



Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



The Cooperative's offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. Have a happy, fun-filled holiday!

SVEC March Major Outages

- 3/1 **Monterey area**
1,450 members out for 2 hours
Power supplier
- 3/1 **Ridgeview area**
900 members out for 2 hours
Equipment failure

SHENANDOAH VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

P.O. Box 236
147 Dinkel Avenue – Hwy. 257
Mt. Crawford, VA 22841-0236
800-234-SVEC (7832)
Office Hours: M-F, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
www.svec.coop

President and CEO
Michael W. Hastings

Board Chair
Robbie F. Marchant

Local Pages Editor
J. Michael Aulgur

Writers

Cammie Tutwiler
Preston Knight

For all questions concerning advertising, contact Cooperative Living at 804-346-3344.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. SVEC supports our armed services and veterans in employment opportunities.

SVEC Returns Over \$3 Million in Capital Credits

Members and former members will soon be rewarded with one of the advantages of being an SVEC member-owner: Capital Credits.

Capital Credits are returned to member-owners in the form of a credit on their bill for active consumers, and mailed to former members and large power accounts in the form of a check.

The total amount of Capital Credits to be returned to members is \$3,229,747. SVEC is retiring 58.06 percent of the allocated amount for 2001 for the Legacy System and 7.95 percent of the 2015 allocated amount for the Total System.

On your most recent bill (for May) your Capital Credit amount is indicated on a line reading, "Cap Credit Return."

One of the parts of being a member-owner of Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative is receiving Capital Credits. It is one of the things that differentiates a cooperative from an investor-owned utility, or a municipal electric system, and just one of the reasons it pays to be a member-owner with Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative as someone who receives the "Cooperative Advantage." SVEC follows seven Cooperative principles; one of which is members' economic participation. What this means is that as

a member-owner, you make an equity contribution to the Cooperative based on the billings for your electrical energy consumption, allowing the Cooperative to meet its financial obligations. Once all financial obligations are met, you may receive an equity allocation based on your patronage.

You also recently received separately in the mail your "Notice of Equity Allocation." This notice has nothing to do with the Capital Credit that appears on your bill for this year. The equity allocation notice simply shows the amount of equity assigned to your account based on electric service billing patronage for the prior year. That amount (or part of it) won't be retired (returned to you in the form of a credit on your bill or a check) until a later date.

If you have any questions about your Capital Credit return, please contact your local office.

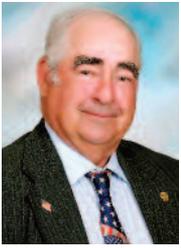
Discover the Cooperative Advantage.



CO-OPS ARE GUIDED BY 7 PRINCIPLES

- 1 **Voluntary & Open Membership**
- 2 **Democratic Member Control**
- 3 **Members' Economic Participation**
- 4 **Autonomy & Independence**
- 5 **Education, Training & Information**
- 6 **Cooperation Among Cooperatives**
- 7 **Concern for Community**





***Larry C. Howdyshell of Mount Solon**

Larry C. Howdyshell and his wife, the former Marsha Shiflet of Swoope, are natives of Augusta County and have two married daughters.

First elected to SVEC's board in 1992, Howdyshell has served as secretary/treasurer, vice chairman, and member of the executive committee, as well as chair of the compensation

and benefits and strategic planning committees. Howdyshell served as Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative's (SVEC) chairman of the board from June 1997 through June 1999 and again from June 2013 through June 2015. Since June 2015, Howdyshell serves as a member of the finance committee and the ad hoc committee.

Currently, Howdyshell is SVEC's director to the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC) where he serves as the chairman of the board of that association. He also serves as chairman of the governmental affairs committee and of the finance committee for VMDAEC.

He has taken numerous courses and has completed the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) program, received the Board Leadership Certificate, sponsored by SVEC's national organization, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), and is one of a handful of directors in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware that has achieved NRECA's Director Gold Certificate status.

