



AS OLD MAN WINTER BLOWS IN MAKE SURE YOU ARE PREPARED FOR COLDER WEATHER

There are many no cost and low cost ways you can save on your energy bills. Start today by taking the following steps of savings.

- **Guard that thermostat** - Set the thermostat no higher than 68°, or lower, in the winter. For every degree above 68, you add approximately 5% to your heating bill.
- **Keep that fireplace damper closed** – An open damper allows heat to flow right out the roof! There's nothing quite like the warmth and ambiance of a fireplace in the winter. Although they are attractive to look at and sit near, fireplaces can actually be very wasteful of your energy. Fireplaces are very inefficient because they draw heated air up the chimney, pull cold outside air into the home, and cause your main heating system to work harder and longer.
- **Use fans wisely** – an effective bathroom or kitchen fan can expel a houseful of heat in just one hour. Turn them off as soon as they've done their job. All vents should have backdraft damper to minimize the infiltration of outdoor air when the vent is not being used.
- **Check your water heater** – Setting your water heater to 115-120° can reduce power use, often without a noticeable difference to the user. Don't leave hot water running while washing or shaving – this wastes both energy and water.
- **Use curtains** – Opening curtains and shades during the daylight hours takes advantage of free solar heat. Closing curtains and shades at night helps retain that heat gained during the day.
- **Keep heating vents clear** – Vents blocked by rugs and furniture prevent heated air from circulating. Closing off supply vents will restrict air flow and reduce system efficiency, potentially shortening the life of the compressor.
- **Turn off your heat dry cycle on your dishwasher** – Use the “No-heat” dry feature. Most dishwashers have a built-in heating element to dry the dishes. The “No-heat” dry feature circulates room air through the dishwasher by fans. If your dishwasher does not have this feature, turn the dishwasher off after the final rinse and open the door to air dry the dishes.
- **Reduce clothing wash loads** – Do only full loads when using the washer and dryer. Most people tend to under load their washing machines. One large load of laundry will use less energy than two small or medium loads.
- **Keep your home office efficient** – Much of the energy use associated with computers, printers and other home office equipment is wasted because they are often left on when not in use, including nights, weekends, and even extended periods of inactivity during the day. Most experts agree that turning your computer on and off will have no significant effect on their operation or life. Monitors consume a significant portion of the energy.

A Community Partner Since 1937

Apply Today for College Scholarships



It comes as no surprise that paying for a college degree is something that can be achieved without the benefit of a college scholarship. The shock comes when students and families begin the grim task of calculating the enormous costs associated with obtaining

a two- or four-year degree.

In the 2013-2014 school year, the "moderate" cost of attending an in-state public college averaged \$23,000. The "moderate" cost to attend a private college averaged \$45,000.1

To give some measure of financial relief and to encourage students to pursue a post-secondary education, Mitchell EMC is currently accepting applications for the Walter Harrison Scholarship, a program sponsored by Georgia's 41 electric cooperatives.

The \$1,000 Scholarship can be applied to academic expenses at any accredited two- or four-year university, college or vocational-technical institute in Georgia.

In 2015, Walter Harrison Scholarships will be awarded to nine students who demonstrate exceptional academic performance. Factors for consideration include grade point average, test scores, academic standing, scholastic honors and community involvement. A scholarship committee comprised of EMC directors and managers judge blind applications and select recipients who exceed in these areas and demonstrate a financial need.

Students who apply for the scholarship must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited undergraduate degree program. They also must complete an application and write a biographical sketch which provides a preview of his or her future plans.

The Scholarship is partially funded through a silent auction held each year at Georgia EMC's Annual Meeting. The 41 electric co-ops throughout Georgia donate unique items representative of every region of the state. Last year's auction raised more than \$10,000 which went to help eight deserving students pursue their academic goals:

Stephen Jenkins, Jackson EMC
Sarah Kang, Walton EMC
Katherine Russell, Colquitt EMC
Claire Rohrer, Walton EMC
Alec Hendrix, Altamaha EMC
Mallory Harris, Diverse Power
Sierra Fleming, Snapping Shoals EMC
Rachel Maddox, Central Georgia EMC

Created in 1985 by the board of directors of Georgia EMC, the scholarship pays tribute to the late Walter Harrison, a pioneer in the rural electricity movement and a leader at local, state and national levels in the electric cooperative program.

Since 1985, Georgia's electric cooperatives have awarded more than \$162,000 to students through the Walter Harrison Scholarship program.

To receive an application, contact Mitchell EMC at 229-336-5221 or visit www.mitchellemc.com. Completed applications are due by January 31, 2015.

Mitchell EMC, based in Camilla, is a consumer-owned cooperative providing electricity and related services to approximately 24,000 consumers in 14 counties.

Georgia EMC is the statewide trade association representing the state's 41 EMCs, Oglethorpe Power Corp., Georgia Transmission Corp. and Georgia System Operations Corp. Collectively, Georgia's customer-owned EMCs provide electricity and related services to more than four million people, nearly half of Georgia's population, across 73 percent of the state's land area.

