

TEXAS CO-OP POWER



# OFFICIAL NOTICE

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**Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative**  
**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

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**Thursday, October 12, 2017**

**Canton Civic Center • Canton, Texas**

Registration and Food • 6 p.m.

Business Meeting • 7 p.m.

Prize Drawings to Follow

Jo Ann Hanstrom, Secretary

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**Vote in this year's director elections  
and you could win one of four  
\$500 electric bill credits.**

Four bill credit winners will be chosen at random from ballots that are received by 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 10, 2017, at the offices of Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, L.L.P. in Lubbock, Texas.

**OFFICIAL BALLOT ON INSIDE COVER**

# VOTING PROCESS FOR 2017 ELECTION

This year's board election is conducted by mail-in ballot only. The cooperative's auditing firm, Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, L.L.P., will conduct the tabulation of ballots and present the final election results at the annual meeting. No ballots will be accepted the day of the annual meeting or at any TVEC office. The official 2017 Director Election Ballot is included below. A postage-paid return envelope addressed to the Cooperative's auditing firm is included inside of this magazine.

According to the cooperative's bylaws, you must be a member as of August 11, 2017 to vote. **You may cast a vote in each district regardless of which district you reside in.** To cast your vote for a listed candidate, place an "X" in the box before the candidate's name. If you wish to vote for a write-in nominee, write his or her name in the blank space provided and place an "X" in the box before the name. Write-in nominees must meet the qualifications for a director as set forth in the cooperative's bylaws.

Be sure to mark your ballot exactly as instructed. If not marked correctly, the ballot will be invalid. After marking your ballot, sign your name (member name) in the space provided, and place the ballot in the return envelope. Ballots must be received by 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 10, 2017.

If your ballot is received by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 10, 2017, you will be eligible for a drawing to receive a \$500 bill credit. Four winners will be randomly selected.

## CAST YOUR VOTE

**Your vote is important. Your vote is the determining factor in meeting a required quorum at the annual meeting. Meeting the quorum is necessary for the co-op to conduct business, including election of directors, so please take the time to check your ballot and vote.**

- 1) **Mark your ballot** by placing an "X" in the appropriate box(es).
- 2) **Remember**, you may vote for any candidate regardless of the district you reside in.
- 3) **Sign your ballot** in the space provided. Your signature is an essential part of the election validation process.
- 4) **Place your ballot** in the enclosed business-reply postage-paid envelope.
- 5) **Ballots** must be received at the offices of Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, L.L.P. in Lubbock, Texas by 5 p.m. Tuesday, October 10, 2017 to be valid.

•Candidate biographies are located on page 20•

## OFFICIAL 2017 DIRECTOR ELECTION BALLOT

To cast your vote for a listed candidate, place an "X" in the box before the candidate's name. If you wish to vote for a write-in nominee, write his or her name in the blank space provided and place an "X" in the box before the name. Write-in nominees must meet the qualifications for a director as set forth in the cooperative's bylaws.

**Ballot must be received at the offices of Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, L.L.P. in Lubbock, Texas by 5 p.m. Tuesday, October 10, 2017, to be valid.**

**District 1**  
(Choose One)

Carolyn Minor

\_\_\_\_\_ WRITE-IN

**District 4**  
(Choose One)

Jo Ann Hanstrom

\_\_\_\_\_ WRITE-IN

**District 5**  
(Choose One)

Ed Reeve

\_\_\_\_\_ WRITE-IN

Member Account Number or Address

Print Full Member Name

Member Signature Required

Ballot must be signed to be valid.

# **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

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In accordance with the bylaws of Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., the nominating committee, duly appointed by the board of directors of the cooperative, met at the cooperative's Athens Office on Tuesday, July 25, 2017.

The nominating committee consisted of Dave Bigley, Bonny Draper, Chuck Cade, Tommy Raymond, Maxie Turner, Dorene Watts, Ralph Fortner, David Cadden, Ben Childress, Jerry Kelley and Gary Douglas.

The nominating committee submitted the following names as candidates for the board of directors.

