



CHOPTANK ELECTRIC  
**Cooperative** *Living*

**Summer Sunflowers**

The Eastern Shore is full of beautiful sights along our lines. Thank you to members Danielle and Randy Hurd for sharing your farm in Federalsburg, Md. with us.

**PHOTO BY MCKAYLA KIERNAN**

For changes of address, please contact Choptank Electric Cooperative.



| **Dear Members,**

## 2025 Annual Meeting Date Announced

Our Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, April 24, 2025, at The Fountains Wedding and Conference Center in Salisbury, Maryland.

Department of Emergency Management to prepare our crew for weather threats we may experience.

**S**eptember is National Preparedness Month, and your Cooperative has spent valuable time this year maintaining our equipment and systems to prepare for storms and quick restoration. The state of Maryland is also prepared for inclement weather, as Caroline and Kent counties recently received their StormReady certification from the National Weather Service, making Maryland the eighth state to be recognized as completely StormReady.

This milestone was celebrated in May at the recently erected Mesonet tower in Ridgely, Maryland (pictured above). The tower is one of 70 planned weather data collection stations across the state and the first on the upper Eastern Shore. As an electric cooperative, we rely on data from these storm towers through communication from the National Weather Service and the Maryland

I encourage you to take a moment and make sure you and your family are prepped for late summer storms and hurricane season as well. Getting your electricity back on in a safe, reliable manner is our No. 1 priority—having a stocked home and vehicle in case of an outage should be yours!

Check out our Storm Preparations page online at [choptankelectric.coop/prepare](http://choptankelectric.coop/prepare) to learn more about making outages as safe and comfortable as possible for you and your family. And remember, if you experience an outage, call or text “OUT” to 800-410-4790 or report it on SmartHub.



*Mike Malandro,  
President & CEO  
Choptank Electric Co-op*



**Choptank Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative

**Choptank Fiber**

P.O. Box 430 | Denton, MD | 21629

Member Service Center: 1-877-892-0001

Automated Member Service: 1-866-999-4574

Electric Outage Reporting: 1-800-410-4790 and select option 1

Fiber Outage Reporting: 1-800-410-4790 and select option 2

Use SmartHub to Manage Account,  
Track Usage and Report Outages →

[WWW.CHOPTANKELECTRIC.COOP](http://WWW.CHOPTANKELECTRIC.COOP)





## Cooperative Interns Summer of 2024

By Samantha Casale, Government Affairs and Public Relations Intern

This is my second summer interning for the Marketing and Communications department here at Choptank Electric Cooperative. When my internship is over, I will be a junior at Salisbury University studying communications and human resources.

After such a positive experience interning here last summer, I knew I wanted to come back. Since returning, I have had the opportunity to write many articles ranging from storm preparation to retirements within our co-op. I also coordinated and worked at the fairs and festivals Choptank Electric attends within our service territory. I have acquired real-world communication skills that I would not have encountered without this internship. Speaking with members and answering questions is something I look forward to at every event I attend.

After interning last year, I was able to use the skills I learned from working at the co-op in college and other aspects of my life. Every opportunity I have had here has been wonderful, but the best part about working at this Cooperative is the people. From day one, I have witnessed just how much we put our members first here at Choptank Electric Cooperative.

Jenna Troyer attends the University of Delaware where she studies accounting. She will be a junior

this fall. Here at Choptank Electric Cooperative, she interns for the accounting department as its first summer intern. After hearing that Choptank Electric was looking for



Jenna Troyer, Accounting Intern

accounting interns, she sent in her resume. She knew that if given the chance, the position would help her decide whether she wanted to go into private or public accounting, as well as help when applying for full-time jobs in the future.

Jenna has enjoyed learning all that goes on behind the scenes

financially at the co-op.

“I have had the pleasure of helping with bank reconciliations, working with invoices, memberships and company credit cards, as well as completing various other tasks,” says Jenna. She hopes to gain a further understanding of what private accounting entails and practical experience that she can use in her future profession.

After Jenna graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting, she plans on getting a Master of Science in Accounting as well as her CPA license.



Curtis Short Photo

Above: A Talbot County Fair beef show contestant tries on a hard hat. One of the many members I have met during my summer coordinating and working agricultural fairs on the Eastern Shore.



## Dedicated to Serving Members and the Co-op, Tom Filewicz Retires After 35 Years of Service.



Tom Filewicz

Senior Manager of Regional Operations

Tom began his career at Choptank Electric Cooperative as a Communications Clerk (now called System Operator) in October of 1989. He moved into the lineman program in 1990, working out of the Berlin District Office. During his Lineman Apprenticeship, he transferred to our Salisbury District Office where he later became a Chief Lineman for seven years. In 2002, he earned the position of Manager, (earning Sr. Manager status in 2011) of Regional Operations at the Regional Service Center in Salisbury. During his time here, Tom has been a member of numerous committees.

He helped develop a one-week Lineman Orientation Program, was Chairperson for the Work Order Process Committee and was Chairperson of the Storm Preparedness Committee.

