

## VEC is Holding Unclaimed Property

Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) is holding unclaimed property of at least \$50 due to the persons listed below. The owner may claim this property by contacting VEC (Volunteer Energy Cooperative, 18359 Highway 58 N. P.O. Box 277, Decatur, TN 37322, 423-334-7013). **If an owner has not contacted us by April 25, 2017** the law requires us to submit this property to the Tennessee Treasury Department Unclaimed Property Division.

**ATHENS, TN** - Dowdell, Allison J; Lunsford, Connie Sue; Martin, Shirley J; Vanorden, Wayne.  
**BENTON, TN** - Beck, Christopher Jacob; Crowe, JB; Haulk, Jeffery L.; Qualls, Vikki; Shelton, Ross Newman.  
**BRENTWOOD, TN** - Murphy, Robin.  
**BYRDSTOWN, TN** - Pierce, Richard; Plank, Deborah K.  
**CALHOUN, TN** - Durbin, Charles T.; Lankford, William R.  
**CHARLESTON, TN** - Freeman, Pamela Loucill; Jenkins, Tonya R.; Masingale, Jaimme; Maynard, Sonya.  
**CHATTANOOGA, TN** - Bowman, Stephen.  
**CLEVELAND, TN** - Bishop, Airel; Carden, David Ray; Carroll, Chad M; Crumbley, Curtis; Dyer, Maria; Gilbert Real Estate & Prop Management; Hamm, Jerrod K.; Hicks, Mary Ann; Johnson, Stacie; Mcmenamin, Ann; Morales, Enoc; Velez, Irving; Vines, Bert; Waldrop, Timothy Alvin; Winfree, Tamara.  
**COOKEVILLE, TN** - Lewis, Jerry Sanford; Steinhour, Candy Sue; Toraason, Joseph James.  
**CRAWFORD, TN** - Tyrrell, Donald J.  
**CROSSVILLE, TN** - Babel, Jeromy Dale; Bartley, Keith; Bauldree, Matthew; Bowlin, Daniel W; Braddam, Ashley; Castelan, Jaime; Coenen, Theresa; Cook, Shellie Lynn; Davenport, Tammy M; Davis, Charles; Early, Phillip Wayne; England, Robert H; Esien, Ann Ansa; Green, Nicholas; Hammingh, Aaron Richard; Hancock, James; Harris, Isreal; Heatheridge Apartments; Hollingsworth, Jason; Horton, Tabetha; Elliott, Jeremy; Keefer, Emily Jane; Mcbee, Tracie; Meredith, Evelyn Juanita; Nanny's Cottage; Newman, Tracey J.; Norden, Barbara Michelle; Ramm, Gary George; Redwine, Christopher Allen; Richards, Jessica Renee; Richardson, Dakota Adam; Sartin, Amy; Taylor, Tiffani Lee; Uetrecht, Timothy M.; We Fix It Wireless; Wheelden, Christian Shawn.  
**DAYTON, TN** - Reed, Bryan K.  
**DECATUR, TN** - Browder, Flora; Freeman, Lamar; O'Daniel, Danny E.; Seaman, Aaron; Strader, Huey L.  
**DELANO, TN** - Grayson, Annie F.  
**EVANSVILLE, TN** - Campos, Domingo.  
**FAIRFIELD GLADE, TN** - George, Wanda.  
**GEORGETOWN, TN** - Hall, Garland M.  
**GRIMSLEY, TN** - Thomas, Riley.  
**HARRISON, TN** - Allen, Steven T.; Burkhead, James; Hicks, Timothy D.  
**JAMESTOWN, TN** - Ford, Rebekah; Hall, Trent; King, Jamie P.  
**JOHNSON CITY, TN** - Jones, Tabitha.  
**KINGSTON, TN** - Gordon, Terry; Jones, Joshua; Lewis, Laurie; Varner, Abby Rose.  
**KNOXVILLE, TN** - Watson, Tom and Kathy.  
**MCDONALD, TN** - Beissel, Stanley C.; Bowman, John P.; Cooper, Johnathan; Stephens, Micah.  
**MONTEREY, TN** - Carmack, Ashley Nicole; Ashburn, Dooley D.; Roberts, Ben Clarence; Smith, Jerry Lee; Tindle, Angela Sue; Vincent, Justin Tyme.  
**NIOTA, TN** - Wilcox, Jason.  
**OCOEE, TN** - Christie McFarland; Cook, Dale Sharon; Moody, Robert W.  
**OOLETEWAH, TN** - Dixon, James R.; Filyaw, Cynthia L.; Finley, Sharon K.; Oliver, Jason L.; Preston, Clifton.  
**PLEASANT HILL, TN** - Linda's Coffee Shop.  
**RICEVILLE, TN** - Moore, Michael Patrick; Purdin, Cecilia.  
**SODDY DAISY, TN** - Holden, Jon C.; Roddy, Mary E.  
**SPARTA, TN** - Nelson, Sylvester.  
**SPRING CITY, TN** - Finley, Josh; Hayes, Terry Lynn; Helzel, David; Hicks, Jeanine; Hooks, Tina M.; Judkins, Clarence Laymon; Simmons, Nicholas.  
**BAY MINETTE, AL** - Vance, William Andrew.  
**ASTOR, FL** - Payne, Tamera.  
**LAKELAND, FL** - Locklear, Gordon Matthew.  
**BOGART, GA** - Powell, Marilyn.  
**IDA, MI** - Weaver, Abigail.  
**GREENVILLE, NC** - Clift, Derike.  
**BRILLION, WI** - Eshelman, Robert.

