

# Mitchell



# EMC

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March 2015

The news  
you need to  
know in  
5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA  
[www.mitchellemc.com](http://www.mitchellemc.com)

## YOU ARE INVITED!

### MITCHELL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION 77TH ANNUAL MEETING

April 17, 2015

#### Agenda

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Registration   | 12:30-2:00 p.m. |
| <i>Free gifts to the first 500 consumers to register</i> |                 |
| Information Booths                                       | 12:30-2:00 p.m. |
| Entertainment  | 1:00-2:00 p.m.  |
| Business Meeting   | 2:00 p.m.       |

*Door Prizes and Grand Prize  
immediately following business meeting*

*Registration closes promptly at 2:00 pm.  
You must be registered and present to win a door prize.  
One lucky member will receive \$1000 credit  
on their Mitchell EMC Bill as a Grand Prize.*

## *Make your plans to attend!*

*As a Member-Owner YOU have the power to make a difference!*

Mitchell  
EMC



# A Community Partner Since 1937

## A Growth Spurt for Electric Co-ops

By Steven Johnson | ECT Staff Writer Published: February 12th, 2015

**T**he electric cooperative network might be 80 years old, but it's in the middle of a full-fledged growth spurt.

Co-ops led the electric utility industry in sales growth and customer growth in 2013 while holding the line on electricity distribution, according to new data from NRECA's Strategic Analysis Unit. The annual Vital Signs report, available to registered users of cooperative.com, shows co-op retail sales rose nearly 3.1 percent in 2013 to 423 billion kilowatt-hours. That was the best performance since 2010 and outpaced the industry as a whole, which registered negative sales growth for the third year in a row.

"After two years of low or negative growth, co-op sales rebounded in 2013. Over 80 percent of co-ops had positive sales growth in 2013," the report said, attributing part of that to weather and economic conditions. Also behind the sales growth jump was a 1.2 percent increase in the number of residential co-op customers. Co-ops added 218,871 members in 2013, the most since the economy tumbled in 2008.

Co-ops continue to add customers at a faster clip than the industry. More than 80 percent of co-ops reported a net increase in customers, with Texas accounting for 20 percent of them. Georgia co-ops experienced strong customer growth, as did several North Dakota co-ops that saw gains of 14 percent to 18 percent, thanks to the oil and gas boom in the state. Overall, co-ops now serve about 19 million total customers, or about 42 million people.

"Although the rate of customer growth is down in recent years across the industry, co-ops' growth is still higher than the industry as a whole. Co-ops are growing rapidly in many areas of the country," the report said. Co-ops also maintained distribution costs at 3.62 cents per kilowatt-hour in 2012 and 2013, even though they have a lower proportion of customers per mile of line than other utilities.

Rolling in other cost factors, residential rates for co-op members averaged 11.8 cents per kwh in 2013, a slight bump up from 11.6 cents per kwh in 2012.

NRECA economists compiled the report from a variety of sources, including filings with the Rural Utilities Service.



*Electric cooperatives are reporting strong growth in sales and customers, NRECA analysts say. (Photo By: Jacques Kloppers)*

## Capital Credit Retirement

As a Member of Mitchell Electric Membership Corporation, you are also an owner. Each year, revenues remaining after expenses, come back to you in the form of capital credits. The retirement of capital credits is just one of the unique benefits of being a member of Mitchell Electric Membership Corporation. Capital credits represent equity or working capital, and are your ownership interest in the cooperative. These funds are utilized for a period of time to insure the financial stability of the cooperative and then returned to you in the form of a capital credit refund. They are used in place of borrowed capital as a source of funding for distribution facilities and general utility plant expenses. This allows the cooperative to borrow

less money and thus incur lower interest charges. By reducing interest expenses this way, Mitchell EMC saves money for its members.

The Board of Directors of Mitchell EMC is pleased to announce the refund of capital credits for all years prior to and including 1983. For a list of unclaimed capital credits please visit this link

[www.mitchellemc.com/capital-credits/](http://www.mitchellemc.com/capital-credits/) on our website. 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.

Our members are a vital part of our cooperative and Mitchell EMC is proud to serve you.

# In Georgia, a New Refuge for Cancer Families

By Victoria A. Rocha | ECT Staff Writer Published: February 2nd, 2015



Officials from the Children's Hospital of Georgia in Augusta and Ronald McDonald House join the clown at the facility ribbon-cutting. (Photo By: Michael Holahan/The Augusta Chronicle)

Not long ago, families staying at one Ronald McDonald House had to shell out \$25 for a cab ride to visit their sick son or daughter at the nearby children's hospital—yet one more financial burden on top of medical bills. But with electric cooperative help, a new Ronald McDonald House is now within walking distance of the Children's Hospital of Georgia in Augusta.