Howdyshell owns and operates a series of farms in the Mount Solon area. On the land he owns and rents, he raises corn, hay, small grains and soybeans. He also raises feed cattle. Mrs. Howdyshell is a retired registered nurse from the Hospice Home Care at Rockingham Memorial Hospital, where she worked for 43 years.

After graduating from Buffalo Gap High School, Howdyshell joined the U.S. Army serving in the Signal Corps for two years. During his time in the army, he attained the rank of sergeant, and served tours of duty in Vietnam and Germany.

Howdyshell has served as chairman of the board of directors of Rockingham Cooperative, and he is a member of both the Hughes Collins VFW Post 3136, and the Buffalo Gap FFA Alumni Association. In 2000, Larry Howdyshell was elected to serve on the Augusta County Board of Supervisors representing the North River District. He served three terms on the Augusta County Board of Supervisors and two of those terms he served as chairman of the board.

The Howdyshells attend Emmanuel Church of the Brethren.



Linda Hoover Will of Blue Grass

Linda Hoover Will works at BTMI Corporation in Staunton. Additionally, she and her husband, Jimmie, own and operate a logging company, J & W Logging, Inc., which has been in business since 1992.

Will also worked at First and Citizens Bank in Monterey for 18 years where she started as teller and moved through the ranks to become vice-president and chief information officer until late 2016. Prior to that she was with the Blue Grass Valley Bank for 26 years.

She was born and raised on a Highland County farm in Doe Hill. She has lived in Highland County all of her life, and noted that she loves the country.

Will is a graduate of Highland High School. She served on the Highland Telephone Cooperative Board for two years, and served on the Blue Grass Valley Bank Board of Directors for a period of time.

She and her husband have two grown children: a son, Jamie Will, and a daughter, Kitty Will Rexrode. Also they have two extraordinary grandchildren, Reagan and Jaxson.

Will and her husband attend Word of Faith Church in Monterey and Wayside Baptist Church in Franklin, West Virginia. She loves to sing and play the piano.

Co-op Switches Financial Institutions

Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC) is now working with Wells Fargo as its financial institution. As a result of this change, member-owners will soon see a new mailing address on their coupons when sending payments by standard mail. Continue to use the #9 envelope enclosed in your monthly statement and you shouldn't have to change a thing! The Cooperative will share specific information in the July issue of *Cooperative Living*, as well as through SVEC's social media channels in the coming weeks.

For member-owners who pay electronically, the transition to Wells Fargo should be seamless. Thank you for your patience as we seek to better serve you.

Scholarship Winners Announced

Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative congratulates the winners of ten \$1,000 scholarships for 2017! Each year, the Cooperative awards scholarships to high school seniors whose parents or guardians are member-owners. SVEC's Scholarship Committee met April 26 to choose this year's winners. They are:

- Peyton Ayers**, Stuarts Draft High School
- Kennedy Eagle**, Handley High School
- Maria Becerra Flores**, Stonewall Jackson High School
- Sadie Garber**, Fort Defiance High School
- Zachary Hiter**, Broadway High School
- Tara Ingersoll**, Wilson Memorial High School
- Blair Landram**, Fort Defiance High School
- Tyler Patton**, Stonewall Jackson High School
- Duncan Schroeder**, Stonewall Jackson High School
- Allison Stump**, Highland High School

Full profiles of the scholarship recipients will be published in the July *Cooperative Living* magazine. Congratulations once again!



ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, June 8, at 7 p.m.

at James Madison University's Convocation Center

REGISTRATION: 5 to 6:30 p.m. (all members) at Entrance "B"

PORK BARBECUE DINNER: 5 to 6:45 p.m. for each member and one guest (a vegetarian option will be available)

BUSINESS MEETING: 7 p.m. on stage

GRAND PRIZES: (2) \$500 gift certificates for electric service

Other Prizes:

Five \$200 gift certificates for electric service

Ten \$100 gift certificates for electric service

Prize drawings will be held throughout the Business Meeting.