Tom is responsible for all aspects of overhead and underground construction and maintenance. He also takes care of storeroom inventory in the district. Tom says, “I have been fortunate to have a talented and dedicated team to work with over the years. I have met and worked with many wonderful members, contractors and electricians during my career.” Tom looks forward to traveling, playing golf, and spending time with his family during his retirement. His last day with the Cooperative was August 6.



Filewicz familiarizing a child with the tools of the trade.

“Tom has always been someone we could depend on to provide accurate and professional service to our members and his coworkers. Tom’s thorough understanding of our processes from the very beginning of any project through completion and beyond has been instrumental in our success. We wish him well and thank him for his years of service.”

– Lance Lockerman,  
Vice President of Operations

## Board Member Receives NRECA Certificate Craig Mathies Sr. receives Board Leadership Certificate

Congratulations to Craig Mathies Sr., our board member from Somerset County, for receiving his Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) from NRECA. The BLC program consists of a series of courses focusing in greater depth on specific electric cooperative industry and governance issues. We appreciate your dedication to our Co-op, Craig!

From L to R: Chairman of the Board Doug Scott, Somerset County Director Craig Mathies Sr. with his Board Leadership Certificate, and President & CEO Mike Malandro at Choptank Electric Cooperative’s June board meeting.





A large crowd of Maryland SHA employees gather in front of the hotline demonstration at Salisbury University in Wicomico County.

# OUT IN THE FIELD



By McKayla Kiernan,  
Communications Specialist

**C**hoptank Electric Cooperative partnered with the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) to perform multiple hotline safety demonstrations. These safety demonstrations train State Highway Administration employees on the dangers of electricity and how to be safe while working near power lines. Tom Simpson, Assistant Manager of Safety, Training & Compliance at Choptank Electric Cooperative, explains the demonstrations, while two of our local linemen from the district in which the demo is held demonstrate using the hotline. We perform these demonstrations to keep everyone safe. Don't forget, if you're ever in an accident involving a power line, stay in the vehicle until EMS responders confirm that the line is de-energized.

**Please drive safe this Labor Day weekend!**

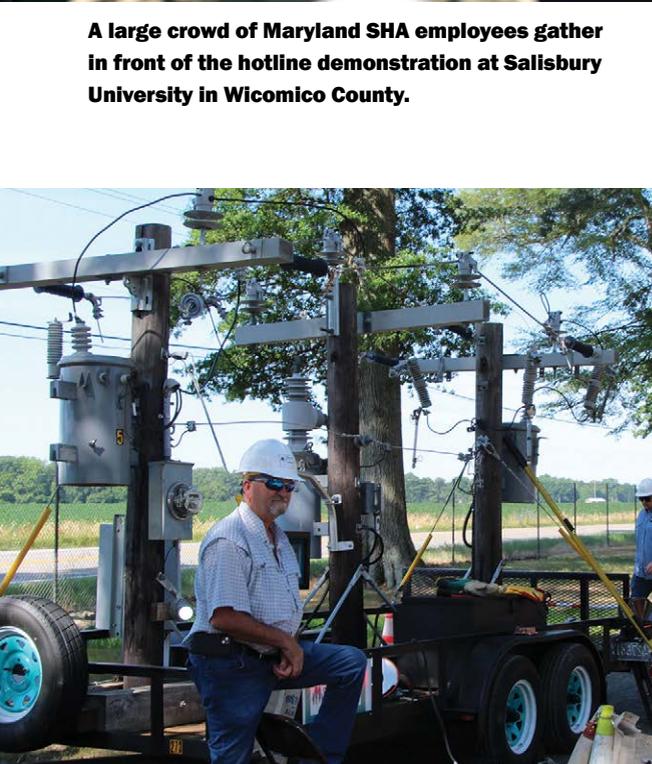


Tom Simpson, and crew, teaching proper safety techniques to two different crowds of Maryland State Highway Administration employees in the same week. The first was Queen Anne's on the north side of our service territory and the second was Wicomico County to the south.

*“Don't forget. All of you here today are first responders. Along with roadwork, traffic accidents are dangerous and can be tragic situations, and oftentimes the State Highway is first on the scene. Please be careful and put safety first.”*

– Tom Simpson,  
Assistant Manager of Safety, Training & Compliance

Take a 'brake' and drive safe!



**Lineworkers Wade Harris (above), and Gabe Dennis (upper left) demonstrate what a live line does to a hot dog. Hot dogs, like us, conduct electricity quite well considering the amount of water and salt we both hold.**

**Choptank employees setting up the demonstration.**

**HAPPY LABOR DAY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED Monday, September 2**

## Choptank Renews MOU with MD Public Service Commission

**C**hoptank Electric Cooperative is continuing our commitment to supplier diversity with a renewed memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Maryland Public Service Commission. Sarah Dahl, VP and General Counsel at Choptank Electric Cooperative, signed the updated MOU at a ceremony in Baltimore this July.

Interested suppliers can learn more and apply to work with us at [choptankelectric.coop/doing-business-us](https://choptankelectric.coop/doing-business-us)





# NATURAL MATCHMAKERS

## Choptank Trust donates to a great cause with the Talbot Humane Society

By Bobby Schaller, MultiMedia Manager

Patty Crankshaw-Quimby poses in front of the pet visitation area.

