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Bureau, Southeast United Dairy Association; Tennessee Cattleman's Association, and McMinn County Livestock Association where he serves on the board and has earned Producer Award, Dairy Award, and Farm City Day Award. He currently serves on the board of ADA and Farm Credit Advisory Board. He has previously served on the Mid-American Farm Credit Services Board, McMinn/Loudon Co-op, and Tennessee Milk Producers Steering Committee.

He and his wife Annette have two children: Jason and Sarah Beth, and are members of First Baptist Church of Athens.

District 7

Tim Handler

Tim Handler is a Kingston resident and a senior account manager for Nexeo Solutions LLC. He has represented Roane and Loudon counties on the VEC Board of Directors since 2012. He is a graduate of Warren Hills High School in Washington, New Jersey and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in chemistry from Maryville College.

He and his wife, Cindy, are Kingston residents and attend Ten Mile Methodist Church. They have two children: Whitney and Devin.



Tim Handler



When you have an electric heat pump, everyone is happy.

Volunteer Energy Cooperative and TVA are ready to help you and your whole family keep your roof this summer with affordable financing on a new energy-efficient heat pump. And a heat pump is a year-round energy saver that can save you up to 50% on your heating bills too. For more information and a list of Quality Contractor Network members near you call your local VEC Customer Service Center and enter extension 7055 or visit us at www.vec.org



How to Keep Your Cool – Even After the Electric Bill Arrives

by Paige Finnell, VEC Energy Services Specialist



Paige Finnell

With some simple planning and a little bit of effort, you can maintain a comfortable temperature in your home throughout the summer months while keeping your power bills under control.

There are a number of easy things you can do to help your cooling system operate better. By maximizing the efficiency of your cooling system, you can keep the temperature in your home more consistent and cut down on your air-conditioning costs.

Here are ten tips to help you cool your home more efficiently.

- 1. Set your thermostat for savings** – It pays to set your thermostat at the highest comfortable setting. By setting your thermostat at a higher setting during the summer months, you can lower your power bills.
- 2. Change cooling system filters regularly** – Change the air filters of your cooling system each month. Dirty filters can decrease the efficiency of your system. Also, be sure to have your system professionally serviced once a year.
- 3. Clear the area around your outdoor cooling unit** – Remove weeds, overgrowth, or debris from the area around the outdoor unit of your cooling system.
- 4. Keep vents clear** – To prevent blockage of air flow, keep curtains, shades, and furniture away from air vents.
- 5. Close doors and windows** – It almost goes without saying, but keep your doors and windows shut when your cooling system is on. Otherwise, you may be paying to cool the outdoors.
- 6. Avoid generating unnecessary heat** – Turn off lights, televisions, and computers when not in use.
- 7. Use fans when possible** – Early and late summer are the perfect times to take advantage of electric fans to cool your home. The average fan costs only a few cents per hour to operate. Ceiling fans are another great way to stay cool and also can be used in conjunction with your cooling system to re-circulate cooled air. This will allow you to set your thermostat higher.
- 8. Block the sunlight** – Shutting blinds, drapes, and shades during the hottest part of the day will keep your home cooler and reduce strain on your cooling system. You also may want to consider reflective films and solar shade screens for windows that receive a lot of direct sunlight.
- 9. Plan ahead when cooking** – Try using your oven during the cooler parts of the day. When you do use it during the heat of the day, try to cook as much of the meal as possible at one time. When cooking on the stovetop, always keep lids on the pots and pans, especially when boiling water. Use a microwave oven for smaller meals and portions. A microwave requires only half the power of a standard electric range and reduces cooking time.
- 10. Take advantage of the cooler parts of the day for housework** – Household chores such as mopping, dishwashing, and laundering add moisture to the air in your home that will later need to be removed by your cooling system. These tasks are best performed during the cooler parts of the day.

For more energy-saving ideas visit www.vec.org. For a free In-Home Energy Evaluation contact me at 423-334-7053.

Deposits Help Protect our Member-Owners



Rody Blevins
President/CEO
Volunteer Energy
Cooperative

I recently completed a series of columns designed to cast light on the methods and calculations that go into your electric bill each month. I'd like to follow that up with a column that focuses on another "pocketbook" issue that we get a lot of questions about – security deposits.

As when we discussed rates, one of the most important factors that go into the residential service security deposits we collect from new customers is the fact that VEC is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative. We are owned by the people who receive our service and we collect only what it takes to provide that service. We do not make a profit.

That's an important thing to consider when looking at security deposits because VEC doesn't make any profits that we can dip into to cover the shortage if someone leaves VEC without paying all the money that is due.

