

## Magazine Delivery Delays



Due to some supply chain issues with our printing facility and some ongoing delays with the postal service, *Cooperative Living* magazine deliveries may be delayed for the next several editions. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

For up-to-date information regarding your co-op, please log onto [anec.com](http://anec.com).



## Energy-Efficiency Tip of the Month

Maximize your heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning or replacing air filters once a month or as needed to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage to your system. Make sure radiators, baseboard heaters and warm-air registers aren't blocked so air can flow freely.

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### Office Hours

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*A&N Electric Cooperative is an  
Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.*

## Cheriton Substation Construction Nearing Finish Line



Construction of A&N Electric Cooperative's new Cheriton Substation near Bayview is nearing completion. The new facility will bring increased reliable power to the residents and businesses in the southern end of the Eastern Shore, more specifically, from Eastville in the north to Kiptopeke in the south.

Increased demands and the evolution of technology have created the need to upgrade to a new, cutting-edge facility. At Bayview Substation, the maximum infrastructure design life has been reached. Looking to the future, a state-of-the-art facility is required to meet the upcoming electrical demands of the surrounding communities.

The cooperative anticipates the substation will be energized late first quarter of 2022.



### MEETING FUTURE NEEDS

Cheriton Substation will be designed to operate at twice the load capacity of the existing Bayview Substation and will utilize advanced technologies. The new substation will allow both autonomous and main office-controlled restoration.

It will be designed not only to meet the needs of existing homes, industrial and commercial loads, but also respond and accommodate the expansion of all these needs for the next 20 years.



Joe Cataldo

## Joe Cataldo Joins Co-op as VP of Ops and Construction

Joe Cataldo has been named the new vice president of operations and construction for A&N Electric Cooperative.

Joe is no stranger to the electric utility industry. He has over 30 years of experience, first becoming an apprentice lineman in 1989 and later graduating to journeyman lineman in 1993. Joe worked his way to foreman before accepting a senior operator position in 1998 with Duquesne Light Company, located in Pittsburgh, Pa. He would later assume the role of operating supervisor for the same company in 2007 and would go on to become the company's senior manager of field operations in 2015. Cataldo most recently worked as the general manager of overhead transmission and distribution construction and maintenance for Duquesne Light Company.

As vice president of operations, Cataldo has the primary responsibility of leading line construction and maintenance as well as the operations center.

Cataldo's prior experience and background will bring a wealth of knowledge to the departments he will lead and will be a tremendous asset to the strategic direction of the cooperative.

He began work for the cooperative on Nov. 1.



PHOTO BY FAUXELS FROM PEXELS

## Nonprofit Organization Looking for Members to Serve on Board

**M**embers Helping Members Inc. is a community nonprofit organization and was established to assist families needing assistance in paying their electric service bills.

The organization is currently seeking individuals to serve on its voluntary board of directors. Directors shall be persons who are willing, without compensation, to devote their time and services to supervision of the affairs of the corporation and accomplishment of its purposes, as stated in the Members Helping Members bylaws.

The Members Helping Members board oversees the general operation of the organization but does not decide qualification for individual applications to the program. The Department of Social Services in Accomack and Northampton counties determines qualified candidates for assistance in the program. Board members review and take action on quarterly reports presented by the Accomack and Northampton departments of social service and financial reports presented by cooperative staff.

The Members Helping Members board meets quarterly, typically on the fourth Thursday in March, June, September and December at the cooperative's Tasley headquarters. Meetings usually last about an hour. Teleconferencing is available for board members who cannot attend in person. The time commitment for serving on the Members Helping Members board is about 2-3 hours per quarter.

Over 2,300 members are currently contributing about \$3,100 monthly in amounts ranging from under \$1, with the program's round-up option, to as much as \$10. A&N Electric Cooperative, in cooperation with Members Helping Members Inc., secures funding through voluntary donations through the cooperative's electric service bills. The cooperative also pursues grant funding to help support Members Helping Members. Donations to the program are tax deductible and 100% of the funding goes to members in need.

If you are interested in serving on the Members Helping Members board of directors, please fill out a "Contact Us" form at [anec.com](http://anec.com) or call 757-787-9750.





# Parks Announces Retirement

**A** &N Electric Cooperative Director Edward Parks Jr. has announced his retirement from the co-op's board later this year. His retirement will open a District 1 seat, which was up for election, on the cooperative's board of directors.

Co-op members interested in running for a board position should contact the cooperative at [elections@anec.com](mailto:elections@anec.com) or

by calling 757-787-9750.

