

# VEC Customers *Share*

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

By allowing their electric bills to be rounded up to the next dollar Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) customers funded \$34,150 in community service grants in January. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, a total of \$2,098,301 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](http://www.vec.org).

**Organizations receiving grants in December include:**

Chanute Volunteer Fire Department, Byrdstown - \$4,000; Monterey High School Burks Choral Booster Club - \$3,000; South Roane County Volunteer Fire Department - \$2,655; Pine Grove Fire District Association, Inc., Spring City - \$2,000; United Polk County Anti-Drug Coalition - \$1,719; Fentress County Ambulance Service - \$1,675; Disabled American Veterans, Cleveland - \$1,200; Clearwater Volunteer Fire Department, Athens - \$1,125; Riceville Volunteer Fire Department - \$1,125; Stone Memorial High School Baseball Booster Club, Crossville - \$1,000; The Clothes Closet, Inc., Rockwood - \$1,000; Polk County Retired Teachers Association - \$1,000; Pickett County High School Baseball Boosters - \$1,000; Helping Hands, Crossville - \$1,000; Friends of the Library of Spring City - \$1,000; Cleveland State Athletic Council - \$1,000; Storie Cemetery Association, Jamestown - \$1,000; Decatur Tigers - \$1,000; Meigs County High School Baseball Boosters - \$1,000; Bradley County High School Wrestling Boosters - \$800; Future Teachers of America, Decatur - \$800; Calhoun Elementary School PTO - \$767; Full Circle Women's Services, Athens - \$709; Senior Lighthouse Center, Spring City - \$500; Wolf River Women's Club, Byrdstown - \$500; Monterey Food Bank - \$500; Allardt Junior Beta Club - \$325; Trumpet of the Lord Kids Band Program, Athens - \$250; Burks Middle School Baseball Boosters, Monterey - \$250; and McMinn County Living Heritage Museum - \$250.



VEC Customers Share Board Member Nell Whitaker, center, presents a grant check to Jim Ross, left, and Brandon Ainsworth, right, of the Riceville Volunteer Fire Department.

## We're taking the sweat out of purchasing electric heat pumps and electric water heaters!

An electric heat pump is the most affordable and comfortable way to heat and cool your home. Homeowners throughout the Tennessee Valley are discovering the economical, year-round comfort of a new energy-efficient heat pump. Volunteer Energy Cooperative and TVA have teamed up to take the hassle out of purchasing a new heat pump with the *energy-right*® program. The program combines the convenience of paying right along with your electric bill, the cost-savings of a competitive interest rate, and the service you've come to expect from your hometown electric cooperative.



The process is quick and easy. And a Volunteer Energy Cooperative customer service representative will walk you through the process in just a few minutes.

### And While You're at it ...

You can add to your savings by installing a new, energy-efficient electric water heater. In the typical home 14% of energy costs go to heating water. Trim those costs with a new electric water heater and VEC will add to your savings with a one-time \$30 credit to your electric bill.



Loans and incentives are subject to participation in the *energy-right*® program and are subject to the guidelines of that program. For more information, contact your local VEC Customer Service Center.



### Farmer's Market Grant

VEC President/CEO Rody Blevins, left, presents a grant check in the amount of \$2,700 to Polk County Mayor Mike Stinnett. The grant, provided by VEC's Supporting Efforts for Economic Development (S.E.E.D.) Program will provide supplemental funding for a Farmer's Market in Polk County.

## 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 at the address and/or telephone number listed below:

Volunteer Energy Cooperative  
18359 Highway 58 N. • P.O. Box 277  
Decatur, TN 37322 • (423) 334-7017

If an owner has not contacted us by April 24, 2007 the law requires us to submit this property to the Tennessee Treasury Department Unclaimed Property Division.

