

Your Source For News & Information



Local News and Information for Members of Choptank Electric on Maryland's Eastern Shore



Wishing Our Members a Joyous Holiday Season!

Thanksgiving is fast approaching and with Christmas and New Year's on the horizon, Choptank Electric Cooperative would like to extend a joyous and warm holiday greeting. During this season, we are reminded that it is a blessing to have the ability to provide electricity to all of our friends and family located throughout the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

The holidays are also a great time to reflect upon our continued Concern for Community, including lending one of our own to bring the gift of electricity to Coniri, Bolivia, and participating in the Maryland Farm to Table program.

We are truly blessed to partner with *Cooperative Living* magazine to bring you better content about what's happening at your Co-op and around your community. As a reminder, this edition of *Cooperative Living* combines content for November and December, so members can expect their next issue in January. Have a wonderful holiday season!

THIS MONTH'S FEATURES



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Elevate Your High School Career with Youth Tour!

Sound Exciting? Now Is the Time to Apply!

Every year, Choptank Electric sends five high school juniors on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Washington, D.C., which includes the opportunity to meet members of Congress and senators, visit the U.S. Capitol Visitor's Center, tour the Capitol building, visit local memorials and museums, and other historic sites. In previous Youth Tour trips, students have attended Nationals' baseball games, the Kennedy Center, and the Pentagon. Along with the sites, selected students will meet over 1,800 other co-op member students from all across the country. With this opportunity, our candidates can also gain exclusive leadership training and opportunities that build connections and skills that assist in their future career paths.

Sound interesting? Choptank Electric is now accepting applications for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) 2020 Youth Tour program, which will take place June 14-18, 2020, in Washington, D.C.

Youth Tour representatives are selected by Choptank Electric based on an application, a 90-second first-round, self-produced video, a short essay, and, if applicable, a second-round interview. To qualify for this opportunity, students must be juniors whose parents or guardians are Choptank Electric members. Applications are due by

4:30 p.m. Friday, January 31, 2020. All expenses are paid for by Choptank Electric.

Members can find applications online at Choptank Electric's website at www.choptankelectric.coop under Member Benefits, Commitment to Community, Youth Tour or call the Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001 for a mailed application.

We look forward to seeing your application soon!



Electrical Safety Activity

The holiday season is a festive time of year! Remember to keep electrical and fire safety in mind as you decorate your home.

*Can you find the four hazards in the home below?
Use the safety tips for clues.*



Electrical Safety Tips:

- Do not overload electrical outlets with too many decorations or appliances.
- Never leave a candle burning if you're not in the room.
- Make sure your tree is watered daily.
- Extension cords used for holiday decorations should be checked for fraying/damaged or exposed wires.



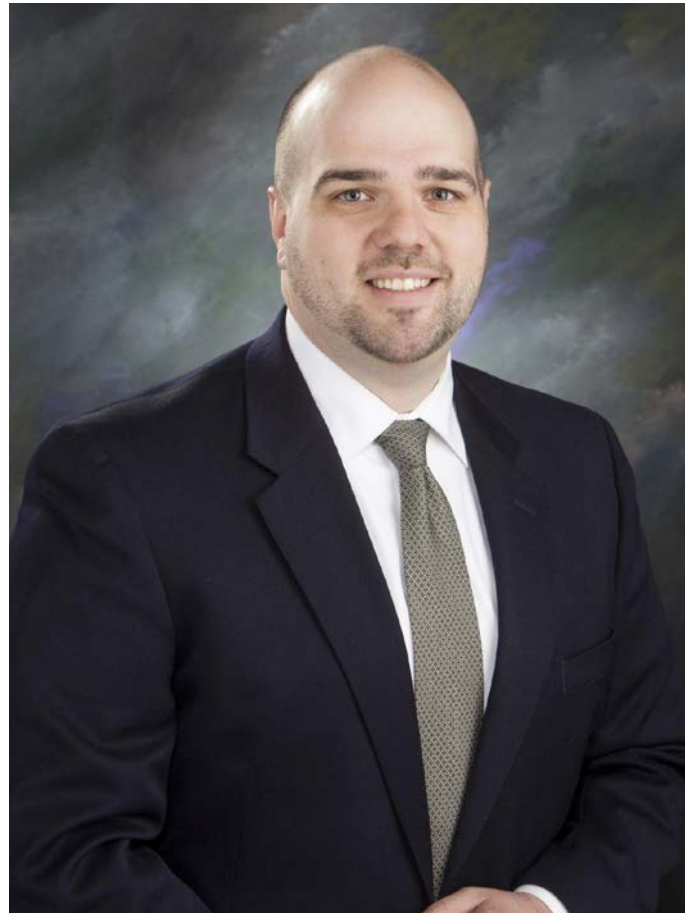
Choptank Electric Recruits Talented VP of Engineering