## **DISTRICT 1**

Carolyn Minor

## **DISTRICT 4**

Jo Ann Hanstrom

## **DISTRICT 5**

Ed Reeve

**CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES  
ARE LOCATED ON PAGE 20**

## **PROGRAM**

Thursday, October 12, 2017

- ▶ **Welcome**
- ▶ **Invocation**
- ▶ **Posting of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance**
- ▶ **Determination of a Required Quorum**
- ▶ **Reading of Notice of Annual Meeting**
- ▶ **Call to Order**
- ▶ **Reading of Unapproved Minutes**
- ▶ **General Manager/CEO Report**
- ▶ **Audit/Financial Report**
- ▶ **Report of Nominating Committee**
- ▶ **Election Results**
- ▶ **Unfinished Business**
- ▶ **New Business**
- ▶ **Adjournment/Drawing of Door Prizes**

## DIRECTIONS

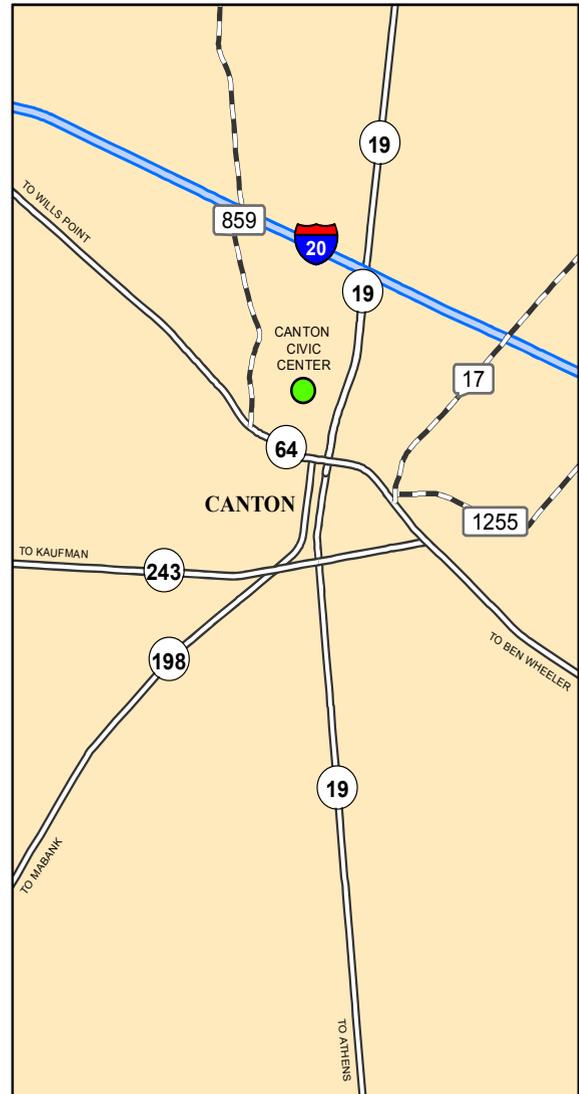
**Annual Meeting Location**  
**Canton Civic Center**  
**800 Flea Market Rd.**  
**Canton, TX**

**From Interstate 20** Take State Highway 19 South to courthouse square in downtown Canton. Turn right on Highway 64, travel approximately 0.62 miles to Flea Market Road. Turn right and proceed toward Canton Civic Center approximately 0.3 miles on right.

**From Highway 243 (from Kaufman)** continue to intersection Highway 198, turn left and continue toward downtown Canton square. Turn left on Highway 64, travel approximately 0.62 miles to Flea Market Road. Turn right and proceed toward Canton Civic Center approximately 0.3 miles on right.

**From Highway 19 South (from Athens)** continue through intersection of Highway 243 towards Highway 64. Turn left on Highway 64, travel approximately 0.62 miles to Flea Market Road. Turn right and proceed toward Canton Civic Center approximately 0.3 miles on right.

**From Highway 64 (from Ben Wheeler)** continue on Highway 64 through downtown Canton towards Flea Market Road, located approximately 0.62 miles from the square. Turn right and proceed toward Canton Civic Center approximately 0.3 miles on right.



**Vote in this year's director elections and you could win one of four \$500 electric bill credits.**

**OFFICIAL BALLOT ON INSIDE FRONT COVER**

# Your Cooperative, Your Meeting



MESSAGE FROM  
**GENERAL MANAGER/CEO JERRY BOZE**

**I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY** to personally invite you to this year's annual membership meeting, to be held October 12.

