

Play it safe around electrical devices

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and we think it's a great time to look around your home and check for potential safety hazards. Here are a few:

Loose or damaged outlets

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. If you see these warning signs, contact an electrician.

Surge protectors

Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules, and surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can effectively absorb. If your surge protector is rated at 1,000 joules, it should be replaced when it hits that limit. Some surge protectors include indicator lights to warn you when they've stopped working, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don't remember when you bought your device, replace it.

Extension cords

If you use extension cords regularly to connect devices and equipment to your wall outlets, you may live in an under-wired home. Extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional or periodic use. If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized. If it shows signs of frayed, cracked or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, the cord will not provide the protection designed into its performance.

34 winners drawn in vote-by-mail contest

Thirty-four members who voted by mail in this year's Board of Trustees races were randomly selected to receive a bill credit.

James Smith of Citra won the \$1,200 bill credit, Donald Boyette of Macclenny won \$600, Nicholas Miller of Gainesville won \$250 and Vernon Glisson of Hawthorne won \$120.

Winners of the \$25 bill credits were: Daniel Thomas of Lake Butler; WR Bratcher & Son of Alachua; Della Sturgis of Citra; Samuel Marshall of Georgetown; John Wilson of Middleburg; Dan Hansen of Fleming Island; James Wais of Fleming Island; Julia Rutherford of Altoona; Suzanne Pierce of Middleburg; Mark Maxwell of Keystone Heights; Ronald Moss of Alachua; Julie Ann Potts of Melrose; Kathy Brooks of Orange Park; Thomas Chase of Middleburg; Wendy Rouse of Gainesville; Sherri Johnson of Green Cove Springs; Diane Davison of Middleburg; Kathy Hause of Middleburg; OPC News, LLC of Sumter, SC; John Inman of Fleming Island; Jeffrey Holt of Fleming Island; Matthew Davis of Orange Park; John Abt of Green Cove Springs; Thomas Thompson of Palatka; Beau McRae of Middleburg; Michael Vantsevich of Fort McCoy; Philip Leary of Palatka; Rita Weichert of Satsuma; George Loridas of Hawthorne; and Kenneth Kendzierski of Green Cove Springs.

ASSIGNMENT

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refund can be made by carefully considering a variety of data and economic conditions.

This year, the co-op's board of trustees declared a \$12 million Capital Credits refund for members who received service from 1989-2017. Current co-op members who were entitled to a refund received a credit on their March bills.

3040-26300

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

May 2019

2018 Capital Credits assignment listed on bottom of May bill

All current members of Clay Electric who received service in 2018 will be notified this month about 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 beginning with May billing cycles. If you received service from the co-op during 2018, the amount assigned to you will appear following the message "2018 Capital Credits." If you began receiving service from the co-op after Dec. 31, 2018, no 2018 allocated Capital Credits notice will appear.

Capital Credits reflect the cooperative's not-for-profit and member-owned status and represent each member's pro-rata share of any margins left over at the end of the year after all expenses are accounted for. They are a unique benefit of being served by an electric cooperative.

This notice of allocation of Capital Credits is not a current refund amount. It is simply to notify members of the amount that is being allocated to the account holder for the previous year's margins. Each year, the co-op's board of trustees decides whether a

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MEMBER SERVICES

ONLINE ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Visit clayelectric.com to access your account information:

- View current charges & account balance
- View past bill statements/account history
- Make a one-time payment online
- Sign up for Average Billing Plan
- 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.

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

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!

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 Power Line, write Editor Justin Caudell at P.O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; or email: jcaudell@clayelectric.com. Clay Electric's Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, May 23 beginning at noon in Keystone Heights.

National Lineman Appreciation Day celebrated across co-op's districts

On April 8, Clay Electric honored the dedicated men who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on.

The co-op proudly recognizes all electric linemen for the services they perform to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

"Our linemen are the heartbeat of our electric distribution system, and they work around the clock on high-voltage lines," said General Manager/CEO Ricky Davis. "Conditions can be dangerous, but they power through to ensure reliable service for our members."

More than 100 men maintain over 13,000 miles of line in the co-op's service territory.

To honor these brave men, Clay Electric hosted breakfasts and other events to celebrate National Lineman Appreciation Day.

In 2013, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution designating April 18 as National Lineman Appreciation Day. The NRECA Board then designated the second Monday of each April as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

The resolution represented the first time the NRECA



Board has formally recognized a day in honor of linemen.

The full text of the resolution, which the board adopted unanimously:

"Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on;

Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure;

Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making

things safe for all after storms and accidents; and

Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen;

Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the second Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives, materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America's Electric Cooperatives."