

VOL. 54 NO. 3 • MARCH 2017

# Mitchell EMC



The news  
you need to  
know in  
5 minutes!

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

## Mitchell Electric Membership Corporation *80<sup>th</sup> 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.



**Door Prizes and Grand Prize immediately following the business meeting.**

REGISTRATION CLOSSES PROMPTLY AT 2:00 P.M.

YOU MUST BE REGISTERED AND PRESENT TO WIN A DOOR PRIZE.

# A Community Partner Since 1937



Pictured (L-R): Justin Sealy, Will Burt, Johnson Ngo, David Calloway, Tan Tange, Ethan Thorton and Rob Jackson

## *Congratulations!*

## State FFA Wiring Competition Winners

Johnson Ngo, a student at Pelham High School, has proved himself to be one of the best in the state by qualifying and competing in the State EMC/FFA Agricultural Education Career Development Event (CDE). The program is designed to teach career skills and helps students develop the ability to think critically, communicate clearly and perform effectively.

By offering students the chance to participate, the FFA and electric membership corporations (EMCs) in Georgia, including Mitchell EMC, provide an educational opportunity that, for nearly 50 years, has been teaching high school students the safe, efficient use of electricity. Event participants complete a multiple choice written exam, a practical wiring problem testing their knowledge of the National Electric Code, and an oral presentation describing necessary steps to complete a specific electrical task.

According to Nathan Ireland, during the course of the competition, students have the opportunity to demonstrate the skills they previously learned in class and labs and

take pride in their accomplishments. “High schools students from our community who get involved in the EMC/FFA Career Development Event get a lot out of it,” said Ireland with Mitchell EMC. “Along with obtaining practical experience in the CDE, they have the chance to compete for scholarships.” The scholarships earned in the competitions can be used at any college, university or vocational school in Georgia.

Any active FFA member enrolled in a 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade high school agriculture education class is eligible to participate. The top two individuals in each area contest go on to participate in a state competition.

“Throughout the state, we’ve seen the EMC/FFA electrical wiring contest bring out the best in students,” said Ireland.

Mitchell EMC is a consumer-owned cooperative providing electricity and related services to over 15,500 members in Baker, Calhoun, Colquitt, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Lee, Miller, Mitchell, Thomas, Tift, Turner and Worth counties. Collectively, the 41 EMCs provide electricity and related services to 4.4 million people, nearly half of Georgia’s population, across 73 percent of the state’s land area.

The FFA is a national organization of approximately 649,355 student members in grades seven through 12 who belong to one of 7,859 local FFA chapters preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture. FFA’s mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.





# Easy steps to greater efficiency

By Anne Prince

**D**o you want to save money and electricity but have limited time, money and patience? According to the Department of Energy, a “typical American family” spends nearly \$2,000 per year on their home energy bills. Much of that money, however, is wasted through leaky windows or ducts, old appliances or inefficient heating and cooling systems.

Luckily, there are several relatively easy ways to save energy without a substantial commitment of time and money. These efforts will help you save whether you own or rent an older or newly constructed home. And, you won't have to hire a specialist or call in a favor from someone who is handy with tools to help you.

## Where to start

According to *Money Magazine*, “improving the envelope” of your home is a good place to start. Sunlight, seasonal temperature changes and wind vibrations can loosen up even a tight home, increasing air leakage. Doors and windows may not close tightly, and duct work can spring leaks, wasting cooled and heated air. By placing weather stripping and caulk around windows and doors, you can keep cool air inside during warm months and prevent chilly air from penetrating the indoors during colder months. Sealing gaps around piping, dryer vents, fans and outlets also helps to seal the envelope and creates greater efficiency. Apply weather stripping around overlooked spaces like your attic hatch or pull-down stairs.

Replacing incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs can make a big difference in home efficiency and is one of the fastest ways to cut your energy bill. Known for their longevity and efficiency, LED bulbs have an estimated operational life span of typically 10,000 to 20,000 hours compared to 1,000 hours of a typical incandescent. According to the Dept. of Energy, by replacing your home's five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with models that have earned the ENERGY STAR rating, you can save \$75 each year.

## Wrapping up savings

Installing a blanket around your water heater could reduce standby heat losses by 25 to 45 percent and save you about 7 to 16 percent in water heating costs, according to the Dept. of Energy. For a small investment of about \$30, you can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets and install them in about one hour. On a safety note, the Dept. of Energy recommends that you not set the thermostat above 130

degrees Fahrenheit on an electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket; the higher temperature setting could cause the wiring to overheat.

Given that a large portion of your monthly energy bill goes toward heating and cooling your home, it makes sense to ensure your home's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system is performing at an optimal level. Checking, changing or cleaning your filter extends the life of your HVAC system and saves you money.

Air filters prevent dust and allergens from clogging your HVAC system. Otherwise, dust and dirt trapped in a system's air filter leads to several problems, including: reduced air flow in the home and up to 15 percent higher operating costs; lowered system efficiency; and costly duct cleaning or replacement. Many HVAC professionals recommend cleaning the system filters monthly. A simple task like changing the filters on your HVAC system makes your unit run more efficiently, keeping your house cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

## Take control of your energy savings

Take a look at your programmable thermostat. When was the last time you checked to make sure it was programmed for the current season and family schedule? This is one of the best energy-saving tools at your fingertips. It enables you to fine tune the temperature during particular hours of the day. Many models allow you to differentiate between weekday and weekend schedules, and internet-connected thermostats can learn your schedule and make adjustments automatically. Most models come with an override option so you can make manual adjustments without losing overall programming. You can only achieve these efficiencies and savings if it is programmed properly and adjusted periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines.

*Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*



# DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Don't forget to spring forward on **March 12!** Set your clocks ahead by one hour.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Warmer weather is on the way! Use energy efficient window treatments or coverings, like blinds, shades and films, to reduce heat gain in your home. These devices not only improve the look of your home but also reduce energy costs.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

**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



## Crock Pot Cube Steak

### Ingredients:

1 can cream of chicken soup  
1 can cream of onion soup  
1 can french onion soup  
1 cup beef broth  
Cube steak

Mix first three ingredients, add enough broth to thin the soup and add meat. Cook on high in a crock pot for four hours.

*Thanks!*

to **Eloise Dawson**,  
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).