



## The Balancing Act: Maintaining Beautiful Surroundings While Ensuring Reliability

One of the things I love most about our rural community is the natural beauty that surrounds us. We are fortunate to have so many trees that offer beauty, shade and a habitat for all sorts of birds and other wildlife. While we recognize and appreciate the beauty of trees, we strive to balance maintaining beautiful surroundings and ensuring a reliable power supply by keeping power lines clear in rights-of-way.

A right-of-way is the land we use to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines. Rights-of-way enable the co-op to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder the power line installation, maintenance or operation. ROW areas are typically on public lands or located near a business or home. Regardless, your co-op must be able to maintain the power lines above and below the ROW.

Although we are a smaller co-op, PGEC's transmission and distribution span more than 1,300 miles. That's about half the width of the U.S. — much of which is covered in rural woodlands. Trees have long been a major contributing factor to power outages in areas with overhead utility lines. A major way your co-op works to achieve greater reliability is by being intentional with our tree-trimming efforts. Hence, around this time of year, the co-op steps up its efforts to ensure greater system reliability by clearing rights-of-way.

As part of this effort, contractors will work to control and remove vegetation that could cause power disruptions. The co-op uses a combination of spraying and trimming techniques to perform right-of-way maintenance on its



**By Lee Chappell**  
*Director of Safety  
& Loss Control*

transmission and distribution system.

To keep equipment free of undesired weeds and plants that may hinder our system's operational efficiency, co-op crews also treat certain areas with a chemical spray. This spray provides a cost-effective, environmentally safe, and longer-lasting means for managing trees and woody underbrush. This chemical spray is not harmful to humans or animals.

We appreciate the beauty trees afford, but we also know our community depends on us to provide reliable energy. The overall goal of our vegetation management program is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our community.

Through vegetation management, we are better able to keep the power lines clear, prepare for future weather events and secure the reliability of the grid.

For more information about PGEC's ROW efforts, visit us online at [pgec.coop/vegetation-management](http://pgec.coop/vegetation-management).

### CONTACT US

#### Headquarters

7103 General Mahone Hwy., P.O. Box 168  
Waverly, VA 23890-0168

#### Customer Service Center (Drop-Box Only)

5718 Courthouse Road  
Prince George, VA 23875

#### 24-Hour Emergency Service

804-834-2424

#### Website

[pgec.coop](http://pgec.coop)



#### Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

#### President and CEO

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*Prince George Electric Cooperative is an  
Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.*

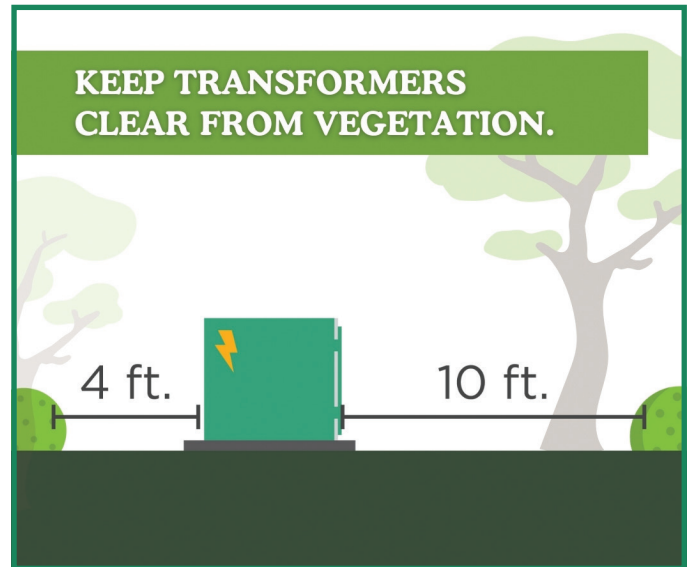
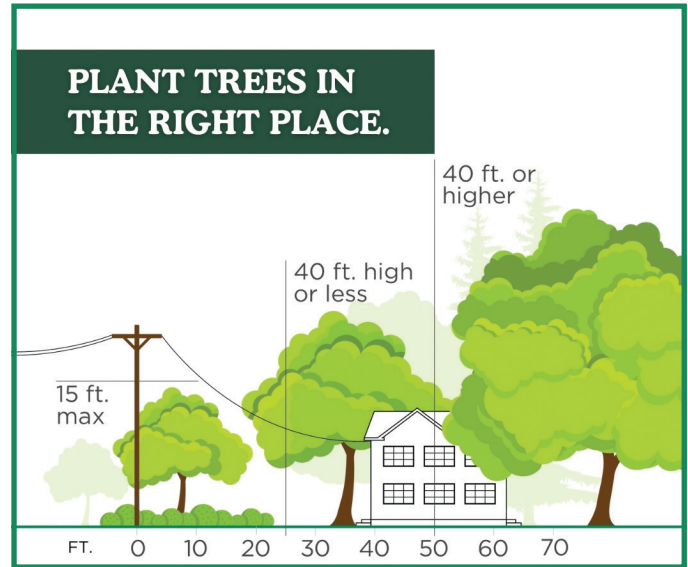
# How Members Can Help

**D**id you know there are ways you can help PGEC limit tree trimming? As the co-op works to balance beauty and reliability, we also ask our members to lend a hand to this effort as well. This year, the co-op plans to clear 188 miles of right-of-way. Members can help us with clearing the trees that result in public safety and reliability issues.

By planting trees in the right place from the start based on their expected height, you can help reduce the need to trim trees near overhead power lines.

In addition to being mindful of power lines, you can practice safe planting near padmounted transformers. If you're planting shrubs, bushes or other vegetation near transformers, remember to plant at least 4 feet away from the transformer sides and at least 10 feet away from the transformer door.