You Must be Present to Win!

Please Make Note!

- An ASL (sign language) interpreter can be provided. Please let us know if you are interested in this service.
- A Kids' Zone, offering crafts, safety tips, conservation information and fun will be available for children ages 5-10 during the business meeting.
- The Walnut Ridge Boys will be providing entertainment for the evening.

CALL
or VISIT



If planning to do any kind of yard work around your home that involves excavation, please make sure you are careful when you perform the action, and please plan ahead by calling Miss Utility before you dig.

Knowing the location of the various lines, including electric, gas, communication, water, sewer, irrigation and others is important for your safety and convenience.

Contact the appropriate number, which is 811 (also known as Miss Utility) — this is a free service, and the company will come out and mark your property, using either flags or a special spray paint to designate underground utility infrastructure. Please visit va811.com for more information. Safety is always first, for you and your family.

Don't forget to proceed with **CARE** before you dig. **Call** Miss Utility before you dig. **Allow** required time for marking. **Respect** the marks. **Excavate** carefully.

If you have any questions, please call Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative at 1-800-234-7832 for more information.

Surviving Auto Accidents Involving Power Lines

When you are in an auto accident, your first instinct is to get out of the car. But in a wreck with a power line, that could be a fatal mistake. By getting out, you could become the path to ground for electricity and risk electrocution.

Whether it is an auto accident or any other situation, always assume that a power line has power running through it, even if it has been knocked down. Never approach a downed power line or attempt to move it.

If you're in a wreck with a utility pole, there are several things you should know:

- **If you aren't in immediate danger, remain in the vehicle until help arrives.** Unless there is a threat of greater danger — for example, the vehicle is on fire or the vehicle comes to a stop in the middle of the highway — you are safer in than out.
- **If there is pressing danger and you must exit the vehicle,** you should follow very specific steps. With the door open, prepare to jump out of the vehicle. During the jump you must make sure that no part of your body or

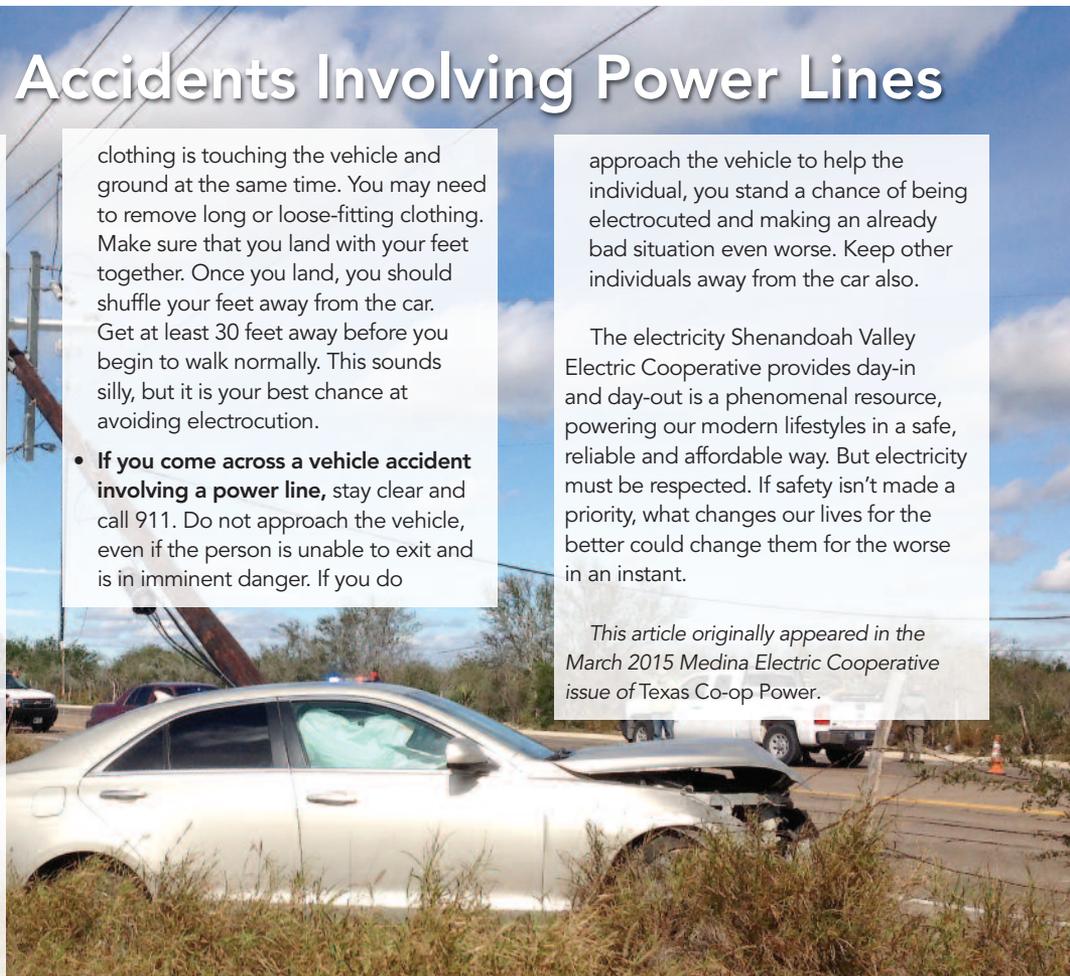
clothing is touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. You may need to remove long or loose-fitting clothing. Make sure that you land with your feet together. Once you land, you should shuffle your feet away from the car. Get at least 30 feet away before you begin to walk normally. This sounds silly, but it is your best chance at avoiding electrocution.