## Cooperatives are a Big Part of Our Lives

How did you spend your day? Chances are, cooperatives were a big part of it from dawn until bedtime. Let me provide some examples of how co-ops might be impacting you every day.

Your morning orange juice might have come from Florida's Natural, a producer-owned cooperative based in Florida that distributes throughout the U.S. If your morning coffee came from Equal Exchange, you are touching a cooperative again because they source their coffee

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from farmer-owned co-ops in developing countries, and they are a worker-owned co-op. If you like milk in your coffee or cereal, check this out: more than 86 percent of all fluid milk flows through a co-op.

The wheat in your muffin or toast was most likely processed through a farmer-owned grain elevator in the Midwest. If you had cranberries in that muffin, they likely came from Ocean Spray, or maybe you used Land O'Lakes Butter or Welch's Concord Grape Jam – all producer-owned co-ops that make the products we love on our toast.

Next, working parents might drop off their young children at one of the over 1,000 pre-school co-ops that operate throughout the U.S.

Perhaps this is the day to make some improvements to your home. Ace Hardware and True Value are examples of purchasing co-ops. These are small businesses that come together to form a co-op so that they can compete with big box retailers that are not owned by people in the local community.

On your way home, you may stop at one of the 300 community-owned cooperative grocery stores in the country. Many of the meat products and vegetables are also sourced from co-ops. If you are in a hurry, maybe you will swing by KFC, Taco Bell or Pizza Hut to pick up dinner. The franchise owners of these fast food restaurants are all members of a purchasing co-op, just like the hardware stores above. So are the owners of Dunkin' Donuts and many other franchises.

After dinner, perhaps you are watching TV from one of the more than 1,000 small cable companies that serve rural America that have come together to form a co-op that helps keep costs as low as possible. Or maybe you are surfing the Internet through services provided by your local telecommunications co-op. Travel plans? If you are on a business trip or vacation and staying in a Best Western – that is also a purchasing co-op.

And when it's time for "lights out," you can flip that switch knowing you're receiving safe, reliable electricity from your local electric cooperative, your friends at Volunteer Energy Cooperative.

From morning until night, we wish you a very cooperative day!