Last winter our Trust Board received a request from the Talbot County Humane Society for a donation to aid in their mission. Humane Society's work is hard and always growing. It seems as though you really have to love animals to work or volunteer at a shelter. When you boil it down, the mission is simple: finding a

home for every healthy and safe animal. Essentially, playing the role of "matchmaker," and spreading the love and joy they have for animals onto others.

In early June we took a trip to the east-side of Easton (right off Rt. 50) to visit our friends at the Talbot County Humane Society. Our Trust Board had granted the request toward the shelter's cause and we wanted to get together and learn more about their organization.

What we found was a small and well-oiled facility. Patty Crankshaw-Quimby (Executive Director), Kate Richards (Development

Director), and Denise Fitzgerald (Office Manager) were busy helping Trave'l Hayman with a lost kitten he found in his neighborhood. He brought it into the shelter so he

*"The reach of the Choptank Trust is impressive. Talbot Humane is thrilled to have been approved for \$2,500. This is a generous gift and will be put to valuable use."*

- Kate Richards, Development Director

could foster it until the kitten was old enough for him to adopt into his family. He was doing this for his children who had been asking

Trave'l for a pet cat for a few years now. After they got his kitten all situated we took photos in front of the newly dedicated pet visitation room. The shelter was so grateful for the much needed donation that they dedicated their pet visitation room to Choptank Electric Co-op and had the window etched with our logo and name. In fact, Kate etched the glass herself and it looks great.

After the pictures were taken, they offered to give us a quick tour of their facilities and we were glad to take them up on their offer. All of the many animals were well kept and grew excited as the employees approached their areas. This is when the realization happened that these facilities not only bring forgotten animals to a better home, but also bring a shared sense of joy, love and happiness to both the animals and the adopting families. The Talbot County Humane Society

does a wonderful job of playing matchmaker for the local folks as well as the animals. It truly is a beautiful thing.

With only a few exceptions, all animals are welcome. All small mammals, all exotic pets, horses, dogs, cats, etc. It does not matter the breed or age, all have a place at the shelter. Over the years, the staff has housed many unique animals including monkeys, tarantulas and even a 100 pound tortoise! With so many animals to take care of, the Humane Society is very thankful for their volunteers and is always looking for more to lend a hand.

It's hard to put into words how much love is shared between a person and their animal. Those who have experienced it can try to explain the feeling. If you haven't, the shelter is a good place to start, as you could already see the joy and happiness

*"We are so grateful for our volunteers. Volunteers are always needed, so whatever time people can give, we are so thankful for because every minute given counts."*

- Patty Crankshaw-Quimby, Executive Director

taking affect in Trave'l's smile as he held his new family kitten.

We're proud to have played a small role in helping the Talbot Humane Society achieve its mission, and we thank them for giving back to the community. That's what the cooperative way is all about. We also thank all of our members who participate in Operation Round Up for making this donation possible!

For more information please visit [www.talbothumane.org](http://www.talbothumane.org)



Board member Jeff Rathell, Trave'l Hayman and Trust Board member Shawn Smith are all smiles at the Talbot Humane Society.



## NOTES FROM MEMBERS

Our members are the reason Choptank Electric Cooperative exists. Whether on social media, by phone, or through handwritten letters, we appreciate when members let us know that we are doing a good job!

*You're very welcome, Kay! Thank you, and Upper Shore Aging, for the opportunity!*

*January 28, 2024*

*On behalf of Upper Shore Aging, I want to thank you for your generous gift. With an ever-growing population of seniors on the Eastern Shore, we seek to partner with our community to meet their needs. Upper Shore Aging strives to provide services to seniors so they may lead happy, healthy, and productive lives.*

*Thank you again for your donation.*

*Kay Brode, President  
Board of Directors  
Upper Shore Aging*



**Choptank Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

### Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Choptank Electric, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is a not-for-profit, member-owned, electric distribution co-op serving approximately 56,000 residential, commercial and industrial members in all nine counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

#### President & CEO

Micheal E. Malandro

#### Board of Directors

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Kristen E. Nickerson  
Kent Co.

Jeffrey D. Rathell Sr.  
Talbot Co.

Robert B. Thompson  
Ocean Pines District

Donna R. West  
Worcester Co.



### Choptank Fiber, LLC

Choptank Fiber, LLC, is a wholly owned broadband subsidiary of Choptank Electric Cooperative. Choptank Fiber's goal is to install true gigabit broadband with no data caps one community at a time until we serve all of our unserved members on the Eastern Shore.

## Choptank Electric Trust Awards



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 MD's Eastern Shore.

To apply, or to find out more about this program:

> [www.choptankelectric.coop/operation-round-trust-fund](http://www.choptankelectric.coop/operation-round-trust-fund)

## July 2024

**The total of approved applications for July was \$25,595, which included \$13,595 for individual home and medical expenses.**

- Cambridge Empowerment Center ..... \$10,000
- Berlin Heritage Foundation ..... \$500
- One Mission Cambridge..... \$1,000
- Eldorado Brookview VFC ..... \$500