



Eastern Shore Agricultural Fair Returns

Visit the cooperative during the upcoming Eastern Shore Agricultural Fair on Saturday, Oct. 8. This family-friendly event is free and open to the public and will take place behind the former Northampton Middle School in Machipongo from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The County Fair continues the legacy of the Eastern Shore's Agri-Fair, which annually celebrated the Eastern Shore's agricultural industry in the 1970s, '80s and early '90s.

There are several activities for children including pumpkin painting, a pedal tractor pull competition and more.

Popular returning events include the skillet-throwing competition, roll-a-keg, pie-baking contest, oyster shucking contest and more.

A&N Electric Cooperative will host a scheduled climbing demonstration during the event. The cooperative will have

employees on hand to answer questions, show off some of our climbing and safety gear, and will have giveaways. Solar Sam and LED Lucy will also be on hand to greet fairgoers.

In addition, the fair will offer farming education for all ages and local vendors will be selling their local goods. The event is organized by the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce and Virginia Cooperative Extension.



EVENT DETAILS

WHAT: Eastern Shore Agricultural Fair
WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
WHERE: 7247 Young St. Machipongo, Va.
COST: Admission is Free

CONTACT US

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Tasley, VA 23441-0290

Phone
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Payments
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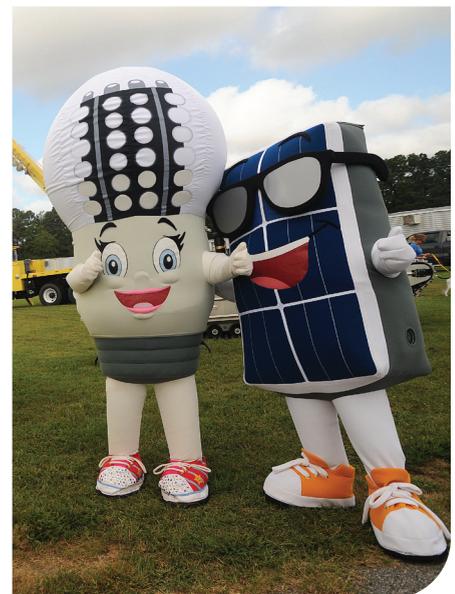


Office Hours
Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

President & CEO
Butch Williamson

Local Pages Editor
Jay Diem

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Youthful Connections



Students learn about role of cooperatives on 2022 Youth Tour

High schoolers from electric cooperative service territories in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware received a thorough immersion in local government, history and co-op education during the 2022 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

About two dozen students from the three-state area visited area museums, met with elected officials and enjoyed camaraderie among their peers during the event, which ran June 20 to 24. Northampton High School's Tyler Zodun and Nandua High School's Madison Diem represented A&N Electric Cooperative for the 2022 Cooperative Youth Tour.

The two local students met with this year's delegation from Virginia, Maryland and Delaware that consisted mostly of rising seniors. This year's Youth Tour took place in Hampton Roads and Williamsburg.

Earlier this year, each cooperative selected its representatives for the all-expense-paid trip on the basis of applications, essay contests, interviews and supporting materials. Each year A&N Electric Cooperative students are selected through an essay contest. A spot on the tour is available to each of the areas high school and homeschool juniors.

On June 20, participants met in Norfolk for a visit to the botanical garden and an evening cruise on the Elizabeth River. The next day included a civic education lesson with Virginia Delegates Jackie Glass, Shelly Simonds and Emily Brewer.





Mid-week the three-state delegation toured Community Electric cooperative in nearby Windsor, Va. Students were able to learn about electric cooperatives and linework through a pair of demonstrations. Most students say watching linework up close gave them a new perspective on one of the vital components of co-op business and added an informational component to their adventure.

“Cooperative Youth Tour is an incredible experience for our local student delegates,” said A&N Youth Tour Coordinator Jay Diem. “Education is at the heart of the program and is a great opportunity to meet other students from around the state and region.”

2022 YOUTH TOUR ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

- Tour of Norfolk Botanical Gardens
- Dinner boat cruise on the Elizabeth River

- Civic education session with local Hampton Roads state legislators
- Tour of Nauticus and the USS Wisconsin
- Tour of Community Electric Cooperative
- Tour of the Air and Space Museum in Hampton
- Jamestown Settlement Tour
- Colonial Williamsburg Tour
- Sounds of Summer Concert at the Riverwalk Landing in Yorktown

The Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives plans a return to Washington, D.C., for the 2023 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

“The essay contest to select our local student delegates begins each fall,” said Diem. “Look for contest information to be distributed to each area high school and in the pages of *Cooperative Living* magazine next month.”



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Our faucets and appliances use a lot of hot water. You can lower your water heating costs by using less hot water in your home. Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills.

To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines.

When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR®-certified

Source: Dept. of Energy



A&N Seeks Board Candidates for District 1 Vacancy



A&N Electric Cooperative is seeking candidates for District 1 Director. This vacancy is to fill the seat of the late Robert L. Nock. Cooperative members who would like to become a candidate for this position must reside within District 1, meet director qualifications and complete the application process. Filling an unexpired director vacancy is handled by board appointment.

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES MUST:

1. Be a natural person;
2. Have been a member of the cooperative for at least four cumulative years, which membership period need not be continuous;
3. Have the capacity to enter into legally binding contracts;
4. Maintain his or her primary residence in the director district from which the director or candidate seeks election;
5. Be current in all financial obligations to the cooperative;
6. If the cooperative has any separate director districts for any class, be a member of such class; and
7. Not have been convicted of a felony or a crime of moral turpitude.

Co-op members interested in running for this board position should contact the cooperative at elections@anec.com or by calling 757-787-9750.

