

A Nod to Nostalgia:

Last Two Volunteer Fireman's Carnivals on Virginia's Eastern Shore

by Laura Emery, Field Editor

The tantalizing aroma of quintessential carnival fare lingers in the air as a fuchsia sky frames a familiar small-town carnival scene.

A feast of sight, sound and smell that delights the senses, the typical volunteer fire department's annual fundraising carnival is illuminated with blinking neon lights as locals and tourists enjoy food, games, rides and family-friendly entertainment.

It's the epitome of small-town nostalgia — and there are only two such events still happening each year on Virginia's Eastern Shore. This year, the town of Chincoteague will celebrate its 93rd-annual carnival and Wachapreague will celebrate its 66th. They're the biggest annual fundraisers for both towns.

For many small-town volunteer fire departments across the country, fundraising strategies have moved away from the carnival tradition. The carnivals,

along with the community bonding they bring, have slowly faded away.

This is precisely why these two waterside towns — Chincoteague and Wachapreague — faithfully continue their carnival fundraising tradition. It's a way to raise much-needed funds, cherish the past, and draw the community together. It's what small-town living is all about.

**93rd-Annual Chincoteague Fireman's Carnival**

In spring, brightly colored flyers begin to appear all around town heralding the annual event crucial to the survival of the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company.

In 1924 the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company was just forming. Funds were needed to obtain the town's first fire truck, so proceeds from the department's first carnival were used to make this purchase. The annual carnival has since become a staple of the Chincoteague community, and the Volunteer Fire



Company continues to use the carnival's proceeds to pay for truck maintenance, supplies and anything else the department might need.

Witnessing wide-eyed youngsters excitedly riding rides that make them squeal and shriek and enjoying classic carnival treats like cotton candy and candy apples, it's easy to forget that this is all in support of the local fire department — and the community. "The event is very important to the volunteer fire company and the community," explains Denise Bowden with the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company.

The upcoming 93rd-annual Chincoteague Fireman's Carnival (Fridays and Saturdays from June 29 through July 28) is an invitation to the public to experience the heart of Chincoteague Island. While thousands of tourists flock to Chincoteague Island each summer to experience the pony penning and world-famous pony swim and auction, locals know the magic of Chincoteague lies within its people. "The people are what make this place great," Bowden points out. Most of the island's residents live on the island year-round, and are a part of a vibrant,



JAY DIEEM PHOTOS



close-knit community that dates back nearly 400 years.

On July 1 at 10 p.m. at the Carnival Grounds, enjoy a fabulous fireworks display courtesy of the Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce, Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company and the Town of Chincoteague. The Fireman's Carnival leads up to the Pony Swim and Auction, which is always held on the last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday in July.

Chris Bott, A&N Electric Cooperative's director representing Chincoteague, enjoys the community with his wife Christy and three teenage sons. When he's not managing H&H Pharmacy, Bott is out enjoying local events, like the annual Fireman's Carnival. He says, "The carnival not only gives the fire department a good source of revenue, but it also provides a great place for the community to come together and socialize and have fun. It's an old-fashioned carnival and there's always great food and rides."



Wachapreague Volunteer Fire Company operates a fleet of six vehicles, including two ambulances, an engine, a tanker, a brush unit and a utility/support vehicle.

The Company's volunteer firemen are dedicated local men and women who readily respond, around-the-clock, to local calls, as well as other town or county responders in times of need.

These dedicated volunteers are the ones who yearly take on the task, with the support and help of the community, of organizing and operating this special event. Fluhart, fire chief of the Wachapreague Volunteer Fire Company for the last four years and a member of the fire company for 39 years, says, "The volunteer fire company operates the event and owns the property, the rides, all the stands, the games. But we couldn't do it without the help of the community. Everyone really does pull together to keep this tradition alive."

It takes months of planning and more than 75 volunteers each night to run this carnival so cherished by the community. It will be held June 20-23, June 27-30 and July 4-7 in Wachapreague on the waterfront with clams, oysters and soft crab sandwiches to tantalize the taste buds and the aroma of fresh-cut French fries and cotton candy to stir up memories of the past for attendees who hail from Cape Charles all the way to Pocomoke.