**Tennessee**  
Athens - Jason L. Gold; Tami Wagoner; Daniel W. Eaton; David S. Kirkhuff; Betty Galyon; and Hampton Inn. Benton - James J. Young. Calhoun - Theresa N. Pike. Chattanooga - Southern Bldg Group; Edward Herbold; and Spurling Construction. Cleveland - Jessica Gentry; Steve E. Davies; Christopher Couch; Bender Realty Prop Mgt; Samuel L. Buchanan Jr.; Rosemarie Redmond; Cynthia Bales; Ricky R. Cross; Wayne T. Means; Daniel E. Cisneros; Jason J. Lawlor; Pamela D. Falkowski; Kristopher Steward; and April L. Allen. Cookeville - Cookeville Nissan Incorporated; and Payless Auto Sales. Crossville - Glen Burton; Ruby Morris; Tim Daniels; Barbara Davis; H & H Auto Sales; Jamie Dunn; Rebecca L. Threet; Patricia Dorsagno; Laura Whicher; Florian Jimenez; Allen Randolph; Amity L. Jones; Robbie Collins; William E. Spencer; Michael D. Farmer; Todd Gaddy; Hollie Hall; Aaron Millard; Carolyn Rains; Amanda Kennedy; Paula Yost; People's Security Finance; Antonio Lopez; Charles McMillan; Tina E. Eatherly; Kim Kerley; Jerry Farley; James R. Davis; Matthew Johnson; Nathaniel Clayton; Harold Crosthwaite; Custom Construction; and Southern Showcase Housing. Dayton - Crossville Catering; and Magic Touch Dry Cleaners. Decatur - Ronnie S. Bryant; William F. McDaniel; Tim Oden; Kellie L. Adkins; and Jacks Quick Cash. Englewood - Bill J. Barber Etowah - Helen S. Crockett. Evansville - Kevin Brandner; and Joshua L. Crane. Harriman - William Powers. Hillsboro - Barbara A. Risher. Hixson - Nicholas T. Thurman. Jamestown - Johnny Marksber; Kyndra Payne; and First Volunteer Bank. Knoxville - Ed Mays; Adriano Ladore. McDonald - William A. Lee Jr. Monterey - Merle J. Harris; Carlo Rodriguez; and Genna Thomas. Nashville - John H. High. Newport - UTA - Newport Utilities. Niota - Rufus J. Smith. Old Fort - Eddie Miller; and Shane A. Wooten. Ooltewah - Sharane Vandergriff. Riceville - Timothy Lankford. Sparta - Karen R. Lewis; David E. Litzzi; and Elizabeth Stinnett. Spring City - Taryn Wilson; Susan Maine; Lisa McClendon; Robert Keedy; and Delora Kelley. Ten Mile - Monica Stewart. Westminster - Galbreath Land.

**Out of State**  
Charlotte, NC - Denise Gortney. Birmingham, AL - Stanley Brown. Clarkdale, GA - Brian G. Carroll. Albany, KY - Jason Pirie. Tennega, GA - David E. Stafford. Carlisle, OH - Terry Land. San Marcos, TX - Telecom America Services, Inc.





Volunteer Energy Cooperative will offer these and other surplus vehicles and equipment for absolute auction on Saturday, April 21.

## Going... Going... Gone!

### Volunteer Energy Cooperative to Auction Surplus Vehicles

Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) will sell surplus vehicles and equipment at absolute auction on Saturday, April 21 at VEC's Decatur Customer Service Center on Highway 58 North in Decatur.

The sale is slated to begin at 10 a.m. Eastern Time. All vehicles purchased must be paid for on the day of the sale by cash or check.

Following is a partial list of vehicles to be auctioned\*:

Model	Make	Mileage
1997	Chevy Blazer 4wd	103,815
2000	Jeep Cherokee	91,000
2000	Chevy 1500 pick up 4wd	182,000
2000	Chevy 1500 pick up 4wd	201,847
2000	Chevy 1500 pick up 4wd	151,463
2001	Chevy 1500 pick up 4wd	98,534
2001	Chevy 1500 pick up 4wd	185,709
1996	Ford F250 utility body 4wd	147,467
2000	Chevy 2500 utility body 4wd	148,145
2000	Chevy 2500 utility body 4wd	132,906
1998	Chevy 2500 utility body 4wd	162,632
1999	Chevy 2500 utility body 4wd	123,179
1995	Chevy 3500 utility body 4wd	141,110
1995	Chevy 3500 utility body 4wd	143,211

\* We reserve the right to add or delete from this listing.

