

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:

www.vec.org



vec@vec.org

POWERLINES

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, 2009 the law requires us to submit this property to the Tennessee Treasury Department Unclaimed Property Division.

Tennessee

Athens: Otis Oggs Jr.; William H. Lowery; Joe A. Smith Jr.; William Lee; Kenneth Haney; Benton: Paolo Pozzuoli; Cassandra A. Stone; James J. Young; Byrdstown: Heather Waddy; Chattanooga: D&S Construction; Candice Bennett; Cleveland: Robel M. Rodriguez; Geneva Shelton; Phyllis Bige; James R. Weaver; Charles J. Braddam; Travis Ellis; Scott Johnson; Alfonso Santiago; Ronald E. Helton; Jon Eaves; Thomas D. Hamby; Collegedale: The Stone Dept; Cookeville: Silas W. Holst; Crossville: Josh Parham; Christopher Agne; Benjamin L. Lawrence; Paula Elaine Wilson; Yolanda Hammons; Performance Plus; Terry G. Long; Brittany N. Nunnery; Brian Ketring; Benjamin B. Watson; Marie M. Stephens; Jerri L. Brown; Jason L. Frady; Chase A. Dodson; Jason D. Ashburn; Nancey A. Turney; Yvonne Hammons; Theresa L. Lusk; Catherine Caulfield; Mark Conatser; James Qualls; Hilberto J. Rosaa; Kari White; Kim Walker; David K. Kerley; Robin Douglas; Kevin Stephens; Christopher Wiley; Sherry Sharp; Shannon Wood; Dawn M. Jones; Daniel C. Adams Jr.; Charleston Plantation; Stephanie Kempton; Garrett Johnson; Amanda Mote; Sandy Hall; Decatur: Leo Martin; Irene Higginbotham; Robert McKenna; Evensville: Diane R. Alley; Georgetown: Tracy J. Barker; Leah Dunn; Jamestown: Cassie York; Daniel S. Choate; Kingston: Billy J. Harrison; Ray D. Foley; Julia D. Dalton; Loudon: Michael W. Tucker; McDonald: Bobby S. Derryberry; Monterey: Daniel Trevino; Tabatha R. Abston; Mauricio J. Calderon; Belinda Ortiz; Graciela Tanguma; Michelle Lewis; Franciso Gonzalez; Old Fort: Julian R. Hamby; Ooltewah: Gaye Saunders; Riceville: Mellisa A. Cline; Carol A. Williams; Tiffanie Webb; Thomas R. DeLozier; Rockwood: Don Pass; Sparta: Jennifer N. Davies; Lisa Watkiss; Virginia D. Sparkes; Spring City: Lisa S. Skidgel; Cynthia LeBeau; Evelyn Fay; Carlos M. Lopez; Tonya L. Fredrick; Kristi P. Roberts; Brenda Schwab; Jason Jasso; Patricia Farris; Ten Mile: Wanda F. Mobley; Timothy Laws Sr.; and Donna Kincaid.

Out of State

Kathryn M. Wear – Bryant, AL; Janice Lowe – Ehrhardt, SC; Janet G. Schwelling – Eustis, FL; Bobby J. Landis – Dalton, GA



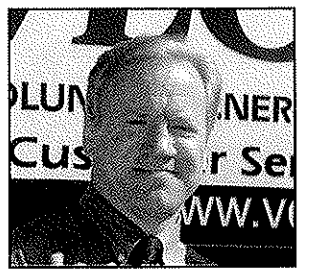
Project Deserve Helps Those in Need

I'm sure you are aware of the difficult times many VEC customers are facing. Higher electric rates, more severe temperatures, and an uncertain economic future are creating hardships for many people.

VEC's Project Deserve program provides temporary electric bill assistance to families in tight financial situations. It is not designed as a long-term solution; families can only receive Project Deserve funds once per year. Funds come from VEC customers who participate with voluntary contributions added to their power bill each month.

Project Deserve funds are very limited; we currently collect less than \$800 each month through about 400 voluntary contributions to this program system-wide. Of the total amount collected, VEC employees, retirees, and board members contribute a full 15% of the total collected each month, with an average monthly contribution of \$2.17. I believe our VEC family is so generous because we talk with people who need this help every day and we know how great the needs are.

