



We want  
to hear  
from  
you!



## BARC Connects

If you are a business that subscribes to BARC Connects, and is interested in having your business and experience profiled in Cooperative Living, we'd like to hear from you.

Reach out to us at 800-846-BARC (2272) or pr@barcelectric.com. We look forward to connecting.

### BARC ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Millboro, VA 24460-0264  
1-800-846-2272

Office Hours: M-F, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
barcelectric.com  
barconnects.net

Come join us on Facebook  
facebook.com/BARCElectricCooperative



Chief Executive Officer  
Bill Buchanan

Local Page Editor  
Amanda Cunningham

*BARC Electric Cooperative is an equal  
opportunity provider and employer.*

## Scholarships Available for High School Graduates

**E**lectric cooperatives in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware are preparing to accept applications for their scholarship from high school seniors who intend to pursue higher education studies.

The scholarships are awarded by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives Education Scholarship Foundation, which since 2001 has provided approximately 998 scholarships to graduating high school students totaling more than \$900,000.

The open date for applications is Jan. 30, 2023, while the application deadline is April 3. Award recipients will be notified no later than June 1. The online application and additional information is posted at [vmdaec.com/](http://vmdaec.com/) scholarship.

Any high school or home-schooled senior graduating in spring 2023, and whose primary residence is served by a VMD member cooperative like BARC Electric Cooperative, is eligible



Scan the  
code to  
apply!

to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship to be applied to a two- or four-year college or trade school.

An applicant must be entering his or her first semester at a post-secondary or technical/trade school in the fall of 2023. Scholarship funds, which will be sent directly to the educational institution, must be used toward tuition, student fees, room and board, or textbooks.

The Foundation's board of directors will select recipients based on these weighted criteria: financial need at 40%, academic achievement at 40% and personal statement at 20%. Questions about donations and the application process should be directed to [scholarship@vmdaec.com](mailto:scholarship@vmdaec.com).

## BARC BITES

### Maple Balsamic Brussel Sprouts

In celebration of the Highland County Maple Festival in March, we are cooking with maple this month.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 to 2 lbs. brussel sprouts
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- salt and pepper to taste

**Directions:** Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Rinse brussel sprouts, remove any damaged leaves and cut in half. Toss the brussels sprouts in olive oil, balsamic vinegar, garlic powder, maple syrup, salt and pepper and spread out on a lined baking tray. Bake, stirring once halfway through, for 20 minutes or until golden brown.



## Portable Generator Safety



- Operate it outdoors in an area with plenty of ventilation. Never run a generator in a home or garage. Generators give off deadly carbon monoxide.
- Do not plug a generator into the wall to avoid back feed. Use heavy-duty extension cords to connect appliances to the outlets on the generator.
- Turn the generator on before plugging appliances to it. Once the generator is running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit. Remember, generators are for temporary usage; prioritize your needs.
- Generators pose electrical risks, especially when operated in wet conditions. Use a generator only when necessary when the weather creates wet or moist conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it. Always ensure your hands are dry before touching the generator.
- Be sure the generator is turned off and cool before fueling it.
- Keep children and pets away from portable generators. Many generator components are hot enough to burn you during operation.

BARC suggests these safety guidelines and basic operating instructions be posted in the home and with the generator.

## BARC Energy Efficiency TIP OF THE MONTH

### SAVE ON WATER HEATING COSTS

Did you know insulating your electric water heater could reduce standby heat loss by 25% to 45%? This could save you 7% to 16% on annual water heating costs. Insulating your electric water heater is an easy, inexpensive project that can improve energy efficiency and save you money each month.

Most homeowners can tackle this project on their own. Purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets for about \$20 at most home improvement stores. Learn more at [energy.gov](http://energy.gov).



"You can never get enough books into the hands of enough children."



*Dolly*

Enroll your child in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and get a FREE BOOK every month until their 5th birthday.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children from birth to age five,

Check availability and register at: [ImaginationLibrary.com](http://ImaginationLibrary.com)



## BARC Communities

### Scouts Visit BARC!



BARC Electric Cooperative recently had the honor of hosting the Scouts for a merit badge workshop at its Lexington location. During the workshop, scouts from multiple troops and packs toured the solar field to learn about renewable energy.