## Eligible candidates must:

- Reside in District 1 (this district covers the northern areas of Accomack County from Parksley's northern border to the Virginia/Maryland state line and includes Tangier and Smith islands);
- Be an A&N Electric Cooperative member for at least four years;

- Be a member in good standing (no late co-op payments in the previous 12 months); and
- Have the capacity to enter into legally binding contracts.

Prospective candidates will need to complete and return a Director Application form to the cooperative prior to April 30, 2022.

A director's term is 3 years.



Edward Parks Jr.

## EDWARD PARKS JR.

Parks has represented District 1 on the cooperative's board for nearly 18 years. He was appointed to his seat in May 2004. In that time, Parks completed all director certification courses through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Director's Institute and obtained his Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate, Board Leadership Certificate and Director Gold Credential Certificate.

"Ed Parks has been a dutiful representative for the membership of the cooperative, not only for the members who reside in his District 1, but for all co-op members on the Eastern Shore, Tangier Island and Smith Island, Md.," says A&N Electric Cooperative Board Chairman Addison Nottingham. "The directors appreciate the wisdom he has bestowed upon us throughout his 18 years on the board. He will be missed."

Over the years, he has served on a variety of committees for the cooperative's board and held committee assignments for the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives representing A&N Electric Cooperative at the statewide level.

Furthering his commitment to the local community, Parks is a former mayor and town council member of Tangier and is heavily involved with the Tangier Interactive Museum and Culture Center. In addition, he recently served as chairman of the Members Helping Members board, which was established to help cooperative families who need assistance in paying their electric service bills.

Parks' board term will end in August 2022.



**A&N Electric Cooperative Director Edward Parks Jr., center, cuts the ribbon to officially open the new Tangier Island facility in June 2017. Pictured with him from left are directors Ralph Dodd, Garrison Drummond, Robert Nock, Addison Nottingham, Jim Belote and Christopher Bott. The new facility increased the electric service reliability on the island.**

# The Director Election Process

**A**&N Electric Cooperative directors are elected from the membership to represent them on the board. Directors are elected to three-year terms and elections are held every year. This year the cooperative will hold an election for two board director seats in August. The cooperative's bylaws govern the director election process and annual meeting.

## APPLICATION

Members who are interested in running for a seat should contact the cooperative at [elections@anec.com](mailto:elections@anec.com) or call 757-787-9750 to request a 2022 Director Election Packet. The Director Election Packet has a Director Application that must be completed and returned to the cooperative. The packet also contains information regarding director elections and establishes a timeline for the process. The Director Application is used by the cooperative's independent Credentials and Election Committee to determine if a candidate is eligible to run for a seat on the board.

In 2022, the cooperative membership will elect two directors, from the following districts:

- **District 1** (This district covers the northern areas of Accomack County from Parksley's northern border to the Virginia-Maryland state line and includes Tangier and Smith islands.)
- **District 3** (This district covers the area just north of Nassawadox, in the south, to just above Melfa in the north.)

## QUALIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION

Co-op members who are interested in running for either of these seats must reside in the seat's district, be a member in good standing (no late co-op payments within the last 12 months), must be a co-op member for at least four years, have the capacity to enter into legally binding contracts and have no felony convictions.

The Credentials and Elections Committee uses these qualifications to certify candidates for the nomination process. Those prospective candidates who meet the director qualification criteria are then certified by the Credentials and Elections Committee and submitted to the Nominating Committee.

## NOMINATION

An independent nominating committee, representing the areas to elect directors, is appointed and selects the slate of candidates to be placed on the ballot at the cooperative's annual meeting.

Nominating Committee members may not be an existing, or a close relative of an existing cooperative director, officer, employee, agent, representative or known director candidate.

The Nominating Committee uses the Director Application to help select a slate of candidates to bring before the general membership for election.

If a certified candidate is not nominated by the committee, they have the option to be nominated by member petition. If a candidate seeks a member petition

nomination, they are required to collect the signatures of at least 200 members in good standing, who reside in the district of the eligible seat. The signatures must be delivered to the board's secretary at least 75 days prior to the annual meeting.

The 2022 director election takes place at the Annual Meeting of the Members, which will be held Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022, at the cooperative headquarters at 21275 Cooperative Way, Tasley, VA 23441.

Because candidates' eligibility to run for the board seat must be certified well beforehand, no nominations are taken from the floor of the annual meeting.

## 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 5-10 hours reviewing reports and documents, 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 2-4 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.

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## Wholesale Energy Cost Expected to Rise for 2022

A&N Electric Cooperative's cost for wholesale power is expected to increase as of Jan. 1, 2022. Members will notice this change in the Power Cost Adjustment line item on their monthly electric service bills.

The amount of the change to the power cost adjustment was not finalized as of press time for this edition of *Cooperative Living*. Please check [anec.com](http://anec.com) after Jan. 1 for the amount.

The power cost adjustment changes periodically to reflect the

cooperative's current wholesale power costs, which includes the costs of generating the electricity you use. This is a State Corporation Commission-approved adjustment and is a direct pass-through of actual costs, plus or minus any over- or under-recovery of electricity supply costs during the previous year.

In 2020 and 2021, the power cost adjustment was in the form of a credit on A&N Electric Cooperative members' monthly billing statements. The last increase was in 2019.





## Co-op Will Expand Tasley Facility to Meet Needs of Membership

A&N Electric Cooperative will expand its facilities in Tasley to meet the current and future needs of the cooperative and its membership. The expansion will not only help store and protect valuable equipment, it will also allow the cooperative to serve members more efficiently.

The cooperative moved into its current Tasley headquarters building in 2005. Prior to that the cooperative was based in nearby Parksley. The building's original plan was designed to fill the staffing needs of the cooperative at the time, with enough space to accommodate modest growth.

In 2008, the cooperative acquired the local Delmarva Power assets, which tripled the cooperative's membership and doubled the cooperative's staff.

Since 2008, the cooperative has managed to utilize a building space that was not designed to accommodate the number of employees working currently, nor store the number of vehicles and amount of material needed to serve the nearly 39,000 individual services on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, Tangier Island and Smith Island, Md.

"Once complete, this much-needed expansion will allow the cooperative to serve its members more efficiently," says Butch Williamson, A&N Electric Cooperative president and CEO. "It will also protect valuable co-op equipment and vehicles, which will help extend their life expectancy and in turn, helps protect our member's investment in the cooperative."

Building construction is expected to begin no earlier than March 2022 and will include an extension of our existing garage space as well as a detached building for equipment storage. Project completion is expected in late fourth quarter 2022.

Construction should not affect business in the cooperative's lobby, nor should it hinder any outage or line-construction response.

## Second Blood Drive a Success

Cooperative personnel were happy to roll up their sleeves again to help the community by hosting an American Red Cross blood drive at our Tasley facility in November.

The event, organized by the cooperative's employee nonprofit Lighting the Way, was a success, collecting a total of 25 units of blood.

While the majority of donors were A&N Electric Cooperative employees, the blood drive was open to a limited number from the public due to ongoing health and safety protocols associated with COVID-19.

The American Red Cross has a constant and ongoing need for blood and platelet donations. With the ongoing pandemic, the Red Cross needs the help of blood and platelet donors and blood drive hosts to meet the needs of patient care. Blood is a perishable product that can only come from volunteer blood donors. With someone in the U.S. needing blood every two seconds, blood products must be constantly replenished, according to the Red Cross.

Each unit donated has the potential to save up to three lives, according to the Red Cross.



# MEMBER ENGAGEMENT FORUM

A&N Electric Cooperative will host a Member Engagement Forum at the cooperative's Tasley facility on **Thursday, March 17**.

This is an opportunity for members to discuss local issues with cooperative officials and learn more about A&N.

The forum is open to A&N Electric Cooperative members. Due to ongoing COVID protocols seating will be limited. Members who would like to attend will be required to preregister.

To preregister please call **787-9750** to speak with one of our member service representatives or email us at **billing@anec.com**.

Preregistration will close on Tuesday, March 15.

Visit [anec.com](http://anec.com) for more details.



## STORM SEASON IS HERE. SURGEASSIST CAN HELP.

SurgeAssist is A&N Electric Cooperative's newest electronics protection program line that helps address failures caused by electrical disturbances.

**LOW COST** – About 17 cents a day. (\$4.95 a month)

**PEACE OF MIND** – Anytime you experience a surge-related event, the cooperative will cover the cost of repair or replacement of the claim, up to the \$2,000 coverage amount.

**SATISFACTION** – We have created SurgeAssist to provide an easy, satisfying resolution for a participant's surge-related issues. If you are not happy with the service, you can discontinue it at any time.



[www.anec.com/content/surgeassist](http://www.anec.com/content/surgeassist)



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