

RAPPAHANNOCK ELECTRIC  
**Cooperative** *Living*




## A-MAZE-ING FALL FUN!

PAGE 4

A section of the cornfield maze at  
Liberty Mills Farm in Somerset, Va.

PHOTO BY MARIN SANDERS





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# Changing Season, Same Mission

September ushers in fall, when we trade in pools and beaches for hayrides and pumpkins. It's also the time we start winding down baseball and hot dogs — and begin football and tailgating. Everyone gets to enjoy a long Labor Day weekend to get this month started right.

In this issue of *Cooperative Living*, we help you to get lost in the fall season by highlighting some truly unique fall events and getaways. Our Cooperative Focus story highlights cornfield mazes in Virginia and Maryland where families can make lasting memories as they navigate through some of the largest labyrinths in the U.S.

Speaking of family, in the Our Communities column, we tell you about the 4-year-old boy who went to a Brad



Paisley concert with his family and came back with a one-of-a-kind souvenir: Brad Paisley's electric guitar, signed by Paisley himself.

Be sure to check out our annual Fall Fairs & Festivals Guide in this issue, which showcases festive events where you can spend some time with your loved ones and have fantastic fall fun.

We appreciate you reading *Cooperative Living* magazine, made possible by your local electric cooperative. Everything they do is centered around serving you, their member, and supporting communities throughout their territories. Their mission has been the same for over 80 years: to serve their members and provide safe, affordable and reliable electricity. ●

*Brian S. Mosier*

Brian S. Mosier, President & CEO  
Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives



# Cooperative Living

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## OUR MISSION

To inform you about your cooperative and its efforts to serve your energy needs; how to use electricity safely and efficiently; and the people who define and enhance the quality of life in communities served by electric co-ops.

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PHOTOS COURTESY JESSIE DEHART

## A Guitar With Heartstrings

*SEC members get unexpected surprise during concert*

by Gregg MacDonald, Staff Writer

WHEN 4-YEAR-OLD LUKE DEHART WENT TO A BRAD PAISLEY CONCERT WITH HIS PARENTS AND YOUNGER SISTER, he had no idea he would be going home with a one-of-a-kind souvenir: Brad Paisley's signed guitar, handed to him by the popular country music superstar.

"I bought lawn seat tickets for \$30 each," says Luke's mother, Jessie DeHart, who is a Southside Electric Cooperative member and was recently named Powhatan High School's Teacher of the Year. "The tickets were a Father's Day gift for my husband."

After she bought them, a fantastic series of events happened.

When the DeHart family arrived at the Allianz Amphitheater at Riverfront in Richmond, they were asked if they would like to be "upgraded to the pit" at no extra charge. "The pit is the area right up at the front of the stage," she says.

The family accepted the offer and then during the show, Luke's toy guitar caught Paisley's eye. "Luke had asked my husband if he could bring his guitar to play along with Paisley's songs," Jessie says. "My husband plays guitar and is a huge Brad Paisley fan. At the show, he told Luke to hold his guitar up in the air so Brad could see it. We were hoping to maybe get it autographed."

But then something the family never expected happened.

"Brad Paisley made eye contact with Luke and said, 'I'll trade you,'" Jessie says, still excited to tell the story. Luke then handed Paisley his wooden toy guitar, and Paisley gave his vintage Fender Telecaster to Luke. "Brad signed it, gave a guitar pick to my 3-year-old daughter Hailey, and then signed Luke's guitar and handed that back to Luke as well," she says.

Luke's response: "This is so cool!"

His father, Daniel DeHart, a volunteer firefighter, says he still can't believe it. "It was incredible," he remembers. "What a memory to share with my son!" ●





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# Getting Lost in the Season

Exploring “a-maze-ing” fall fun

by Kari Smith, Contributing Writer



Liberty Mills Farm

There's something about the colorful changing of the leaves and the crisp autumn air that draws people outdoors to celebrate harvest season. Pool days and beach trips are traded for pumpkin patches, farm animals and hayrides.

Commercial corn mazes, which originated in the early 1990s in the U.S. as a fun twist on traditional European hedge mazes, have become one of the country's most iconic autumn activities.

The first modern commercial corn maze was created in 1993 in Pennsylvania. Today, more than 500 commercial corn mazes across the country draw visitors each fall.

From themed trivia mazes and kid-friendly zip lines to towering straw castles and more, here's a look at some of the area's standout fall farms.

## LIBERTY MILLS FARM

Somerset, Va., [libertymillsfarm.com](http://libertymillsfarm.com)  
434-882-6293

At Liberty Mills Farm in Somerset, you'll find Virginia's largest corn maze — and one of the largest in the country. “We wanted to offer an amazing adventure for families and friends,”

says co-owner Kent Woods, “creating a unique attraction in Central Virginia.”

Each year, the farm, powered by Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, designs four distinct trails ranging in difficulty, so everyone from first-timers to maze veterans can join the fun.

“Our themes are chosen to provide an engaging and educational experience, often reflecting significant cultural or historical events,” Woods explains. The intricate design takes months of planning and prepping before corn

is even planted. Once the stalks are tall enough, the team cuts pathways into the field to match the blueprints. Maintaining the massive maze is no small feat. “Weather conditions and maintaining clear pathways are ongoing challenges,” he notes.

Still, the hard work pays off — especially when guests conquer the famously difficult Hole Punch Maze, which can take up to three hours. “Many visitors have shared their excitement upon completing it. For some, it's a real bucket-list experience,” Woods says.

Since 2010, Liberty Mills Farm has grown to include events like its Fall Farm Festival and Sunflower Festival, a pumpkin patch, flower picking, and a market offering homemade ice cream and local goodies. As the farm grows, the focus remains rooted in connection.

“Watching families and friends create lasting memories while experiencing farm life firsthand is the most fulfilling part of what we do,” Woods says. “Last year, we were voted by USA Today as one of the top five corn mazes in the country,” adds Woods.

Families can create lasting memories as they navigate together through the massive corn maze at Liberty Mills Farm.

PHOTO COURTESY LIBERTY MILLS FARM





PHOTO BY KARI SMITH



Jocelyn Oldham, with Amaya and Jackson, going through the corn maze at Lloyd Family Farms.

The farm, also powered by Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, invites guests into a lively seasonal experience with a massive corn crib, a castle made entirely of straw for

children to climb on, and an array of farm animals that include goats, chickens, cows, horses and even a baby colt this year. “We’ve been open to the public for this experience for over a decade now,” says Timmerman. “It started as just another fun way to invite families out to experience the farm in the fall. Since then, it’s really grown. In fact, we added live music and food trucks last year.” The corn maze spans nearly 10 acres and serves as the centerpiece of the farm. Designing it starts months in advance.

The pumpkin patch is filled with pumpkins and gourds of all sizes, colors and shapes. Wheelchair-accessible hayride trailers provide access to main field attractions. However, guests should be aware that not all areas are paved.

#### AMENITIES AND ACTIVITIES

- **Four Trails:** Story Maze (approx. 30 minutes), Trivia Maze (45-60 minutes), Hole Punch Maze (2-3 hours, find 21 stations), and Mystery Maze (no map, open ended); Flashlight Maze on select evenings.
- **Maze Size:** spans approximately 34 acres, among the nation’s largest, but broken into separate trails for accessibility and flow.
- **Pumpkin Patch:** The farm provides convenient wheelbarrows for picking your favorite pumpkin varieties in many shapes, sizes and colors.
- **Flower Festivals:** seasonal events like Flowers on the Farm, which runs through Oct. 15.
- **Farm Market & Shops:** homemade ice cream and fudge, pumpkin butter, local honey and gifts.

#### LLOYD FAMILY FARMS

Rockville, Va., [lloydfamilyfarms.com](http://lloydfamilyfarms.com)  
804-955-7840

The corn maze at Lloyd Family Farms is part of a much larger autumn celebration that takes place from Sept. 26 through Oct. 26, open on weekends and on Columbus Day. “The entire operation is family-owned and family-run,” says Amber Timmerman, a member of the Lloyd family who manages the farm’s equine facility. “It’s something we all take pride in and participate in.”

#### BACK HOME ON THE FARM

Harrisonburg, Va.  
[backhome-onthefarm.com](http://backhome-onthefarm.com)  
540-442-6493

In the scenic Shenandoah Valley, Back Home on the Farm offers more than just a corn maze — it’s a countryside carnival experience with over 40 attractions and something for nearly every age group. The farm opens in early fall with a themed corn maze called “Cornundrums,” part of its Virginia Pumpkin Festival held on weekends in mid October.

#### AMENITIES AND ACTIVITIES

- **Corn Maze & Puzzle Fun:** Visitors navigate a classic maze and solve “cornundrums” along the way while enjoying the maze’s theme celebrating the 75th anniversary of Peanuts.
- **Pumpkin Patch:** over 7 acres of pumpkins and gourds representing 60-plus varieties, both pre-picked and U pick.
- **Attractions & Activities:** includes a historic carousel, rubber duck races, a toy tractor museum, underground slides and miniature golf.
- **Food & Treats:** Fresh apple cider doughnuts, hand-dipped ice cream, burgers, cider slushies, fresh-squeezed lemonade and more can be purchased in the farm store.
- **Events & Festivities:** parades, face painting, costume contests, a candy cannon, pig races, and bonfires with storytelling and music on cooler weekends.
- **Tickets & Hours:** General admission covers all attractions. Prices vary: \$16 on weekends, \$12 on weekdays in person. Discounts are available online and for groups.

PHOTO COURTESY LIBERTY MILLS FARM



#### COVERLY FARM

Amelia, Va., [coverlyfarm.com](http://coverlyfarm.com)  
804-453-0034

Just outside Richmond in Amelia, Coverly Farm blends old-fashioned hospitality with multiple mazes and family-oriented farm fun. Open weekends Sept. 27 through Oct. 26.