One of BARC's lead linemen, Kevin Bryant, demonstrated use of his bucket truck, safety gear, climbing equipment, and specialized tools for maintenance and power restoration duties. Scouts came prepared with a list of questions, which Kevin was happy to answer for them.

The scouts then joined BARC IT Specialist and Troop 29 Scoutmaster Bryan Secoy in the conference room for snacks and to complete their electricity merit badge requirements. The scouts enjoyed their time visiting BARC and learning about all the details to keeping the lights on. If you have a group interested in learning more, please email us at [pr@barcelectric.com](mailto:pr@barcelectric.com).



PHOTO COURTESY HIGHLAND CO. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## Highland County Maple Festival

March 11-12 and 18-19, 2023

It's so sweet! Nestled in the rural mountains of Virginia, travelers can take a step back in time for a cultural and culinary adventure at the annual Highland County Maple Festival during the second and third weekends of March.

Referred to as Virginia's Little Switzerland or the Maple Syrup Capital of the South, Highland County has been drawing tens of thousands of visitors to the community since 1959 to celebrate the "opening" of the trees and to observe the process of making delicious, pure maple syrup. Free "sugar camp" tours provide a unique and educational experience for the entire family to learn how the golden delicacy is made from tree to bottle, ranging from traditional to modern techniques. Local sugar camps have even expanded to include syrups infused with fruits and spices or even aged in spirit barrels. Other tree syrups can be found at the festival as well, including hickory, birch and black walnut.

Bring your appetite, as the county-wide festival includes delicious maple treats, including famous maple doughnuts and all-you-can-eat pancake and buckwheat cake meals served by local Ruritan Clubs. Browse over 100 high-quality unique arts and crafts vendors from the East Coast for one-of-a-kind gifts. You can even sit for a spell and enjoy live entertainment featuring bluegrass music, square dancing and clogging.

In 1999, The Library of Congress designated The Highland County Maple Festival a "Local Legacy." In 2014, the Governor of Virginia signed a bill into law designating the event as the "official maple festival of Virginia." More recently, the festival has earned user-voted awards, including 2022's first-place winner for best Festival of the Shenandoah Valley Region in Virginia Living's 11th annual Best of Virginia issue. The Highland County Maple Festival was previously awarded the best Food or Drink Festival distinction in 2020 and 2021.

Enjoy "Virginia's Sweet Spot" at the Highland County Maple Festival March 11-12 and 18-19, 2023. Learn more at [highlandcounty.org/maple-festival](http://highlandcounty.org/maple-festival) or by calling 540-468-2550.



Maple doughnuts

PHOTO COURTESY MILL GAP RURITANS



## JOIN BARC Online

Featured on Facebook were BARC employees supporting Fairfield Elementary School's career day.

Join us on Facebook and Instagram for more stories about how your electric cooperative is supporting our BARC communities.



## Attention BARC Connects customers



**Stay  
connected  
and in  
control**

The BARC Connects app comes with FREE Wi-Fi protection, parental controls, speed tests and more!

**BARC Connects**

Download our FREE mobile app today  
Visit us online at [barconnects.net](http://barconnects.net)

## OWNING SOLAR IS NOW EVEN EASIER



BARC Electric Cooperative has teamed up with local solar contractor, Tiger Solar in Staunton, in a first-of-its-kind partnership.

Through Solarize BARC, we now offer both residential and business consumers the opportunity to install their own onsite solar photovoltaic (PV) systems with financing at competitive rates for qualified BARC members, finally making solar accessible!

- Reduces long-term energy costs
- Savings from net metering helps pay for your loan
- Offsets annual CO2 emissions contributing to a more sustainable environment
- Increases property value
- Battery backup available

30% Federal Tax Credit has been extended. Finance rates as low as 2.49% with approve credit (BARC members only).

- Answer a few questions and BARC will pull your energy use history.
- BARC will contact Tiger Solar to conduct a remote assessment using satellite imagery.
- Next, an onsite visit will be scheduled to take measurements and provide you with a free cost estimate.
- Tiger Solar will create a custom plan for your home or business with detailed proposal.
- Finance your project through BARC with no upfront costs.



### CONTACT BARC TODAY:

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