

Operation Round Up

The Clay Electric Foundation approved five applications for July in the amount of \$54,500.

Magnolia Point Women's Club - \$9,000

The Magnolia Point Women's Club is a volunteer organization whose mission is to nourish the bodies, stimulate the minds, and increase the self-esteem of Green Cove Springs' neediest and most vulnerable children from elementary through high school. Grant funds will be used to support the Blessings in a Backpack program, which will feed 154 children by packing nutritious food in backpacks to send home each Friday during the school year.

Concerned Citizens of Bradford County, Inc. - \$15,000

Concerned Citizens of Bradford County, Inc. is an outreach organization dedicated to the needy, deprived, seniors, and especially to the proper rearing of children to become model citizens. The group specializes in educating, teaching character, building confidence and modeling positive behavior through its after-school club, summer day camp, senior club and youth sports. The money will be used to provide personnel for the 8-week summer day camp program.

Keystone Heights Rotary Club - \$3,000

Rotary Club exists as an international service

organization focused on addressing the human condition through investments of time, talent, and money. Funds from this grant will be used to provide approximately 100 books to each of the area's three elementary schools to ensure that every child (kindergarten through grade 2) from a very low family income will have the opportunity to select and own a new book that has been earned through the meeting of literacy growth targets set by the teachers.

Vietnam Vets of America – Clay County - \$12,500

Vietnam Vets of America exists to promote and support the full range of issues important to Vietnam veterans, to create a new identity for this generation of veterans, and to change public perception of Vietnam veterans. Grant funds will be used to help build a memorial to permanently recognize about 60 deceased soldiers from the area, from the Civil War to the present-day conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Haven Hospice - \$15,000

Haven Hospice is a not-for-profit, community hospice organization providing comprehensive services for end-of-life and palliative care. Money from the grant will be used to implement an Advance Care Planning Program in Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Clay and Putnam counties.

Advanced meters are on the horizon for Clay members

This summer, Clay Electric has begun to implement Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), a meter system that will offer you a number of exciting new benefits. Advanced meters use digital technology to read your electric use and communicate it to us over a secure wireless network.

Clay Electric members expect more from their cooperative and expect it to use technology to provide them with information about their power usage, outages, expected time of restoration, and more.

With advanced meters, we'll be able to find out what's wrong with your meter, turn power on and off remotely, and perform other customer service tasks much more quickly than before. You'll also have more information about how much power you use and when, giving you more control.

Advanced meters will be installed at no cost to you. More information will be shared prior to installation.

Visit ClayElectric.com for more information.

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The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

August 2017

Are you an adult who is going back to school?

If you are an adult in school or returning to college, you may want to consider applying for a Clay Electric scholarship.

For 20 years, the co-op has given scholarships to high school seniors to assist them with their higher education goals. Now the co-op has two \$1,000 "Back to Your Future Scholarships."

This scholarship program is limited to any student/applicant, age 22 or over, who meets the following criteria:

- Home/residence must be served by Clay Electric
- Applicant cannot be a previous winner of a Clay Electric Scholarship
- Applicant has earned a High School Diploma or GED Completion Certificate prior to this application
- Applicant must be registered at and/or attending an accredited college or trade school for the Spring 2018 semester

Two scholarships are available and will be awarded based on need; leadership and/or community service; and educational goals and career plans. The application deadline is Sept. 22.

Please visit ClayElectric.com or your district office for an application.

 **Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.** _____

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

MEMBER SERVICES

ONLINE ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Visit ClayElectric.com to access your account information:

- View your bill statement/account history
- Make a one-time payment online
- View current charges & account balance
- View estimated meter reading dates
- Request emailed bill statements (Clay eBill)
- Sign up for automatic monthly payment plan
- Report your power outage:
<https://outagereport.clayelectric.com>

OPERATION ROUND UP - Operation Round Up is a program to generate and collect voluntary donations that are used to benefit organizations in Clay Electric's service area for the purpose of improving the quality of life of our members and their communities. Participating members' electric bills are rounded up to the next dollar amount. The funds are placed in a separate account to be allocated by the Clay Electric Foundation.

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 just \$1.95.

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.

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

CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD - A national discount card program. It offers 10-60 percent discounts on prescription drugs at participating pharmacies, as well as special discounts and deals from local and national businesses!

Power Line is an informational publication of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. If you have questions or comments about the Power Line publication, contact Editor Kathy Richardson at P.O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; email: KRichardson@clayelectric.com. Clay Electric's Board of Trustees will meet on Aug. 24 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in Keystone Heights.

Report from the manager

Ricky Davis

General Manager/CEO



Rights-of-way & reliability — the importance of vegetation management

This time of year, we must be aware that our area has the potential to be hit by severe weather and even hurricanes. Damaging lightning, gusty winds and heavy rains come with the thunderstorms that sweep across our service area. These storms have the power to disrupt your electric service.

So what do we do to lower the chances that bad weather will knock your power out? Our emphasis on properly maintained rights-of-way around our distribution and transmission lines is one reason our service reliability is so high.

Vegetation management (we used to call it right-of-way maintenance) is essential in providing safe and reliable electric service. Clay Electric works hard to ensure that rights-of-way are cleared regularly of trees and brush to help reduce potential outages and hazards. Trees and branches growing in or near power lines can cause interruptions in service. Uncontrolled brush can impede access to utility structures.

Keeping safety first

Trees and branches pose significant safety concerns when they are too close to power lines. Children climbing trees whose branches can contact energized lines could be severely injured or killed. Adults are also at risk. Pruning trees near power lines should be left to qualified vegetation management professionals.

Additionally, trees and branches can break and fall across power lines during strong winds and inclement weather. Not only can power lines be

damaged, but power poles and towers can also be damaged and broken by falling trees. Although weather-related outages are not always preventable, successful vegetation management minimizes damage, injury and outages.

Reducing the likelihood for power outages

In August 2003, there was a startling example of how a lack of proper right-of-way maintenance can plunge millions of folks into the dark. Approximately 40 million people lost power for roughly two days in the northeastern United States. The cause for this massive blackout: overgrown trees that contacted high-voltage power lines. Proper vegetation maintenance is so important to utilities that the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) established mandatory requirements for transmission vegetation management.

Our power supplier, Seminole Electric, also knows the importance of properly maintained rights-of-way. James Frauen, Seminole's vice president of Power Delivery and Technical Services, says that regular vegetation maintenance increases electric reliability and decreases service interruptions.

Clay Electric is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power, and our vegetation maintenance program is key to fulfilling that promise.

In addition to safety concerns and outage prevention, good vegetation management practices also enable our crews to restore power more quickly. Part of our vegetation management program focuses on removing dead or dying trees located close enough to our rights-of-way to present hazards if they fall. These trees are removed before they come down and cause damage and outages.

To learn more about Clay Electric's Vegetation Management program, please visit ClayElectric.com. Topics include Notifications, Methods of Tree Pruning, Tree Removal, and Tree Planting and Power Lines.