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## Getting Lost in the Season

(continued from page 5)

### AMENITIES AND ACTIVITIES

- **Multiple Corn Maze Trails:** Designed for different age and skill levels, it's easy to choose a route that suits your pace on 7 acres of mazes.
- **Flower Picking:** Guests can pick blooms directly from the garden in season — a peaceful counterpoint to maze adventures.
- **Homemade Market & Treats:** A bustling farm market sells home-baked goods like pies and cookies, plus artisanal produce.
- **Hayrides & Scenic Tours:** Tractor-drawn tours of pumpkin and gourd fields are often accompanied by casual storytelling and photo opportunities.
- **Friendly Atmosphere:** Known for welcoming hospitality, Coverly feels like visiting a neighbor's farm — hands-on, unhurried and warm.

### SINKLAND FARMS

Christiansburg, Va.

[sinklandfarms.com](http://sinklandfarms.com)

540-230-8976

Sinkland Farms features a 5-acre corn maze with live music, pony rides, artisan vendors and one of the most celebrated fall events in Virginia, also known as “the granddaddy of all festivals.”

### AMENITIES AND ACTIVITIES

- **Corn Maze:** about 5 acres of thoughtfully designed pathways;



PHOTO COURTESY ADKINS FARM MARKET



Corn mazes around the region aren't just about getting lost in the stalks — they're about fun, creativity and making memories.

Lloyd Family Farms, Rockville, Va.

ranked in USA Today's list of top ten corn mazes nationwide in 2024.

- **Pumpkin Patch & Hayrides:** Tractor rides take guests to fields of pumpkins, gourds and squash in all colors.
- **Kidz Zone & Rides:** includes barrel train, giant slides, zip line, jump pad, spider climber, rope courses and barrel rides for younger visitors.
- **Farm Animals & Pony Rides:** observe or ride rescued horses and ponies; includes educational programming and nature trails.
- **Food & Vendors:** food trucks serving southern fare, kettle corn, funnel cakes, plus artisan roadside shops and makers.
- **Live Entertainment:** scheduled music, blacksmith demos, pig racing, scarecrow and princess visits during six full weekends late September through early November.
- **Special Features:** Annual Punkin' Chunkin' event features pumpkins launched via catapult.

### ROUND HILL FARM

Culpeper, Va., [round-hill-farm.com](http://round-hill-farm.com)

540-308-8245

Set amidst rolling farmland in Culpeper, Round Hill Farm offers scenic hayrides, a pumpkin patch and a maze that are woven into broader autumn activities.

### AMENITIES AND ACTIVITIES

- **Pumpkin Patch:** Visitors select pumpkins during scenic hayrides through vibrant fields.
- **Play & Farm Activities:** While not

The Super Slide at Adkins Farm Market in Salisbury, Md., is an annual favorite.

maze-focused, the farm includes a traditional corn maze, pull-along hayrides, tractor tours, photo-friendly rustic scenes and decorative farm-themed activities.

- **Barnyard Petting Zoo:** Interact with over 30 farm animals, including goats, pigs and chickens.
- **Family Experience:** especially suited to young families and visitors seeking picture-perfect pumpkin picking and casual fall outings.

### ADKINS FARM MARKET

Salisbury, Md., [adkinsfarmmarket.com](http://adkinsfarmmarket.com)  
443-736-3157

Adkins Farm Market combines a giant corn maze with a sprawling children's play area and a market storefront.

### AMENITIES AND ACTIVITIES

- **Corn & Specialty Mazes:** more than 7 acres of themed corn mazes, plus additional straw, spider, rope and milo mazes — total of maze trails span more than a mile, with humorous signs and optional shortcut exits.
- **Play Area:** features 2 acres of slides, climbs, tunnels, a 60-foot Super Slide, zip lines, kiddie train ride and rubber duck races.
- **Hayrides:** Hourly hayrides on fall weekends transport guests to the pumpkin patch and maze entrance.
- **Pumpkin Variety:** Pick from over 80 varieties of pumpkins, gourds and squash.
- **Market & Snacks:** The store sells local produce, honey, fresh eggs, jams, garden decor and seasonal gifts.
- **All-Day Experience:** The mix of play area, maze and market encourages families to spend the full day exploring. ●



# 2025 FALL FAIRS & FESTIVALS GUIDE

**Autumn in Virginia is nothing short of magical. These fall fairs and festivals are the perfect way to experience the season. So, gather your family and friends — you won't want to miss the festive fun that autumn in Virginia brings.**



## CULPEPER HARVEST DAYS FARM TOUR | SEPT. 20-21

Fun for all ages, the tour showcases both traditional and unique farms in the beautiful Blue Ridge foothills that make up Culpeper County. The event provides a wonderful educational experience and includes an array of hands-on activities and demonstrations. The 15 carefully selected farms and ag-related businesses on the tour reflect Culpeper's agricultural heritage. For more information, visit [culpeperfarmtour.com](http://culpeperfarmtour.com).

## THE VIRGINIA PEANUT FESTIVAL | SEPT. 26-27

Emporia and Greensville County are stoked on peanuts — the 63rd annual Virginia Peanut Festival, that is. All your favorites will be on hand: a car show, arts and crafts, educational exhibits, a parade, live entertainment, cultural exhibits, a craft fair and plenty of delicious festival food. For more information, visit [virginiapeanutfestival.com](http://virginiapeanutfestival.com)

## JOHN JACKSON PIEDMONT BLUES FESTIVAL | SEPT. 27

Woodville, Va. – Don't miss the John Jackson Piedmont Blues Festival, which pays tribute to Rappahannock County native John Jackson and his legacy while also celebrating the musical and cultural heritage of Rappahannock County. The festival is held at Eldon Farms at Clover Hill. For more information, visit Facebook @ John Jackson Piedmont Blues Festival.

## SOUTH BOSTON HARVEST FESTIVAL | SEPT. 27

The 34th annual South Boston Harvest Festival will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27, in historic downtown South Boston. The Harvest Festival is a free community event sponsored by many great businesses, industries and community agencies. Throughout the day, continuous live music and entertainment will take place on two stages. For more information, visit [downtownsobo.com](http://downtownsobo.com).

## YOUTH FOR TOMORROW'S COUNTRY FAIR & AUCTIONS | OCT. 4

Youth For Tomorrow's Country Fair & Auctions is back for its 40th year of family fun! Mark your calendars for Saturday, Oct. 4, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Youth For Tomorrow Campus, 11835 Hazel Circle Drive in Bristow, Va. It will be the biggest and greatest ever! For more information and to purchase tickets and view auction catalogs, visit [youthfortomorrow.org](http://youthfortomorrow.org).

## APPOMATTOX RAILROAD FESTIVAL | OCT. 10-12

Join the fun during this year's Historic Appomattox Railroad Festival, held Oct. 10-12 in downtown Appomattox. For more information, visit [experienceappomattox.com](http://experienceappomattox.com).

*(continued on page 8)*



**66th Annual KING GEORGE FALL FESTIVAL**  
Est. 1959

Visit [www.kgfallfestival.com](http://www.kgfallfestival.com) for more info & registrations

**"Back to Our Roots!"**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025**

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**RAIN OR SHINE**

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KGHS Gym & Cafeteria  
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All at King George High School



## Fall Fairs & Festivals Guide

(continued from page 7)


### KING GEORGE FALL FESTIVAL | OCT. 11

The 66th annual King George Fall Festival theme is Back to Our Roots. There will be a craft and vendor show, parade, car show, pageant, races and entertainment. This family event will also feature live music, as well as free rides and games for the kids. The parade starts

at 11 a.m. at King George Elementary School and ends at King George High School. The SkillsUSA Car Show and 10K/5K/1-mile races start at 7:30 a.m. Food trucks will be on site all day. To sign up for the race on the Dahlgren Heritage Rail Trail, or be in the parade, or to be a vendor, crafter or food truck, go to [kgfallfestival.com](http://kgfallfestival.com). For more information, visit [kgfallfestival.com](http://kgfallfestival.com).

### CRAIG COUNTY FALL FESTIVAL | OCT. 11


Enjoy the Craig County Fall Festival in New Castle, Va., on Oct. 11 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Six blocks of vendors, antique cars, great food and children's activities. Experience live music including Blue Connection and The McDaniels. Vendors will display dried flowers, artwork, wood crafting, candles, home-baked goodies and lots of raffle tickets. The Marshall Reynolds Memorial Antique Car Show will fill Middle Street. For more information, visit [visitcraigcountyva.com](http://visitcraigcountyva.com) or call 540-864-7023.



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Festival Information: [AppomattoxRRFest.org](http://AppomattoxRRFest.org)

Lodging, shopping & dining: [ExperienceAppomattox.com](http://ExperienceAppomattox.com)



### DINWIDDIE COUNTY FAIR | OCT. 17-19

The 2025 Dinwiddie County Fair will be held Oct. 17-19 at Virginia Motorsports Park. It will feature live music, variety shows, fireworks, carnival rides and fair foods. \$10 adults, \$5 children. Free parking. For more information, visit [discoverdinwiddie.com](http://discoverdinwiddie.com).

### CZECH AND SLOVAK FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL | OCT. 18

Come learn about the rich and unique culture of Virginia's longtime Czech and Slovak American community.

*(continued below)*



## CRAIG COUNTY FALL FESTIVAL

SAT. OCTOBER 11TH

9AM - 5PM

DOWNTOWN NEW CASTLE

SPONSORED BY CRAIG COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



You are guaranteed to enjoy yourself. This festival is held from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on the lawn at the Historic Courthouse Complex. For more information, visit [pgcrhc.org/folklife-festival](http://pgcrhc.org/folklife-festival).

### RASSAWEK AUTUMN FESTIVAL | OCT. 18-19

The Rassawek Autumn Festival showcases a professional rodeo this year. Come and see trade demonstrations that include new and old heavy equipment,

blacksmithing, welding and carpentry. Guests can also enjoy pig races, bluegrass music, market and food vendors, children's activities, and beer and wine. Visit [rassawek.com](http://rassawek.com) to save \$5 by getting your tickets in advance.





