S since 1992, Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC) has awarded scholarships to deserving high school seniors in the region that it serves. These students have earned the scholarships with excellence in the classroom, extracurricular activities and contributions to the community. In the years since the scholarship has been awarded, the Cooperative has given back more than $100,000 to the community. During the spring of 2017, SVEC will award ten $1,000 scholarships to students whose parents or guardians are members-owners of SVEC.

Furthereing one’s education is the best investment for success in the future. The obstacles facing most students today are the rising costs associated with a college education. The goal of SVEC’s scholarship program is to make a student’s dream of higher education become a reality. The only requirements for a student to apply for the scholarship are that his or her parents, or guardians, must be member-owners of Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative and the student must attend a high school located in the areas served by the Cooperative.

Students will be judged for the scholarship based on a number of criteria. The three most important criteria will be the quality of the essay provided by the student, participation in school/community activities, and the quality of their high school course load. Other information used to judge the applicants will be letters of reference and grade-point average. It is important to note that the first step in the judging process is a blind review of the essays. The judges have no information (including name, high school or gender) regarding who wrote the essays at this point. Based on the essays, the judges will narrow the applicant pool before reviewing all other information submitted with the application.

The eligibility requirements and judging criteria are outlined in the application forms that are available at any SVEC office or the students’ school guidance department. All applications and essays must be delivered personally to SVEC by 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 24, 2017, or postmarked no later than Feb. 24, 2017.

If you have any questions concerning this scholarship opportunity, please check the website at www.svec.coop or contact Cammie Tutwiler or Preston Knight at Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative.
SVEC to Hold Food Drive

Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC) is pleased to announce that it is holding a food drive for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank beginning Feb. 1. All of its district offices and headquarters in Mount Crawford will have barrels inside the front door for SVEC member-owners to drop off food. All locations are open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The food drive will last until March 10.

The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank serves an average of 118,600 people each month in 25 counties and nine cities. All jurisdictions that SVEC serves are also served by the food bank, which is based in Verona. Food from SVEC's drive will be donated to the food bank's Winchester- and Verona-area branches. We appreciate your help in feeding the hungry during this winter season. For more information on the food bank, visit www.brafb.org. For more information about the food drive, you can contact Cammie Tutwiler at SVEC by calling 1-800-234-7832.

ITEMS NEEDED — PLEASE DO NOT DONATE GLASS ITEMS

Cereal  
Peanut or Almond Butter  
Canned Tuna and Chicken  
Canned Soups, Stews and Chili
Canned Fruit  
Canned Veggies  
Beans, Canned or Dried  

Boxed Mac & Cheese  
Pasta and Rice  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Paper Products  
Baby Food, Formula and Diapers  
Soap, Toothbrushes and Feminine Products

Cool Off Your Winter Energy Bill With These Tips

You budgeted for holiday gifts, meals, maybe a vacation — and with money tight, that doesn’t leave much room for home energy-efficiency upgrades. Does that mean you’re powerless to lower your electric bill? Not at all. Keep your energy bill cool this winter with these tips and tricks:

**Drape delivery:** Are you using your curtains to capture heat? Make sure drapes and shades are open to catch free solar heat during the day. Close them at night to keep the heat inside.

**Thermostat:** Set your thermostat to 68° F (or lower if comfortable).

**Got tape?** Though not as durable as foam, rubber or vinyl, you can use non-porous tape (first-aid cloth tape, for example) to keep cold air from squeezing into your home. Tape is good for blocking corners and irregular cracks, and can be used at the top and bottom of a window sash, door frames, attic hatches and inoperable windows. Reinforce with staples if needed.

**Fan it up:** Run ceiling paddle fans on low and reverse the rotation to blow air up in winter. This keeps warm air circulating without cooling you.

**Free vents:** Your HVAC system will have to work twice as hard if your air registers and vents are blocked by rugs, furniture or drapes. Keep them clear to allow air to flow freely.

**Garage drain:** Leave your garage door down. A warmer garage in winter will save energy.

**Rug relief:** Have a spare rug? Use it to cover bare floors for added insulation.

**Cool food:** Don’t make your fridge work too hard. Clean coils every year, and set the temperature between 34°-37° F; leave the freezer between 0°-5° F. Keep the freezer full — frozen food helps your freezer stay cool. When cooking keep lids on pots, and let hot food cool before placing it in the refrigerator.

