Volunteer Energy Cooperative (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 Volunteer Energy Cooperative, 18359 Highway 58 N.P.O. Box 277, Decatur, TN 37322, 423-334-7018 or 423-334-7014. If an owner has not contacted us by Oct. 22, 2021, the law requires us to submit this property to the Tennessee Treasury Department Unclaimed Property Division.

Unless noted, all cities are in Tennessee:

ATHENS - Benjamin Linkous, Donna Morgan. BENTON - Evelyn Carter, James Sanders.
DEER LODGE - David Gayer.

This year you will receive your Annual Meeting Ticket in your bill. Please bring the ticket with you to save time at registration. Your ticket will look like the below sample.

Home Charging Options for Electric Vehicles

Electric vehicle (EV) owners have multiple options for charging their vehicle at home. There are three common EV charging levels: Level One, Level Two and DC Fast Charge.

Level One Charging

Level One is the most basic charging level. Your EV will typically include an adapter that plugs into a typical 120-volt outlet if you choose this option. This is the easiest and cheapest charging solution, but it will take much longer to charge your EV.

Level Two Charging

Level Two is about three to five times faster than Level One, but this charging level often requires separate purchases and installation. The EV is plugged into a 240-volt outlet used for larger appliances, like a clothes dryer. Most homes do not include a 240-volt outlet in garages, so the outlet must be installed by a licensed professional. You typically see Level Two charging stations at shopping malls, office buildings and multi-family community spaces.

Level One Charging

This is the fastest charging level, with the ability to charge an EV at 80% in under 30 minutes. DC Fast Charge stations are typically seen near high-traffic public areas, like gas stations, rather than in homes. As EVs continue to become more popular, you can expect to see more DC Fast Charge stations throughout Tennessee.

If you’re charging an EV at home, please get in touch with Volunteer Energy Cooperative. EV charging creates additional energy demand. The time of day you charge your EV can impact the grid and energy costs. By letting us know about your EV charging levels, we can help ensure your home is prepared for the additional energy consumption.

Why Stand in Line if You Don’t Have To?

This year you will receive your Annual Meeting Ticket in your bill. Please bring the ticket with you to save time at registration. Your ticket will look like the below sample.

This is your Annual Meeting Ticket!

Save time with this Pre-registered Event Ticket.

Volunteer Energy Cooperative Newsletter

Since 2008

Last year during the COVID-19 outbreak, we held our annual meeting virtually. With the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) restrictions lifted for in-person gatherings, we decided to have the 2021 meeting in person. Before your calendar fills, save the date, Saturday, Oct. 2. That’s the date for this year’s Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) Annual Meeting.

VEC’s Annual Meeting is an excellent opportunity to learn more about your cooperative and about the differences between being a member of an electric cooperative and being a customer of a different type of electric company.

Registration, free flu shots, and your choice of a pancake or a continental breakfast begin immediately after the doors open at 8 a.m. EST. Morning entertainment will precede the business meeting, which convenes at 10 a.m.

In between the entertainment, you can visit numerous displays covering VEC’s products and services, energy efficiency, and how to save money on your electric bill. There will also be plenty of door prizes, and every family will receive a gift.

There will also be face painting and safety demonstrations designed for the young and the young-at-heart.

Don’t miss out on the fun, the food, the entertainment, the prizes and giveaways, along with the chance to learn about your electric cooperative October 2 at Meigs County Middle School in Decatur.

Directions are included in this issue of Powerlines.

‘See you there.

Rody Blevins
President/CEO
Volunteer Energy Cooperative

Rody Blevins
President/CEO
Volunteer Energy Cooperative

See you there.
Understanding Power Surges and Blinks
by Abby Berry

Have you ever noticed your lights blink during a thunderstorm? Or perhaps you’ve noticed a blinking microwave clock when you arrive home. When this happens, you’ve likely experienced a brief disruption to your electric service, which could result from a power surge or blink. While the symptoms of surges and blinks can appear similar, what’s happening behind the scenes can be quite different.

**What’s a power surge?**

Power surges are brief overvoltage spikes or disturbances of a power waveform that can damage, degrade or destroy electronic equipment within your home or business. Most electronics are designed to handle small variations in voltage; however, power surges can reach amplitudes of tens of thousands of volts—this can be extremely damaging to your electronic equipment.

Surges can be caused by internal sources, like HVAC systems with variable frequency drives, or external sources, like lightning and damage to power lines and transformers. Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) encourages all members to install surge protective devices (such as surge protector power strips) to safeguard your sensitive electronics. If you’re experiencing frequent damage to power lines and transformers.