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**PLAN YOUR TRIP**  
804-541-2270  
HOPEWELLVA.GOV



## Get Ready for Cold Weather!

It's important to take the time to prepare your HVAC system before cooler temperatures arrive, and fall is the perfect time! Change your air filter, clean your outdoor unit, check your thermostat, schedule a professional maintenance check, inspect ductwork, clean vents, and consider a system replacement if needed. Address potential issues with filters, airflow, and overall system functionality now while temperatures are mild.

Visit [ee.odec.com](http://ee.odec.com) for ways to save. 

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# Picking and Planting

## Creating the perfect garden

by Scott Burrell, Contributing Columnist

**W**hat makes great plants so great? Is it long life, low maintenance, colorful foliage or the “wow” factor of its flowers? It could simply be a result of something much more mundane than all of those: the dirt it’s planted in.

In the July issue of *Cooperative Living*, I waxed rhapsodic in this column about how great soil can ensure that what you see in your mind’s eye will be what you get once you plant something.

Let’s look at a garden plant sampler: proven workhorses all planted in my Piedmont, Va., garden. Each has one or more enduring qualities — low maintenance, long life, multiple seasons of interest, and high impact foliage and/or flowers. I will begin with the short plants for the front border and work my way back to the taller plants that traditionally inhabit the middle to back of the bed.

Colonizing into a tight, weed-free ground hugging mat of semi-evergreen,



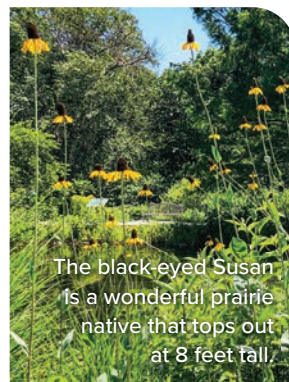
Streaked purple and white clematis ‘Tie Dye’ mingling with the burgundy of ‘Avant Garde.’



Robin's plantain tolerates shade but blooms best in full sun.



The wonderful wine (spring foliage) and sunset (flowers) of the false sunflower.



The black-eyed Susan is a wonderful prairie native that tops out at 8 feet tall.



The deep purple foliage of ‘Edge of Night’ hardy hibiscus.

PHOTOS COURTESY SCOTT BURRELL

sculpted foliage rosettes, robin's plantain (*Erigeron pulchellus* ‘Meadow Muffin’) is a long-lived, low-maintenance essential for the front of the border and pathway. A “wow” plant, most definitely.

Other low perennial plant prodigies include coral bells (*Heuchera*), foamflowers (*Tiarella*) and a cross of the two in the native foamflower cultivar ‘Timbuktu’ — which, beyond great pink-tinged 12-inch blooms, also spreads to form a nice groundcover in part shade.

And then there’s geranium ‘Tiny Monster,’ a 6-inch powerhouse and loosely mounding perennial that blooms through summer with shimmering magenta flowers.

In the middle border (18 to 36 inches), I champion these mid-summer blooming dependables: the coneflower (*Echinacea*), black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*), sunflower (*Helianthus*) and false sunflower (*Heliopsis*) clans. They all produce daisy-like flowers,

have good vigor, diverse height, and foliage and flower qualities that range from petite (under 18 inches) to the monumental (8 feet and higher).

Somewhere near the middle or back of the border (depending on dwarf or full-sized cultivars), you’ll find the peegee hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata*) in my garden. Much more resilient and easier to manage than the “mophead” hydrangea types, I eagerly await the next new cultivar.

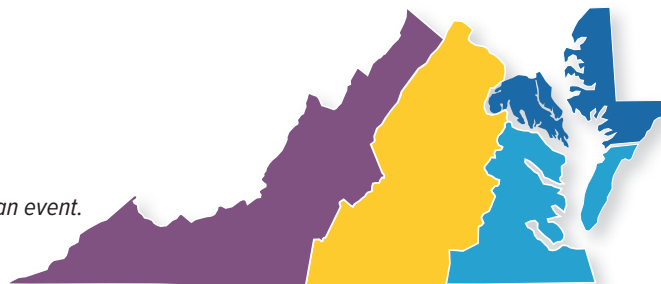
Near it, packing saucer-size pink flowers and dark purple foliage, is hibiscus ‘Edge of Night,’ a dependable performer year after year. Cut it to the ground annually in early spring. I love the clematis ‘Avant-Garde’ and its cousin ‘Tie Dye,’ displaying variegated light purple petals that give each flower a one-of-a-kind coloring. ●

*Scott Burrell is a certified horticulturalist who served as the horticulture director for the Virginia Historical Society for nearly 30 years.*



# Events Around the Area

*Editor's note: All information is believed to be accurate as of press time. Before attending, please use the contact information to verify the status of an event. Listing an event does not constitute an endorsement.*



## BLUE RIDGE WEST

### SEPTEMBER

**19 FRONT ROYAL.** Virginia German Shepherd 17th Annual Golf Tournament & Silent Auction. Blue Ridge Shadows Golf Club. 1-7:30 p.m. 703-435-2840. shepherdrescue.org

**19-21 EDINBURG.** 44th Edinburg Ole Time Festival. 540-984.7272. Edinburgoletimefestival.org

**20 LURAY.** 17th Annual MCCA Car & Truck Show. 2331 U.S. Highway Bus. 340. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 540-743-5645 or 540-810-9927.

**27 CHURCHVILLE.** Western Augusta Steam & Gas Fall Festival & Tractor Show. Festival & Tractor Show. Churchville Elementary School. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. 540-463-9689.

### OCTOBER

**3-4 WINCHESTER.** Valley Glasshoppers Fall 2025 Glass Show & Sale. 1309 Opequon Rd. Times vary. 703-304-4788.

**10-12 WAYNESBORO.** Waynesboro Fall Foliage Art Show 2025. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 540-255-9331. Svacart.com

**10-12 HIGHLAND CO.** Hands & Harvest Festival. Highlandcounty.org

**11 NEW CASTLE.** Craig County Fall Festival. New Castle Historic District. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**11-12 LURAY.** 56th Page County Heritage Festival & Antique Tractor, Gas & Steam Engine Show. Page Valley Fairgrounds. 9 a.m. Festival@pagecountyheritage.org

## PIEDMONT

### SEPTEMBER

**20-21 CULPEPER.** Culpeper Farm Tour. 10220 James Monroe Hwy. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Culpeperfarmtour.com

**24 POWHATAN.** Ukulele & Dulcimer Concert. 4290 Anderson Hwy. 1 p.m. Powhatanva.myrec.com

**26 LINKWOOD.** BBQ Chicken Fundraiser. 10 a.m. until sold out. 3905 Ocean Gtwy. 410-221-0169.

**26 BEAVERDAM.** The Revolutionary Road Through Scotchtown, a 250th Signature Event. Scotchtown Museum. 6-8 p.m. Facebook.com/events/2134882386980839

**27 KING GEORGE.** St. Paul's Oktoberfest. 5486 St. Pauls Rd. 12-8 p.m. Stpaulskgva.org

**27 HOPEWELL.** 17th Annual Paddle Battle. Hopewelldowntown.com

**27 WOODVILLE.** John Jackson Piedmont Blues Festival. Eldon Farms. 10:30 a.m. 540-675-3619.

**27 SPOTSYLVANIA.** Fredericksburg Dog Mart. 12400 Herndon Rd. 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. James.d.lloyd@homeemail.com.

**27 SOUTH BOSTON.** Harvest Festival. Downtown South Boston. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 434-575-4208. Downtownsobo.com

### OCTOBER

**3 MANASSAS.** The Rocky Horror Show. 9419 Battle St. 7:30 p.m. Virginiaartfactory.org

**4 MANASSAS.** Manassas Park Fire & Fiddle Fest. City of Manassas Park. 10 a.m. manassasparkva.gov

**4 BRISTOW.** Youth for Tomorrow's Country Fair & Auctions. 11835 Hazel Circle Dr. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Youthfortomorrow.org

**4 WOODBRIDGE.** PWCFRS 2nd Annual Public Safety Fall Expo. 7 County Complex Ct. 12-5 p.m. Pwcva.gov

**10-12 APPOMATTOX.** Historic Appomattox Railroad Festival. Downtown Appomattox. Appomattoxrailroadfestival@gmail.com. Appomattoxrrest.org

**11 KING GEORGE.** Fall Festival. King George High School. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Kgfallfestival.com

## TIDEWATER

### SEPTEMBER

**9-12 SUFFOLK.** Suffolk Peanut Festival. Suffolk Executive Airport. Suffolkpeanutfest.com

**26-27 EMPORIA.** The 63rd Annual Virginia Peanut Festival. Veteran's Memorial Park. 434-634-9441. Virginiapeanutfestival.com

### OCTOBER

**4 MACHIPONGO.** 2025 Eastern Shore Agricultural Fair. 7247 Young St. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Esvachamber.org

**10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 WINDSOR.** Haunted Barn & Hayride. 15209 Reuter Ln. 7-10 p.m. Hauntedbarnva.com

## MARYLAND

### SEPTEMBER

**27-28 SNOW HILL.** Furnace Town Renaissance Faire. 3816 Old Furnace Rd. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Furnacetown.org

### OCTOBER

**4 HURLOCK.** 33rd Annual Hurlock Fall Festival and Train Rides. Town of Hurlock. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 410-943-4181. Hurlock-md.gov

**PRINT DEADLINES:** Oct. 1 for Nov. 15-Dec. 31  
Nov. 1 for Jan. 15-Feb. 28

Email: happenings@co-opliving.com  
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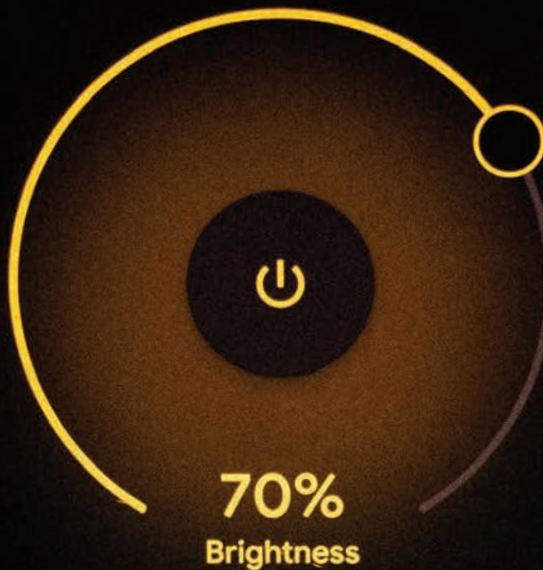
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Bluetooth, cellular signal, Wi-Fi, and battery (45%) icons.