The annual meeting gives us the opportunity to personally greet and meet with a large number of Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative members and get to know each other better.

For more than 78 years, TVEC has provided electric service to our members. The principles that electric cooperatives were founded on still exist today. The board of directors, management and employees use those same principles to run the day-to-day affairs of your cooperative.

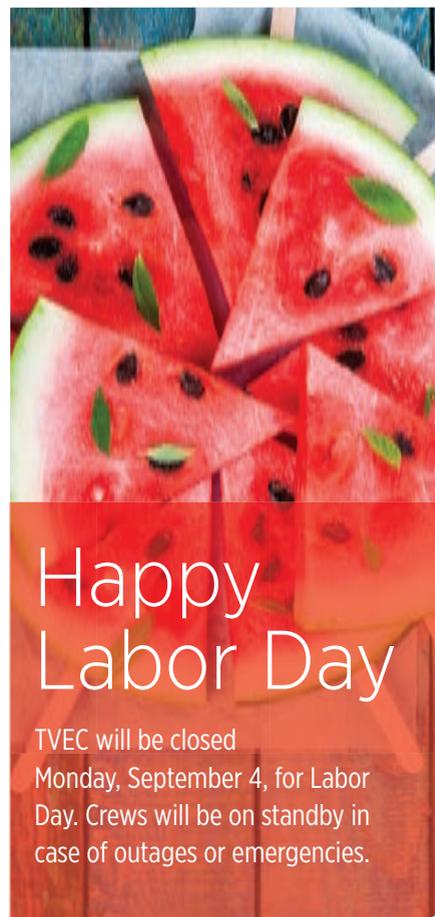
At this meeting, you will hear reports and updates regarding the operations of the cooperative, the election of directors and what can be expected in the future.

You also will have an opportunity to talk with co-op employees about the many things we are doing to improve service and benefit our community. From technological advancements to education and safety programs, you will see firsthand how TVEC works to serve our members and our community.

We want your annual meeting experience to be positive and enjoyable. There will be entertainment, and BBQ sandwiches along with other food items will be served before the meeting begins. As we have done throughout the years, we will hold drawings for prizes following the business meeting.

Annual membership meetings are held by electric cooperatives all over the country every year. Today, there are more than 900 electric cooperatives providing reliable, affordable and technologically advanced service to 42 million Americans across the country.

I hope you are able to attend this year's annual meeting.



## Happy Labor Day

TVEC will be closed  
Monday, September 4, for Labor  
Day. Crews will be on standby in  
case of outages or emergencies.

WMASTER890 | ISTOCK.COM



## Power Tip

Setting your thermostat to a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

BS011 | ISTOCK.COM

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TVEC / RENEE JOHNSON

# A Thing They Call Rodeo

*TVEC crews prove their skills at statewide event*

**In case it wasn't already obvious** that linemen tend to gravitate toward hard work in difficult conditions, they gather every year in the sweltering July heat of Central Texas to compete in the annual Texas Lineman's Rodeo.

On an island in the middle of the Guadalupe River near Seguin, a field of poles marked the scene for a variety of challenges facing the 39 journeyman lineman teams and 131 apprentice competitors from electric co-ops and municipal electric providers around the state.

TVEC's journeyman team, made up of Adam Wolking, Carlos Cruz and Zach Pollett, took 10th place overall, and apprentice Mauricio Robles ranked 12th in the hurt-man rescue event. Along with

the competitors, veteran linemen Mack Brewer and Jay Cook participated as event judges.

"I'm really proud of these guys representing the company and doing this," said Wolking, who coordinated the TVEC entry this year. "We put in a lot of time for the three weeks leading up to it, with time before and after work, and everyone did really well."

The competition only lasts a day, but the time spent preparing may have the most benefit for the rodeo competitors.

"That helps you get ready for the summer," Cruz said. "It is already hot when you start practicing, so you get conditioned. It helps you see what you can push through—mind over matter—when you push yourself and you can find the willpower to keep going when you get tired."

Although most of what happens at the lineman rodeo is directly related to work skills, the barbecue cook-off may be just as competitive. Lance Robison and Joe Olivares repre-

sented TVEC with their smoker skills, bringing home second place with their chicken.

After five years of competing, Wolking said the recognition among peers and pride for a job well done makes the work worthwhile.

