

## Co-op Connections

### MYVIPsavings.com offers online deals, cash back for purchases

You already know about the discounts your Co-op Connections Card offers on prescriptions, health care and local business deals, but did you know you can earn cash back when you shop online?

MyVIPsavings.com allows members to shop online with almost every major brand store in the country and earn CashBack on every purchase. It is discount shopping at its best.

MyVIPsavings.com is an Internet CashBack Mall that features more than 1,000 of the nation's top stores in an easy-to-use web interface that makes shopping online a snap.

The amount of CashBack you can earn from purchases in your Connections MyVIPsavings CashBack Mall can add up to significant money over the course of a year. Additionally, merchants in the mall are competing with one another to win your business. This takes the form of 1,200 – 1,500 special discount shopping offers and promo Codes daily, which can save members up to an additional 80 percent off selected purchases.

So how does it work?

- Click the My VIP Savings icon on the www.Connections.coop website and set up an account.
- Use the links on that site to shop online. The store's page on MyVIPsavings.com will tell you how much CashBack you will receive. You must follow this step to receive your CashBack dollars.
- When you make a qualifying CashBack purchase, your account will be credited with CashBack dollars once your transaction has cleared. Once your transaction has processed, you will be able to view the exact CashBack dollar amount generated under "My Account"

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on MyVIPsavings.com. The purchases you make will show up in the "Transaction History" section under "My Account" within 14 days after the purchase was made.

• CashBack dollars for qualifying transactions are paid out upon request provided they have fully cleared and are equal to at least \$25. Once the CashBack dollars totaling at least \$25 have cleared, you can request a CashBack payment by choosing "Request a Payment" under the "My Account" section of MyVIPsavings.com.

The Co-op Connections Card is a member loyalty program that provides Clay Electric members with discounts on local and national merchants. Clay Electric members saved more than \$21,000 on prescriptions since May.

## News Notes

### Marion Kelly retires after 32 years of service to co-op

Marion Kelly retired from the cooperative in August with 32 years of service.

Kelly served as human resources specialist in the Human Resources, Safety & Training Department.

Chip Gray, director of Human Resources, Safety & Training, said Kelly had many roles at the co-op.

"She has touched many lives by serving as friend, coach, counselor, and so much more," he said. "She will be missed."



Kelly

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'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 customer number which is printed on your electric bill statement.

Clay Electric's Board of Trustees will meet on October 30 and November 27 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in Keystone Heights.

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The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. \_\_\_\_\_

# Power Line

October 2012

## Orange Park District office is moving

Clay Electric will be remodeling its Orange Park District office beginning in October.

Members who visit this office to pay bills or conduct other business will need to go to a temporary office across the street at 769 Blanding Blvd.

There will be no drive-thru payment option at the temporary office. However, a drop box will be available for payments.

Remodeling construction on the existing office is expected to take approximately eight months. The remodeled office is expected to open in mid-2013.

A comprehensive study of the co-op's older buildings was completed in 2010 and the age of the facilities ranged from 36 to 72 years old.

The buildings were found to be in need of costly repairs, and some of them lack necessary space and accommodations to serve members.

The Orange Park District's office is in need of remodeling primarily due to the age of the current structure. The office was built prior to computers and when the district served fewer members. Unlike several decades ago, security issues are now one of the top concerns when planning new construction.



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](http://clayelectric.com)) or call your local district office.

### **ONLINE ACCOUNT INFORMATION**

Visit the Clay Electric website ([clayelectric.com](http://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](http://clayelectric.com)) and at your local district office.

## Report from the manager **Ricky Davis** General Manager/CEO



## ***Those we elect will determine critical issues that affect us all***

**T**his is an important election season, with many local, state and federal elected offices up for grabs.

Decisions we make in the voting booth in November will have consequences. Who we elect really does matter, because the decisions they make can affect us all. The amount of taxes we pay as individuals, the amount of taxes and regulations you face as a business owner or that your employer must deal with, and even how much you pay for electricity, can be affected by the folks we elect to office.

It's important that we know who we're voting for come Nov. 6. We all have specific issues that we use to judge the qualifications of the candidates we will vote for. Some of us base our support for a candidate on just one issue, or perhaps you thoroughly review a candidate's positions on multiple issues, and decide based on how well they align with your viewpoint.

Participating in the electoral process in our nation means we must be informed, and we should know whether or not the people we vote for are likely to look out for our interests when they travel to Tallahassee or Washington to represent us.

Clay Electric's mission has always been to provide excellent service, reliable power and competitive rates. We strive to do this every day for our members, and they frequently tell us how

much they appreciate it!

Despite our best intentions to provide you with affordable and reliable power, sometimes there are forces beyond our control that can undo our best efforts. What do I mean by that?

We hold down our expenses and streamline our operations so our cost to provide service doesn't force us to raise our rates. But along comes some politician or governmental agency that decides we should pay another tax, or comply with some new (and expensive) regulation. That new tax or regulation doesn't help us improve your service or reduce outage times, but it does add to what it costs us to provide you with service. Over the years, a lot of taxes, regulations and edicts from Congress, the state legislature and a variety of local agencies have been added to our cost of operations.

As I've mentioned to you in the past, each year we create a strategic business plan that helps us prepare for a variety of events that can impact our operations. We even have a strategic plan for dealing with the political forces that can force us to pay more taxes, comply with more regulations, and jump through more regulatory hoops. In today's uncertain political environment, having a political plan is important.

Part of that plan involves simply paying attention to the latest news and events as they might impact our operations.

It's true. Elected officials and rulemaking bodies can have a tremendous effect on us and on our rates.

I encourage you, as a member of Clay Electric Cooperative, to become an informed voter. Even though there is a lot of noise surrounding candidates for office and the various issues, it's still incredibly important to try to cut through the distractions and figure out what the candidate stands for or what the proposed legislation will do.

Remember to cast your vote on Election Day.