## Living Room lights

2 lights



Color

**Three Smart Home  
Technologies to Help  
You Save Energy**





# Three Smart Home Technologies to Help You Save Energy

Smart technologies make our homes more comfortable, convenient and energy efficient. By connecting your home Wi-Fi network, smart devices automate everyday tasks like lighting, heating, cooling and home security — they can even communicate with other smart devices in the home.

While not all smart home products are specifically designed with energy savings in mind, there are several smart technologies that can help you lower home energy use. Here are the top three smart home devices to help you save.

## Smart Thermostats

Smart or not, your thermostat is the most effective tool for controlling energy use as heating and cooling typically account for the largest portion of energy bills. Smart thermostats allow you to adjust the indoor temperature through an app, giving you full control from anywhere. Many smart thermostats include learning capabilities and will adjust the settings based on previous behavior and patterns.

According to the Department of Energy, smart thermostats can reduce heating and cooling bills by more than 8% annually. With models priced as low as \$65, they typically pay for themselves in one year.

## Smart Lighting

Smart LED bulbs use less electricity than traditional bulbs and can be scheduled or turned on or off remotely through a smartphone app. Smart bulbs are available in a range of shapes, brightness levels, colors and more, so shop for the products that work best for your home lighting needs.

Many smart bulbs include motion sensors that turn on or off based on room activity, further optimizing home energy use. If you're new to smart lighting, try a home starter kit. Prices for kits range from \$70 to more than \$300 depending on how many bulbs you may need.

## Smart Plugs

Smart plugs are inexpensive gadgets that can help you save energy. Many electronic devices consume power even when they are turned off, which is known as 'phantom load' and can take a toll on your energy bills. Smart plugs are simply plugged into an electrical outlet and connected to your Wi-Fi network. When set up, the smart plug can cut or restore power to non-smart devices, like coffee makers, phone chargers and other items that draw phantom load.

Many smart plugs can be paired with popular smart devices, like Alexa or Google Nest, or controlled through the plug's associated app. Smart plugs are simple to use and a set of four can be purchased for as little as \$25.

**Looking for deals and ways to save energy and money?  
Join the *What REC Found* Facebook group for tips, tools, and savings!**



# Planning Ahead to Keep Energy Reliable and Costs Manageable



## Dear Members,

In my last editorial, I shared how energy demand across Virginia is rising faster than ever before and how that reality requires a clear, responsible approach to planning for the future. That projection wasn't just a warning, it was a signal to prepare.

At the end of July, the organization that manages our regional electric grid, called PJM, announced the results of its latest energy capacity auction. That might not sound like big news, but the outcome affects how much all of us will pay for electricity in the future.

Here's the bottom line: the cost to make sure enough electricity is available during peak demand times — the hottest of summer days and the coldest of winter nights — is going up. For the upcoming 2026-2027 time frame, prices across the region hit the maximum level allowed. While this is slightly lower than the year before, it still adds pressure to our power supply costs. This is the portion of our member-owner electric bills that is steadily increasing and resulting in higher monthly bills. That's where careful planning comes in, and it's something we take seriously at Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC).

At REC, we're doing everything we can to manage these impacts. We're reducing demand during peak times, investing in storage and smart systems and using data to make wise decisions. But these strategies can only go so far.

The truth is this: if we want reliable, affordable power in the years ahead, we need more power — period.

New power generation must be built to meet growing demand.

Without it, the wholesale power market supply will continue to tighten, and costs will continue to rise. That's why REC is working closely with our power supplier, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative and actively engaging with regional and national partners to ensure the right investments are made and made quickly.

Here in Virginia, enabling those investments isn't just about engineering and economics, it's also about policy. In 2025, Virginia became the No. 1 state in terms of energy imports. That means Virginia relies more than any other state on energy generated outside the Commonwealth to power our homes and businesses. Current laws and regulatory frameworks impact how, where and what type of new generation can be built. For Virginia to stay ahead of this challenge, we need a balanced approach that supports timely investment in new power resources in the Commonwealth.

That's where you come in. As members, your voices matter. We encourage you to stay informed, speak up and engage with leaders at every level. This is about ensuring the energy future we all want — one that is reliable, affordable and ready to support our growing communities.

REC will continue doing everything within our control to manage costs and advocate for the needs of our members. But solving this challenge will take more than smart strategies and new technology. It will take awareness, engagement and a shared commitment to shaping energy policy that works for all Virginians.

Let's stay focused. Let's stay realistic. And let's work together to power Virginia's future with clarity, responsibility and readiness.

Sincerely,

John Hewa | President & CEO

## Know Before You Install: Avoiding Solar Scams at Home

Solar energy is rising in popularity — and so are solar scams. If a salesperson knocks on your door promising *free* solar panels at zero cost or that you'll never have to pay your energy bill again, it's likely a scam. If you're interested in solar panels for your home, **do your research**, get multiple quotes from reputable, licensed providers and most importantly, **take your time to ensure a smooth process**.

REC offers a useful resource to help you assess how much solar your home or business can sustain. Use the **solar calculator from Vividly Brighter Solar** to get started.



Solar Calculator:  
[www.myrec.coop/solar](http://www.myrec.coop/solar)



Source: Federal Trade Commission







# Balancing Growth and Affordability: REC Announces Hyperscale Energy Services



REC announces the launch of **Hyperscale Energy™ Services (HES)**, a new affiliate company established to provide power supply services to REC's large data center customers.

Virginia continues to experience rapid growth in energy demand from high-load users, including data centers that drive local investment and innovation. HES was created to meet their specialized needs while ensuring REC's core membership of over 182,000 connections continues to benefit from stable, reliable and affordable electric service.

"Hyperscale Energy Services allows REC to maintain the integrity and strength of our cooperative system, while supporting and meeting our obligations for economic growth in our region," said John Hewa, President and CEO of both REC and HES. "By establishing a dedicated affiliate structure, we are organizing the cooperative's business so that data center customers are served efficiently and responsibly, with the goal of not shifting risk or cost to our other member-owners."

As a regulated utility in the Commonwealth of Virginia, REC holds an obligation to serve all customers within its designated service territory — including data centers. Through Hyperscale Energy Services, REC is fulfilling that obligation in a way that supports regional growth while protecting the long-term interests of its cooperative membership. Under this business model, REC will provide the infrastructure for the local delivery system after the data centers prepay the costs. HES will serve as the entity that

procures power for REC on behalf of these large customers in the wholesale power market, which at times can be volatile. The cooperative received approval from the State Corporation Commission (SCC) for the affiliate agreement with HES in February.

To further safeguard REC members, the Cooperative requires data center customers to pay upfront for REC infrastructure investments, ensuring that necessary system upgrades are funded by the users who drive them. In addition, REC recently filed a Large Power-Dedicated Facilities (LP-DF) rate for approval from the SCC that ensures power delivery costs are fairly and transparently allocated to these large users.

"REC's founding principles are based on meeting the needs of our member-owners," Hewa added. "Hyperscale Energy Services strengthens that mission by ensuring that major new energy demands — like those from the thriving data center industry — are integrated responsibly, without compromising service for the families and small businesses that rely on us every day."

In concert with Hyperscale Energy Services, REC can strategically manage infrastructure requirements, energy delivery and operational risk for high-demand commercial users — while preserving the cooperative's long-term ability to serve its members with excellence.

To learn more about Hyperscale Energy Services and its role in supporting energy innovation while preserving member value, visit [www.hyperscale.energy](http://www.hyperscale.energy).





# Skilled, Local and Here to Help: REC Electrician Services

When you need small, and sometimes big, jobs done around the house, REC's Electrician Services team is here. As part of REC's **Vividly Brighter® Upgrades**, our licensed electricians bring trusted hands right into your home because your community is our community, and your comfort and safety are top priorities.

## Why Electrician Services?

Whether you're installing a ceiling fan or upgrading service for new electric demands, REC's electricians handle the jobs most contractors can't or won't, so you don't have to worry. From flickering lights to EV charging readiness, we've got the power to make it happen. Requesting service is simple, **all you need to do is submit a request form online or call 800-552-3904**. Our Electrician Services team will respond within two business days to get your project underway.

For added convenience, if you meet REC credit requirements, we can even roll the cost into your electric bill with manageable monthly payments.

Our electricians aren't just professionals, they're your neighbors. They operate with the same care and commitment we bring to every part of REC, ensuring comfort, safety and peace of mind for member-owners across our service area.

## Ready to Brighten Your Home?

Whatever your electrical needs, REC's Electrician Services are here to help you with skill and reliability. **Submit your request online today at [myrec.coop/electricianservices](https://myrec.coop/electricianservices), or give us a call at 800-552-3904.** Let us take care of the electrical work you need done so you can focus on brighter days ahead.



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# Reliability You Can Count On: A Member's View of REC's Commitment to Service

For Shannon Adams, a work-from-home and homeschooling mom living in rural Spotsylvania County, reliable electricity is more than just a convenience, **it's a necessity.**

"Reliable electricity for my family means we're able to start our day without worry," she said. "From cooking and cleaning to teaching and working, our lives revolve around having dependable power. And with REC, I never have to question it."

Adams and her husband have built a life where home is the center of everything: **work, education and family.** That's why she says the peace of mind REC provides is invaluable.

"We've had extremely limited interruptions with our electric service," she noted. "When we do need something, the response is fast and personal. It's refreshing to reach out and know someone is there to help, and they genuinely care."

What stands out to Adams is how visible REC is in her community.

"I see the yellow trucks out here often, working on lines or replacing poles," she said. "It reassures me that they're not just reacting to problems but actively preventing them. They're upgrading equipment and investing in us."

