from turning a spring project into a disaster.

See Dig
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Straight Talk with your CEO

by Mike Wheatley

The Power Behind Your Power

As April arrives, it brings with it the showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages. While Choptank Electric Cooperative strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst -- our Co-op's linemen.

One of the most dangerous jobs

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, our linemen often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines.

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Dig

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Play it safe by dialing 811 to find out where utility lines run on your property. Your call will be routed to a local “one call” center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.



In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes and cables. These areas will be marked with flags or paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of “Call Before You Dig” services, the majority don't take advantage of the service. A national survey showed that only 50 percent of homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects, according

to the Common Ground Alliance (CGA), a federally mandated group of underground utility and damage prevention industry professionals. CGA data also shows that an underground utility line is damaged every six minutes in the U.S. because someone decided to dig without first dialing 811.

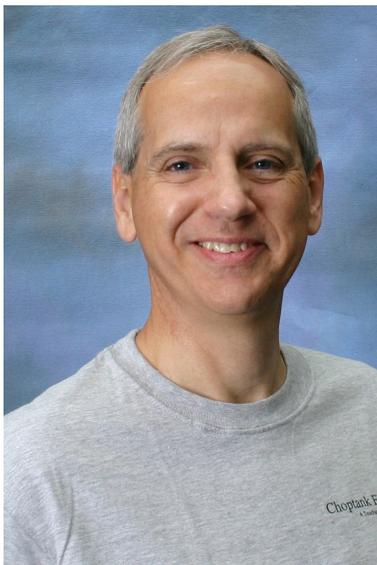
Even simple tasks like installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines, which can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: the 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information about the local 811 service, visit www.missutilitydelmarva.com.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Retirements at Choptank Electric



Richard “Rick” Wyatt, Human Resources Specialist, retired after 15 years of dedicated service on January 5, 2018. Rick was hired as a Disbursements Control Accountant in 2003 and later became the Human Resources Specialist in 2012.



Alan Lord, an Engineering Fieldman in the Denton District, retired on January 26, 2018 after 33 years of dedicated service. Originally hired as a Draftsman, Alan has held several positions over the years in the Operations and Member Services Departments. He was an Engineering fieldman for the last 15 years.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK MR. WYATT AND MR. LORD FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO CHOPTANK ELECTRIC AND ITS MEMBERS, AND WISH BOTH OF THEM A VERY HAPPY AND HEALTHY RETIREMENT!

Straight Talk

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To help keep them safe, linemen wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.



In addition to the highly visible tasks linemen perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts that can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews use their laptops and cell phones to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our community,

Choptank Electric linemen are responsible for maintaining 6,264 miles of line across the nine counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore in order to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays, or personal considerations.

While some of the tools that our linemen use have changed over the years, namely the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineman is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any time of the

day or night. During hurricanes, wildfires or storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power. While April is known for spring showers, there is also a day set aside to “thank a lineman.”

Lineman Appreciation Day is April 9. So during the month of April, if you see a lineman, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.

Buy Green Energy Today!

Are you interested in renewable energy but can't put a solar array or a wind turbine on your property? We have the answer! Choptank Electric offers Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) for anyone who is interested in purchasing renewable energy without the hassle.

Since 2009, Choptank Electric has offered RECs for anyone interested in reducing their carbon footprint and supporting green power. Co-op members may purchase this green power in blocks of 100 kWh that costs 20 cents per block. For exam-



ple, to purchase four blocks of green energy, or 400 kWh, that means it will cost the member 80 cents. This charge will appear as an additional line item on your monthly bill.

While there is a minimum purchase of one block, there is no maximum. This purchase requires a one-year commitment and this purchase will automatically renew unless cancelled. To sign up, visit our website at www.choptankelectric.coop and under Energy Efficiency, click on Renewable Energy Credits.

Lineman Appreciation Day April 9, 2018



Remember to #ThankALineman

Lineman Appreciation Day!

National Lineman Appreciation Day is being celebrated on Monday, April 9, 2018. We proudly recognize all electric linemen for the services they perform around the clock in dangerous conditions to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety. We invite members to take a moment to thank a lineman for all the work they do. Use #ThankALineman on social media to show your support for the men and women who light our lives, and keep our members first, every day.

Our offices will be
closed on Monday,
May 28, 2018.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight for maximum energy efficiency. Test the seal by closing the door over a piece of paper (so that it's half in and half out). If you can easily pull the piece of paper out, your seal may need to be replaced or the latch may need to be adjusted.

Source: energy.gov



February 2018

Trust Awards

- Neighborhood Service Center - \$1,057 toward mobile clinic
- North East Middle School - \$750 cello
- Pittsville Middle School Chorus - \$500 trip
- Lockerman Middle School - \$400 band festival
- Salisbury Sunrise Rotary Club - \$500 shirts
- Easton Church of God - \$500 event
- Prince Street Nothin' but Net - \$425 shirts
- Somerset Judy Center - \$2,500 diapers

- Caroline County Show Stoppers - \$400 sound board

The total of approved applications for February was \$21,496.08 which included \$15,964.08 for individual home and medical expenses.

Electric Trust is a 501-c-3 charitable foundation funded by Operation Round-Up donations from members of Choptank Electric. Funds from the Trust are distributed in all nine counties of Maryland's Eastern Shore.