"The whole Eastern Shore community comes out to support us," Fluhart explains. The Fire Company relies on the proceeds of this annual event for funding to keep the station up and running, equipment maintained, pay for training, and to save for future purchases of modern equipment and property.



The Fire Company is thankful to be served by A&N Electric Cooperative (ANEC). "A few years ago as we got busier and added more rides, ANEC brought another service to us. We have three electric services, today, coming into the carnival and serving us. The folks over at ANEC have always been prompt and helpful. Robbie Smith, who works for ANEC, even comes out and volunteers with us to help put rides together and help get things going — and he's not even a member of the fire company."

The Wachapreague Volunteer Fire Company, Inc., was founded in 1942 by local citizens. Before the company's presence, the town's people had to rely on a fire company coming from 12 miles away. "It's an honor that we're still doing this and we're very thankful to the fire company's founding fathers for starting this fundraising tradition 66 years ago," he explains.

Fluhart knows that fireman's carnivals aren't as common as they once were, but he's not worried. He says, "We have a pretty high volunteer-member rate, so the future looks good for us. We hope to keep this small-town tradition alive for many more years to come."

#### For More Information

*Chincoteague's event:* [www.facebook.com/CHINCOTEAGUE-VOLUNTEER-FIRE-CO-129598427055278](http://www.facebook.com/CHINCOTEAGUE-VOLUNTEER-FIRE-CO-129598427055278)

*Wachapreague's event:* [www.facebook.com/Wachapreague-Volunteer-Firemans-Carnival-364370828119](http://www.facebook.com/Wachapreague-Volunteer-Firemans-Carnival-364370828119).

### Wachapreague's 66th-Annual Fireman's Carnival

With funnel cakes and famous clam fritters, Wachapreague's Volunteer Fireman's Carnival event also promises something for everyone. At the Carnival, the colorful Ferris wheel and merry-go-round will debut with great fanfare. Streams of people — a mix of locals and tourists — will be welcomed by the familiar sights and sounds of this charming carnival event.

Fire chief David Fluhart says, "If you get on the Ferris wheel at the right time, you can watch the moon rise or the sun set. Or you can walk around and smell the sandwiches and French fries mixed with the salty air aroma of our waterside town. It's kind of right out of a storybook; it really is an authentic small-town carnival."



# Seasonal electricity rates proposed for ANEC members

Summer electricity use drives the wholesale cost of electricity. For A&N Electric Cooperative (ANEC), the highest peak demands for electricity during the summer help determine the cost of electricity year-round.

Historically, rates at ANEC have been the same year-round based on the average annual cost of electricity. If the Virginia State Corporation Commission approves ANEC's rate adjustment application, beginning Oct. 1, the Cooperative's rates will vary to reflect the costs of summer and non-summer.

Members will pay more for the electricity they use in the four "summer" months (June through September) and a lower rate for electricity used in the

"non-summer" months (October through May).

Having higher rates in the summer means members who create the high-cost summer demand for electricity will pay their share of that cost.

If approved, the Cooperative's new \$14 access charge would start on Oct. 1, 2018. New summer rates would not take effect until June 1, 2019.

For more information on ANEC's rate

kWh Used	Current Rates	Proposed Non-summer Rates <small>October - May (8 months)</small>	Proposed Summer Rates <small>June-September (4 months)</small>
0	\$8.00	\$14.00	\$14.00
500	\$64.72	\$68.78	\$73.94
1,000	\$118.42	\$120.53	\$130.86
2,500	\$270.54	\$266.70	\$292.53
5,000	\$524.06	\$510.33	\$561.98

adjustment filing with the Virginia State Corporation Commission, please log onto [www.anec.com](http://www.anec.com) and select the "Rates" tab at the top of the Cooperative's home page.