REC's commitment to proactive maintenance and customer communication has not gone unnoticed by her family.

"We get alerts before any planned outages, and, if there's an unexpected issue, we're notified by text before we even think to reach out," Adams said. "Their communication is second to none. It makes me feel like they really take families into consideration."

With a husband who also works remotely at times, Adams said the reliability of REC's service offers peace of mind that can't be overstated. "The reliable service, it's something we just don't have to think about," she added.

Over the years, Adams has noticed a significant improvement in service.

"I've never lived anywhere where electricity was this reliable," she said. "It's clear that REC is committed to its members, and I know my bill isn't just paying for power — it's supporting the work that REC does every day to improve reliability for us."

In a home where every minute counts, Adams said: "I don't know what we'd do without a reliable electric company like REC."



**"I see the yellow trucks out here often, working on lines or replacing poles."**

Shannon Adams, REC member

## 5 Tips for a Safe Harvest

1. **Maintain at least a 10-foot distance from power lines** when operating equipment like grain augers, elevators and other tall machinery.
2. **Use a spotter to navigate safely around power lines** and other electrical equipment.
3. Ensure all farm workers are trained on electrical safety procedures.
4. Regularly inspect all electrical equipment and machinery for signs of wear and damage.
5. **Keep first aid kits and emergency contact numbers in an easily accessible location.**





## Meet CARE Charity Board Member: Sheryl Reid

Sheryl Reid may have been born in Iowa, but it's Clarke County, Va., that she has called home since she was 12. Her rural roots helped shape her strong sense of community and her passion for helping others — values she's carried into every role, both personally and professionally.

Sheryl's career began in the dental field as an assistant, but, after becoming a mother, her full-time job became something even more meaningful: **serving her community**. For many years, Sheryl has been a tireless volunteer, donating 15 years to organizations like the American Red Cross, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church. Her resume also includes significant leadership experience, having served on the boards of multiple nonprofits. For 10 years, she was vice president and a board member of the Laurel Center, a nonprofit focused on supporting survivors of domestic violence. She also led the Concern Hotline Board as president.

It was her deep nonprofit experience that caught the attention of fellow church member and REC Board Chair Chris Shipe who encouraged Sheryl to join the CARE Charity Board. She's been a dedicated member ever since.

From the start, Sheryl brought a fresh perspective — especially when the board discussed funding support for fire trucks. Her husband's experience as a retired firefighter helped her provide valuable insight and context to the conversation.

Of all the causes Sheryl supports, three are especially close to her heart: domestic violence, children and combating hunger.

"It kills me that we have to have food banks for our children," she shares.

Her voice carries both sadness and determination. Through her involvement with food programs and educational initiatives, Sheryl



remains focused on making sure no child in her community goes without a meal — or a chance to thrive.

That's why she's also a passionate supporter of REC's The Power of Change program, which helps fund the CARE Charity's grants to local nonprofits. She encourages others to sign up, reminding them how easy it is to make a difference.

"All you have to do is say yes, and everything else is done for you," she says.

With her heart for service and her unwavering dedication, Sheryl Reid is helping ensure that The Power of Change mission continues to nourish and uplift the communities it serves.



### THE POWER OF CHANGE

#### Every Little Bit Counts!

Your small change can make a big difference. Join more than 33,000 members who round up their electric bill each month to support nonprofits and charities that make a difference in our communities. Please consider rounding up to make a positive change!



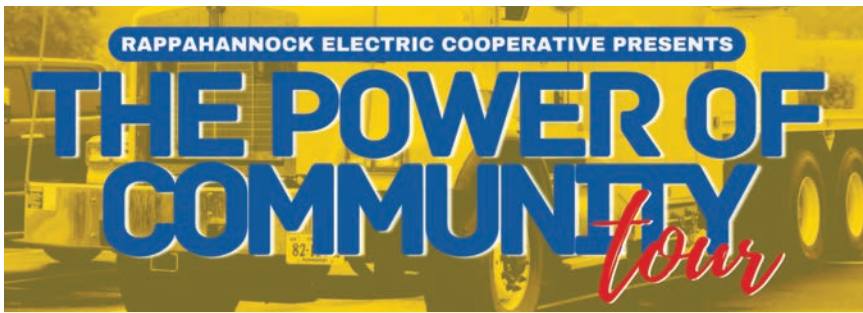
Make a Difference Today, Enroll Today:  
[thepowerofchange.org](https://thepowerofchange.org)

### Take Control with MyREC SmartHub!

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Create an online profile today:  
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**Orange Street Festival**, Main Street, Orange 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. **Sept. 6**

**Louisa Biz Expo**, Fifty-third Winery & Vineyard, Louisa 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. **Sept. 18**

**Family Fall Festival**, Fredericksburg Fairgrounds 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. **Sept. 20**

### County Fairs, Powered by REC

REC employee, Brianna Murden, engaged with members and their families providing ways to stay safe around electricity at the Warren County Fair.



### Feeding Hope: REC Volunteers Step Up

REC employees volunteered their **culinary** skills with the George Washington Carver Agricultural Research Center where they spent the day making marinara sauce for local food pantries. Exceeding their initial goals, volunteers prepared enough marinara to serve 614 meals. The supplies will be distributed to **Fauquier FISH**, the **Culpeper Food Closet**, and the **Culpeper Free Clinic** — nonprofits that work to make a difference for those in need.

## Stepping up to the Plate

### Employee Volunteers Fill Gaps to Support Communities During State Little League Tournament

When Caroline County Little League hosted the **Virginia State Tournament**, REC volunteers were there — not just as spectators, but as active supporters helping the event run smoothly. From prepping the fields and assisting with logistics to offering a warm welcome to visiting teams and families, REC employees played a key role in making the tournament a success.

Their efforts helped create a safe, organized and memorable experience for the athletes and attendees alike. In the end, Front Royal Little League took home the state title, but the real win was the sense of community and teamwork displayed both on and off the field.

**Congratulations to the Front Royal Little League All Stars**, who won the 2025 Virginia Little League Baseball Championship 12U tournament.



## SAVE Energy to SAVE Money

Take advantage of “shoulder months,” which are transitional periods between peak heating and cooling seasons. During the fall, these milder weeks typically occur between September and November. Shoulder months offer a great opportunity to lower home energy use as the need for extensive heating or cooling is reduced. Look for simple ways to boost indoor comfort without running your heating and cooling system. Use ceiling fans, and open windows on breezy days to ventilate your home.

**On cooler days, add a layer of clothing and avoid running the heat.**

Local Pages Editor – Casey M. Hollins, CCC

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If your photo is published as part of the Say Cheese column in *Cooperative Living* magazine, we will send you a \$20 Amazon gift card!





# Give Farmers a Brake

*Watch for slow-moving equipment on rural roads*

by Nicole Zema, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation

**G**iving farmers the space to do their jobs and provide for their families means you can continue to do the same.

On June 6, on Route 522 in Orange County, a motorist collided with a planter belonging to Marshall Dairy Inc.

The motorist was injured in the rear collision that also mangled the dairy's planting equipment. Fortunately, the tractor operator was unharmed, although the planter required repairs, delaying corn planting for several days.

"That highway is used as an alternate route, and drivers who aren't familiar with it don't realize how much farming activity goes on," says Deanne Marshall, assistant manager of the family's dairy.

"Please slow down and stay alert when approaching farm equipment on the road," she adds. "Your patience and caution save lives and keep farmers safe while we work to feed our community."

Fall harvest season is the busiest for many farmers, who likely don't have the luxury of cultivating all their acreage on one contiguous farm. Across Virginia,



crop harvests begin in late summer and continue into the cooler weeks of fall, requiring use of roadways to move heavy equipment to access different tracts of farmland.

"If you can't see a farmer, then they can't see you," notes Matt Nuckols, chair of the Virginia Farm Bureau Farm Safety

Program. "And besides, it's illegal to pass on a roadway with a double solid line — even if the driver ahead of you is going extremely slow."

Shoulder conditions may make it unsafe for the farmer to pull heavy equipment to the side of the road. However, many farm fields are less than a couple of miles apart, he says, so motorists should practice patience, as farm equipment will soon turn off the road.

Even if it seems safe to pass, Nuckols urges motorists to make sure they know the farmer's intentions before passing. Equipment operators sometimes use hand signals in the absence of signal lights.

Nuckols recalls a farmer telling him about a time he stuck his left arm straight out of his tractor window to indicate he was going to make a left turn. The motorist behind him thought he was signaling for him to pass and stepped on the gas.

The results of such crashes "are disastrous," Nuckols says. "And because farm equipment is so large, the car may take the brunt of the damage."

Marshall agrees that farm equipment takes up space on roadways and moves slowly. "But we are not trying to hold you up," she says. "We're simply doing our job." ●



The Virginia Farm Bureau Farm Safety Program has started a new initiative — Safety Awareness for Farm Equipment on Roadways, or SAFER.

The initiative kicks off with a contest inviting community groups and civic and youth organizations to create visual displays, media campaigns and educational materials that depict the size difference between farm equipment and regular vehicles. The goal is to educate drivers about the presence of farm equipment on roadways.

The contest runs through Oct. 31, and winners will be eligible for cash prizes.

For details, visit [vafb.com/safety](http://vafb.com/safety).