Another important factor to remember is that most of our customers use their electricity first and pay for it later. That means that most of the time VEC has already paid TVA for the electricity before we collect the money to cover that cost. So if someone leaves without paying all that they owe, we have no choice except to spread that expense to all our member-owners.

In an effort to avoid that extra expense to all our member-owners, VEC will often collect security deposits before beginning service to new customers. It is not intended as an insult or to convey distrust. It is calculated to protect all our member-owners.

Security deposits may be required for new service, new accounts, new meter locations, as well as to existing services and accounts with new occupants. (Our policies regarding security deposits for residential service do not apply to deposits required to secure the costs of new construction.)

The amount of the security deposit required to start new residential service can vary quite a bit from customer to customer.

The calculation used to determine if a security deposit is required and how much that deposit should be is based on credit rating, VEC pay history, and the average monthly electric usage at the property – if that use history is available.

The amount is set at a level that would protect all VEC members-customers in the event someone leaves the property without paying all that is due.

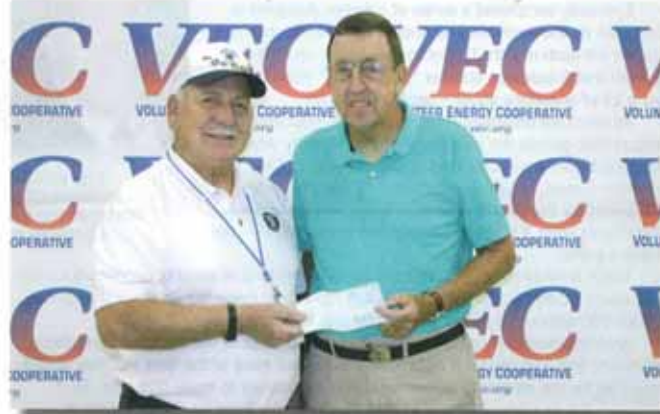
But we also offer a billing option that requires no security deposit. We understand that requiring a security deposit to start new service can create a hardship for some families – especially those who are just starting out. So we developed a payment option that requires no deposit. It is called PayMyWay. Those who opt to participate in this program pay no security deposit. They pre-pay for their electricity. There are no late fees and no disconnect or reconnect fees. Customers decide when they pay and how much they pay. For some customers it is an excellent way to manage their energy budget. But it does require customers to keep up with their payments and their electricity use to avoid disconnects.

If you'd like more information about the PayMyWay program visit your local VEC Customer Service Center or visit us at www.vec.org.

VECcustomers Share Neighbors Helping Neighbors



The VECcustomers Share program funded \$31,000 in community service grants in May. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$4.5 million in grants has been awarded. The deadline for grant applications is the last day of each month. For additional information, contact the office of Marketing and Economic Development, at 423-334-7051. Applications are also available online, at www.vec.org.



VECcustomers Share Board Member Jim Purcell, right, presents a grant check to Gocella of Honorair.

Organizations receiving grants in May

Honorair	\$2,250	Tennessee Shooting Stars, Crossville	\$500
Midway High School PTO	\$2,000	Tennessee Kidney Foundation	\$500
Rhea County Rescue Squad	\$1,800	National Moofest, Athens	\$500
Polk County High School Baseball		Cherokee Removal Park, Blythe Ferry, Birchwood	\$500
Booster Club	\$1,500	Mrs. Pendergrass' 3rd Grade Reading/ Language Arts Club, Byrdstown	\$500
Greenpond Order of the Eastern Star, Crawford	\$1,500	Ms. Britany's 1st Grade Reading Wizard Club, Byrdstown	\$500
Southeast Tennessee Resource Conservation and Development Council, Athens	\$1,400	Polk County High School Band Boosters	\$500
Unaka District Great Smoky Mountain Council of Boy Scouts of America	\$1,170	WTCL The Greater Chattanooga Public TV Corp.	\$500
Grassy Cove Community Center, Crossville	\$1,000	Meigs County Senior Center	\$500
Caring Car Club, Decatur	\$1,000	Children's Advocacy Center of Hamilton County	\$500
Family Resource Agency/Family Violence Program, Cleveland	\$1,000	Partners of the Cherokee National Forest	\$500
Athens Civitan Club	\$1,000	Cleveland/Bradley County Public Library	\$500
Fair Park Senior Center, Crossville	\$1,000	Alvin C. York FCA, Jamestown	\$500
Kirby Johnson Ball Park, Jamestown	\$900	Hallelujah Trail Christian Youth Camp, Allardt	\$500
National Railway Historical Society, Monterey	\$850	Calhoun Alumni Association	\$500
Pickett County Babe Ruth	\$800	Jamestown Rotary Club Chicken Festival	\$300
Spring City Volunteer Fire Department	\$700	Cleveland Civitan Club	\$250
Pickett County Farmers' Market	\$700	Tri-State Therapeutic Riding Center, Cleveland	\$250
Pleasant Hill Historical Society of the Cumberlandands	\$600	Roane County United Way	\$250
Allardt Volunteer Fire Department	\$550	Monterey Mission Center	\$150
Pleasant Hill Spring Festival Committee	\$500	Remote Area Medical Foundation	\$100
		Cleveland Composite Civil Air Patrol Squadron	\$80

Candidates Vying for VEC Board Position

The following candidates have qualified to run for positions on the Volunteer Energy Cooperative Board of Directors in districts in which the current directors' terms of office are expiring.

