

News Notes

Please note your assignment of Capital Credits this month

All current members of Clay Electric who received electric service in 2012 are being notified this month regarding the amount of Capital Credits assigned to their accounts for that year.

The notice of Capital Credits will appear on the lower portion of members' bill statements this month. If you received service from the co-op during 2012, the amount assigned to you will appear following the message "2012 Capital Credits." If you began receiving service from the co-op after Dec. 31, 2012, there will be no notification of Capital Credits on your July electric bill statement.

SUMMER SAVINGS-- Our Co-op Connections Card Program can help save money on your summer getaway. Kids are getting out of school, grills are firing up, and vacation season is upon us. Co-op Connections boasts a wide range of national discounts for members of 458 participating co-ops. Lodging discounts from beachfront properties to road trip stopovers can be found from the Wyndham Hotel Group, Best Western, Motel 6 and La Quinta. Rental car savings can be found with our Hertz, National and Alamo deals. Grill up a masterpiece with goodies from Omaha Steaks or custom smokers from Smokin' Tex. If heart-pounding rides are in your plans, special pricing for all Six Flags Theme Parks is available. More information about our Co-op Connections program can be found at ClayElectric.com/connections.aspx

POWER OUTAGE MAP -- Internet users can view the general location and approximate number of power outages on Clay Electric's lines by visiting clayelectric.com and clicking on "power outage map". The information is updated approximately every five minutes. While the method for determining the extent of an outage is quite accurate, the information presented is an estimation and may not reflect the actual number without power.

Remodeled Orange Park office

From the cover

members. Maintenance costs for the old building continued to climb, and it needed serious improvements to bring it up to current building codes."

The district office space was increased by 3,000 square feet and now includes meeting and conference rooms, a children's waiting area and public restrooms. There is a covered walkway into the front lobby and an improved, covered drive-thru window.

The new facility has many energy efficiency features, including high-efficiency heat pumps, extra insulation in the ceiling and walls, and a low-wattage lighting system controlled by occupancy sensors. In addition, a completely redesigned heating and cooling system was installed that will be more comfortable for employees as well as more energy-efficient. There are now six heating/cooling zones instead of just one for the entire building. The building has an upgraded security and fire suppression system, and the entire property has a privacy fence.

The warehouse located just behind the office building has a much higher ceiling and includes translucent windows for natural lighting. The fuel island was also upgraded with new underground fuel storage tanks.

Power Line is an informational publication of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. It is distributed monthly with members' billing statements. If you have questions or comments about the Power Line publication, contact Editor Kathy Richardson at P. O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; e-mail: KRichardson@clayelectric.com.

Clay Electric also publishes the Kilowatt six times a year (January, March, May, July, September and November). The Kilowatt is the official voice of Clay Electric and has been published continuously since 1948 as an informational and educational service for co-op members.

Clay Electric's website (<http://www.clayelectric.com>) offers online services such as payments, and information about the co-op's programs and services. Members can also write their own ads online to be published on the website's Trading Post. To enter your ad on the Trading Post, you must use your Clay Electric account number which is printed on your electric bill statement.

Clay Electric's Board of Trustees will meet on July 25 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in Keystone Heights.

3040-22512

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

July 2013



The newly remodeled Orange Park district office opened for business in June. The facilities have many energy efficiency features, including high-efficiency heat pumps, thorough insulation in the ceiling and walls, and a low wattage lighting system controlled by occupancy sensors.

Remodeled Orange Park office now open

Clay Electric's newly remodeled Orange Park District office at 734 Blanding Blvd. opened for business last month.

The nearly year-long remodeling effort brought the four-decade-old structure up to modern building and safety codes and provides co-op personnel with more room to serve customers of Clay County, according to Orange Park District Manager Andy Chaff.

"This renovation was badly needed due to the age of the building and the fact that we needed to upgrade our building for service and security reasons," Chaff said. "The office was built in 1975 when the district served far fewer

See back panel

 Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

MEMBER SERVICES

AUTOMATIC MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN

Allows your monthly electric bill payment to be automatically deducted from your bank account on the due date. Sign up online (clayelectric.com) or call your local district office.

ONLINE ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Visit the Clay Electric website (clayelectric.com) and access your account information:

- View your bill statement
- Make a one-time payment online
- View current charges
- View account balance
- View billing history
- View estimated meter reading dates
- Request emailed bill statements (Clay eBill)

PROJECT SHARE - Help others by designating a tax-deductible amount to be added to your electric bill or make a one-time donation.

REMOTE METER READING (RMR) - Enables a co-op meter reader to obtain the meter reading without entering the homeowner's property. The monthly charge is \$3.95.

ENERGY SMART REBATE PROGRAM - Offers rebates for members who install additional insulation in their homes, or who install a high efficiency heat pump or solar water heating system.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY LOANS - Available for the purpose of installing certain energy efficiency measures, including metal roofing and solar water heaters.

SURGEBLASTER - High quality surge protection equipment at a low monthly lease.

LONG DISTANCE PHONE SERVICE - Clay has contracted with TransWorld Network Corp. (TWN) to offer members competitively priced long distance phone service. Call (877) 877-CLAY (2529) for more information.

PAYMENT STATIONS - Clay has contracted with Fidelity Express to offer payment stations for paying your electric bill at various businesses in the co-op's service area. Fidelity Express charges \$1.50 for each transaction. A list of payment locations is available online (clayelectric.com) and at your local district office.

Co-op's GPS mapping project going well

In an effort to have the most up-to-date and current maps of its service area, Clay Electric began an extensive Global Positioning System mapping project last year.

So far the project is progressing very well, according to Fred Graudon, the co-op's senior engineer.

"Starting last year, the co-op contracted with Davey Resource Group (DRG) to do a complete inventory of Clay's system. Employees have been visiting each pole and individual piece of distribution equipment to record the item's GPS coordinates," he said.

The project involves visiting every utility pole in Clay Electric's 14-county service area – nearly a quarter of a million poles. In addition, the co-op has 63 substations serving 187 feeders and many other fixed components that make up the utility's electric distribution system.

The data collected is being post-processed and reviewed for quality by Davey personnel. From there, the data has been sent to Trimble Navigation Limited in Huntsville for processing and review. At this point, 90 percent of the fieldwork is complete and 40 percent of it has been processed, Graudon said.

So far there have been 450,000 individual points recorded, and 1.6 million individual pieces of information have been identified for inclusion on the new maps. He said the project will be complete in the fall.

Accurate maps are an important part of the co-op's toolkit. With these maps, Clay Electric can plot power lines, locate problems more quickly, and plan for future growth.

Clay Electric has grown rapidly through the years, and the maps that have been developed over the last 75 years are not always accurate. Graudon noted that in some areas, the maps were more than 8,000 feet off from where the equipment is actually located.

While Clay has been using geographic information system (GIS) maps, this project will allow the GIS maps to be corrected and have



A Davey Resource Group employee is shown taking a GPS reading at a member's meter for the co-op's GPS mapping project. DRG was hired by the co-op to record the GPS coordinates of the utility's entire distribution system.

the same accuracy as GPS. Graudon said the ultimate goal of the project is replace the co-op's old, inaccurate database with a new, accurate database.

The new maps will have the same accuracy as the maps used by county governments and the Florida Department of Transportation. He said there will be new features in the system, such as aerial images.