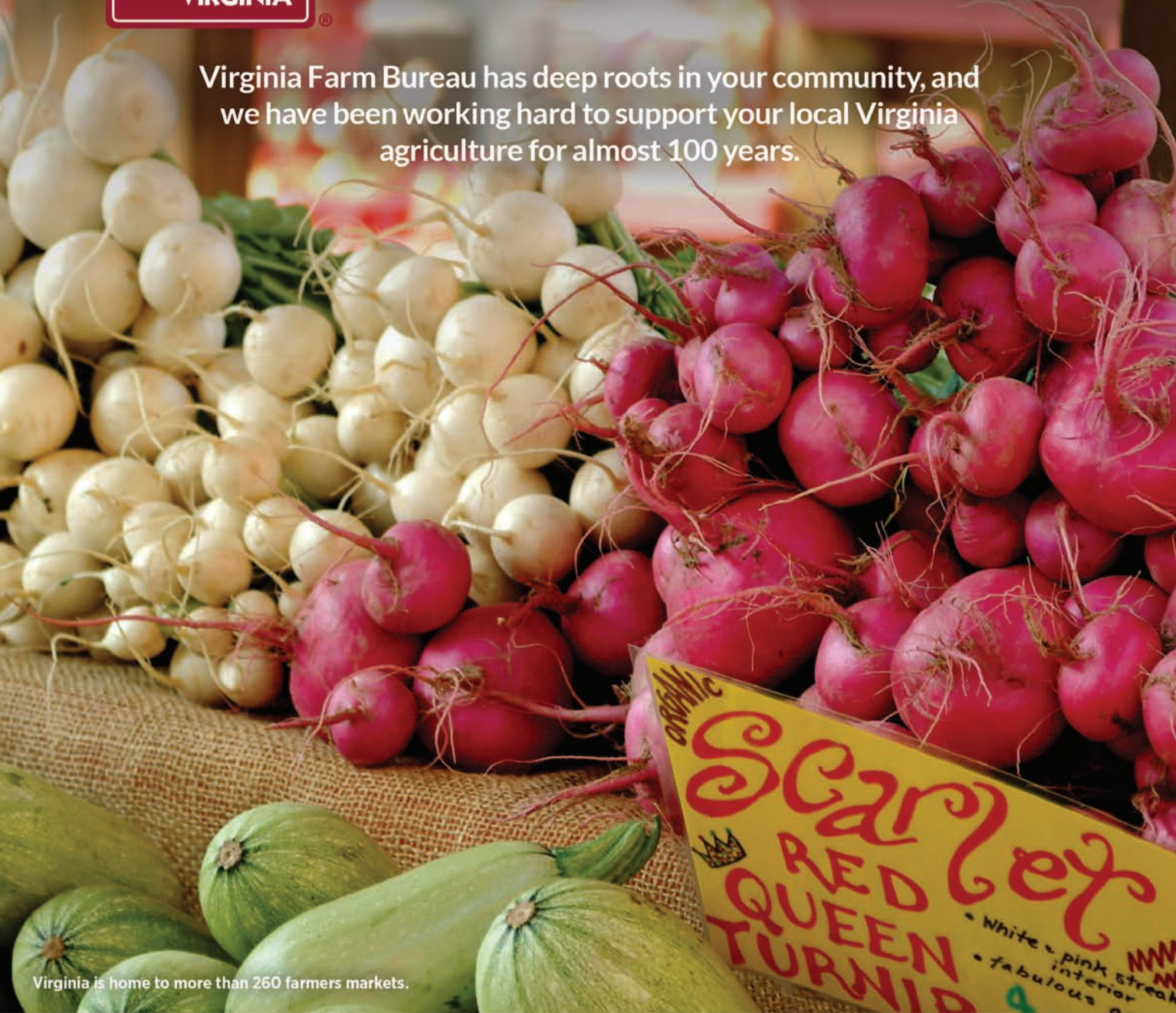
A scene from the June 6 collision between a motorist and a Marshall Dairy Inc. planter.



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# FINDING YOUR iNNeR NeRDiNeSS

story and artwork by Anne M. Dellinger, Contributing Columnist

*Have you ever been called a nerd?*



If so, hopefully, you were flattered and proud to be recognized for your enthusiasm, expertise and know-how about a special topic, not ridiculed or embarrassed.

In the not-too-distant past, being branded a nerd was considered derogatory and belittling. The nerd label brought to mind a brainy person, usually a guy hooked on math and science who was socially awkward and overly focused on academics and technical subjects.

Often a nerd was portrayed wearing oversized glasses and unfashionable clothes, including a bow tie and a pocket protector full of ink pens. (Steve Urkell from the 90s sitcom, "Family Matters," was an iconic representation of a nerd ... ask your parents if they remember that TV show and how they felt about this character.)



Fast forward 30-plus years. Now there is a new, more positive perception of nerdiness.

The modern-day nerds are both guys and gals who are respected for their unique interests and abilities, along with their dedication to the things they deeply care about.

And while the stereotype of a nerd is still associated with math and science, the 21st century nerd can now be found hanging out in most any field of study and interest. Today, people are passionate and knowledgeable about a **ton** of different things.

## DO YOU IDENTIFY WITH ANY OF THESE NERDY PURSUITS?

**CARD COLLECTOR NERD** — someone who is an avid and knowledgeable collector of specific trading cards such as Pokemon or sports, and may enjoy designing original cards.



**SPORTS NERD** — someone who loves collecting statistics and facts about a particular sport or team. Or someone who focuses on the form and technique of their sport and practices diligently.



**TECH NERD** — someone who is enthusiastic about technology, especially computers and electronics; excited about the latest gadgets, games and trends.

**OUTDOOR NERD** — someone who is passionate about camping, hunting, tracking, hiking and studying the environment.

**HOBBY NERD** — someone who is dedicated to mastering a special interest like playing a musical instrument, speaking a different language or even learning to cook.



**WEATHER NERD** — someone who regularly studies weather data, patterns, forecasting and phenomena.



With a wide range of interests to choose from, it is not about **what** you love but **how much** you love it that establishes a person's inner nerdiness.

If you have not yet found that "special something" that makes you passionately curious (beyond your cellphone), no worries. Nerdiness has no time or age limits; you may not discover an interest that you truly love and want to spend time exploring until you are older.

In the meantime, here is a suggestion. **Step outside** ... the natural world always has countless things to get excited about. Some are scary looking. Some are mysterious. Others can be beautiful, puzzling or even humorous. **Nature never disappoints!**





## DO YOU RECOGNIZE EACH OF THE SUBJECTS IN THE PHOTOS BELOW?

Maybe there is something in this lineup that will trigger an interest?

There are endless mysteries and secrets to unravel in wooded areas, along streams/ponds or in your own backyard.

Observe ... collect ... photograph ... draw and record your findings.



The word NERD first appeared in print in 1950 in a book called...



## CALLING ALL Super Sleuths

If you have ever wondered when you may have first heard the word “nerd,” think back to your early childhood days. There is a popular book that your preschool or kindergarten teacher may have read to you that featured “a Nerkle, a **Nerd** and a Seersucker too.” The nerd in this story is portrayed as an imaginary animal, not someone with a passionate interest in a subject.

If you do not remember the book, you might recognize the quirky words and whimsical writing style of its famous author.

The book, with title and author, is hidden in this magazine. Help Hay Seed and City Slicker discover its whereabouts.

- Find the missing book in this magazine, giving the page number.
- Give the name of the book and its author.
- Do you remember reading this book from your early childhood?
- What is your nerdy passion?

For a chance to win a **\$25 Amazon email gift card**, enter online at [co-opliving.com/super-sleuth](http://co-opliving.com/super-sleuth) or send answers with name, address and phone number to:

Cooperative Living Super Sleuths  
4201 Dominion Blvd., Suite 101  
Glen Allen, VA 23060

*Kids Korner submissions are for children under the age of 16.*



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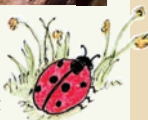


PIPEVINE SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLIES



GRAY TREE FROG

Who knows? You just might be a *nature nerd* in the making! And planet Earth can always use more nerd devotees! In today's society, it is cool to be smart and passionate about a single-minded interest. There is even an official day in August dedicated to Finding Your Inner Nerd. But any day is okay to recognize what makes you happy and gives you a chance to share it with the world. When your passion earns you the **NERD** label, wear it proudly! (Bow tie, oversized glasses and pocket protector are optional!) ●



## JULY Super Sleuths

The **July Super Sleuths** was about the coolest dessert of all — ice cream! For a chance to win a **\$25 Amazon email gift card**, kids were asked to find a July 1984 calendar page hidden in the pages of the magazine, give the page number and provide the name of the U.S. president found on the calendar. They were also asked to name their favorite ice cream treat and describe how eating ice cream makes them feel.

The winning answers are:

- Ronald Reagan
- Page 29
- Chocolate brownie batter ice cream
- “It makes me feel very happy.”

OUR WINNER IS CARSYN.

*Congratulations, Carsyn!*





# FIRE UP THE GRILL

with these flavorful lamb recipes!

## Grilled Lamb Burgers

recipe courtesy of Family Features

### Ingredients:

#### Burgers:

- 1 ½ lbs. grass-fed ground lamb
- ¼ teaspoon kosher salt
- 4 brioche buns
- 1 medium tomato, sliced into rounds

#### Spread:

- ⅔ cup full-fat Greek yogurt
- 1 clove garlic, grated
- ⅓ cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

#### Salad:

- 1 small English cucumber, thinly sliced
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced into rounds
- 2 tablespoons flat leaf parsley, chopped
- 2 tablespoons fresh mint leaves, chopped
- 1 tablespoon fresh dill, chopped
- ¼ cup micro greens
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 2 teaspoons olive oil



### Directions:

**To make burgers:** Gently divide lamb into four equal parts and shape into rounds slightly larger than buns. Cover and refrigerate at least 1 hour. **To make spread:** In small bowl, mix yogurt, garlic, mayonnaise and mustard; refrigerate until ready to assemble burgers. **To make salad:** In medium bowl, mix cucumber, onions, parsley, mint leaves, dill, micro greens, lemon juice, lemon zest and olive oil; refrigerate until ready to assemble burgers. Preheat grill to medium-high heat, creating hot and cool zones. Salt patties then grill about 6 minutes on each side until internal temperature reaches 150 degrees. As patties near 150 degrees or start to brown, move to cool zone to regulate doneness. Transfer to plate and let rest about 5 minutes. To assemble burgers, add dollop of spread to bottom buns. Top each with one tomato slice, one lamb burger, salad and top bun. Serves four.