Overgrown trees and branches are one of the leading causes of power outages. If you spot an overgrown tree or branch that's dangerously close to power lines, let us know by calling 804-834-2424.



## St. Patrick's Day: Don't Get Caught Without this Green App

**A**s the tradition goes, wearing green on St. Patrick's Day is supposed to make you invisible to leprechauns. They will pinch you as soon as you come upon their radar if you don't wear green!

While the chances of you seeing a leprechaun this St. Patrick's Day may be slim, Prince George Electric Cooperative is encouraging members to not be caught without their green app to avoid being put into a "pinch" when it comes to their electric bill. What green app is it? The SmartHub app.

**Download SmartHub to:**

- ☒ Go paperless
- ☒ Enroll in AutoPay
- ☒ Manage your payments hassle-free

Visit [www.pgec.coop/smart-hub](http://www.pgec.coop/smart-hub)



# Scholarships Available: High School Seniors Encouraged to Apply

**T**he Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives Education Scholarship application cycle for graduating high school seniors is currently open. The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to high school seniors wanting to continue their post-secondary education whose parent or legal guardian receives his/her power from Prince George Electric Cooperative.

Applicants applying for a scholarship must be a senior graduating from either high school or home school in 2025. The selection process uses a combination of weighted criteria: 40% financial need, 40% academic achievement and 20% personal statement. Funds can be applied toward tuition, student fees, room and board, or textbooks.

Having awarded scholarships to 1,162 recipients over the past 21 years, there are many success stories of what these students have done in their college careers and beyond! Additional information can be found online at [pgec.coop/vmdaec-scholarship](http://pgec.coop/vmdaec-scholarship).

Please direct any questions about the scholarship application process to [scholarship@vmdaec.com](mailto:scholarship@vmdaec.com).



## 2025 Annual Members Meeting

**A**re you heading to Prince George Electric Cooperative's Annual Members Meeting in September? We would love to see you there!

Save the date for this year's Annual Members Meeting on Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025.

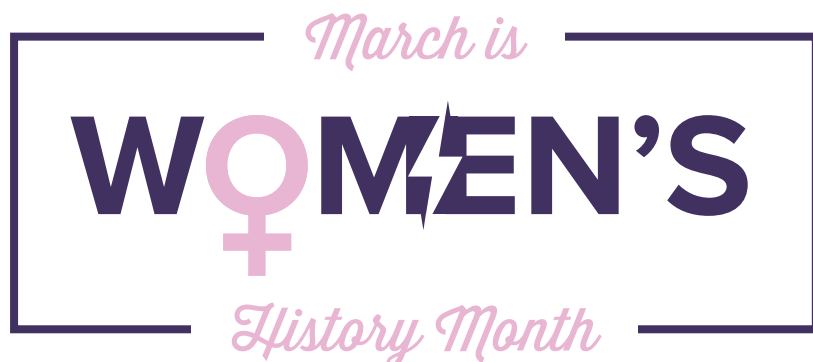


## Daylight Saving Time

**D**aylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 9. Remember to set your clocks forward one hour!

## Spring Cleaning for Efficiency

- Dust off your office equipment and electronics.
- Schedule service for your HVAC system.
- Switch to energy-saving lighting such as LED bulbs.
- Change air filters to improve air flow and save energy.





# NEVER MISS A GAME

## Additional Zone Opening in Sussex County

RURALBAND is excited to announce that it continues to break ground in expanding its fiber optic solution in Sussex County. RURALBAND is now accepting applications for the following areas: Gray Road, Grigg Road, Owen Road, Henry Road, Harrell Road, Mason Road, Lebanon Church Road, Proctor Road, Grizzard Road, Blue Star Highway, and all locations in the Town of Jarratt that are in Sussex County (excluding Greenville County).

“We know that there are many residents who are eager to take advantage of RURALBAND’s high-speed internet service,” says Justin Harville, general manager for the wholly owned fiber subsidiary. “Once members submit an application, our design team will be reaching out as soon as possible to start the process.”

There are still more than 6,000 members who have not taken advantage of the service that is available in Prince George, Sussex, Surry and Dinwiddie counties. Members are encouraged to spread the word to their friends and neighbors.

### Entry Level | 25 Mbps | **\$49/month**

Entry-level internet service for everyday use. Up to 25 Mbps download/25 Mbps upload. Light streaming, downloading shows/music/photos. Home Wi-Fi access included. Unlimited data use.

### Basic | 100 Mbps | **\$74/month**

Basic internet service for single-family use. Stream on multiple devices, download shows quickly and large files. Up to 100 Mbps download/100 Mbps upload. Home Wi-Fi access included. Unlimited data use.

### Professional | 1 Gig | **\$99/month**

Professional internet service. Work from home, stream on multiple devices, download shows quickly and large files. Up to 1 Gbps download/1 Gbps upload. Home Wi-Fi access included. Unlimited data use.

### Phone | **\$11/month**

Unlimited local and long-distance domestic (U.S. and Canada) calling. Applicable local, state and federal taxes may apply.

To view FCC’s Broadband Consumer Label information for residential internet services, please visit [RURALBAND.coop/residential](https://RURALBAND.coop/residential).

*PGEC’s wholly owned fiber subsidiary, RURALBAND, provides high-speed internet services available to more than 10,000 residents in the co-op’s service territory. RURALBAND packages start at \$49 per month and are available to members in Prince George, Sussex, Surry and Dinwiddie counties. For more information, we encourage you to visit [RURALBAND.coop](https://RURALBAND.coop).*

**Technical Support:** 888-309-6520

**Billing Inquiries:** 804-834-2424