

VOL. 54 NO. 4 • APRIL 2017

Mitchell EMC



The news
you need to
know in
5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA
www.mitchellemc.com

Mitchell Electric Membership Corporation

80th Annual Meeting

April 21, 2017

**Mitchell EMC Auditorium
475 Cairo Road, Camilla, GA 31730**

**Registration 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
FREE GIFTS to the first 500 consumers to register**

**Information Booths 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Entertainment Omega Quartet 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Business Meeting 2:00 p.m.**



A Community Partner Since 1937



NATIONAL
LINEMAN
APPRECIATION
DAY.

APRIL 10, 2017

#ThankALineman

Appreciating Heroes in Hard Hats

Georgia's electric utilities, including Mitchell EMC, have set aside the month of April to honor the brave men and women who keep our electricity flowing all year round.

What was a one-day observance has been extended to an entire month.

"One day is not enough to thank our linemen for the essential part they play within our communities and our members' lives every day," says Tony F. Tucker President/CEO with Mitchell EMC.

"These men and women have an extremely dangerous job and encounter many hazards every work day," says Mr. Tucker. "They often face treacherous weather conditions while they work through ice storms, tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods to restore electricity."

To further ensure their safety, business leaders, EMC members and lawmakers in Georgia recently passed House Bill 767, a new law that requires motorists approaching utility linemen at an active work site, as indicated by traffic cones or flashing yellow, amber, white or red lights, to change lanes or reduce their speed to a reasonable and proper speed below the posted speed limit. If a motorist fails to comply, he/she can be fined up to \$250 per incident.

Use [#ThankALineman](#) to show your support for the workers who light up our lives and dedicate themselves to getting the job done regardless of the conditions.

At Mitchell EMC, line workers maintain 5,595 miles of distribution line in the 14 counties we serve.

Thunderstorm safety

When thunderstorms are rolling your way, stay safe with these helpful tips from the American Red Cross:

- Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates. Watch for signs of a storm, like darkening skies, lightning flashes or increasing wind.
- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely to occur. Many people struck by lightning are not in the area where rain is occurring.
- If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or in a vehicle with the windows closed. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. If thunder roars, go indoors! The National Weather Service recommends staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.
- Avoid electrical equipment and telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead.
- Shutter windows and close outside doors securely. Keep away from windows.
- Do not take a bath, shower or use plumbing.
- If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.
- If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground; water; tall, isolated trees; and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are NOT safe.

Source: American Red Cross



BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.



■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.



■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.



■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at www.ready.gov



Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...

Five Easy Ways to

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

Every Day

1. Conserve water by taking showers instead of baths.
2. Turn off all lights when you leave a room.
3. Bring your reusable bags to the market and other stores when shopping.
4. Go paperless. Pay as many bills as possible online.
5. Ditch the car and walk when possible.

The Value of Membership

Communicating the many advantages of electric co-op membership can be challenging. Use the talking points below to communicate the cooperative advantage to members of your co-op.

Our mission. Electric co-ops were established to provide at-cost electric service. Providing safe, reliable and affordable power has remained our mission since day one.

You are a member, not a customer. Cooperatives are unique businesses because they are owned by you, the member. This means you have a voice in the way we run the co-op. Members elect the co-op's board of directors and have the ability to run for a seat on the board if they wish to do so. Your vote and participation help shape the direction of the cooperative.

We are not-for-profit. Unlike investor-owned utilities, which are operated to make the most profits for stakeholders, electric co-ops do not earn profits. Instead, any margins or revenue remaining (after all expenses have been paid) are returned to members in the form of capital credits. Capital credit returns are based on each member's years of participation in the co-op.

We are local, community-focused businesses. Because we are owned by the members we serve, electric cooperatives have a strong commitment to our local communities. In addition to providing safe, reliable and affordable power, electric co-ops are involved in local community development programs and projects, such as Habitat for Humanity, Relay for Life, Youth Tour (and other youth engagement programs), etc.

We are guided by a set of principles. All co-ops operate according to the same set of Seven Cooperative Principles: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; members' economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community. These principles guide every decision made by the co-op.

We are committed to innovation. Because we answer to local members rather than far-away shareholders, electric cooperatives are more nimble and able to respond quickly to changing member needs. We are committed to experimenting and innovating in ways that benefit the local communities and members we serve.

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



Hamburger, Green Bean Casserole

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 can green beans, drained
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can biscuits (5)
- 1/2 cup grated cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste

Brown ground beef and drain. Put in small casserole dish and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Add green beans and mushroom soup. Cook on high in microwave about 10 min. Place grated cheese over this and top with biscuits. Cook in preheated oven at 425° 10-12 min.

Thanks!

to **Ruby Allmon**,
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.