**Hot savings:** Heating water accounts for 12 percent of your home’s energy use. Set your water-heater temperature no higher than 120° F. For households with only one or two members, 115° F works.

There are other ways to conserve energy, too. Remember, you don’t pay for what you don’t use. When you’re not watching TV or using lights, computers and other electronics, turn them off. Lower your room temperatures a bit and wear a sweater to stay warm, or place an extra blanket on the bed at night.

Sources: TogetherWeSave.com, Alliance to Save Energy, EnergySavers.gov
SVEC Linemen Assist with Hurricane Restoration

On Oct. 8, Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative sent 12 linemen to South Carolina to assist Edisto Electric Cooperative with restoration efforts following Hurricane Matthew. Thank you to everyone who kept these men, and workers from many other cooperatives, in your thoughts and prayers. This was another example of the Sixth Cooperative Principle of “Cooperation Among Cooperatives,” proving that by working together, we can all better serve our communities.

Aerial Cutting Schedule for 2017

Aerial cutting for 2017 will begin on or about Jan. 3 and last until March 26 in the areas listed at right. Member-owners who will be affected by this work can expect to receive written notification, as well as a phone call, from Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative before cutting begins in their area.

**SVEC Major Outages**

**Sept. 1** Spring Hill area  
1,000 members out for 1.5 hours. Device on sensitive setting to protect workers.

**Sept. 29** Greenwood area  
900 members out for 1 hour. Tree off right-of-way fell on power line.

**Sept. 29** Columbia Furnace area  
500 members out for 5 hours. Unknown cause of outage.

**Sept. 29** Trimbles Mill and Jennings Gap areas  
1,400 members out for 1.5 hours. Tree off right-of-way fell on power line.

**Shenandoah County (beginning Jan. 3):**
- Zepp, Cedar Creek, Star Tannery, Van Buren Furnace, Paddy’s Run, Paddy’s Cove
- Mill Creek, Sundance, Supinlick Ridge

**Rockingham County (beginning Jan. 22 and again March 5):**
- Fulks Run, Genoa, Turner Hams
- Chimney Rock, Coote’s Store, Trissels Church, Bennie’s Beach

**Augusta County (beginning Feb. 5):**
- Deerfield

**Page County (beginning Feb. 19):**
- Luray, Fort Valley Road, Sandy Hook
- Page Valley Road, South Page Valley Road

**Augusta County (beginning March 19):**
- Crimora, Dooms, Harrison
Change in the Virginia Sales & Use Surcharge

Since September 2004, Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC) has been paying Virginia sales tax on items such as utility poles, transformers, wire, conductors and other materials used to provide electric service that were previously exempt from such tax. This change was a result of legislative action by the Virginia General Assembly.

Along with the change requiring the Cooperative to pay taxes previously not paid, the Virginia legislature provided that the incremental additional taxes could be recovered on a dollar-for-dollar basis through a revenue-surcharge rider on SVEC members’ bills. The rider is the “Sales and Use Surcharge” on the bills rendered for electric service.

After reviewing the taxes paid and recoveries made under the existing surcharge, along with projected future sales taxes, the change in the recovery factor per month per account, effective for bills rendered on and after Jan. 4, 2017, will be a $0.26 charge until further notice.

Understanding Demand and Consumption

The difference between demand and consumption is vital to your choices in reducing your energy costs. A simple way to see the difference between demand and consumption is by considering two examples.

One 100-watt light bulb burning for 10 hours consumes 1,000 watt-hours or 1 kWh. The entire time it is on, it requires or “demands” 100 watts or 0.1 kW from the utility. That means the utility must have that 0.1 kW ready whenever the customer turns the lamp on.

Similarly, ten 100-watt light bulbs burning for 1 hour consume 1,000 watt-hours or 1 kWh. Note that in both examples, the consumption is 1 kWh, however, look how differently the second situation impacts the utility from a demand perspective. The serving utility must now be prepared to provide ten times as much capacity in response to the “demand” of the 10 light bulbs operating all at once.

If both of these customers are billed for their consumption only, both will get the same bill for 1 kWh of energy. And that is the way most residential customers are billed. But the requirement for the utility to meet this energy requirement is very different. In the second case, the utility has to have 10 times more generating capacity to provide the second customer’s brief high demand for power compared to the first case.
Jim Gates is accustomed to fielding random phone calls from people pitching a donation for inclusion at his museum and then gently letting them down because, oftentimes, the material is already on hand.