## Lamb Meatball and Veggie Skewers with Herb Sauce

recipe courtesy of Family Features

### Ingredients:

- 6 wooden skewers
- 1 lb. ground lamb
- 2 large eggs
- ⅔ cup Italian breadcrumbs
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- ½ cup finely minced yellow onion
- 1 clove minced garlic
- ¼ teaspoon coriander seeds, crushed
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 medium red onion, cut into 1-inch stacks
- 1 medium green bell pepper, cut into 1-inch stacks
- 1 medium red bell pepper, cut into 1-inch stacks

#### Herb Sauce:

- 1 cup flat leaf parsley
- 2 teaspoons fresh rosemary leaves, minced
- 2 tablespoons capers
- 1 lemon, juice only
- 2 cloves garlic
- ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- grilled Italian bread, for serving

### Directions:

Soak skewers in water for 10 minutes. In large bowl, break apart ground lamb; add whisked eggs and breadcrumbs. In small sauté pan, add olive oil then sauté yellow onion, garlic clove, coriander seeds, red pepper flakes, salt and pepper, to taste, about 5 minutes, until onion is translucent and spices are fragrant. Add to bowl with lamb. Mix until combined and form into roughly 1 1/2-ounce balls. Add meatballs to skewers, alternating with onions and peppers. Cover and refrigerate 1 hour to ensure meatballs hold together during grilling. To make herb sauce: In immersion blender, blend parsley, rosemary, capers, lemon juice, garlic and olive oil until smooth. Refrigerate until serving. Preheat grill to medium-high heat. Grill skewers about 3 minutes on each side, or until meatballs reach 150 degrees internal temperature. Rest 5 minutes. Serve with dipping sauce and grilled Italian bread.



### GOT A TASTY TREAT TO SHARE?

Email your favorite **gingerbread or non-alcoholic holiday beverage recipes** to [cooperativekitchen@co-opliving.com](mailto:cooperativekitchen@co-opliving.com), or mail to Cooperative Kitchen, c/o Cooperative Living, 4201 Dominion Blvd., Suite 101, Glen Allen, VA 23060. Include your email address. You can also submit them online at [co-opliving.com/cooperativekitchen](http://co-opliving.com/cooperativekitchen).


Because of volume we cannot guarantee publication of all recipes. Reader recipes are submitted in good faith. Cooperative Living cannot warrant results.



# National Drive Electric Month and EV Charging



**National Drive Electric Month, Sept. 12-Oct. 12, 2025**, is a nationwide celebration to raise awareness of the many benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid cars, trucks, motorcycles and more. Are you considering going electric?

Check out [ee.odec.com](https://ee.odec.com) to learn about available EV models, types of EV chargers and to calculate the savings of driving an EV versus a gas vehicle. 

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# Doctor urges seniors to carry medical alert device

## Seniors snap up new medical alert device that comes with no monthly bills

People don't always do what their doctor says, but when seasoned veteran emergency room physician, Dr. Philip B. Howren, says every senior should have a medical alert device, you better listen up.

"Seniors are just one fall away from being put in a nursing home," Dr. Howren said. "With a medical alert device, seniors are never alone. So it keeps them living independently in their own home. That's why seniors and their family members are snapping up a sleek new medical alert device that comes with no monthly bills ever," he said.

Many seniors refuse to wear old style help buttons because they make them look old. But even worse, those medical alert sys-

tems come with monthly bills.

To solve these problems Universal Physicians, a U.S. company went to work to develop a new, modern, state-of-the-art medical alert device. It's called "FastHelp™" and it instantly connects you to free unlimited nationwide help everywhere cell service is available with no contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills ever.

"This slick new little device is designed to look like the pagers doctors wear every day. Seniors love them because it actually makes them look important, not old," Dr. Howren said.

FastHelp is expected to hit store shelves later this year. But special newspaper promotional giveaways are slated for seniors in select areas. ■



■ **NO MONTHLY BILLS:** "My wife had an old style help button that came with hefty bills every month and she was embarrassed to wear it because it made her look old," said Frank McDonald, Canton, Ohio. "Now, we both have FastHelp™, the sleek new medical alert device that our grandkids say makes us look 'cool' not old," he said. With FastHelp, seniors never have to worry about being alone and the best part is there are no monthly bills ever.

# Seniors born before 1961 get new medical alert device with no monthly bills ever

*It's just what seniors have been waiting for; a sleek new medical alert device with no contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills that instantly connects you to free unlimited nationwide help with just the push of a button for a one-time \$149 price tag that's a real steal after today's instant rebate*

The phone lines are ringing off the hook.

That's because for seniors born before 1961, it's a deal too good to pass up.

Starting at precisely 8:30am this morning the Pre-Store Release begins for the sleek new medical alert device that comes with the exclusive FastHelp™ One-Touch E 911 Button that instantly connects you to unlimited nationwide help everywhere cell service is available with no contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills ever.

"It's not like old style monitored help buttons that make you talk to a call center and only work when you're at home and come with hefty bills every month. FastHelp comes with state-of-the-art cellular embedded technology. That means it works at home or anywhere, anytime cell service is available



■ **FLYING OUT THE DOOR:** Trucks are being loaded with the new medical alert devices called FastHelp. They are now being delivered to lucky seniors who call the National Rebate Center Hotline at 1-800-330-4294 DEPT. HELP8718 today. Everyone is calling to get FastHelp, the sleek new medical alert device because it instantly connects you to unlimited nationwide help everywhere cell service is available with no contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills ever.

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

whether you're out watering the garden, driving in a car, at church or even hundreds of miles away on a tour or at a casino. You are never alone. With just a single push of the One-Touch E Button you instantly get connected to free unlimited help nationwide with no monthly bills ever," said Jack Lawrence, Executive Director of Product Development for U.S. based Universal Physicians.

"We've never seen anything like it. Consumers absolutely love the sleek new modern design and most of all, the instant rebate that practically pays for it and no monthly bills ever," Lawrence said.

FastHelp is the sleek new medical alert device with the best of combinations: a quality, high-tech engineered device that's also an extremely great value because there are no monthly bills ever.

Better still, it comes with no contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills ever – which makes FastHelp a great choice for seniors, students and professionals because it connects to one of the largest nationwide networks everywhere cell service is available for free.

And here's the best part. All those who already have an old style monitored medical alert button can immediately eliminate those monthly bills, which is why Universal Physicians is widely advertising this announcement nationwide.

"So if you've ever felt a medical alert device was too complicated or expensive, you'll want to get FastHelp, the sleek new medical alert device with no monthly bills," said Lawrence.

The medical alert device slugfest was dominated by two main combatants who both offer old style monitored help buttons that come with a hefty bill every month. But now Universal Physicians, the U.S. based heavyweight, just delivered a knockout blow sending the top rated contenders to the mat with the unveiling of FastHelp. It's the sleek new cellular embedded medical alert device that

cuts out the middleman by instantly connecting you directly to highly trained 911 operators all across the U.S. There's absolutely nothing to hook-up or install. You don't need a land line and you don't need a cell phone. Everything is done for you.

"FastHelp is a state of the art medical alert device designed to make you look important, not old. Old style monitored help buttons you

wear around your neck, or require expensive base station equipment or a landline are the equivalent of a horse and buggy," Lawrence says. "It's just outdated."

Millions of seniors fall every year and spend hours lying on the floor helpless and all alone with no help.

But seniors who fall and get immediate help are much more likely to avoid getting sent to a nursing

home and get to STAY living in their own home independently.

Yet millions of seniors are still risking their safety by not having a medical alert device. That's because seniors just can't afford to pay the monthly bills that come with old style medical alert devices.

That's why seniors born before 1961 are rushing to cash in the whopping \$150

instant rebate before the 21 day deadline ends.

So there's no need to wait for FastHelp to hit store shelves later this year because seniors born before 1961 can get it now just by using the \$150 instant rebate coupon printed in today's newspaper before the 21 day deadline ends. If lines are busy keep trying, all calls will be answered. ■

## HOW TO GET IT:

► **IF BORN BEFORE 1961:** Use the rebate coupon below and call this Toll-Free Hotline: 1-800-330-4294 DEPT. HELP8718

► **IF BORN AFTER 1961:** You cannot use the rebate coupon below and must pay \$299 Call: 1-800-330-9423 DEPT. HELP8718

**THE BOTTOM LINE:** You don't need to shop around. We've done all the leg work, this deal is too good to pass up. FastHelp with the instant rebate is a real steal at just \$149 and shipping and there are no monthly bills ever.

**PROS:** It's the sleek new medical alert device that comes with the exclusive FastHelp One-Touch E 911 Button that instantly connects you to free unlimited nationwide help everywhere cell service is available with no contracts or deposits. It connects you to the vast available network of cellular towers for free and saves seniors a ton of money because there are no monthly bills ever making this deal irresistible. Plus it's the only medical alert device that makes seniors look important, not old.

**CONS:** Consumers can't get FastHelp in stores until later this year. That's why it's so important for seniors born before 1961 to call the National Rebate Center Hotline within the next 21 days. For those who miss that deadline, the sleek little medical alert device will set you back over \$300 bucks.



PT366 OF24030R-1

REBATE COUPON

**EXPIRES** 21 Days from Today's Publication Date

After Coupon Expires: The FastHelp is \$299.00 plus shipping & handling

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HELPS718

FastHelp, the new medical alert device that instantly connects you to free unlimited nationwide help everywhere cell service is available with no contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills ever.

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# Pajamas, lost cars and errant biscuit dough

by Margo Oxendine, Contributing Columnist



It's been blazing hot for the last two months, but it's finally September. Isn't that when we get to start thinking about fall? I'm sure

looking forward to thinking about fall weather.

If you read my columns, you know I hate summer. I've griped about it for years. Until this summer, I used to whine about temperatures in the 80s. Well, now I know that was nothing. Despite its name, Hot Springs is usually the coolest place in Virginia, no matter the season. Still, the thermometer surpassed 90 degrees and moved way too close to 100 on many July and August days this year.

I attempted all sorts of heat wave procedures. I went for my walk at 9 a.m. when it was as pleasant as it was going to get. Then I came home to work or read on the porch with a fan blowing on my face. At home, I was most often clad in

a pair of summer pajamas. Those are the coolest clothes I have. If you happen to drop by (and no one hardly does), you will probably find me in my pajamas.