Choptank Electric recently hired Leroy Sverduk as the new Vice President of Engineering Services. He began his duties on September 16, 2019.

Sverduk was Delaware Electric Cooperative's Manager of Metering and Power Supply. Sverduk was at Delaware Electric since 2011 where he was originally hired as a Systems Engineer. Before joining Delaware, he led research in underwater electromagnetic sensor and sensor systems for the Office of Naval Research and Naval Surface Warfare Center in Carderock, Maryland, as an electronics engineer.

Sverduk earned a bachelor's of science in engineering with an electrical concentration from Messiah College, and is a licensed Professional Engineer in both Delaware and Maryland. Sverduk has also completed the Robert I. Kabat Management Program, which is a six-week NRECA leadership training program.

"We are excited to have Leroy as part of the Choptank Electric family," said Mike Malandro, President and CEO of Choptank Electric Cooperative. "His understanding of the local electrical grid and previous Co-op experience make him a perfect choice to implement 21st-century utility innovation and strengthen Choptank Electric's executive team."



*Leroy Sverduk
Vice President of Engineering*

2020 Notice of Election of the Board of Directors

In conjunction with the 2020 Annual Meeting of Choptank Electric Cooperative Inc., one member of the Cooperative from each of the following Director Districts will be elected to the Board of Directors: Cecil County, Talbot County, Somerset County, and Ocean Pines District. If you are interested in being a candidate for one of these positions, please complete and sign a 2020 Petition for Nomination of Candidate for Directors by end of business on Monday, December 30, 2019.

The completed petition must be sent or delivered to the attention of the Credentials & Election Committee, c/o Dawn Bowie, Choptank Electric Cooperative either: (a) by hand delivery or courier to the headquarters office, 10384 River Road, Denton, MD 21629; (b) by mail to

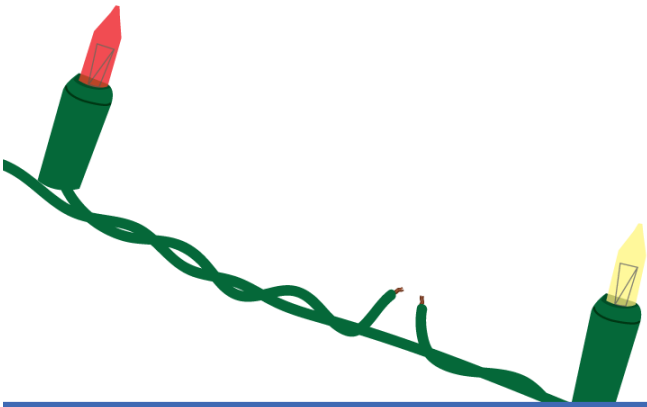
P.O. Box 430, Denton, MD 21629; or (c) by email to Dawn Bowie at dawnb@choptankelectric.coop.

Members can find a copy of the 2020 Petition for Nomination of Candidate for Director and the bylaws on our website at www.choptankelectric.coop (Member Benefits, Annual Meeting) or by calling our Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001 to request a mailed copy.