"When you get a name for yourself, there is definitely some pride in it—I want people to say 'Hey, Trinity Valley has some good linemen,'" he said. "I hope the members are proud, too, that we have good people working for them, and we really want to go out and prove that."



TVEC / RENEE JOHNSON

**Zach Pollett rings the bell during the pole speed climb event.**



TVEC / DON JOHNSON

**Mauricio Robles competes in the apprentice lineman category at the 2017 Texas Lineman's Rodeo. 30027775012**



TVEC / DON JOHNSON

**Lance Robison took second place in the smoked chicken category of the barbecue cook-off.**

# Candidates for Board Election



## DISTRICT 1 • INCUMBENT

CAROLYN MINOR

Carolyn Minor is a resident of Wills Point and has been a Co-op member for more than 35 years. A retired postal worker, Minor volunteers for the American Cancer Society, visits the nursing home and serves on her church board of stewardship. For 28 years she has also been a member of Extension Education and a local crime watch leader.

Minor has earned the highest director certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. “I consider it a privilege to serve as a TVEC board member with the knowledge that I have obtained over the last 21 years” Minor said.

Minor is a widowed mother of five children, 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



## DISTRICT 4 • INCUMBENT

JO ANN HANSTROM

Jo Ann Hanstrom has lived in Tool for more than 25 years since moving to the area from Dallas. She is married, with two sons and two grandchildren.

She was born, raised in Odem, Texas and attended Corpus Christi Business School. She is an avid photographer with some published work.

Hanstrom has been president of the Cedar Creek Lake Area Chamber of Commerce since 2001, with a year of volunteer service before that.

Prior to 2001, Hanstrom worked in various industries including oil & gas, automotive, and as the Director of Visitor Development for the Irving, Texas CVB.

Hanstrom was elected to the TVEC Board of Directors in 2008 and is serving her third term, currently as secretary of the board. She serves on the board’s Audit Committee and as chair of the Governance Committee. She has earned the highest level (Gold) cooperative board of director credentials.

Hanstrom has also served on boards including the Mabank ISD Education Foundation, the Cain Center and the Central East Texas BBB.

Hanstrom and her husband, Bill, were honored with the Jean Nichols Lifetime Service Award for involvement and volunteerism in the Cedar Creek Lake community.



## DISTRICT 5 • INCUMBENT

ED REEVE

Ed Reeve has been a cooperative member for over 25 years and on the Board of Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative since 2010. He has resided in the Eustace area for most of his life. He is a past city council member and mayor pro-tem. He has been the finance chair for the First Baptist Church, a volunteer fireman, president of Lighting Engineers of North Texas, has served on the Henderson County park board and is a past Boy Scout Master. He is currently the vice chairman of the board of Lone Star Credit Union. He has also held several positions in the electric and gas service industry in his 30-year career with TXU. Reeve has two sons and four grandchildren.

Ed has completed the highest education level available in the cooperative education program in the National Rural Electric Cooperative system. He also has a Bachelor and Master’s degree from the University of North Texas.

“I believe my 30-year work experience with TXU Energy and many years of experience on other co-op boards will continue to bring value to TVEC,” said Reeve.

# Get Ready!

*National Preparedness Month offers reminder to plan ahead*

**SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH, REMINDING** us all to prepare for disasters, whether they're weather-related (storms, tornadoes, hurricanes, or floods) or human-created (acts of terrorism, wildfires or collisions).

All require planning and action to withstand them safely.

There are several steps you can take now to better prepare for any disaster.

## Document and Insure Property

Having insurance for your home or business property is the best way to ensure that you can repair, rebuild or replace whatever is damaged.

Make sure you understand your coverage. Coverages to consider include the dwelling and personal property; loss-of-use compensation for temporary relocation; personal liability; and medical protection for anyone injured on your property.

A detailed inventory of belongings can speed claim processing. Take photos and write down descriptions, including years, makes and model numbers.