There will be no contested election in District 7. Ballots for the District 3 & 4 elections will be mailed August 28th. Completed ballots must be received by September 13th.

District 3 - Hamilton County

Aubie Smith

Aubie Smith, a native of Ooltewah, has served on the Volunteer Energy Cooperative Board of Directors representing Hamilton County since 2001. He operates a 400-acre farm specializing in dairy replacement heifers. In addition to farming, Smith is a school bus contractor for Hamilton County Schools.

He is a graduate of Ooltewah High School, where he was a member of the National Honor Society. He received an associate degree in business from Chattanooga State Technical Community College and a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial management from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Smith is a member of Farm Bureau and the Bradley County Farmer's Cooperative.



Aubie Smith

Matthew Sadler

Matthew Sadler, a Harrison resident, is challenging for the District 3 seat representing Hamilton County. He is an electronic communications technician with the City of Chattanooga. He is a 1998 graduate of McCallie School and attended the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

He has more than 10 years combined experience in public safety communications and broadcast engineering and is a member of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO).

He is married to Tonya Sadler.



Matthew Sadler

District 4 - McMinn County

Russ Carmichael

Russ Carmichael is a life-long resident of McMinn County and has represented McMinn County on the VEC Board of Directors since 2011.

A full-time dairy and poultry farmer, Carmichael graduated from Cleveland High School and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in agriculture in 1988 from Middle Tennessee State University. He is active in Alpha Gamma Rho, the national agriculture fraternity, where he has served as Brother of the Century in 2001 and Alumni president in 2010, 2011, and 2012. He is also a member of Dairy Farmers of America, Tennessee Dairy Producers, Tennessee Farm Bureau, Farm Credit Service Advisory Committee, and the McMinn County Chamber of Commerce where he was named Farmer of the Year in 2012.

He and his wife Tina attend the First Baptist Church in Calhoun. His stepson is Chris Casada. Chris and his wife, Shannon have three children: Teigan, Raleigh, and Zander.



Russ Carmichael

Jeffrey L. Eastman

Jeffrey Eastman is an Athens resident and territory sales manager for Altria Sales and Distribution Company. A graduate of Oneida High School, Eastman earned his Associate degree in business administration from Canton College of Agriculture & Technology, his Bachelor of Science degree in marketing from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and his Masters of Business Administration from Lincoln Memorial University.

He has served as a core volunteer member of Remote Area Medical from 2009 to 2013, AT&T Consumer Research Panel in 2013, and Altria Group Distribution Company's Southeast Region Advisory Council from 2012-2013.

He and his wife Debbie Cardin have five children: Peyton, Nathan, Cheryl, Michelle, and Angie.



Jeffrey L. Eastman

Mike G. Frazier

Mike Frazier is a Riceville resident and director of schools for the City of Etowah. A graduate of Cleveland High School, Frazier earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, his Masters of Arts degree from Tennessee Tech, his Ed.S. from Lincoln Memorial University and his Ed.D. from East Tennessee State University.

He serves on the Board of Directors of Coordinated Charities, ASCD, TOSS, TSBA and also serves as chairman of the Board of Deacons at Eastanella Baptist Church. He was named Principal of the Year in 2007, has earned the John M. Davis Award, and has been inducted into the TSSAA Basketball Officials Hall of Fame. He also serves on the Board of Directors for SACS/CASI.

He and his wife, Kathy Landers Frazier, have four children: Heath and his wife, Stacie; Ryne and his wife, Beth; Justin and his wife, Katie; and Leah and her husband, Justin Hicks.



Mike G. Frazier

Roger Robertson

Roger Robertson is an Englewood resident and a full-time dairy, beef, and row crops farmer. He is a graduate of McMinn Central High School and attended Tennessee Technology Center.

His memberships include the McMinn County Farm Bureau where he was named Young Farmer of the Year in 1982 and 1986 and Farmer of the Year in 1991; McMinn County Farm



Roger Robertson

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Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment
Effective July 1, 2013

2.427¢

For the most current FCA information, visit www.vec.org