Please review the bylaws for additional requirements regarding Board of Director positions. The election results will be announced at the 2020 Annual Meeting, which will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2020, at the Choptank Electric Regional Service Center located at 6520 Walston Switch Rd., Salisbury, MD 21804.

Holiday Safety Tips

Check for frays before putting up your lights.



Keep your tree and decorations away from the fireplace.



#BeSafe

DON'T GET SCAMMED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Can you spot the differences between an actual Choptank Electric employee and a fake?

Actual CEC Employee



- ✓ Company ID
- ✓ Company Logo
- ✓ Marked Company Vehicle

Fake Employee

- ✗ No Company ID
- ✗ No Company Logo
- ✗ Unmarked Company Vehicle

August 2019 Trust Awards

- Benedictine School - \$2,693
- White Elementary School - \$1,000
- Student United Way Club - \$500
- Classic Motor Museum of St. Michaels - \$500
- Mason Dixon Woodworkers - \$1,000
- Horizons of Salisbury - \$1,500
- People Helping People - \$500
- Character Counts Mid Shore - \$340.46
- Salisbury Jaycees - \$250

The total of approved applications for August was \$32,621.51 which included \$24,338.05 for individual home and medical expenses.

The Choptank 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.



Carl Widdowson's 39-Year Legacy Comes to a Close

After 39 years of dedicated service, Carl R. Widdowson retired from the Choptank Electric Board of Directors on August 27, 2019.

Throughout his outstanding career, he served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for Choptank Electric from 1983-2013 (30 years), the Maryland Representative to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) board from 1993-2010 (17 years), and as Director representing Choptank Electric on the Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC) board from 1987-2016 (29 years).

Widdowson represented Somerset County where his family farm is located near Princess Anne. He owns and operates a grain farm with his son, Wayne Widdowson.

A long-time member of American Legion Post 94, he is also a member of the First Baptist Church of Princess Anne and the Somerset County Planning and Zoning Commission. He was also the Chairman of the Somerset County U.S. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Committee, a member of the Farm Bureau, and a member of the Somerset Ruritan Club.

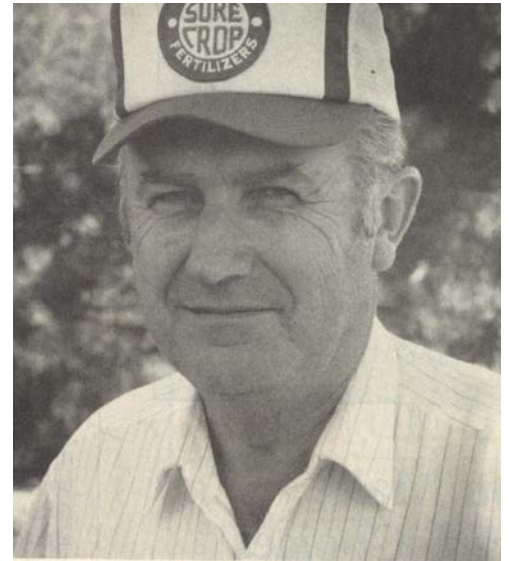
"In many ways, Carl shaped the Cooperative's Board of Directors into what it is today with his extensive experience, locally and nationally," said Jeff Rathell, Chairman of the Choptank Electric Board of Directors. "Carl will be missed, but we wish him all the best in his retirement!"



*Carl Widdowson,
Somerset County*



Widdowson joined the Choptank Electric Board of Directors in 1983.



Widdowson owns and runs a grain farm in Somerset County.

In observance of the Christmas & New Year's holidays, our offices will be closed: Tuesday, December 24, 2019, Wednesday, December 25, 2019, and Wednesday, January 1, 2020.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

A New Season, a New SmartHub

SmartHub, Choptank Electric's web and mobile account management application, has enhanced the way our members do business with detailed usage analysis, billing, and payment information and more, anytime, anywhere. While SmartHub has been a great resource for members, it is time to bring it into the future. This fall, a new upgrade for the SmartHub mobile application will help users get to the features they need quickly and efficiently.

