

Please make room for roadside crews

When the power goes out, so do Clay Electric's line crews. Lineworkers are the first to respond after an outage occurs, and they work tirelessly to restore power.

If you're traveling and see one of our crews on the side of the road, we ask that you move over, if possible, and give them a little extra space to work. We care about the safety of all, and this extra precaution ensures just that.

In 2014, utility crews became protected by the Florida Move Over Act. Under the law, drivers are required to:

- Approach law enforcement patrol cars, emergency vehicles, utility service vehicles, sanitation vehicles and tow trucks/wreckers with caution and move over a lane.
- If you can't move over — or when on a two-lane road — slow to a speed that is 20 mph less than the posted speed limit.
- Slow down to 5 mph when the posted speed limit is 20 mph or less.



Continued from front

October hurricanes — Matthew (2016), Nate (2017), Michael (2018), Delta (2020) and Zeta (2020) — have made landfall in the U.S., two of which hit Florida, leaving thousands in the dark.

We hope by now, and especially following Hurricane Debby this year, all members have taken a bit of time to put together a hurricane kit with water, non-perishables, first-aid and other necessities should another storm come our way. Hurricanes, and even tropical storms for that matter, bring torrential rains, high winds and, of course, the inherent risk of power outages.

For more information about GenerLink and to ensure your generator is compatible, contact our Energy Services division by using your **MyClayElectric** app or call 1-800-224-4917.

Clay Electric offers members loans up to \$10,000 for improvements such as high-efficiency heat pumps, insulation, certain high-efficiency appliances, generators, high-reflectance metal roofing, solar thermal water heating and solar pool heating.

Basic qualifications for an energy conservation loan include a good credit history, good payment record with Clay Electric and service with Clay Electric for one year.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

October 2024

GenerLinks now qualify for energy loans, too

Should the power go out, our crews are never far behind, as the restoration process begins as soon as conditions allow. Many members use portable generators during an interruption in service, and the best and safest way to connect to your home's electric system is by using a GenerLink emergency transfer switch.



We offer members energy loans for home improvements, and for the first time, those now include the GenerLink switch. It's installed behind your electric meter with no wiring required of your electric system and it can operate any appliance up to the capacity of the generator by use of the breaker panel.

You're likely reading this in the midst of peak hurricane season, which typically lasts through the month, and if you think we're in the clear, let's not forget that since 2016 alone, five

Continued on back panel

Report from
the manager

Ricky Davis

General Manager/CEO



Clay Electric powers communities with purpose

This month, Clay Electric and the more than 30,000 cooperatives in the U.S. are paying homage to National Co-op Month, a time to remember what sets us apart from other businesses, but also a time to celebrate co-op membership.

Part of the cooperative difference comes from our not-for-profit status. We're built by the communities we serve. We care deeply about the lives of our members, and as a locally operated organization, Clay Electric is uniquely suited to meet our members' ever-evolving needs.

The co-op's employees and the men and women who serve on Clay Electric's Board of Trustees are a reminder that we're all invested in the community. That's because we're all local, too — and each of our nine board members are able to call the district they serve home.

The concern for our community goes hand-in-hand with you, our members, who in overwhelming numbers continue to support Operation Round Up, which is made possible by our members who elect to round up their monthly billing statements to the nearest dollar — and that tax-deductible amount goes directly to the Clay Electric Foundation.

We've helped hundreds of organizations with charitable grants of more than \$7 million since the program began, none of which could be possible without our members. The average amount any given member donates is just \$0.50 per month.

Power Line is an informational publication of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. It is distributed monthly with members' statements. If you have questions or comments about Power Line, write Nick Jones at P.O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; or email: NJones@clayelectric.com. Clay Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees in 2024 will meet Oct. 24, Nov. 19 and Dec. 17.

In addition, your cooperative supports education through its Youth Scholarship Program and Back to Your Future Scholarship Program, which supports adults who are in school or returning to college.

These examples show Clay Electric's commitment to the co-op's guiding principles, of which there are a total of seven. They are a framework for all co-ops and help us navigate challenges and opportunities, but they also ensure we remain true to our purpose.

- 1. Open and Voluntary Membership:** Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.
- 2. Democratic Member Control:** Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. Why? Because co-ops are created by the members, for the members.
- 3. Members' Economic Participation:** Members contribute money to the co-op to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future. This happens through paying your energy bills.
- 4. Autonomy and Independence:** Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.
- 5. Education, Training and Information:** Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.
- 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive.
- 7. Concern for Community:** All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow.

Clay Electric remains committed to its members, and we're so glad to have you as part of the electric co-op community. We hope you can find reason to celebrate our status as a cooperative like we do.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Let's work together to build a safer digital world. Whether at home, work or school, we can all increase our online safety with these simple tips.

-  Recognize and report phishing attempts.
-  Use strong, unique passwords.
-  Enable multi-factor authentication.
-  Update software regularly.