## Cooperative's Washington Youth Tour Representatives Announced

The winners of the annual essay contest to determine which local students represent A&N Electric Cooperative at the annual NRECA Youth Tour have been selected. Students were graded anonymously by a panel of judges who selected a winner to represent each participating high school.

The winners are:

**Greta Bunce**, a rising senior at Broadwater Academy;  
**Arianna Fletcher**, a rising senior at Nandua High School;  
**Wendy Lin**, a rising senior at Northampton High School;  
**Schylar Parks**, a rising senior at Tangier Combined School;  
 and **Nykeria Wallop**, a rising junior at Chincoteague High School.



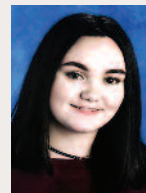
Bunce



Fletcher



Lin



Parks



Wallop

The essay contest is open to all high-school and home-school juniors living in the Cooperative's service area. A student from each area high school was eligible to attend the Youth Tour.

Every June, as many as 1,500 high school students from across the country spend a week in the nation's capital as part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. The students are sponsored by electric cooperatives — cooperatives that are committed to educating America's rural youth about our country and the role electric cooperatives play in developing strong rural communities.

This year's local Washington Youth Tour representatives will take part in:

- A guided tour of the Jefferson Memorial;
- A sunset Potomac River Boat cruise;
- A tour of Fort McHenry, Baltimore's Inner Harbor and a Baltimore Orioles game;
- A tour of Arlington National Cemetery;
- A tour of the Lincoln/World War II/Vietnam/Korean/Martin Luther King memorials;
- A theater production of "Scottsboro Boys"; and
- A Capitol tour, including a meeting with local U.S. Representative Scott Taylor.





# Beat the Peak program helps fight higher energy costs

Peak periods occur when the demand for electricity is the highest. Usually, these are periods when it is very cold or hot outside. During this time, members are asked to use energy wisely and follow these guidelines:

The Cooperative continues to promote its voluntary Beat the Peak program, which encourages our members to conserve or limit energy usage during peak times. The Cooperative pays a monthly demand charge based on the peak hourly usage during the month. This accounts for a large percentage of the cost of electricity for our members.

When members cut back on their electric usage it helps ANEC reduce the amount of wholesale power purchased at peak times. This will help hold down the cost for our members.



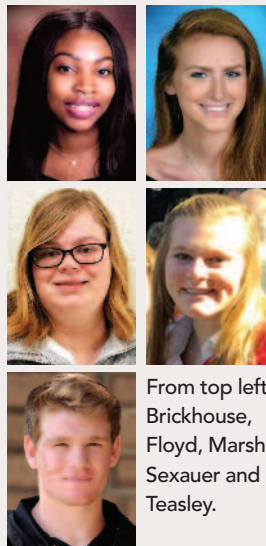
- During the cooling season, raise the thermostat 3 degrees, and in the heating season, lower the thermostat by 3 degrees.
- Postpone the use of major appliances, such as clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers.
- Delay using hot water during peak periods.
- Turn off all unnecessary lights.

For more information or to start receiving Beat the Peak alerts, please log onto [www.anec.com/content/beat-peak](http://www.anec.com/content/beat-peak).

## Eastern Shore students earn electric co-op scholarships

Five high school students whose families are served by A&N Electric Cooperative (ANEC) have each earned \$1,000 college scholarships awarded by the Education Scholarship Foundation of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC):

- **Kanjiah Brickhouse**, a senior at Northampton High School and the daughter of Lakesha Brickhouse of Exmore, Virginia.
- **Courtney Floyd**, a senior at Broadwater Academy and the daughter of William and Melissa Floyd of Pungoteague, Virginia.
- **Laura Marsh**, a senior at Crisfield Academy High School and the daughter of Grayden and Mildred Marsh of Ewell, Maryland.
- **Anna Sexauer**, a senior at Broadwater Academy and the daughter of Brook Sexauer of Belle Haven, Virginia.
- **Matthew Teasley**, a senior at Nandua High School and the son of Allen and Elizabeth Teasley of Belle Haven, Virginia.