I could not tell you the last time I've turned on my stove or oven. In summer, I am perfectly happy with a bowl of cold cereal with berries and bananas for "blinner." That's breakfast, lunch and dinner rolled into one. Now that it's a little cooler, I'm looking forward to pot pie weather.

I detest having to go to Covington to shop in the summer. There seems to be nothing but hot asphalt everywhere. I wondered now and then if I would even be able to haul my groceries to the car without passing out.

Speaking of that, I "lost" my car at Walmart one fiery, oppressively hot afternoon. There were more cars than usual in the lot, and the area I usually park in was filled. The trouble occurred when I came back outside. I could not find the dang car. I slogged up one aisle and down another, sweating

and swooning. I truly felt faint.

Thank heavens I saw a couple I knew and begged them to drive me around the parking lot until we found my car. They were kind enough to comply.

Here's a funny story a friend of mine named Suzy experienced in a grocery store parking lot, also on a blisteringly hot day. She shopped, got in her car and suddenly heard a scream: "Help me, please! Someone help me!"

Suzy looked around and saw a lady in a nearby car bent over the steering wheel. She went over and asked the lady, "What's wrong?"

"I've been shot!" the woman cried. Upon closer examination, Suzy saw what really happened. She could barely keep from laughing out loud.

"You'll be okay," she told the lady.

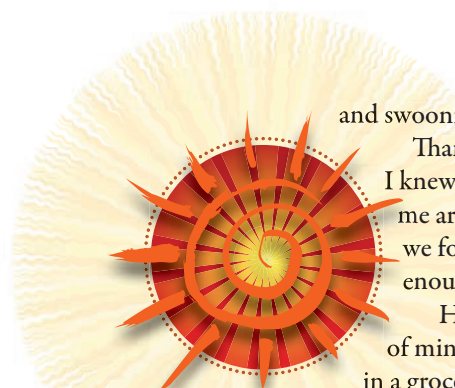
"It's just biscuits."

"Biscuits?!" the lady exclaimed. "What do you mean?"

Suzy pointed to biscuit dough on the lady's shoulders. "A can of biscuits exploded in the heat," she said.

This does not sound like the kind of mishap that can occur in September. Can it really be time to finally break out the sweaters? I sure hope so! ●

To order a copy of Margo's "A Party of One," call 540-468-2147 Mon.-Wed., 9 a.m.-5 p.m., or email [therecorderoffice@gmail.com](mailto:therecorderoffice@gmail.com).



[ SCENE IT! ]



PHOTO BY STEVEN FAUGHT, SVEC MEMBER



WHEREZ IT?

Look for the CL logo, like the one above, in the pages of this issue of *Cooperative Living*. Submit the page number where you found it, along with your name, email and phone number to **WherezIt**, c/o *Cooperative Living*, 4201 Dominion Blvd., Suite 101, Glen Allen, VA 23060 or go online at [co-opliving.com](http://co-opliving.com) under "Contests." Deadline is **September 20**. The winner will receive a \$25 Amazon email gift card.





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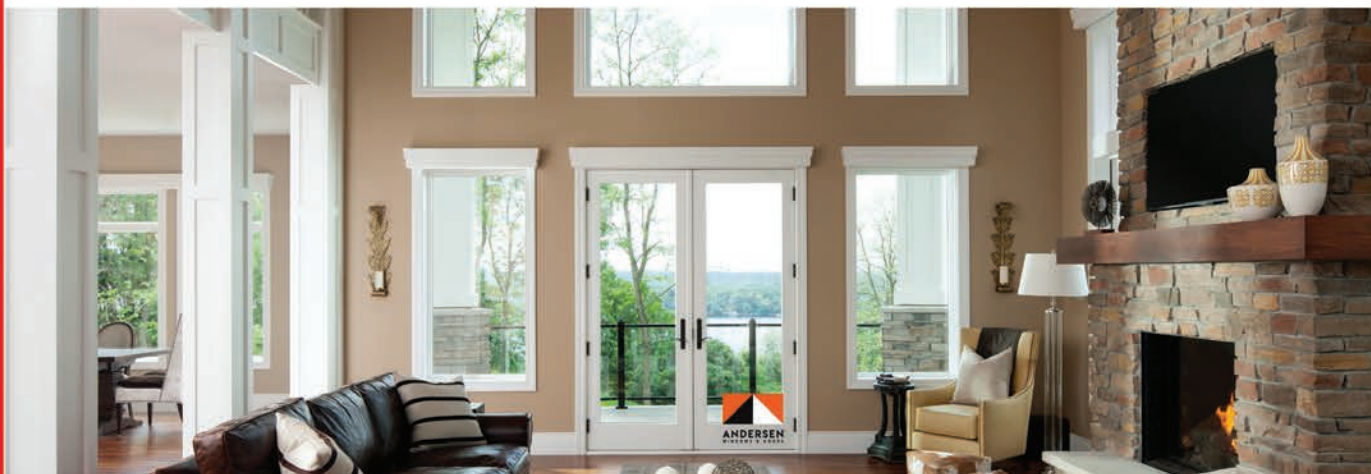
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<sup>1</sup>DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 10/31/2025. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy two (2) windows or entry/patio doors, get one (1) window or entry/patio door 60% off, and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase three (3) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 9/1/2025 and 10/31/2025. 60% off windows and entry/patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/patio door in the order. Subject to credit approval. 12-month Promo Period: while no payments are due, interest accrues but is waived if the loan is paid in full before the Promo Period expires. Any unpaid balance owed after the Promo Period, plus accrued interest, will be paid in installments based on the terms disclosed in the customer's loan agreement. Financing is provided by various financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License numbers available at renewalbyandersen.com/license. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. <sup>2</sup>Based on testing of 10 double-hung units per ASTM E2068 20 years after installation. <sup>3</sup>It is the only warranty among top selling window companies that meets all of the following requirements: easy to understand terms, unrestricted transferability, installation coverage, labor coverage, geographically unrestricted, coverage for exterior color, insect screens and hardware, and no maintenance requirement. Visit renewalbyandersen.com/nationsbest for details. <sup>4</sup>Review aggregator survey of 5-star reviews among leading national full-service window replacement companies. January 2024 Reputation.com. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks Andersen Corporation. ©2025 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. RBA14201



## BUSINESS

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## AUCTIONS

**SEPTEMBER GUN AUCTION.** Saxe, Va. Starts on Aug. 29 at 6 p.m. Lots start closing Sept. 12 at 6 p.m. **VIEWING** Call Noah at 434-607-0482. Shotguns, rifles and pistols! **COLLECTOR KNIFE & COIN AUCTION.** Pamplin, Va. Starts on Sept. 12 at 6 p.m. Lots start closing on Sept. 26 at 6 p.m. Case Knives, Silver Coins, & More! Pickup will be Saturday, Sept. 27 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. 10935 Thomas Jefferson Hwy.

**CARWILE AUCTIONS INC.** Facebook & Auction Zip. VAAR392. 434-547-9100. [www.carwileauctions.com](http://www.carwileauctions.com)



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**SUBMIT:** We accept classifieds by email (classifieds@co-opliving.com), telephone (804-297-3429) or mail to: Classifieds, 4201 Dominion Blvd., Suite 101, Glen Allen, VA 23060. Please type or print your ad as you would like it to appear and how many months it should run. Include your name, street, email address and pre-payment. Checks should be made to *Cooperative Living*. Ads with incomplete information will be returned to the sender.

**RATES:** Non-business: \$100 per 25-word block plus \$5 per word over 25; OR "Mini" ad – \$5 per word (max. 10 words). Business, agent and broker ads: \$150 per 25-word block, plus \$5 per word over 25. Display Real Estate: \$350 per block.

**DEADLINE:** Sept. 5 for October issue; Publisher reserves the right to designate classification or reject any ad. No personals, please.

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- (2) fax: 202-690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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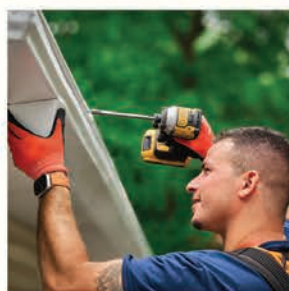
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# KEEP IT ROLLIN'

by Laura Emery, Staff Writer

## WE WANT TO SEE YOUR PHOTOS!

Submit a photo for a chance to win a \$20 Amazon gift card!

If your photo is published in this column, we will send you a \$20 Amazon gift card credit via email. Send your high-resolution images to [saycheese@co-opliving.com](mailto:saycheese@co-opliving.com). Please include your first and last name, along with a description of the photo.

You may also mail your photo(s) to: Say Cheese, 4201 Dominion Blvd., Suite 101, Glen Allen, VA 23060. Do not send originals; photos cannot be returned.



### THE SWEET LIFE

Walker enjoys a glass of sweet tea on the tractor.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY BRADLEE BLOSSER



### BULL-DOZER

Kelby was exhausted after riding with his grandfather, Sonny.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ASHLEY RATHBURN

### THE MOW THE MERRIER

This is how dad, Logan, rolls with daughters Marlowe and Tessa.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SIERRA SPILLER



### ULTI-MUTT LAWN CARE SERVICE

Mowing is ruff work, but Keeper has her mower serviced and ready.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY TINA FARIS

### OH, DEERE

Papa Dennis and Elijah take the John Deere for a spin.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY EMILY WALKER







# Virginia Czech & Slovak Folklife Festival

**October 18, 2025 | 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Prince George County Regional Heritage Center  
6404 Courthouse Road, Prince George, Va.

Celebrate Czech & Slovak heritage with traditional food, locally baked treats, and goodies from Praha Bohemian Bakery, beer, live music, including Gerdan: A Kaleidoscope of Music, presenting "Music from the Heart of Eastern Europe," games, agricultural exhibits, and the Teeny Tiny Farm petting zoo. Explore authentic artifacts and treasures in the museum and gift shop.



**Rain or Shine | Free Admission**

Details:  
[www.BestPARTVA.org](http://www.BestPARTVA.org)  
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