

## VEC Family Shares Their Best Recipes with Your Family

Volunteer Energy Cooperative employees are putting together a sumptuous sampling of some of their favorite family recipes to share with your family. The recipes are available, absolutely free, at [www.vec.org](http://www.vec.org). Just look for the recipe link on the home page.

Here's a sneak peek:

### Fresh Apple Cake from Georgia

Butter for greasing pan  
2 cups sugar  
3 eggs  
1 1/2 cups vegetable oil  
1/4 cup orange juice  
3 cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 Tablespoon ground cinnamon  
1 Tablespoon vanilla extract  
3 cups peeled and finely chopped apples  
1 cup shredded coconut  
1 cup chopped pecans

#### Sauce

1/2 cup (1 stick) butter  
1 cup sugar  
1/2 cup buttermilk  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.  
Generously grease a tube pan.

For the cake: in a large bowl combine the sugar, eggs, oil, orange juice, flour, baking soda and vanilla extract, and mix well. Fold apples, coconut and pecans into batter. Pour the batter into the prepared pan and bake until a tester comes out clean, about 1 1/2 hrs.

Shortly before the cake is done, make the sauce. Melt the butter in a large saucepan, stir in buttermilk and baking soda and bring to a good rolling boil, stirring constantly. Boil for 3 minutes, pour sauce over the hot cake in the pan as soon as you remove it from the oven. Let stand 1 hour and turn onto a rack to cool completely.

Connie - Corporate Offices



[www.vec.org](http://www.vec.org)

**VEC**  
VOLUNTEER ENERGY COOPERATIVE

[vec@vec.org](mailto:vec@vec.org)

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](mailto:vec@vec.org) or mailed to VEC Marketing & Economic Development Department, P.O. Box 277, Decatur, TN 37322.

March 2008

**POWERLINES**  
Newsletter of Volunteer Energy Cooperative

## VEC Directors will Carry Your Concerns to Nashville

VEC is among 23 electric cooperatives that serve more than 1 million homes, farms, schools, churches, hospitals, and other important facilities across Tennessee. About one-third of the state's entire population receives electric service through an electric cooperative.

Numbers like those carry political weight – and protecting the interests of electric cooperative members requires that we use that weight from time to time. Electric cooperatives exist today because federal and state legislation made them possible.

If we do not stay involved in the political process our rights and benefits as electric cooperative members/owners are at risk.

As this column is written, members of the Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) Board of Directors and management staff are preparing to participate in the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association (TECA) Legislative Rally in Nashville.

This is an annual event when we take the message of cooperative member/owners to our state lawmakers. On March 3 and 4, we will meet individually with legislators who serve the districts served by VEC and talk with them about issues of concern. These meetings are very helpful in fostering strong relationships between VEC and the people who govern our members.

This year we will be watching closely as legislation is introduced to try to curtail copper theft. We are hoping to include scrap metal dealers in a partnership that will help track and prosecute copper thieves. As part owners of your electric cooperative, copper thieves have stolen from you – not just from some faceless corporation.

We have been more fortunate than many electric utilities but the copper thieves don't just cost us the expense of the copper itself. Many times, in their efforts to extract the copper, thieves damage equipment that is even more valuable than the copper itself. That winds up costing all of us.

This year we hope to see legislation passed that will create a method for law enforcement officials to trace the sale of copper through the scrap metal dealers.

In the past scrap metal dealers have resisted these efforts because they felt the old legislation would create an unfair burden on them to enforce the law. We are cautiously optimistic that the new legislation is an improvement in that it addresses these concerns of the scrap dealers while still giving law enforcement officers an additional tool to track down criminals.

When legislative action affects electric cooperative members and the rates we pay, VEC will continue to join with other cooperatives to make sure our voice – and your voice – is heard.



## New Hamilton County Office is Under Construction

Construction is under way on Volunteer Energy Cooperative's new Hamilton County Customer Service Center on McMahan Gap Road near the intersection of Ooltewah Road. The design, prepared by the Upland Design Group, incorporates features such as access control, security fencing, and a drive-through window. The finished office will have nearly 10,000 square feet under roof and will provide added convenience for VEC customers. As this edition of Powerlines is printed, the walls of the building are going up and the building is expected to be ready for business this fall.



### Hamilton County - New Office

Construction of VEC's new Hamilton County Customer Service Center is under way.

## Introducing the Latest Tool To Help You Use Less Energy This Year

A pencil could be a very useful instrument to help you save on energy costs. The energy right Home e-valuation® survey is an easy way to find out how you're using energy around your home and how you could use that energy more wisely. Using less energy adds up to spending less money.

Call your local VEC office today for a copy of the Home e-valuation®. Use your pencil, take a few minutes to fill out the questionnaire, and send it in. You'll receive a customized report in the mail based on the information you provide that will give you ideas on how to save on your home's energy costs.

Or, you can also complete the survey online and get an electronic report immediately. Just follow the link on the VEC home page ([www.vec.org](http://www.vec.org)).

For a limited time, we will mail you a FREE conservation kit when you submit a completed Home e-valuation® survey either online or by mail.