Prospective candidates will need to complete and return a Director Application form to the cooperative prior to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 30, 2022.

A director's term is three years.

DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITY

A director is responsible for and must actively participate in the strategic direction of the business affairs of the cooperative.

The cooperative's board of directors is very active. It is anticipated that each month a board member will be required to spend a minimum of five to 10 hours reviewing reports and documents, as well as attend meetings of the Board of Directors.

As local community members, directors are often called upon by the general membership regarding the local distribution system and cooperative. On occasion, travel is required that may last up to four days at a time.

Directors are required to represent the cooperative on committees and attending conferences. Most meetings are conducted during traditional business hours and require out-of-area attendance.

Holiday Office Closing

A&N Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5, in observance of Labor Day. If you experience an outage or power emergency during this time, please report it by calling 757-787-9750 or by using our SmartHub app.



PHOTO BY CHUCK UNDERWOOD

The Power of Preparation

With severe weather events occurring more frequently, now more than ever, it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, let's keep the power of preparation in mind. While you don't have to achieve a "doomsday prepper" level of preparedness, there are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress, anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event. A&N Electric Cooperative recommends starting with the basics.

Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.
- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (i.e., via text, social media, third party, etc.).
- Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).
- Keep neighbors and coworkers apprised of your emergency plans.
- Fill your vehicle with fuel, or fully charge your EV.
- Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.



CARING FOR VULNERABLE FAMILY MEMBERS

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a neighbor to check in on them. If a severe weather event is expected, consider having your relative stay with you if feasible, otherwise call them daily. If you have an infant or young children, make certain that you have ample formula, diapers, medication and other supplies on hand to weather an outage lasting several days or more.

KEEPING FOUR-LEGGED FAMILY MEMBERS SAFE

For families with pets, having a plan in place in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will help reduce worry and stress, especially if you need to make a decision during an emergency.

- Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and may wander off during an emergency.
- Microchip your pet and ensure the contact information is up to date.
- Store pet medical records on a USB drive or in an easy-to-remember location.
- Create an emergency kit for pets (include shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications and other supplies).

At A&N, we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency situation today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.



GenerLink

A &N Electric Cooperative's goal is to provide safe, reliable service to its members and to the community it serves. While the cooperative is committed to maintaining a high level of service reliability, outages are inevitable.

A generator can be a wonderful tool during an outage, but it can also be extremely dangerous. If used incorrectly, a generator can cause serious harm, property damage or even death. To aid members in safely connecting a portable generator to their homes' electrical systems, the cooperative offers a GenerLink emergency transfer-switch program for

co-op members.

The GenerLink is installed behind the electric meter and does not require rewiring of a member's electrical system. It includes an interlocking power cord for connection of a portable generator.

The device detects when the generator is operating and automatically disconnects from A&N's distribution system, eliminating a dangerous backfeed. It can be used with compatible generators listed at generlink.com.

For more information or to sign up for the program, call the cooperative at 757-787-9750 or log onto anec.com.

Non-Summer Rates Effective Oct. 1

The cooperative's non-summer rates will go into effect on Oct. 1 and will run through the end of May 2023.

These rates are lower than the summer rates co-op members experience beginning in June and running through September. Summer electricity use drives the wholesale cost of electricity.

Recently for A&N Electric Cooperative, the highest peak demands for electricity during the summer have helped determine the cost of electricity year-round. Cooperative members pay more for the electricity they use in the four

summer months (June through September), while a lower rate has been established in the eight non-summer months (October through May).

The cooperative's seasonal rates were approved by the Virginia State Corporation Commission in the autumn of 2018.

The seasonal rate change does not affect the most recent power cost adjustment increase, which took effect in July. That increase covers the cost of fuel for energy generation facilities, which drastically increased earlier this year.



PHOTO BY ANDREW POPOV

Keep Food Safe When the Power Goes Out

by Abby Berry

Severe winds, lightning and even squirrels can temporarily cause the power to go out. We understand power outages of any length can be frustrating, especially when your fridge is stocked with perishable foods.

Extended power outages are rare, but when they occur, it's important to understand food safety measures to take to avoid illness.

Here are a few food safety tips to keep in mind before, during and after a power outage.

BEFORE AN OUTAGE

A good rule of thumb is to keep an emergency supply kit on hand. Be sure to include nonperishable food items like bottled water, powdered milk, canned goods, cereal and protein bars in your emergency kit.

If you have advance warning that an outage is possible, fill a cooler with ice — just in case the outage spans several hours. Having a cooler ready to go can buy extra time for your refrigerated, perishable items.

DURING AN OUTAGE

If an outage occurs, do not open the refrigerator or freezer unless absolutely necessary. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A half-full freezer will keep food frozen for about 24 hours and a full freezer for about 48 hours. If it looks like the power outage will last longer than four hours, move your important perishable items to an ice-filled cooler.

AFTER AN OUTAGE

If refrigerated foods have been exposed to temperatures higher than 40 degrees for more than two hours, the American Red Cross recommends discarding the items. If any foods have an unusual color, odor or texture, they should be thrown away.

While most perishable foods should be thrown out after an extended outage, there are a few items that are safe to consume after a two-hour exposure to 40-plus degrees:

- hard cheeses that are properly wrapped
- butter or margarine that is properly wrapped
- taco, barbecue and soy sauces
- peanut butter, jelly, mustard, ketchup and relish

The best way to avoid illness from spoiled food during or after an outage is to follow the four-hour rule of thumb. After an outage, always smell and inspect foods before consuming and remember: when in doubt, throw it out.

To learn more about food safety after an emergency, visit [ready.gov/food](https://www.ready.gov/food).

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing electric cooperatives in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware, and across the country.

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