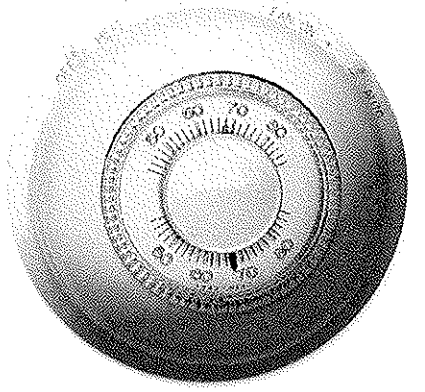
If you are currently contributing to Project Deserve, thank you. If you do not contribute, please consider doing so. A small donation can make a big difference in someone's life.



Rody Blevins is Volunteer Energy Cooperative's President/CEO

Turning Your Thermostat Down

Doesn't Always Produce a Lower Electric Bill



High energy costs have everyone looking for ways to save money. That's a great idea and VEC wants to help. We also want to make sure you don't fall into some traps that may actually cost you more than they save you.

Last month we looked at some of the pitfalls of trying to save money by using your fireplace for supplemental heating. This month we are going to look at why cutting down the thermostat on your electric heat pump while you are away may wind up costing you more money in the long run.

Most energy efficiency experts recommend keeping your heat pump on a constant setting for maximum efficiency.

The reason so many experts recommend leaving the thermostat alone is because a heat pump will produce heat at a much lower cost than standard electrical heat strips. In most cases where a homeowner does not have a newer electronic programmable thermostat, it is often best to leave the thermostat set at a constant temperature.

Heat pumps typically don't recover from a large setback easily or quickly. Anytime you try to recover from a large setback, the system will bring on the secondary heat (strip heat) until the system reaches within 1.5 degrees of the thermostat setting. This means that the thermostat will run the second stage heat also until the room temp gets 1.5 degrees to the actual setpoint. Strip heat is expensive to run so you should do anything to avoid its running.

You will find far better results with a good programmable thermostat. A good programmable thermostat locks out the strip heat during the temperature recovery. If you install one of these, you will be able to set back the thermostat at night or while away to save money, and the thermostat will only bring on the strip heat if the recovery process is not making progress. So, install a good programmable thermostat and you can have the best of both worlds.

Not all programmable thermostats are created equal. Contact a heating and air professional to ensure the thermostat you install has the "smart recovery" ability.

Continuous indoor fan operation can also degrade heat pump performance unless a high-efficiency, variable-speed fan motor is used. Operate the system on the "auto" fan setting on the thermostat.

Proper operation of your heat pump will save energy. Don't set back the heat pump's thermostat if it causes the backup heating to come on and don't run the indoor fan continuously from the "on" position. Unless your equipment is designed for it, it will wind up costing you money in the long run.

VEC Customers *Share*

A Little Change Can Go a Long Way

Through the generosity of Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) customers who allowed their electric bills to be rounded up to the next whole dollar, the VEC Customers Share program funded \$33,100 in community service grants in January. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$2.9 million in grants have been awarded. The deadline for grant applications is the last business 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.



VEC Customers Share Board Member Doug Ford, second from left, presents a grant check for the Athens Lions Club to, from left, Nell Whilaker, Lucy Lion (Shelia Chesanow), and Dan Chesanow.

Organizations receiving grants in January include: Uffleman PTO, Monterey - \$2,000; Benton Lions Club - \$1,500; Athens Lions Club - \$1,500; McMinn County Education & Community Foundation - \$1,500; Fair Park Senior Center, Crossville - \$1,500; Polk County Education Foundation - \$1,000; Royal Family Kids Camp, Cleveland - \$1,000; Cumberland County Cardiac/Pulmonary Rehab Alumni, Inc., - \$1,000; Polk County High School Golf Club - \$1,000; Brown Middle School PTO, Harrison - \$1,000; Linsdale Community Services - \$1,000; Midway High School Golf Booster Club - \$1,000; Pickett County Junior High Science Club - \$1,000; Pickett County Junior High Football Boosters - \$1,000; Midway Youth League - \$1,000; Midway Music Club - \$1,000; Hamilton County 4-H - \$1,000; Friends of the Library, Spring City - \$800; Friends of Cherokee Removal Memorial Park, Decatur - \$700; Clarkrange Volunteer Fire Department - \$700; Rhea County Domestic Violence Council - \$700; Clarkrange High School Future Farmers of America - \$700; Hilltoppers, Inc., Crossville - \$600; Pine Haven Technology Club Lego Team, Jamestown - \$600; Pickett County High School Football Booster Club - \$500; Decatur Traveling Tigers - \$500; Bradley Central High School Broadcast Media Club - \$500; Cleveland/Bradley County Chamber Foundation - \$500; Meigs County High School Future Teachers of America - \$500; Bradley-Cleveland Retired Teachers Association - \$500; Rhea Emergency Medical Services - \$500; AMVETS Post 90, Athens - \$500; Bradley Central High School Boys Soccer Booster Club - \$500; Meigs Historical Society - \$500; Helping Hands Ministries, Crossville - \$500; and Meigs Middle School Art Club - \$300.

vec family

shares its 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. Just look for the recipe link on the home page.

Easy Oreo Truffles

1 pkg. (1 lb. 2 oz.) OREO Cookies, finely crushed, divided
1 pkg. (8 oz.) PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese, softened
2 pkg. (8 squares each) BAKER'S Semi-Sweet Chocolate, melted
MIX 3 cups of the cookie crumbs and the cream cheese until well blended.
Shape into 42 (1-inch) balls.

DIP balls in melted chocolate; place on waxed paper-covered baking sheet. (Any leftover melted chocolate can be stored in tightly covered container at room temperature and saved for another use.) Sprinkle with remaining cookie crumbs. Refrigerate 1 hour or until firm. Store any leftover truffles in tightly covered container in refrigerator.

How to Easily Dip Truffles

To easily coat truffles with the melted chocolate, add truffles, in batches, to bowl of melted chocolate. Then use two forks to roll truffles in chocolate until evenly coated. Remove the truffles with forks and allow excess chocolate to drip back into bowl before placing truffles on prepared baking sheet.

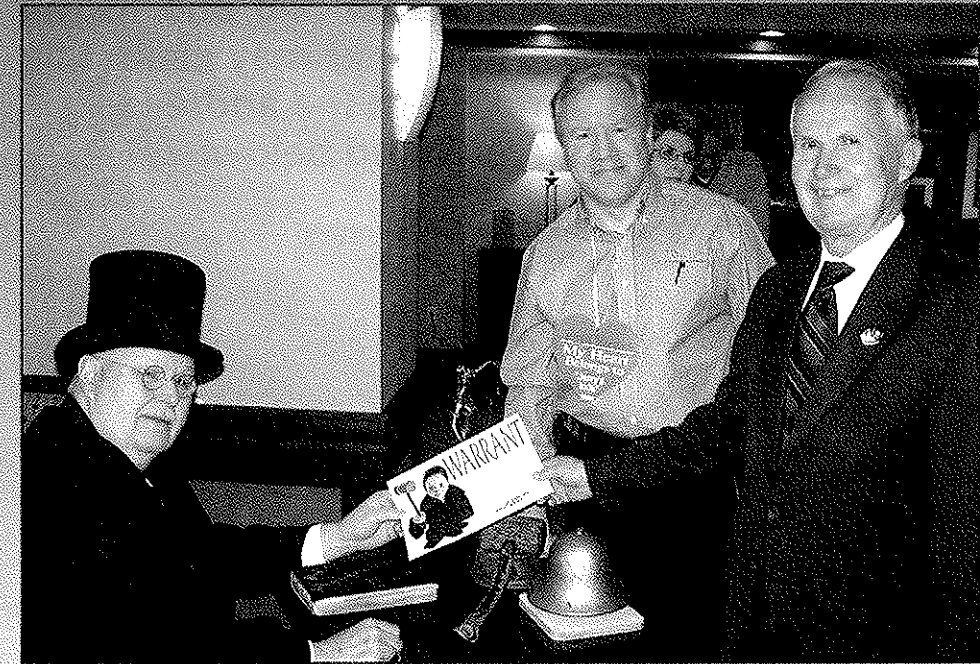
Special Extra

Sprinkle truffles with colored sugar or sprinkles in addition to or in place of the cookie crumbs. Try them in white chocolate as well!

How to Soften Cream Cheese

Place completely unwrapped package of cream cheese in microwaveable bowl. Microwave on HIGH 10 sec. or just until softened. Add 15 sec. for each additional package of cream cheese.

- Tracey, Corporate Office



Volunteer Energy Cooperative President/CEO Rody Blevins, center, was "arrested" recently in Ooltewah at the Share Your Heart Lock-up event to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. VEC board members, employees, and vendors donated \$2,820 to the cause to "bail out" Blevins.

Thunderstorm Season is Just Around the Corner



Be Prepared With a Midland WR-300 Weather Radio.

Available at Your Local VEC Customer Service Center

VEC

VOLUNTEER ENERGY COOPERATIVE
www.vec.org