“But we do want to speak with them because you never know what the next call might bring,” said Gates, library director at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York. “The Stanley notebooks are a prime example of this.”

The documents he references contain box scores and statistics from childhood baseball games among 40 Page County kids, including one girl, in the mid-1950s. They’re just a bunch of numbers, except they are not.

The materials tell a story, not only of local significance, but also of national meaning. When Gates heard from Donnie Wilson, a Waynesboro resident who grew up and played ball in Stanley and had come to possess the notebooks, there was immediate interest in helping share that tale.

“The story of sandlot baseball is well known to anyone who grew up in America during the 20th century. It is a type of baseball that everyone played. However, outside of snapshots of kids playing ball, there is very little documentation of this part of baseball history,” Gates said. “The Stanley notebooks were maintained by boys playing sandlot ball, and it helps to fill a gap in the cultural fabric of baseball history. I am not aware of any similar item in our archive.”

Wilson and about 60 others — a combination of fellow sandlot players and general supporters from the Stanley community — traveled to Cooperstown this summer to hand over the notebooks in a ceremony that featured a speech from the mayor of the New York village. The Hall of Fame seldom gets to meet artifact donors, making that event rare in itself, even without considering the large number of people who made the trip, Gates said.

After being moved ahead of people in line to visit the Hall of Fame, the Stanley contingent was ushered into a theater, greeted by “Stanley Sandlot Baseball Group” on a big screen.

“Talk about cold chills,” Wilson said.

‘Fate Intervened’

Stanley resident J.C. Painter, 76, created the notebooks, which capture results between two teams, the Piney Wood Tigers and Shady Grove Dodgers, from 1955 to 1956. There’s an area of Page County known as Piney Wood, while the origins of the Shady Grove name is unknown.

Painter said the teams played in 1953-’54 and always argued who was better. The following year, he decided to write everything down so there could be no debate. The results were not only wins and losses, but individual hitting and pitching statistics, compiled without the assistance of a calculator.

The records even include roster transactions for a given day as the two teams often traded players, perhaps because one needed an additional person in the field.

“It’s amazing what that man kept,” Wilson said. “I don’t know why he kept them. I think he actually forgot he had them.”
Wilson recognized Painter, whose wife’s class was celebrating reunion in 2014, Jim Painter ran into him mentioning the records his cousin had given him and Wilson expressing interest. He later obtained copies.

“[The] more I looked at them, the more I got intrigued,” said Wilson, who moved to Waynesboro in 1972. “It may be a good story.”

He organized a mini-reunion of five players at the Hawskhill Diner and the group, especially Wilson, began to wonder what might come of the records once the men were gone. He proposed donating them to a library or local museum, and the Hall of Fame was jokingly raised as an option.

Figuring he had nothing to lose, Wilson called Cooperstown and then copied about 10 pages and mailed them to Gates. A week later, he received a return letter.

“I didn’t know if I wanted to open it or not,” Wilson said. “I read it. I could hardly get through it.”

The Hall of Fame wanted the records, the letter stated, and Wilson was to wrap them neatly and mail them. He had other plans.

As word of his effort to organize a trip to hand-deliver the books to Cooperstown spread across the Stanley community, a bus had to be chartered to carry everyone. They dropped off the records to the Hall of Fame and had their ceremony on July 12.

“I give credit to everybody who played. It just happened to be me who kept the records,” J.C. Painter said. “It makes you feel good. They don’t have anything like it and I’m sure at this point they never will. I think that’s pretty impressive.”

More to Come

Wilson is hopeful that the Stanley group’s story can be turned into a book, or even a movie. Regardless, the former players are using their newfound fame to improve the community, organizing fundraisers for youth sports teams, the Stanley Volunteer Fire Department and more. They have a board of directors and are working to establish a nonprofit organization with bylaws.

“There’s a lot of other things we want to do, but it takes time,” Wilson said. About 20 players remain active in the group, while 29 out of the 40 overall are still living, he said. In advance of this summer’s trip to Cooperstown, Wilson tracked down all of the former players, learning that some live as far away as Washington state and Texas, and that two go to the same church in Kilmarnock, Virginia. The 40 former players are considered by the Hall of Fame as donors of the records.

“Our names are in the records,” Wilson said, “so we feel like we’re in the Hall of Fame.”