The \$50,000 contribution from co-ops and affiliated organizations to the facility's \$5.9 million capital campaign "brought us closer to our campaign goal and will directly impact the families in every EMC's community," said Betts Murdison, the facility's president and CEO. "We are so grateful to the Georgia EMCs for their support."

Officials cut the ribbon Jan. 13 at the 28,500-square-foot residence.

Phil Ham, a board member of Central Georgia EMC in Jackson, brought the idea to help fund the facility to the co-op's statewide directors association. "We wanted to fund something to do with veterans or children, so I asked my son who's a surgeon in Augusta, and he suggested the Children's Hospital." Ham's son put co-ops in touch with Dr. Charles Howell, the head surgeon and co-chairman of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Augusta Capital Campaign. Howell's moving speech to EMC directors compelled many in the audience "to make donations on the spot," said Ham. Contributions also came from EMC foundations, unclaimed capital credits and corporate contributions.

Last year, the house served 619 families with seriously ill children. That number will likely rise because the new facility has more than double the space. "Most of us will find ourselves at some point in our lives steering through life's battles and blessings," said Bill Verner, senior vice president of Georgia EMC. "We know that the Ronald McDonald House has long helped affected families navigate as best they can through the sorrow and suffering that accompanies the illness of a child."



A plaque in the Ronald McDonald House notes the help of Georgia EMCs, as shown by directors Emmett Harrold of Carroll EMC and Ruby Woods of Snapping Shoals EMC. (Photo By: Rachael Young)

# Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...

## Saint Patrick's Day Word Search



V G D H V C T Z K Q W P V A R  
 X Z L U S I F O S Y O C Q D Q  
 Y C E Q B P A N O T B N B R Z  
 L E P E H L A H O Q N J V A K  
 N L R U K K I F S E I X C C O  
 A T E J E C G N E I A M I L I  
 N I C S X O I R P Y R R T U D  
 F C H M L N G R V R T I N A S  
 A A A D J S I H E A H E I N N  
 N T U X Z M D F P M W P A V L  
 N D N E G E L W N B I U S U P  
 N T J W W K L Q U C H L Y U P  
 J B Q A P F Z O K U N Q O J X  
 I W I N B I R E L A N D G S Y  
 J D C K C O R M A H S Y B Z X

CELTIC  
 IRELAND  
 LEPRECHAUN  
 POTOFGOLD  
 SHAMROCK  
 DUBLIN  
 IRISH  
 LIMERICK  
 RAINBOW  
 SNAKES  
 GREEN  
 LEGEND  
 PATRICK  
 SAINT



## Employee SPOTLIGHT



Don Thomas is Mitchell EMC's March Employee Spotlight. Don is an Electric Equipment Technician in the Camilla District Office. He has been employed with Mitchell EMC for twenty-four years.

When asked about what he enjoyed most about his job, Don said, "I really love every aspect of my job. The Lord has blessed me with the opportunity to work with one of the best companies in the state of Georgia. I enjoy meeting the new customers and communicating with the people that we serve while doing it with a smile."

Don recalled some of his most memorable events here at Mitchell EMC. He said, "February 14, 2000, Valentine's Day Tornado, was the most memorable and devastating event in the history of my 24 years at Mitchell EMC. To be stuck out in the middle of the tornado, and to see how the community came together to help each other out in a time of need was heartfelt."

**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



## Shrimp Etouffee

½ cup butter  
1 ½ tablespoons flour  
¾ cup chopped celery  
¾ cup chopped green pepper  
¾ cup chopped onion  
1 pound peeled, uncooked shrimp  
Salt, pepper and cayenne pepper to taste  
¼ cup chopped green onion tops  
¼ cup chopped fresh parsley  
¼ cup white wine or chicken broth  
Cooked rice

Melt  
butter  
in large  
skillet.  
Add  
flour and  
lightly  
brown  
it. Add



shrimp, celery, green pepper and onion; cook until tender, stirring occasionally. Add salt, pepper and cayenne to taste. Add onion tops, parsley and wine (or chicken broth). Simmer a few minutes, covered, to blend seasonings. Serve over rice.

*Thanks!*

to **Jill Mash**,  
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](mailto:heather.greene@mitchellemc.com).