Operation Round-Up

A maximum of twelve \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors and/or college/technical students. Scholarships are awarded based on "All Around Student Performance" including academic performance, volunteerism, and participation in school, church and community activities. Financial need is also considered.

Funds for these scholarships are provided by consumer participation in the Operation Round Up program at Mitchell EMC. Participating members allow us to round their electric bills up to the nearest whole dollar amount. Though it may not seem like much, those funds added together make a huge positive difference in our local community.

Applications are available at any Mitchell EMC office or at www.mitchellemc.com. Applications will be judged by an independent scholarship committee. Completed applications are due by March 1, 2015 to the Community Foundation of South Georgia, PO Box 2654, Thomasville, Ga. 31799.

Pelham High School Receives Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award



Pictured: Chad Carden, Customer Service Manager, Mitchell EMC and Boyd Williamson, Assistant Principal, Pelham High School

Mitchell EMC recently honored Pelham High School with the 2014 Georgia High School Association's Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award.

Through a partnership of the Georgia High School Association and the state's 41 electric cooperatives, including Mitchell EMC, the award is presented annually to deserving high schools to underscore the importance of sportsmanlike qualities in student athletes, administrators, educators and event spectators.

"We're pleased to recognize and honor schools that value, expect, and demand good sportsmanship from their athletes," says Tony Tucker, President and CEO with Mitchell EMC.

Since the Award recognizes not only student athletes but fellow students, school staff, parents and event spectators, it has become not only a school honor, but a community honor as well. The winners are selected by the GHSA region secretaries based upon suitable behavior throughout the school year.

Pelham High School is one of 48 GHSA-member high schools around the state (from 48 regions in six classifications) that received the award for exhibiting exceptional sportsmanship.

Don't Forget to Submit Your New Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption Certificate

If you're an agricultural producer and receive the Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption (GATE) on electricity, you must renew it beginning this October.

GATE is an agricultural sales and use tax exemption certificate issued by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. The document identifies its user as a qualified farmer or producer who is exempt from sales tax on the inputs used in the production of their commodity.

Mitchell EMC member-owners who receive a GATE certificate should send us a copy along with the account numbers that apply to the GATE certificate, so we can apply the exemption to their account. **We must receive a copy of the new certificate for the exemption to continue.**

Producers who have never received GATE can also apply and send a certificate copy to Mitchell EMC. Visit <https://forms.agr.georgia.gov/gate/> or call 855-FARM TAX for more information, to renew or apply.

Mail GATE certificate copies to Mitchell EMC, Attn: Beth Williamson P.O. Box 409, Camilla, GA, 31730.



Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...



Christmas Card Art Contest



The Art Club from Mitchell Baker Service Center designed Mitchell EMC's Christmas Cards this year. The winners were Carl Donaldson, Alonzo Valentine, Patricia Pressley, and Travis Brown. The center received a check from Mitchell EMC for art supplies.

Pictured Left to Right: Ginna Waters, Mitchell Baker Service Center, winner Alonzo Valentine, winner Carl Donaldson, and Heather Greene, Member and Public Relations Coordinator MEMC.



Employee SPOTLIGHT



Beth Williamson is Mitchell EMC's January Employee Spotlight. Beth is a Billing Coordinator in the Camilla District Office. She has worked in the billing department for over 25 of her 32 years that she has been employed with Mitchell EMC.

Beth has been a part of many changes over the years including transitioning from consumer read meter readings, to meters read only by servicemen, to the automated system we now use.

A memorable event for Beth is "The Flood of 1994," a disaster we all will not forget. Many meters were either inaccessible to our meter readers or were under water. We had to send servicemen out in boats to disconnect some meters. All Mitchell EMC employees worked hard to restore service as quickly as possible," stated Beth

"Mitchell EMC is my daytime family. We have a great support system that we can depend on. It is great to be a part of a caring team of co-workers."-Beth Williamson

Note: If you move or no longer have electric service with Mitchell EMC, it is important that members keep their address current, so that future disbursements can be properly mailed. Capital credits are reserved for members even if they move out of the Mitchell EMC service area. Mitchell EMC will make a diligent effort to send a check by mail.

Statement of Equal Employment Opportunity

All applicants for employment shall be considered and hired on the basis of merit, without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), age, national origin, disability, genetic information, or past or present military status. The employment practices shall ensure equal treatment of all employees, without discrimination as to promotion, discharge, rates of pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or past or present military status.

M/F/V/DV/D

WATT'S COOKING



Brown Sugar Garlic Chicken

4 Boneless skinless chicken breast
4 Tbs brown sugar
4 Minced garlic cloves
3 Tsp olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Sauté Garlic in olive oil until soft. Season chicken breast with salt and



pepper, then place in a greased baking dish. Mix brown sugar and sautéed garlic and spread over chicken. Bake approximately 40 minutes.

Thanks!

to **Laura Johnson**,
Worth County, GA,
for sharing this recipe.

Share & Win!

Send us your favorite quick and easy dinner recipes. If your recipe is chosen for print, you can win a **\$25 credit** on your next Mitchell EMC bill.

Send recipes to Heather Greene, P.O. Box 409, Camilla, GA 31730 or email to heather.greene@mitchellemc.com.