Unfortunately, the notebooks are too fragile to be placed in an exhibit case for too long, Gates said. However, they will be available through the Hall’s normal library-service operation, he said, and are also a target for the collection to be scanned and added to its digital library. That would make them available to anyone who visits the museum’s website, www.baseballhall.org.

For Jim Painter, that means the world might get to see that he batted .269, which is not a bad average if facing major-league pitching.

“In this league,” he recalls, “it was probably right bad.”

For J.C. Painter, it means other sandlot players from around the country can reminisce about their own playing days with homemade bats, tractors or vehicles as backstops, and no shoes. “The Sandlot Kid,” a statue near the Hall of Fame, shows a kid playing barefoot. Painter said the players’ feet were so tough, they felt like steel on the bottom.

“Back then, that was all we had. Play ball and ride bicycles,” he said.

And, for Wilson, the preservation and public availability of the records can take on a larger meaning of dreams and simply enjoying the innocence of childhood.

“You just don’t know what could come down the road,” Wilson said. “Nobody, of the 40 of us, would have ever dreamed that this would be happening to them. We still can’t get over it. ... [KIds should] get out and be more active. There’s a lot to do as a kid, and those days will never come back to you again.”
Habitat for Humanity home is all about community. Community involvement. Community construction. Plus positive community impact — and not just the kind you’d expect. Building a Habitat for Humanity home starts with the banging of a hammer, and continues with the opening of the front door. Community crews comprised of volunteers, including a family who might be moving into the home and building “sweat equity,” put in the hours needed to successfully complete the structure.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity Winchester-Frederick-Clarke (HFHWFC) is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization focused on building and rehabilitating homes, communities and hope. Habitat brings an international brand and an international reputation that work well within the community.

“As a nonprofit housing agency, HFHWFC is grateful that businesses, civic organizations, churches and individuals understand the value of, and need for, affordable housing,” Matthew T. Peterson, executive director for the HFHWFC, said in an email interview. “This is the reason for HFHWFC’s continued growth over the last 20 years. Since 1997, HFHWFC transformed the lives of 62 hardworking family homeowners in our service area.”

He also said it is important that the community understands the Habitat model.

“I think most people have heard of Habitat, but may not necessarily know how we operate,” Peterson said. “This is a capacity-building, self-empowerment program. We do not give away houses. We build Habitat houses with our partner families, not for them, or, in the case of Clarke County, we focus on providing Critical Home Repair for residents in need.”

He said that despite building one house in Clarke County a few years ago, Clarke County was only officially added to Habitat’s general service area in mid-2016.

“Because of this, the affiliate is not building homes in Clarke currently, instead focusing specifically on providing urgent and major home repairs for residents of Clarke County,” Peterson said.

Habitat recently completed a drywall repair of a home in Millwood for an elderly female homeowner. To qualify for a home-repair project, the project must follow the general Habitat for Humanity International tenets including need and income guidelines, being a resident of Clarke County, and a willingness to pay and partner with HFHWFC as defined by Habitat’s policy. To find out more about the Critical Home Repair program offered in Clarke County, call the HFHWFC office to request information.

Home construction serves as the organization’s most visible activity. Families, to get an application, must first prequalify. To prequalify, they must: live in Winchester or Frederick County for one year; have no liens or judgements; and have a gross income between 30-60 percent of the area median income based on family size. When property is attained in Clarke, Peterson said, the organization will launch the same home-construction program for Clarke residents.

“Once the application is received, the family services committee reviews the similar items that would be reviewed in a traditional loan (e.g., income, debt, debt-to-income ratio),” Julia Fielding, program director at Winchester-Frederick-Clarke Habitat for Humanity, said in an email. “Though Habitat is a bit more lenient in requirements, we are more thorough. That is, we will review items like expenses. Overall, we want to ensure that the family is successful.”

Peterson added that not only do the families invest hundreds of hours of volunteer “sweat equity” into the building of their own homes, but they purchase the homes and are required to take hours of finance and budgeting.
coursework, in addition to basic home-maintenance classes.

“We provide — out of our office — a long-term, fixed mortgage at zero interest,” he said. “That is the main difference between a Habitat loan and a standard loan. We take ‘interest’ out of the PITI (principal, interest, taxes and insurance) to help ensure affordability; but otherwise, our Habitat families pay 25- to 30-year loans like any other homeowner.”