## The 7 Cooperative Principles

**1. Voluntary and Open Membership**—Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination.

**2. Democratic Member Control**—Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership.

**3. Members' Economic Participation**—Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. This capital is the common property of the cooperative.

**4. Autonomy and Independence**—Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.

**5. Education, Training, and Information**—Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives.

**6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives**—Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.

**7. Concern for Community**—While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

## Regulations Require More Info for New Service

Occasionally I receive questions from Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) members who wonder why VEC requires the amount of information and identification from folks who want to sign up for service. Since the economy in general, and the real estate market in particular, is showing signs that modest gains may be coming, I thought this might be a good time to answer some of the questions about what it takes to start electric service and why we have these requirements in place.

### Application for Membership

When you sign up for electric service through VEC, you aren't just a customer – you're a member. You become a part-owner of VEC with rights and benefits that "customers" of many other electricity providers do not enjoy. Your \$5 membership fee entitles you to be represented on the VEC Board of Directors, the body that guides all cooperative activities.

The application for membership also requires information that can be used to conduct a credit check to determine if a deposit is required, and if so, how much. This is necessary to protect you. Since VEC does not make a profit, we can't dip into our profits to cover unpaid electric bills. We are required to pay TVA for every kilowatt, and when a VEC member fails to provide that payment, every other member is forced to pitch in to pay the bill for them.

### Identification

In accordance with new federal rules, VEC requires two forms of government issued I.D. including at least one with a photo. Also, the applicant must provide proof that they are authorized to start electric service at the requested location.

The application for membership does not require a Social Security number, but it is required to conduct the credit check. We strongly recommend that one of the forms of identification be a Social Security card.

To establish residency and provide proof of authorization to start electric service, we need a Warranty Deed, Deed of Trust, settlement statement, tax receipt, rental agreement or the equivalent.

These requirements are necessary because of new federal rules aimed at stopping identity theft. Many businesses and agencies that require ID and proof of residency accept electric bills as proof of residency. For that reason, electricity providers are now being held to a more stringent set of guidelines in verifying identity and residency.

I realize this may cause some inconveniences, but it does help us all protect our identities from unscrupulous people. We value your privacy and VEC will never share your information with anyone not affiliated with us without your permission unless compelled by a court order or subpoena.

I hope this helps clear up any questions and helps explain why we require this documentation before starting electric service. If you'd like more information on any of these topics, it's available at [www.vec.org](http://www.vec.org).



Rody Blevins  
President/CEO  
Volunteer Energy  
Cooperative





The VECustomers Share program funded \$30,000 in community service grants in February. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$5.8 million in grants has been awarded. The deadline for grant applications is the last working 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](http://www.vec.org).



VECustomers Share board member Gary Gilmore (right) presented a grant check to Betty Harris Hicks and Jenny Lou Hallums of the Spring City Friends of the Library. The grant will help fund the summer reading program.

