

Round Up Program Benefits Area Benefactors

Tullahoma Utilities Authority customers generated more than \$47,000 in donations to area non-profits in 2021. A total of \$47,700 was disbursed in January in the second round of charitable giving through TUA's annual Round Up Program.

TUA President Brian Skelton presented four checks in the amount of \$6,500 each to representatives of Attic Outlet, Partners for Healing, Shepherd's House and Tullahoma Day Care Center.

Another \$5,000 was presented to Coffee County Salvation Army, and Catholic Charities received \$3,500.



Recurring donations of \$550 per month are made to the Henry Center and Good Samaritan Ministry to help clothe and feed members of the community. All monies generated by customers who allow their bills to be rounded up to the nearest dollar are disbursed to local organizations that serve families in need. Additional monies were used to fund the UpLift Energy makeover program that was featured in September.

	<p>Average Customer Donation Monthly</p> <p>50¢</p>		<p>Customers Residential and Commercial</p> <p>11,000</p>		<p>Two-Year Total Given to Local Nonprofits</p> <p>\$ 77,700</p>
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Rural Route 4 Trucks

Drive through Tullahoma or Huntsville or Chattanooga and you will quickly see that trucks are popular; so much so they outnumber other types of vehicles on the road. Men (and women) love them.

Do a little research on the internet (where everything must be true) and you will learn that there is a love song about a truck and that the most popular name for a truck is Betsy. They are so popular that Chevrolet conducted a survey of truck drivers and gathered some eye-opening information: The study found that 38% of respondents thought owning a pickup truck made them more attractive, and 60% said they could not live without their pickup truck.



Phillip Burgess

(Continued on back)

Watts Happening

(Continued from front)

Diesels. Clunkers. Four-wheel drives. Fords. Rams. Chevys. Knobby tires. Loud mufflers. Trailer hitches. Chrome toolboxes. Trucks with deer and fish decals, rebel flags, big orange T's and "Roll Tide" tags. Others so high off the ground that you need a stepladder to get into the cab.

Like a lot of you, I have a long history with trucks. My first one was a 1957 Chevy half-ton pickup. She had cost \$400 and had been purchased at a Navy surplus auction. She was a dilly. Three on the column. No radio. But she had other attributes that made her extra special. On each door, in bright orange lettering, were the words, "For Official Use Only." The tires on her were stamped with "Not Safe for Highway Use." I guess if you are in the Navy that is true. I added a few personal touches to the cab, including a gun rack behind the bench seat, and I put my .410 in it. (My, oh my how times have changed!).

Once, after decorating for our junior/senior prom about 10 of my classmates jumped in the back for an extremely fast ride to the Eagle Burger, and en route met a sheriff's deputy. Luckily, I did not get a ticket. And no one fell out either. And, there was the time that my friends and I converted her into a redneck camper by throwing a tarpaulin across her bed and propping it up with tall poles. That night we were surprised when something jumped from an overhead pine tree onto our tarpaulin and scared us half to death.

My second truck was a Chevy S-10 in my favorite colors, burgundy and white, which coincidentally are also the colors of my favorite football team. This was a problem truck. It began rusting less than two years after I had purchased it. To make a long story short, I went through a long arbitration process in which I won my case and was awarded the cost of the truck.

Fast forward about 25 years to 2020. I purchased my current truck, a F150 XLT, in 2019. It is a combination of luxury, power, and performance. It has most of the bells and whistles that cars today are equipped with, and probably some extras as well. Thankfully, there's no writing on its doors, and its tires are road worthy. But there's isn't a gun rack inside.

I do not know whether owning a truck makes me more attractive. And I believe I could get by without one. But in a world that prefers conformity, trucks are our personality, our identity, and our connection to mud, grease, manure, and yes, even luxury.

And that is a good thing. Rev her up, boys!

Philip Burgess' book, "Rural Route 4, The Good 'Ol Days Were Never Better," is available on Amazon.

No Hassle Bill Pay

Did you know that you can pay your TUA bill online using our website? Visit our www.tullahomautilities.com to find easy step-by-step instructions.

Click on the button on the top left of the home screen that reads "Pay Your Bill." You will be directed to our trusted third-party automated payment partner, Nexbillpay. You will then be prompted to enter your name and account number in order to view your information and utility charges. Making a payment is as easy as entering your credit card information.

Want to break free of the hassle of monthly billing? TUA offers convenient automatic payment methods, too. Consider signing up for automatic bank draft.

Auto-Draft allows customers to have their balance automatically deducted from a checking or savings account each month, without the need for an online account.

Simply fill in the bank draft authorization form and return it to TUA, and we will electronically debit your checking or savings account each month when your bill is due.

Call one of our Customer Service Representatives at 455-4515 to register.

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