That is where our guys
In my role as communications and public relations coordinator,
By Julie Jones
Co-ops – Just People Being Neighbors
Mr. Culwell and his wife visited Cumberland County, and when
owned a business working as a contractor for the next 20 years,
he had Nashville Electric Service (NES) as a power provider. He
leaving the service. At that time, Culwell lived in Nashville, where
A Navy veteran, Mr. Culwell, became a contractor in 1977 after
engineer, and Brad is a lineman in our Crossville service area.
Kevin Hembree has
for him. Brad and I helped when there was a
problem with a broken service line. He’s a nice man.”
In our conversation, Mr. Culwell emphasized the availability of
Hembree and Daugherty for questions. “I have called them often, and
they both are so helpful.” He went on to say, “Kevin is sharp as a tack,
but he is also kind and considerate.” Culwell stated, “All my dealings
with Kevin and Brad have been outstanding. I am a big fan of the
cooperative model because it is everyday people being neighbors and
helping each other out.”
Kevin and Brad are a prime example of what our cooperative, VEC,
stands for - neighbors helping neighbors.

Kevin Hembree and Brad Daugherty of the Crossville service area
(continued from page 5)

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there is strong competition for the money, yet we have high hopes at least one of the two projects will be awarded.

As we move forward on the broadband buildout, please remember a few things. One, the VEC service area is vast. To execute a new business plan and to bring the service to fruition will take several years. Also, the installation of fiber optic cable is a costly and lengthy undertaking. We will work as quickly as possible, utilizing all available resources to expedite our projects, but the timing of the roll out will be limited by the scope of each individual project.

LEARN MORE ABOUT 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING.

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

1. NOTIFY Call VEC and R-1-1 two to three days before you start.
2. WAIT Wait two to three days for a response. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.
3. CONFIRM Confirm that all affected utilities have been marked by comparing the list of affected utilities with the R-1-1 call center.
4. RESPECT Respect the markers provided by the R-1-1 call center.
5. DIG CAREFULLY If you can’t avoid the affected lines, notify the R-1-1 call center as soon as possible.

Organizations receiving grants in January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Grant Amount(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Polk County High School Civics Club</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Institute Scholars Bowl Club</td>
<td>$1,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring City Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STARTS (Support The ARTS)</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Tani Security Police Department</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickett County High School Baseball</td>
<td>$1,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickett County Rescue Squad</td>
<td>$1,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midway FFA</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland County Imagination Library</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey High School Cheerleaders</td>
<td>$852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meigs Middle School Archery Club</td>
<td>$850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VHAGT - Communications Support</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rogers Creek PTO</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhea County High Men’s Soccer Team</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Honor Society of Meigs</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County High School</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midway High Clay Target Program</td>
<td>$700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone Memorial</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland Christian Counseling Center</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kids on the Rise</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rip City Basketball Club</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central High School Ruritan Club</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Less Than One Month Until U.S. Households Receive 2020 Census Invitations

Between March 12 and March 20, invitations to participate in the 2020 Census will arrive in households across the country.

“The Census Bureau is ready for the nation to respond,” said Census Bureau Director Dr. Steven Dillingham. “Millions of Americans are applying for 2020 Census jobs, more than 270,000 local and national organizations are engaged, and in less than 30 days the majority of U.S. households will receive an invitation to respond to help ensure that every person in the U.S. is counted.”

“The 2020 Census is on mission, on schedule, and on budget to promote an accurate count,” Dillingham continued. “Response is important because statistics from the census are used in distributing hundreds of billions in funding for school lunches, hospitals, roads and much more. The invitations will remind respondents to include everyone living in the household, whether they are related or not. This includes young children. Your response will impact communities for the next decade.”

This invitation will include instructions on how to respond to the 2020 Census online or by phone. By April 1, most households will have received an invitation delivered either by mail or by a census taker. In areas of the country that are less likely to respond online, a paper questionnaire will be included in the initial mailing to households. Reminder mailings will be sent to households that do not respond, and in the fourth mailing, every household that has not yet responded will receive a paper questionnaire.