# Why Buy Stamps?

When you can pay your bill online at:

**www.vec.org**  
VOLUNTEER ENERGY COOPERATIVE

www.vec.org **VEC** vec@vec.org  
VOLUNTEER ENERGY COOPERATIVE

Powerlines is produced by the Volunteer Energy Cooperative's Marketing & Economic Development Department as a service to customers. Comments and suggestions can be e-mailed to vec@vec.org or mailed to VEC Marketing & Economic Development Department, P.O. Box 277, Decatur, TN 37322.

# POWERLINES

April 2007

Newsletter of Volunteer Energy Cooperative



## Help Keep America Beautiful

### Posting Signs on Utility Poles is Dangerous and Illegal

By Rody Blevins President/CEO

With thousands of volts of electricity above and unforgiving ground below, linemen have plenty of safety concerns to consider when they start climbing a utility pole. Illegally posted signs and flyers make their lives that much more difficult.

Volunteer Energy Cooperative asks that you stop to consider the potential hazards and then refrain from posting signs and/or flyers on utility poles.

It's not just a matter of distracting drivers and creating an eyesore, these can pose a real safety threat – especially at night. We've had some pretty serious injuries at VEC due to these and across the nation there have even been some lineman fatalities that are directly attributable to sign and flyers.

Linemen have been injured when they snagged staples and nails used to mount signs on utility poles. Even more serious injuries result when linemen's climbing spikes hit a nail or staple preventing their climbing spikes from digging in as they need to. This has resulted in falls.

Some people may have the misconception that the vast majority of work linemen do is performed out of a bucket truck. Many people would be surprised to find out how much linemen still climb, especially when the ground is wet and we want to avoid damaging people's yards.

Not only are these signs a distraction and a safety concern, they are also illegal. State law (TCA 2-19-144) prohibits anyone from placing signs on utility poles unless they have been legally authorized to do so.

## Electricity Safety Demonstrations Available

Electricity has helped bring prosperity and convenience to the Tennessee Valley and Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) is proud to be a part of that. But electricity is also a power source that demands respect.

VEC offers free electricity safety demonstrations to teach groups of all ages how we can enjoy the benefits of electricity while avoiding some of the most common dangers.

Presentations can be tailored to any age group and to fit almost any time requirements.

To schedule a free safety demonstration for your group, phone Robert McCarty at 423-334-7052. You can also email a request to rmcarty@vec.org.

## TVA Announces Fuel Cost Adjustment in April

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) recently announced that it will apply a .091 cent per kilowatt hour (KWh) fuel charge adjustment beginning April 1 for residential customers.

The fuel cost adjustment (FCA), which appears as a line item on the VEC electric bills, will mean an increase of about \$1 to \$1.50 for the average residential customer.

VEC will be forced to pass this increase along to customers. TVA adjusts the FCA each quarter based on the difference between TVA's budgeted fuel cost for the quarter and the most recent forecast amount. The FCA was designed to help reduce the need for rate increases in the future by better matching revenues to changes in costs for fuel and purchased electricity.

VEC President/CEO Rody Blevins said VEC is forced to pass along the FCA to customers, but said VEC is simply passing along the charge and is gaining no additional revenue through the FCA.

"This is strictly a pass-along item," Blevins said. "We have added a line item on our VEC bills to show each customer exactly how much the FCA is impacting their bill. We hate to pass any type of increase along to our customers, but I am somewhat relieved that the second quarter's FCA is relatively small."

The adjustment will be .091 cents per KWh for residential customers and for outdoor lighting. The adjustment for general power customers – part 1 will be .090 cents per KWh. General power – part 2 customers will see a .090-cent adjustment per KWh for the first 15,000 KWh and an adjustment of .088 for additional kilowatt hours. General power – part 3 customers will receive a .088 cent per KWh adjustment and all other industrial customers will receive a .087 cent per KWh adjustment.



## First Customer

Volunteer Energy Natural Gas, Inc., a subsidiary company of Volunteer Energy Cooperative operating in Polk County, welcomed their first customer on to the system recently. Polk County's Department of Health was the first customer and on hand to welcome them aboard were: from left, Ricky Hickman of the Rural Development division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Polk County Mayor Mike Stinnett, VEC President/CEO Rody Blevins, and Alan Wade also of the Rural Development Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The project was made possible by grants from Rural Development and the Appalachian Region Commission and a guaranteed loan provided by Co-Bank.