**What’s a power blink?**

Lightning strikes can cause faults (short circuits) on power lines, which can cause your power to blink. Power blinks are also brief service interruptions, but they’re typically caused by a fault (short circuit) on a power line or a protective device that’s working in reaction to the fault. Faults can occur through a variety of instances, like squirrels, birds or other small animals contacting an energized power line; tree branches touching a power line; or lightning and other similar events. In fact, when it comes to power disruptions caused by critters, squirrels reign supreme. In 2019 alone, squirrels were responsible for more than 1,200 outages.

Any of the events noted above can cause your power to blink, but you may also experience a brief interruption when protective devices that act like circuit breakers are working to detect the fault. Believe it or not, these brief power blinks caused by protective devices are actually good because that means the equipment is working as it should to prevent a prolonged outage.

Regardless of the cause, VEC crews will be on their way to inspect the damage and make necessary repairs after a power outage. And you can help too! Any time you experience repeated disruptions to your electric service, please let us know by calling your local service center or use the SmartHub app to report the disruption.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

---

**VEC Annual Meeting is Easy to Find**

GPS Address: Meigs Middle School, 564 N. Main Street, Decatur, TN 37322.

Meigs County Middle School is centrally located in the Volunteer Energy Cooperative service region in Decatur, Tennessee. Once you get to Highway 58 in Decatur, turn east on Z Street (across from Piggly Wiggly), left on Main Street, and right into the Meigs Middle School parking lot. Or you can follow the signs—there will be plenty of signs pointing you in the right direction once you arrive in the Decatur area.

To Decatur from:
- **Kingston:** Follow Highway 58, heading south into Decatur. Turn left on Z Street, left on Main Street, and right into Meigs Middle School.
- **Crossville:** Take Highway 127 South out of Crossville. Follow Highway 27/68 over Watts Bar Dam. Make a right turn onto Highway 58, go nine miles, turn left on Z Street, left on Main Street, and right into Meigs Middle School.
- **Cleveland:** Take Highway 60 to the intersection with Highway 58. Turn right onto Highway 58, and follow VEC to Decatur. Follow the signs over to Z Street, left on Main Street, and right into Meigs Middle School.
- **Athens:** Take Highway 30 to Decatur. At the intersection with Highway 58, turn right. Turn right on Z Street, left on Main Street, and right into Meigs Middle School.

---

**A Letter to Our Members**

Dear Cooperative Member:

The 86th Annual Meeting of the members of Volunteer Energy Cooperative will be held at Meigs County Middle School. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. Eastern time Saturday, October 2, 2021. The following action is to be taken: To consider officers’ reports and transact all business which may come before a regular Annual Meeting.

Sammy Norton, Secretary-Treasurer

---

**VEC Customers SHARE**

The VEC Customers Share program funded community service grants totaling $24,000 in July. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, over $7.3 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.

**Organizations receiving grants in July**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mark Twain FFA Chapter</td>
<td>Meigs County</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton County S.T.A.R.S.</td>
<td>Meigs County</td>
<td>$1,114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the Monterey Branch Library</td>
<td>Meigs County</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Cumberland County Playhouse</td>
<td>Meigs County</td>
<td>$1,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polk County High School Basketball</td>
<td>Meigs County</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way of McMinn &amp; Meigs Counties</td>
<td>Meigs County</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Christian Church/Brydstown Grief Support</td>
<td>Meigs County</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Group</td>
<td>Meigs County</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendly City Festivals</td>
<td>Meigs County</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midway Quarterback Club</td>
<td>Meigs County</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midway Youth Cheerleading Organization</td>
<td>Meigs County</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhea Health Council - RETC</td>
<td>Meigs County-Decatur Chamber of Commerce-Downtown Christmas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhea Alliance</td>
<td>Meigs County-Decatur Chamber of Commerce-Downtown Christmas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleet Reserve Association (Branch 29H)</td>
<td>Meigs County</td>
<td>$850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocoee Middle School Softball</td>
<td>Ocoee</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picket County Historical &amp; Genealogical Society</td>
<td>Meigs County</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homestead Elementary School Basketball</td>
<td>Meigs County</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booster Club</td>
<td>Meigs County High School Golf Boosters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS Christian Counseling Center of Cumberland County</td>
<td>Meigs County</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Tennessee Valley Authority**

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment Effective August 1, 2021

2.031¢

For the most current FCA information, visit www.vec.org

Volunteer Energy Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.