# VEC Customers Share

## 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 \$34,300 in community service grants in December. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, a total of \$2,468,471 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: Meigs County Lions Club - \$3,000; Crossville-Cumberland County Youth Center - \$2,500; Plateau Pregnancy Services, Crossville - \$2,500; Pickett County Horseman Association - \$2,000; Hopewell Elementary PTO, Cleveland - \$2,000; Amvets Post 90, Decatur - \$1,955; Polk County High School Boys Basketball Boosters - \$1,700; Cumberland County 4-H Livestock Judging Team - \$1,500; American Cancer Society for Hamilton County, Chattanooga - \$1,500; Fentress County Food Bank - \$1,500; Midway Youth League - \$1,000; Mended Hearts Chapter 127, Cookeville - \$1,000; Fentress County Archives - \$1,000; Midway Quarterback Club - \$1,000; Birchwood Elementary PTA - \$1,000; Bradley/Polk Foster Adoptive Care Association - \$1,000; Central Outreach Center, Spring City - \$1,000; Royal Family Kids' Camp, Cleveland - \$1,000; Good Neighbors Theatre, Inc., Byrds town - \$945; Friends of the Library of Spring City - \$650; Cumberland Trail Conference, Crossville - \$600; Burks Middle School 6th Grade Science Club, Monterey - \$500; Bondcroft Elementary Lions Booster Club, Sparta - \$500; Meigs Middle School Fellowship of Christian Athletes - \$500; Wilson 8th Grade Class of 2008 Parent Group, Crawford - \$500; Brown Middle School Volleyball PTO, Harrison - \$500; Chestue United Methodist Youth Group, Cleveland - \$300; American Cancer Society for Polk County, Chattanooga - \$300; American Cancer Society for Rhea County, Chattanooga - \$300; Luminary Neighborhood Watch, Spring City - \$210; American Cancer Society for Blodsee County, Chattanooga - \$200; and Pikeville Church of God of Prophecy Youth Group - \$140.



**VEC Customers Share - Hopewell**  
VEC Customers Share Board Member Bill Sparkman, right, presents a grant check to Anna Starks, secretary of the Hopewell Elementary School PTO.

## Scholarship Honors Community Service

Volunteer Energy Cooperative wants to reward students who have used their time and talents to benefit their local communities. VEC's Lillard-Shadow scholarship program rewards academic and community service achievements by awarding four \$2,000 scholarships to students who will graduate from high schools in VEC's service area in the spring of 2008. Willis A. Shadow was the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Agent for Meigs County in 1933. He saw the great potential in bringing electricity to the Decatur/Meigs County area. His leadership helped to create Meigs County Power Association, the organization that would become the Meigs County Electric Membership Corporation and ultimately, Volunteer Energy Cooperative. J.W. Lillard's roots ran deep in the county; he lived and practiced law in Decatur for many years. As a gift to the community he loved, Mr. Lillard volunteered his time and expertise to assist Mr. Shadow in his efforts. Mr. Lillard was the cooperative's first president, providing the necessary consistency of leadership for the first seven years. Because of their vision and commitment to the community, Mr. Shadow and Mr. Lillard were instrumental in improving the lives and livelihood of thousands of residents through electric power. This scholarship honors the community spirit of Willis A. Shadow and J. W. Lillard.

Because of this history, Volunteer Energy Cooperative is committed to the strength of individuals and organizations in its service area and recognizes the importance of volunteerism and community activities to a young person's growth. This scholarship program will reward students who have "given back" to their communities by assisting the students with college costs.

A total of four awards of \$500 per semester will be distributed for Fall Semester 2008. These awards are renewable for up to four semesters, with a \$2,000 maximum award per student. To receive each semester's award, the student must be a declared major in one of the qualified areas (see Criteria below) and maintain a GPA of at least 2.5. (The student is responsible for submitting copies of grades to VEC each semester to verify continuation of the awards.) Checks will be made payable jointly to the student and the college and will be mailed directly to each recipient's college. The award may be applied to tuition, fees, books, and/or living expenses.

## 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 [rmccarty@vec.org](mailto:rmccarty@vec.org).

## Open House Hosted at New Spring City Office

### Who doesn't like a good party?

Scores of Volunteer Energy Cooperative customers got an inside look at VEC's new Spring City Customer Service Center in January when VEC hosted an open house. Local officials and customers enjoyed light refreshments and tours of the new 9,970



Guests enjoyed light refreshments during an open house at VEC's new Spring City Customer Service Center.



VEC Board member Jerry Hanley, VEC President CEO Rudy Blivins, and Rhea County Mayor Billy Ray Patton were among those on hand for the open house at VEC's new Spring City Customer Service Center.

square-foot facility on Wasson Memorial Highway at the intersection of Cemetery Road.

The new office opened for business on December 10. The low-cost design places the emphasis on longevity, low-maintenance, energy efficiency, and safety.

Spring City operations were previously housed in VEC's Ellis Street facility that was prone to flooding. While correcting the flooding problem, VEC also managed to construct a facility that incorporates modern technology, access control, security fencing and a generator to produce back-up power during emergencies.

Spring City and VEC Officials pose at the new Spring City Office.



VEC's Decatur Service Area Manager Larry Reed shows guests around VEC's new Spring City Customer Service Center.



## Project Deserve Needs You!

If you could help an elderly, handicapped or unemployed neighbor for as little as one dollar per month, you would do it wouldn't you?

Project Deserve allows Volunteer Energy Cooperative member/customers to do just that. With a recurring monthly donation or with a one-time gift, VEC customers can assist neighbors who are having a tough time with their electric bills in emergency situations. You can pledge any amount you choose to be added to your monthly electric bill or by making a one-time donation.

Every penny collected through Project Deserve goes straight to those among our neighbors who need it most. No donated funds are used to administer the program.

Call or drop by your local Volunteer Energy Cooperative customer service center to sign up or to get more details.