"Members have come to expect the ability to manage their account online enjoying a first-rate user experience. SmartHub has allowed Choptank Electric Cooperative to provide extended functionality that has helped reduce phone calls and increase efficiency," said Tim McGaha, Vice President of Technical

Services. This fall, SmartHub users will notice their mobile app will have a fresh, new look. They will be able to see their usage analysis up front or can contact us with the click of a button right from the home screen.

Outage and billing alerts can also be displayed right on the home screen, making it easy to communicate important information with our members. Billing, payments, and other features that users expect from SmartHub will also be available with one click of a button in a new condensed menu.

We can't wait for our members to experience the future of SmartHub! These changes should be implemented in fall of 2019.

Ocean Pines 'Light Up the Pines' Contest



Choptank Electric wants to invite our Ocean Pines members to participate in the Ocean Pines Association's annual "Light up the Pines" outdoor display event!

Instead of winners, the first 20 people who register this year will receive Choptank Electric holiday gift baskets. The deadline is Friday, December 6, but anyone who wants to participate after this date may still have their homes included in the "Ocean Pines Holiday Parade of Homes."

Beginning Monday, November 18, any member residents interested in registering may do so by submitting a name, address and phone number via email to info@oceanpines.org or by calling 410-641-7717.

Happy Holidays to all of our Ocean Pines members!

Christmas in St. Michaels

Nothing captures holiday magic like Christmas in St. Michaels! This year, Christmas in St. Michaels will be held on Friday, December 13, through Sunday, December 15, 2019.

This year Choptank Electric is sponsoring the Gingerbread House Competition and Display, which awards varying cash prizes in the following categories: Master or Expert; Adult; Child with Adult; Young Adult (13-18); Children (12 and under); Candy Backus Award for best depiction of the Eastern Shore; and the People's Choice Award.

During the three days of Christmas in St. Michaels, the gingerbread houses will be on display at the St. Michaels Women's Club at St. Mary's Square in St. Michaels. Admission is free. Many of the creations are available for sale to take home and to share with family and friends. Proceeds from the sale of these creations support the beneficiaries of Christmas in St. Michaels. For more information, visit: <https://christmasinstmichaels.org/>.



About Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Choptank Electric, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is a not-for-profit, member-owned, electric distribution Co-op serving approximately 54,000 residential, commercial, and industrial members in all nine counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

P.O. Box 430,
Denton, MD 21629

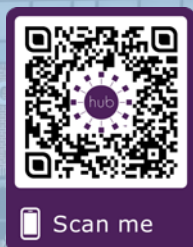
Toll Free:
1-877-892-0001

Outage Reporting:
1-800-410-4790,
toll free,
24 hours/day,
7 days/week.

Automated Member
Service Line:
1-866-999-4574, toll free

www.choptankelectric.coop

President and CEO
Micheal E. Malandro



Board of Directors

Jeffrey D. Rathell Sr.
Chairman, Talbot Co.

John J. Burke Jr.
Vice Chairman, Cecil Co.

Douglas D. Scott
Secretary-Treasurer, Dorchester Co.

Robert E. Arnold
Queen Anne's Co.

Amy I. Brandt
Caroline Co.

Olin S. Davis, III
Kent Co.

Matthew R. Holloway
Wicomico Co.





Robert B. Thompson
Ocean Pines District

Donna R. West
Worcester Co.

Vacant
Somerset Co.

Get a head start on your holiday shopping with Co-op Connections

Just a few of the gift ideas you can
purchase at discounted prices:

-  Event tickets
-  Winter grocery staples
-  Cashback offers on your
favorite clothing stores
-  Travel packages

Download now and
explore even more
ways to save!



Available on the App
Store & Google Play



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER

Don't forget to fall
back on **November 3!**
Set your clocks back
by one hour.