Fielding described “sweat equity” as volunteer hours.

“Typically, future homeowners work on their home or another Habitat home,” she said. “For a variety of reasons, the family may do their hours at the ReStore. The calculation of hours depends on the number and ages of the family members.”

**Volunteer Power**

Habitat for Humanity is volunteer powered, said Kimberley Wilt, development and marketing director for the organization in Winchester-Frederick-Clarke, in an email interview. She added that whether the volunteer is on the build site or in the ReStore, Habitat will provide water and all of the tools needed to get the job done.

“If you want to enhance your skills, meet new people, and contribute to your community, Habitat offers a variety of opportunities to suit your interests and availability,” she said.

Wilt noted that while typical activities are often construction based, there are other ongoing activities that someone may be able to accomplish with their particular skill set. Currently, she said they have a core group of eight volunteers who work on the builds on a regular basis.

“Habitat for Humanity welcomes youth and family volunteers,” she said. “Although safety and liability concerns limit the construction-related participation of children under the age of 16, there are many ways that entire families can play a role in making Habitat dreams come true.”

Fielding said last year, Habitat had 368 volunteers who netted 6,598 hours, and the ReStore had 40 volunteers with 2,363 hours.

There are several different ways that people can become involved in Habitat for Humanity, including: construction — for a one-time project, volunteering occasionally, fulfilling community service requirements, or wanting to learn a new skill (volunteers of all skill levels welcomed); groups — working with a team or organization to build and construct a house together, or other projects; non-construction — other ways to volunteer with Habitat, including committees, boards, participating in one-time event needs, or offering office and administration work; and the ReStore (see below).

**Community Impact**

Information provided by HFHWFC says that in a June 2016 economic-impact study conducted in collaboration with Shenandoah University, HFHWFC injected almost $6 million into the economy through direct spending associated with construction projects during 2006-2013. The impact study also signaled an increase in property values in HFHWFC neighborhoods, along with sizeable increases in property tax revenue to the city. The ReStore has generated $4.3 million in gross sales over 10 years, which also provides significant sales tax revenue to the city.

Currently, HFHWFC has the infrastructure to build three homes per year, complete numerous neighborhood-revitalization projects, partner with other nonprofits for expanded research, and run a successful ReStore home-improvement thrift store.

“We have an energetic staff, and we know how to get things done well,” Peterson said. “We are building homes and hope with our community using a program model that is not a ‘giveaway,’ but rather a model that rewards hard work, dedication and partnership. This way pays forward success and helps to build local capacity and growth.”

Through the ReStore, Wilt said they have developed a self-sustaining model for overhead expenses and administrative costs, but the organization needs continued funding to build the homes.

“We still rely heavily on our generous donors and supporters to help us continue to build,” she said.

Habitat for Humanity Winchester-Frederick-Clarke does not seek one-sided partnerships. It works to find “intersections of interest” that allow collaborative work to succeed for all organizations.

“Decent shelter is something families need to thrive, and with a strong roof over their heads and a solid foundation under their feet, these individual families come together to build strong, stable communities,” Wilt said. “Every decent, affordable and accessible home is a building block, every neighborhood improvement plays an integral role in the creation of sustainable communities.”

She added that by helping build the capacity through donations, HFHWFC will continue to grow and measure its community impact.

“At the end of a family’s journey ... they learn how their house fundamentally works, and they are now ready to take on homeownership and all of the benefits that provides,” Peterson said. “Thus, at the end of the day, our work at Habitat is more than the actual product you physically see, it is a transformational program that positively impacts generations.”

To become involved with HFHWFC, contact Program Director Julia Fielding at (540) 662-7066.

To donate, please visit www.habitatwfc.org or contact Development Director Kimberley Wilt at (540) 662-7066.

---

**The ReStore**

Habitat for Humanity ReStores are nonprofit home-improvement stores and donation centers that sell new and used appliances, home accessories, building materials and more to the public at a fraction of the retail price. Our ReStore is independently owned and operated by local HFHWFC. Proceeds are used to help build strength, stability, self-reliance and shelter in local communities and around the world. The ReStore is located at 1944 Abrams Creek Drive, Winchester, VA 22601. Donate goods to Habitat for Humanity ReStore to clear clutter and make a difference. The Habitat Store offers a variety of volunteering opportunities for individuals and groups. Call Cathleen Henderson, ReStore director, with any questions: (540) 662-9704.