From top left: Brickhouse, Floyd, Marsh, Sexauer and Teasley.

Each was eligible for consideration because their parents are members of A&N Electric Cooperative.

Recipients are awarded scholarships based on a competitive screening process that considers financial need (40 percent), academic achievement (40 percent) and community involvement (20 percent). Applicants must also provide evidence of their acceptance into a post-high-school educational institution or program.

The Scholarship Foundation Committee's points-based system and blind-review

process ensure that no single committee member sees any applicant's name until such time as final selections are made, and even then, no committee member has the ability to influence an individual selection — everything is based on points awarded. The majority of points (80 percent) are awarded completely objectively without any direct input from committee members.

This year, the VMDAEC Education Scholarship Foundation is awarding 54 \$1,000 Worth Hudson scholarships to students who live in areas served by electric cooperatives in Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. These grants can be used to pay for tuition, fees and books.

The scholarships are named in honor of Worth Hudson, the Foundation's first chairman and a former chairman of the board of directors of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative in Chase City, Virginia. Since its inception in 2000, the Foundation has awarded 683 post-secondary scholarships totaling \$582,500.

The Foundation is funded through tax-deductible donations and bequests from individuals, proceeds from benefit fundraising events and CoBank's Sharing Success Program.

# 10 ways to reduce energy usage this summer

**A**&N is committed to helping our members find ways to save energy. There are a number of ways to save depending on the season. Here are 10 easy ways to save in summer:

1. Set your home's thermostat to 78 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Close window curtains and shades during the day to help keep heat out.
3. Change HVAC air filters regularly.
4. Have your HVAC system serviced once per year by a NATE-certified technician.
5. Use your dishwasher's air-dry cycle instead of the heat-dry cycle.
6. Consider using a "solar-powered" clothes dryer: an old-fashioned clothesline.
7. Ensure your outdoor heat pump/air-conditioning unit is kept clean and free of debris.
8. Consider grilling outside in summer. A stove's/oven's heat works against your HVAC system.
9. Set your water heater's temperature to 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
10. Replace any lightbulbs, especially ones that are on for more than one hour per day, with LED lightbulbs.

## MESSAGES FROM YOUR CO-OP

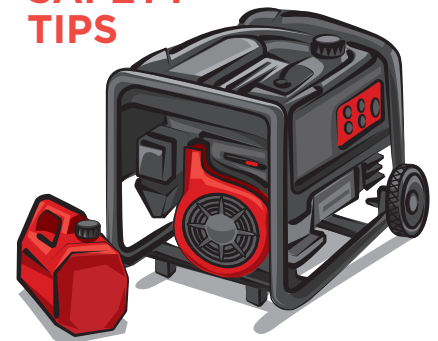
- Visit us at [www.facebook.com/ANElectricCoop](http://www.facebook.com/ANElectricCoop) and "like" us.
- Visit [www.anec.com](http://www.anec.com) to sign up to receive Beat the Peak emails or text-message alerts.
- The **Touchstone Energy® Co-op Connections® Card** is **FREE** to all **ANEC members**. The card offers discounts at participating local and nationwide businesses, including prescription drug discounts. 
- The **A&N Electric Cooperative office will be closed on Wednesday, July 4th, in observance of Independence Day.** Crews will be on call to address any issues that may occur. To report an outage, please call 1-800-431-2632.

## A&N Electric Cooperative adds American Express and Discover to payment options

A&N Electric Cooperative recently added Discover and American Express as credit card payment options for our members. The Co-op already accepted Visa and MasterCard for credit card payments. The new cards were added in April. For a full list of payment options, please log onto [www.anec.com/content/payment-options](http://www.anec.com/content/payment-options).



## GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS



**N**ever connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment.

### Stationary Generator:

An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a professional.

### Portable Generator:

Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.

Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is **deadly**.

Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.

Start the generator first **before** connecting appliances.