## Create and Test Communication Plans

Your family might not be all together if a disaster strikes, so take steps to form an emergency communication plan:

1. Equip household members to receive emergency alerts. Check with local emergency management or learn more by visiting [ready.gov/alerts](http://ready.gov/alerts).
2. Choose a safe and familiar (and, if necessary, accessible and/or animal-friendly) emergency meeting place, where your family can go for protection or to reunite.
3. Create a paper copy of contact information that includes names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses, and names and addresses of family members, medical facilities, doctors, service providers, schools and workplaces. Make sure everyone carries a copy, and post a copy in your home.
4. Have regular household meetings to review plans and travel routes—and then practice, just like a fire drill.

## Access Alerts and Warnings

Local police and fire departments, emergency managers, national agencies and private industry work together to provide alerts through several technologies. Most disaster-related apps can be downloaded to mobile devices for free.

### Choose any of these apps or services:

**The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System** provides nationwide notifications for presidential, Amber Alerts and imminent threats.

**NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards** notifies the public about weather events, technological incidents such as chemical



IMAGEPHOTOPRO | ISTOCK.COM

spills, Amber Alerts and national emergencies.

**The Federal Emergency Management Agency** app offers emergency updates, methods for staying safe from 20 types of hazards and directions to open shelters.

**The American Red Cross** app combines 35 types of weather and emergency alerts, and lets you check to see if loved ones are safe.

## Safeguard Documents

Keep vital information in a secure, convenient location.

Include your insurance company's contact info with your policy numbers and claim filing instructions. Store paper copies in a waterproof and fireproof box or safe. Secure electronic copies with strong passwords and save them on a flash or external hard drive in another, similar container. Leave copies with trusted relatives or friends.

## Assemble or Update Supplies

Assemble a disaster supplies kit well in advance. Collect enough food and water to last at least 72 hours, and include communications, hygiene and first-aid supplies. Basic services such as electricity, gas, water and telephones may be cut off for days or even longer. Your supplies kit should contain items to help you manage during these outages. Visit [ready.gov/kit](http://ready.gov/kit) to see a list of emergency kit supplies.

# Phantom Power Costs on the Rise

**IF YOU THINK YOU'VE DONE EVERYTHING TO MAKE YOUR HOUSE MORE** energy efficient, think again: "Phantom" power is eating our collective lunch.

The Natural Resources Defense Council recently found in a study that 23 percent of the electricity used in 70,000 American households was from phantom power—appliances and equipment drawing power even when they're not being used.

Think about that for a moment: Nearly one quarter of the power used by a household is for turned-off stuff that serves no purpose. That translates to about \$19 billion worth of electricity, equal to the output of 50 large power plants.

An on-site analysis of 10 houses in the study found that each house had an average of 65 devices in standby mode or sleep mode, ready to power up quickly (like game consoles); or left fully on but inactive (like computers).



CECILIE\_ARCURI | ISTOCK.COM

## TOP ANNUAL CONSUMERS OF PHANTOM POWER

1. Water recirculation pump, \$93
2. Desktop computer, \$49
3. TV, \$38
4. Cable set-top box, \$30
5. Audio receiver/stereo, \$22
6. Printer, \$11
7. Furnace, \$8
8. Coffee maker, \$6

Another factor is that our appliances and equipment have gone digital. Washers, dryers and fridges now have displays, electronic controls and internet connectivity.

The traditional large electricity users (heating and cooling, lighting and refrigeration) accounted for just 15 percent of always-on consumption. Consumer electronics accounted for 51 percent, and other miscellaneous items (aquarium pumps, and protected outlets in bathrooms and kitchens) made up the remaining 34 percent.



TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Operating in Anderson, Dallas, Henderson, Hunt, Kaufman and Van Zandt counties

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Howard Tillison, Chairman, District 6
- Carolyn Minor, Vice Chairwoman, District 1
- Jo Ann Hanstrom, Secretary, District 4
- Jerry Priest, District 2
- Paul Weatherford, District 3
- Edward Reeve, District 5
- David Lang, District 7

### GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Jerry B. Boze

### Kaufman District Headquarters

1800 E. Highway 243, Kaufman

### Athens District Office

909 W. Larkin St., Athens

### Cedar Creek District Office

1012 W. Main St., Ste. 102  
Gun Barrel City

### Wills Point District Office

582 N. Fourth St., Wills Point

### Lobby Hours

Monday-Friday-8:15 a.m.-4:45 p.m.