### Organizations receiving grants in February

Pleasant Hill School PTO	\$1,950	Ooltewah Elementary PTA	\$500
Pickett County Soil Conservation Club	\$1,400	Meigs High Spanish Club	\$500
EK Baker PTO	\$1,300	Spirit Horse Therapeutic Riding at Black Fox	\$500
Midway Youth Development Organization	\$1,250	Ooltewah High School Band Boosters	\$500
Jones Chapel UMC Food Pantry	\$1,200	Midway High School Band Boosters	\$500
Happy Hearts Seniors	\$1,150	Rinnie Reflections Ladies Group	\$450
Club 21 of Polk County High School	\$1,150	Meigs Senior Center	\$450
Pickett County Cattlemen's Association	\$1,100	Meigs County Ministries	\$400
Burks Elementary	\$1,000	CCHS Men's Soccer Booster Club	\$400
Fentress County Bulldogs Baseball Club	\$1,000	SCMS 8th Grade Trip Booster Club	\$375
SMHS Rocket Team	\$1,000	Monterey High School Class of 2017	\$350
Fentress County American Red Cross	\$1,000	SCMS Volleyball Booster's Club	\$300
Cleveland/Bradley Keep America Beautiful	\$1,000	Meigs County Quest for Success	\$300
CC TAD Center	\$800	Composite Squadron of Civil Air Patrol	\$300
Rhea County Imagination Library	\$750	Bradley County Health Council	\$250
Birchwood Wild Game Dinner	\$750	Cumberland Cty High School Cheer Boosters	\$250
Brown Middle School Football Club	\$750	American Red Cross of Southeast Tennessee	\$250
Wilson Elementary 2016/2017		Midway Quarter Back Club	\$250
8th Grade Class	\$750	Monterey Youth Cheerleading Organization	\$250
Spring City Chamber of Commerce	\$575	Midway Middle School Football Booster Club	\$250
Meigs High School Health Science Dept	\$500	Monterey Jr High School Softball	\$250
Meigs Historical Society	\$500	Polk County Alumni Association	\$200
HOSA - Meigs County	\$500	New Hope Pregnancy Care Center	\$200
Luminary Frostbite Volunteer Fire Dept	\$500	Cookeville Housing Services Corporation	\$150

## Just Another Day for a Lineman

VEC linemen frequently work with ropes. Every day they use rope to climb power poles. They create rope rigging to move lines from the ground to where they are working. Ropes are integral to their training. Recently the Benton service crew put their knowledge of rigging rope to another use. One morning in January, they were working in a remote area of Polk County well-known for rafting and lack of cell service. Their job that morning was to assist, as needed, a crew of Right of Way (ROW) contractors who were cutting a few 'danger trees.'



Benton Service Area Crew: (L-R) Tony Wilson, Scottie Peels, Scott Hawkins, and Ryan Maynor

As the ROW workers were felling a tree, one contract worker misjudged his step and fell. Normally that would have been embarrassing, but not a crisis. Because they were working on the side of a mountain with an incline of 75 degrees, misjudging his step resulted in a fall and tumble about 15 feet down the side of the mountain. While the contract crew stabilized the downed tree, VEC serviceman went to aid the unconscious man. Tony Wilson, VEC serviceman, climbed down the mountain, scaled the steep embankment at the bottom of the mountain and was able to locate a home with a telephone landline. He called emergency services and the Benton Service Area working sub-foreman Aaron Hood to report the accident.

Due to the terrain, rescue vehicles could not make it up the mountain where the injured man lay. Realizing he would need to be carried the rest of the way down the side of the mountain as well as being lowered down a 30 foot embankment (at a 90 degree angle to the road), VEC servicemen



While beautiful, the mountainous terrain makes it difficult when working on powerlines and R.O.W.



Aaron Hood, Working Sub-Forman Benton Service Area, stands beside the embankment to give height perspective.

they were about half-way down, Benton fire and rescue arrived and provided a basket to hold the injured man for the rest of the trip to the road.

After the injured man was placed in the ambulance, the VEC crew gathered their equipment and went back to the office. When asked about the extraordinary actions of his crew, foreman Scottie Peels stated, "It's just another day for a lineman, we do what we are trained to do and help where we can." Thanks to the quick action of the VEC servicemen, after being treated at the hospital, the contract worker was able to return to work within a week.

grabbed their gear and rigged a series of stable holds that could be used to get down the mountain. An ambulance arrived and one of the EMT's climbed the embankment using the rope holds to reach the unconscious contract worker.

After evaluating the man and determining he could be moved, the EMT instructed the VEC crew how to stabilize the injured man on a backboard. Once they had secured him for the trip down the mountain, VEC servicemen Tony Wilson, Scott Hawkins, Ryan Maynor and Scottie Peels carried the injured man to the mountain edge to lower him to the road. Using a rope rig they lowered him down the embankment. When





## Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment  
Effective March 1, 2017

# 2.088¢

**For the most current FCA information, visit [www.vec.org](http://www.vec.org)**

*Volunteer Energy Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.*