Source: [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

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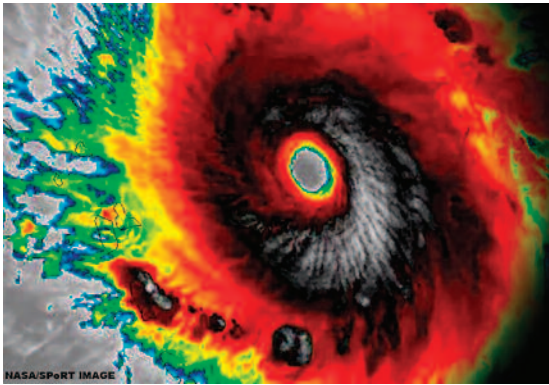
**Local Pages Editor**  
Jay Diem

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## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

**Laundry Tip:** Use rubber or wool dryer balls, which help separate clothing in the cycle, providing better airflow and a shorter drying time. Wool dryer balls can help absorb moisture, which also reduces drying time.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## HURRICANE GUIDE

# PREPARING FOR SEVERE WEATHER

## Hurricane Season starts June 1

**H**urricane season is officially June 1 through Nov. 30; however, the peak threat for the United States is August through October. With each storm comes the threat of wind damage as well as storm surges, flooding, rip currents and tornadoes. The front right section of the storm path is typically where most of the damage occurs. For more information, see our hurricane guide at [www.anec.com/content/hurricane-guide](http://www.anec.com/content/hurricane-guide).

Below are tips you and your family should practice to stay safe before, during and after the storm.

### Preparing for the hurricane:

- Make sure flashlights, battery-powered lanterns and other sources of light are readily available.
- Make sure flashlights and radio batteries are fresh.
- Make sure you have an adequate supply of medicine, first-aid supplies and baby items.
- Keep at least a two weeks' supply of bottled water, non-perishable food items, batteries and firewood on hand.
- If prescriptions are essential, make sure to get them refilled in case of an extended power outage or extensive damage to the area.
- Make sure to have identification and documentation on hand, such as your social security card, driver's license, birth certificate and insurance information for your home, car and life.
- Have an evacuation plan for you and your family in case of an extended power outage.
- Listen to weather forecasts and predictions for possible hurricanes.

### During the hurricane:

- Make sure to get inside a building and stay away from the windows.
- Don't leave candles unattended and keep them away from furniture, draperies and

other flammable materials. Make sure to keep children away from open flames. Avoid using candles if possible.

- Don't open freezers and refrigerators any more than absolutely necessary.
- Listen to local radio stations for news about power outages.
- Turn off your heating and air-conditioning systems, as well as electric range.
- Unplug sensitive electronic appliances such as TVs, Blu-ray players, microwave ovens and computers — this will protect your appliances against power fluctuations that can occur when power is restored.
- After power is restored, be sure to wait five to 10 minutes before turning on appliances and heating systems.

### After the hurricane:

- If power lines and poles are down in your yard or in the street, always treat them as if they are energized and dangerous. Never touch them and stay away. Make sure to call 911 or A&N Electric Cooperative (757-787-9750) to report downed power lines.
- Debris from the storm can hide power lines that have fallen. Fallen trees that contain energized power lines can electrocute any item it comes in contact with, such as a metal fence, a pond or standing water. Even the ground can be energized near fallen power lines.
- If your electricity is out, make sure to check with neighbors to see if they have power. If they have power, you may have blown a fuse or tripped a breaker. Never replace a fuse or reset a circuit breaker with wet hands or while standing on a wet (or damp) surface.
- If you're without electricity and want to use a portable generator, make sure to use it in a well-ventilated area.
- Avoid using candles if possible. If you must, never leave a burning candle unattended.
- If power remains out following a storm

and you have to cook with Sterno or charcoal, do so outside to avoid the build-up of deadly carbon monoxide fumes.

- Replenish your supplies of batteries, bottled water, non-perishable food items and firewood for future hurricanes.

### BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.

- **WATER**  
Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.
- **TOOLS**  
Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.
- **FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS**  
First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)  
Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES