

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, 423-334-7014 or 423-334-7017). **If an owner has not contacted us by April 23, 2018** the law requires us to submit this property to the Tennessee Treasury Department Unclaimed Property Division.

Albany, IN Michael Concannon, **Allardt, TN** Oscar Gernt, **Athens, TN** Kristin M Congioli, Mike Murray, Buddy D Martin , **Benton, TN** Bart A Waldroup, Sharon Ricketts, Ronald Ray Hardin, **Birchwood, TN** Amber Bradshaw, **Charleston, TN** Jeffrey B Fawcett, **Chattanooga, TN** Janis L Cottrell, Peter R Woodard, **Cleveland, TN** Alejandro Hernandez, Tiffany E Ingram, Chris Taylor Martin, Harold Hill, Jefferey Smith, Brandon Maney, Tonya D Hughes, Jenny Tart, Downs Mike, Reliance INC, Pablo Mejia, Nancy A Farbo, Teresa Stanford, Aaron Hembree, Kelsey N Kimsey, Marjorie Hamilton, Ronald Gricus, **Cookeville, TN** Gregorio Casillas, **Crossville, TN** Sean Stephens, Bryan N Borland, Sharon Rena Matheney, Teresa Whitaker, Christopher Dahlen, Velma J Neal, Kristena Rose Bohannon, Earl Carl Brady, Adam Dean Mullins, Sierra Ray, Shawn Wood, Sherman Marsh, Scott McBroom, Jason Dwayne Williams, Joe Miller, Monica Winingham, Matthew L Taylor, Tawnee Lee Cantrell, Joshua Todd Grasham, Michael Eugene Pankhurst, Michael Allen Manning, Bill Fletcher, Richard R Hall, Derrick Lee Smith, Joshua Kemmer, Kenneth Frost, Wayne Brown, Richard Arley Stevens, Brandon Brown, Curtis L Selby, SPCA INC, Hershell Radford, Jody Fredrick Simpson, Charles Frederick Allen, Deserray Maria Jones, Charles E Bell, Brenda Skylstad, Allied INC, Larry Dale Hannah, **Dayton, TN** Angel Valiente, **Decatur, TN** Nicole Mckinney, Chris Goodman. Kathy Grissom, Shirley D Littleton, Beverly Kay Price, **Delano, TN** Jacqueline E Sneed, **Evensville, TN** Robby Joe Campbell, **Georgetown, TN** Charles Alligood, Austin Clark, **Greysville, TN** Bruce Ammons, **Harrison, TN** Samuel W Smith, Jonathan M Denton, Gene Reese, Shane M Simpson, Longstomp Rums Llc, **Hartsville, TN** Ladonna M Gallagher, **Hixson, TN** Judy Nauman, **Jackson, AL** Rodrick Gamble, **Jamestown, TN** Reagan Stanley, Kenneth Robert Dalton, James Brown, Clinton Green, Anthony L Brown, William T Hall, Bryan Cooper, **Kingston, TN** Valerie Doby, David S Register, Heather Colyer, Ken Collins, **Marietta, GA** Buster Llc, **McDonald, TN** Travis Mitchell, Sandra Fay Whetmore, **Monterey, TN** Don Eugene Lane, Justin Elliott Ryan, **Mount Pleasant, SC** Kenneth Puzinas , **Ocoee, TN** Christopher Lasseter, Jeffrey Lynn Graham, Austin Stone, **Old Fort, TN** Timothy Brumm, Ozzel Phillips, Betty Sue Hall, James Lee Morgan, **Ooltewah, TN** Matthew Roenneburg, **Sale Creek, TN** Cleetus J Akers, **Sharon, SC** Wesley S Smith, **Sparta, TN** David Joe Dorton, Charles Haffner **Spring City, TN** Patsy Sue Boles, Kelly's Lube, John Daniel Leffew, Mark Pemberton, Rodney Darl Reeder, **Sweetwater, TN** Charlie E Lowry, **Ten Mile, TN** Garry T Riales, **Wentworth, GA** Delinda Szabo.

Thunderstorm Safety Tips from the American Red Cross

- When thunderstorms are rolling your way, stay safe with these helpful tips from the American Red Cross:
- ✓ Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates. Watch for signs of a storm, like darkening skies, lightning flashes or increasing wind.
 - ✓ Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely to occur. Many people struck by lightning are not in the area where rain is occurring.
 - ✓ If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or in a vehicle with the windows closed. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds.
 - ✓ If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. If thunder roars, go indoors! The National Weather Service recommends staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.
 - ✓ Avoid electrical equipment and telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead.
 - ✓ Shutter windows and close outside doors securely. Keep away from windows.
 - ✓ Do not take a bath, shower or use plumbing.
 - ✓ If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.
 - ✓ If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground; water; tall, isolated trees; and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are NOT safe.

Source: American Red Cross

YOUR POWER OUTAGE PANTRY

We do our best to avoid power outages, but unfortunately, Mother Nature occasionally has different plans. Stay ahead of the storm by stocking your pantry with a variety of non-perishable items.

Set these items aside for extended outages only, and your storm prep will be a breeze!

Don't forget to stock up on disposable goods, like paper plates, napkins, plastic cutlery and cups.

- BEANS
- CANNED FRUIT
- CANNED TUNA
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- CEREAL
- DRIED FRUITS
- DRIED MEATS/JERKY
- GRAHAM CRACKERS
- PASTA
- RICE
- SPAM
- OATMEAL



Low Temperatures and TVA Rate Increases

As we complete one of the coldest winters in recent years, I thought it would be appropriate to reflect on the cold temperatures and the effect on member's bills and the ongoing effects of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) rate changes and increases. This past January, Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) had the highest energy sales in the history of the Cooperative. We purchased 305 million kWh from TVA in January. January 2018 was significantly colder for the entire month than January 2017.

As we have discussed before, TVA is in the middle of a Financial Plan that has already increased electric rates each year for the last five years, which VEC passed through with no additional increase. TVA plans to continue to increase rates for the next two to three years. This combination of TVA rate increases and very cold temperatures in January, led to many of our members receiving the highest electric bills ever from VEC.

At VEC between 80 and 82 cents of every dollar we collect from our members goes to TVA. In the future, we are considering modifying our bill format to better reflect the cost of TVA energy. Currently, TVA's wholesale bill to VEC consists of Delivery Point Charges, Facility Rental Charges, Demand Charges and Energy Charges. TVA is considering a plan to lower the energy charge portion and add a new fixed charge component. This new fixed charge component could result in higher charges for our residential members and commercial customers. This could affect our member's ability to manage their electric usage.

As part of TVA's Financial Plan of increasing rates every year, they are accelerating paying down TVA's total long-term debt. We think paying down some of TVA's total debt is a good financial move for the Valley. Paying the debt down too fast and raising rates when it is not necessary, hurts our members and the ratepayers of the Valley. The Management of your Cooperative is very concerned about these rate increases and the financial direction that TVA is headed. If you, our members, have questions or concerns about these issues please let us know through our website and Facebook page. We will continue to advocate what is best for the membership of Volunteer Energy Cooperative.



Rody Blevins
President/CEO
Volunteer Energy Cooperative



The VECustomers Share program funded \$29,700 in community service grants in February. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$6.2 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.



VECustomers Share Board Member Barry Narramore presented a grant check to Connie Poczubut, Treasurer of the Midway High School Band Boosters. The Boosters plan to purchase new band instruments.

Organizations receiving grants in February

Highway 58 Volunteer Fire Department	\$1,750	Good Neighbors Theatre, Inc	\$700
McMinn County Rescue Squad	\$1,500	Meigs County Health Council	\$700
Allardt Volunteer Fire Department	\$1,500	Byrdstown Lions Club	\$650
Polk County Health Council	\$1,375	Pickett County Soil Conservation Club	\$650
Polk County Education Foundation	\$1,375	Meigs County HS Baseball Booster Club	\$550
Manna from Heaven Food Pantry	\$1,300	My Brother's Keeper of SE TN, Inc	\$500
Pleasant Hill Elementary School	\$1,200	Pickett County High School Softball	\$500
Unity Center	\$1,000	First Church of the Nazarene Youth Group	\$500
Foundation House Ministries	\$1,000	South Roane County Volunteer	
Rhea County Imagination Library	\$1,000	Fire Department	\$500
Ooltewah High School Band Boosters	\$1,000	CCCB (Cumberland County Community Band)	\$500
Mineral Springs Hunger Relief Agency	\$1,000	Midway High School Band Boosters	\$500
Burkes 6th Grade Science & Math Club	\$1,000	Mended Hearts, Chapter 127	\$400
Trinity UMC Community Egg Hunt	\$750	Midway Youth Development Organization	\$300
Cleveland Ballers AAU	\$750	Midway High School Baseball Boosters	\$300
Cumberland County High School Beta Club	\$750	Monterey Baseball Boosters	\$300
Spring City Chamber of Commerce	\$750	Midway Quarterback Club	\$250
ACS Relay for Life of Meigs County	\$750	Midway Youth Cheerleading	\$250
Health Occupations Students of America	\$750	Roane County Knights (Boys) Lacrosse	\$200
Alvin C. York Institute Scholars Bowl Club	\$750	Roane County Lady Knights, Lacrosse	\$200

Consider the VEC Surge Guard Program Now... Before the Spring Storm Season Arrives

Lightning can cause devastating damage to your appliances and electronics

As winter winds down and we look forward to spring, don't forget to add surge protection to your spring "to-do" list.

We often think about the need for surge protection for our homes and sensitive electronics during the rumble and flash of thunderstorms but with so many activities demanding our time these days... many of us forget to follow through and take action.

Thunder storms can create intense cloud-to-ground lightning strikes which often hit trees but can also strike utility lines as they look for an easy path to discharge electrical energy from the storm clouds to the earth.

Volunteer Energy takes extra precautions by installing surge protectors on electrical distribution lines throughout the system but - depending on where lightning chooses to strike - there can be a risk to your home.

For a monthly payment of \$5.95, VEC can provide Surge Guard protection for your large appliances. This protection can be enhanced with purchased plug-in devices. Call your local VEC office and ask to sign up for the Surge Guard program or you can go to VEC.org and download the application and mail it to the local service center. Our trained technician will install a special meter base surge protector behind your electric meter to help capture electrical surges and send them to ground *before* they can enter your home and cause damage.



Once installed, the meter base surge protector will work as a team with the Surge Guard plug-in surge protectors that you purchase to help minimize opportunities for storm-related surges to damage your appliances and sensitive electronics.

For a limited time, new Surge Guard customers will receive a free 8-outlet plug-in strip when they enroll in the program and through August 30th, \$10.00 off installation.

For more information, call your local service center or go to <https://vec.org/service-products/surge-guard/>.



Safety is CONTAGIOUS

By Julie Jones

As I write this article our area is in the midst of flu season. Several area schools are closed to sanitize and

hopefully eliminate the infection. In that context, the goal is to remove a contagious bug, but in the context of working safe, the goal is to be contagious. Last year, when I interviewed several linemen from across our service area I asked the question "Is working safe contagious?" While the responses varied some they basically were simply, "Very contagious."

"Keeping good safety habits are very contagious," Sid Larue Jamestown Lineman stated. "If you work safely those working with you see you and remember to work safely." Being a good example is important whether you are working with a longtime lineman or someone new to Volunteer Energy Cooperative. Both Dustin Winningham who has been with VEC for two years or Eddie Geren who recently retired after 25 years agreed that working safely is very contagious and spreads to everyone working around you.

"Basic safety is everyone's responsibility and needs to be the culture of your crew as they go to work," stated Aaron Hood Working Foreman Benton.

In addition to safe behavior being infectious, many of the linemen I spoke to said that not working safely can be contagious. Complacency or speed can spread unsafe behavior. "We all want to get the power back on for our customers and we have to fight against speed," stated Ty Ratcliff Superintendent of Safety and Construction.

"Addressing it (safety) every day is an absolute necessity," said Louie DeLorenzo Area Manager Jamestown.

When safety is approached with enthusiasm and passion it spreads to everyone, whether they work inside the office or in the field. It is the same attitude needed at 40 foot up in a bucket truck or on the ground replacing a pole.

Working together as a team, spreading the culture of safety to everyone, and creating an endemic of safe work habits is the goal of Volunteer Energy Cooperative.

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Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment
Effective March 1, 2018

2.357¢

For the most current FCA information, visit www.vec.org
Volunteer Energy Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.