- **If you come across a vehicle accident involving a power line,** stay clear and call 911. Do not approach the vehicle, even if the person is unable to exit and is in imminent danger. If you do

approach the vehicle to help the individual, you stand a chance of being electrocuted and making an already bad situation even worse. Keep other individuals away from the car also.

The electricity Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative provides day-in and day-out is a phenomenal resource, powering our modern lifestyles in a safe, reliable and affordable way. But electricity must be respected. If safety isn't made a priority, what changes our lives for the better could change them for the worse in an instant.

This article originally appeared in the March 2015 Medina Electric Cooperative issue of Texas Co-op Power.



MEDINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE PHOTO

SVEC Takes on the 'Green Menace'

by Preston Knight, SVEC Writer



For utilities like Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC), there's no love lost between them and the emerald ash borer beetle.

"They're creepy looking," said Tom McCampbell, SVEC's vegetation management coordinator in the Winchester District.

The emerald ash borer is an exotic, metallic-green, one-half-inch long, "very hungry" beetle most likely brought into the U.S. on solid wood packing material carried in cargo ships or airplanes from its native Asia, according to the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services.

It was first discovered in the United States in Michigan in 2002, and in Virginia — specifically, Fairfax County — the following year. It was eradicated in Virginia, but reappeared in 2008, and by 2016 was found in 25 counties in the Commonwealth.

Millions of native ash trees across the country have died from infestation of the emerald ash borer, which places the beetle toward the top of the list of public enemies for electric companies. Infested or dead trees quickly become unstable and can fall without warning. This increases the risk of outages caused from branches and trees falling onto power lines.

Early feeding damage by the emerald ash borer is difficult to detect because trees show few symptoms, according to the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service. As the infestation progresses, the tree starts to thin out and branches in the top sections of the tree start to die. Eventually, woodpeckers will fleck off the bark as they feed on borer larvae, which makes the tree look blotchy. It usually takes two to five years for damage to be noticed and, by then, it is too late to save the tree.

It is important that infested wood remain near its original location to help slow the borers' spread. Therefore, in wooded areas, SVEC will fell trees back into the woods or trim them to eliminate the hazard to our lines. Branches from trimmed trees will be left in the woods along with the felled trees. In member-maintained areas, the wood will be left on site. To further minimize the movement of infested materials, all chips will be left as close as possible to the original tree location, but outside of the member-maintained area.