## Contact Us

For information during office hours and outages after hours

### CALL US

(972) 932-2214 local or  
1-800-766-9576 toll-free

### 24-HOUR AUTOMATED ASSISTANCE

1-800-720-3584

### 24-HOUR OUTAGE REPORTING

1-800-967-9324

FIND US ON THE WEB AT  
tvec.net

## Texas Division of Emergency Management

### Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines Preparing for Hurricane Season: June 1- Nov. 30



Residents of Texas Gulf Coast **EVACUATION ZONES** should **BEGIN NOW** by making an evacuation plan, preparing an emergency kit and learning evacuation routes well in advance.

**If you have a disability or medical needs, register in the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) online at <https://STEAR.dps.texas.gov> or by dialing 2-1-1.** Gulf coast residents with additional needs (including those who are disabled or medically fragile) who live in evacuation zones and do not have friends or family to help in an evacuation should register in advance online at <https://STEAR.dps.texas.gov> or by dialing 2-1-1. Registration should be completed in advance of an emergency event. DO NOT WAIT, REGISTER NOW! Information collected is confidential.

**If you need transportation, register in the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) online at <https://STEAR.dps.texas.gov> or by dialing 2-1-1.** If you do not have a car or other vehicle, and you cannot get a ride with friends, neighbors or family, register **IN ADVANCE** for assisted transportation by dialing 2-1-1.

**Evacuation zone information:** If you are interested in registering and you want to find out whether you are living in an evacuation zone, dial 2-1-1 for information.

### Hurricane Preparedness tips online:

Texas Division of Emergency Management Website: [www.dps.texas.gov/dem](http://www.dps.texas.gov/dem)

FEMA Website: [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov)

American Red Cross Website: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)



# For The Texas Ramp Project, Accessibility Starts at Home

Since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, public spaces have become much more welcoming to people with mobility challenges. Of course, that is only helpful for those who can get out of their homes.

For thousands of Texans, the freedom to get out of the house has been made possible by the Texas Ramp Project.

Using volunteer labor and donated funds, like the \$4,000 grant from the TVEC Charitable Foundation through Operation Round Up, the Texas Ramp Project has built more than 13,000 ramps across the state.



TVEC's Laura Melton presents a grant check to John Laine with the Texas Ramp Project on a recently completed ramp in Kaufman County.

**The Texas Ramp Project**  
**\$4,000**

The Texas Ramp Project operates based on referrals from health care providers, including doctors and home health agencies.

For more information about the project, how to volunteer or information about getting a ramp, visit [texasramps.org](http://texasramps.org).

“Our vision statement is that no resident of Texas should lack safe access for financial reasons,” said John Laine, who accepted the donation on behalf of the Texas Ramp Project. “We will get around 5,000 requests for ramps this year, and we will build 2,000.”

While the benefit to individual ramp recipients is clear, Laine pointed out that everyone benefits when people have the ability to stay in their own homes and out of medical care facilities.

“The people we serve generally have both financial and health issues,” he said. “If someone cannot get out to access the health care they need, they may be forced into nursing home care. We can help them continue living safely at home, close to neighbors, family and friends, and potentially saving taxpayers the cost of a nursing home. It is worlds better, and if they want to get out to go to church or to the store, that is now possible for them.”

**THE TVEC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION** recently awarded four grants totaling \$12,500. Recipients of the grants include the above and:

**Gun Barrel City Toys for Tots**  
**\$2,500**

GBC Toys for Tots provides toys, clothing and related items to underprivileged children in the Cedar Creek Lake Area at Christmas

**Henderson County Young Life**  
**\$3,000**

Young Life is a nonprofit providing role models, safe activities and a sense of significance to middle school, high school and college students.

**Henderson County Humane Society**  
**\$3,000**

HCHS works to promote spay/neuter services to combat the problem of stray animals in Henderson County.

## Win \$25 Just for Reading

Somewhere, hidden on Pages 18–23, is a TVEC account number. Read closely. If the account number is yours, contact the Member Services Department by September 29 to receive a \$25 credit on your electric bill. Don't miss out—you could be a winner.

Founded in 2013, the TVEC Charitable Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization. The foundation was created to serve the community and help improve the quality of life for residents in our service area. **The foundation is funded entirely by donations from TVEC members who participate in Operation Round Up.** For more information, please call 1-800-766-9576 or visit [tvec.net](http://tvec.net).