Removal of dead trees, however, is very costly for SVEC and all native ash trees, unless treated with insecticides, will be killed by the borer. That's why, like many

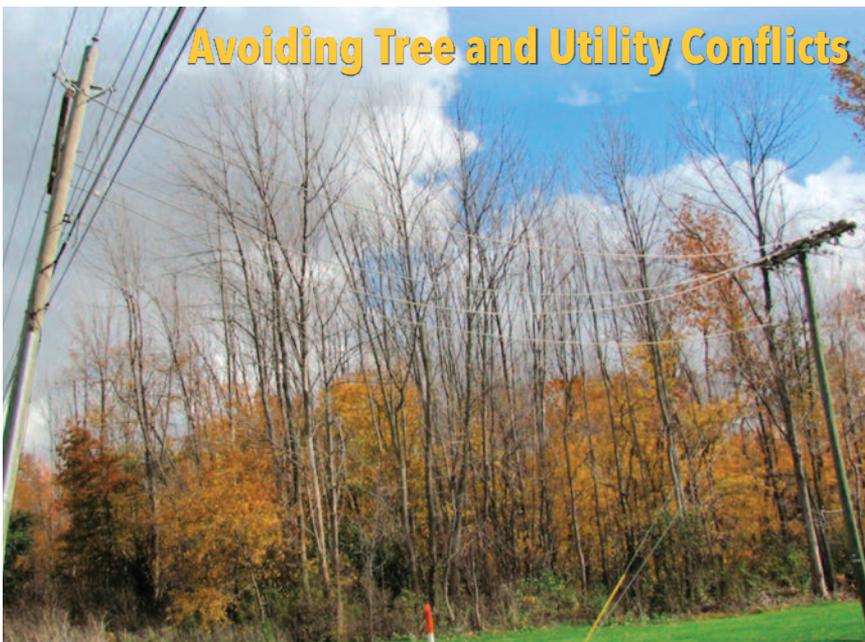
utilities, the Cooperative takes a proactive approach of removing or cutting back healthy ash trees as part of its regular vegetation-management program for rights-of-way. This process began in Frederick County in 2014, after infestation of the emerald ash borer was detected. It is estimated that 10 percent of the trees in Frederick County are ash.

Although the density of ash trees is less as you move south in the Valley, the emerald ash borer is now starting to make an impact on ash trees in Page and Shenandoah counties, and will soon be attacking trees in Rockingham and Augusta counties. This will require their removal on a proactive basis as well, McCampbell said.

The Cooperative, which typically completes vegetation-management activities on a rotation, went back and patrolled all of its three-phase lines in Frederick County that had been cleared and trimmed before the local detection of the beetle in 2014. As a result, several thousand ash trees that threatened our facilities were cut down.

Going forward, SVEC and our cutting contractor, Asplundh Tree Expert Company, will work together to ensure that removal or cutting back of ash trees is completed as we work through our rotation.

If, however, you have trees you believe pose a threat to the power lines, you can report them by calling SVEC at 1-800-234-7832. Our vegetation-management coordinators will investigate these reports and determine if the trees should be worked out of rotation.



Avoiding Tree and Utility Conflicts

Trees contacting power lines are a major cause of extended outages. Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative advises member-owners to be mindful of the size of a tree before planting it.

Planting tall-growing trees under and near overhead lines will ultimately require SVEC to cut them to maintain safe clearance from the wires. Also, children or adults climbing in these trees can be severely injured or even killed if they come in contact with lines.

Underground lines can be affected, too, which is why you should always call Miss Utility at 811 before you dig. Never assume that utility lines are buried deeper than you plan to dig. In some cases, utility lines are very close to the surface.

Your garden center staff or tree care professional will gladly help you select the right tree for your property. If you have questions or concerns about SVEC lines being contacted by trees on your property, please contact the Cooperative at 1-800-234-7832.