



The news
you need to
know in
5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA
www.mitchellemc.com

NOTICE

Annual Meeting of the Members

At Mitchell EMC, the health and well-being of our members and communities is our top priority. Due to the concern and uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus (COVID-19), the Board of Directors and Staff at Mitchell EMC feel it is in our consumer's best interest to not conduct the Annual Meeting of the Members on April 17, 2020, as we had planned.

The board plans to hold a
Special Called Meeting
of the Members of Mitchell EMC
on **Friday, September 18, 2020**, at
475 Cairo Road, Camilla, GA 31730.
Additional information will follow
closer to the meeting date.



Smart Thermostat Options

A Comparison of the Market's Smartest and Most Popular

By Maura Giles

Heating and cooling costs account for around half of a user's energy bill according to the U.S. Department of Energy. So when it comes to reducing energy use and cutting home energy costs, the most impact can be made by programming the thermostat. The right thermostat settings could yield energy savings of 8-15%, and new technology is making it easier than ever to achieve those settings.

Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and may be controlled remotely through a tablet, smartphone or voice control. Some models use multiple sensors to monitor temperatures in various parts of the home for more balanced heating or cooling, track user temperature preferences and use the data to optimize your heating and cooling schedule, and some are designed for complex multi-stage systems that will control heating, cooling, dehumidifier and ventilation systems.

If you're interested in controlling your thermostat with your voice or an app, or in being hands-off and letting it learn your habits, you should consider a smart thermostat. To narrow your choices, factor in smart features, price and attributes that matter most to you, such as color, size or style, and make sure the chosen product supports your HVAC system.

The Nest 3rd Generation Learning Thermostat and Ecobee4 are the most popular and sophisticated devices in this category. Both devices

are usually priced around \$250, but consumers can easily recoup their money in energy cost savings.

There are many similarities between the two thermostats. Both can be adjusted via computer, tablet, smartphone, Google Assistant or Amazon Alexa device (the Ecobee4 even has a built-in Alexa-enabled speaker). And both thermostats can interact with other smart devices and utilize geofencing—using your phone's GPS to determine if you're home, then automatically adjusting the temperature. Nest's geofencing works with multiple phones, while Ecobee supports just one phone. Ecobee makes up for this with its more sophisticated sensors.

The Nest and Ecobee offer for purchase, remote sensors that allow the thermostat to take readings from any room throughout your home and adjust the temperature accordingly. This can be an advantage if your thermostat is located near a draft or in direct sunlight. The Ecobee's sensors go one step further with occupancy sensing, which notices if there is movement in the house, in order to override geofencing if the primary phone user leaves the house and someone is still there.

While many of the features are similar, there a few that are notably different and can help you determine which is right for you.

Nest, powered by a rechargeable battery, is a learning thermostat and automatically learns your schedule. When you begin using Nest, it makes a few assumptions and

creates a baseline for its schedule. As you adjust the temperature up or down, Nest records it, and after a week, learns your schedule and the temperature settings you prefer. From then, it continues to learn and respond to your adjustments. Nest also records 10 days of energy use data that shows you a visual of the times your system turned on and off during those 10 days. Nest also sends a monthly email report that includes a summary of your energy use compared to previous months and other Nest users.

Ecobee must be hardwire installed, utilizes a touchscreen and can analyze HVAC data for 18 months. All temperature and motion data from the thermostat and sensors is recorded, and can be accessed online by the owner to help you monitor total energy use, how the weather influences your use, and how your home efficiency compares to other users in your area.

The two thermostats also can connect with various energy devices in your home. Ecobee recognizes dehumidifiers and ventilators, and Nest recognizes heat pumps and auxiliary heat.

For those looking for a smart thermostat with fewer bells and whistles, the Honeywell Lyric T5+ is one of the market's most popular, priced around \$135. While it can't sense your presence or learn your schedule, it does have the geofencing feature and can interact with other smart-home devices, such as turning on lights when you arrive or leave home.

Whichever fits your lifestyle and preferences, a smart thermostat is a good investment that can help you save energy and money in a more convenient way than ever.

Maura Giles writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.



The Nest thermostat, powered by a rechargeable battery, is a learning thermostat and automatically learns your schedule. **Photo Credit: Nest**

Mitchell EMC Urges The Public to Maintain Proper Social Distance From Line Crews

Maintaining reliable service during the COVID-19 pandemic depends on protecting the health and safety of work crews in the field

To help maintain safe and reliable service during the COVID-19 pandemic, EMCs in Georgia, including Mitchell EMC, urge the public to keep their distance from utility crews working in their communities.

“These employees provide an essential service during this crisis and are critical to keeping the lights on,” said Heather Greene with Mitchell EMC. “By giving them space of six feet or more, residents can help ensure the health and safety of all involved.”

Whether it is critical infrastructure work or emergency repairs due to damage from storms, trees or vehicles, crews are working hard every day to keep the lights on while maintaining safety standards and following guidelines of medical professionals when working in the field. Residents can help by not approaching crews and keeping a safe social distance of six feet or more.

Additionally, worksites often contain potential dangers and approaching EMC crews can lead to dangerous distractions for workers or accidents for citizens.



PLAY IT SAFE.

If you see our employees or crew members working in the community, we are asking you to remain at least six feet away.



Ways the public can help keep employees safe while they work in the field:

- If you see EMC crews, please stay back a minimum of six feet – much more if they are working.
- Please, no cookies or treats for crews during this time. Give a wave or thumbs up to workers you see. They’ll understand your gratitude as they work to keep the lights on.
- Don’t touch utility trucks or equipment. EMCs are operating under modified conditions to keep workers safe, which include additional cleaning and sanitation of tools and equipment.
- Post your appreciation for line workers on

social media using the hashtag **#ThankALineman**. April is Lineman Appreciation Month.

Linemen and all EMC personnel are focused on ensuring that families, businesses, healthcare facilities and more continue to have the service they need throughout this public health emergency.

Mitchell EMC is a member owned cooperative providing electricity and related services to over 15,760 members in 14 counties.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Home cooling makes up a large portion of your energy bills. Try to keep the difference between the temperature of your thermostat setting and the outside temperature to a minimum. The smaller the difference, the more energy you will save.



Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...

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

SUMMER ENERGY-SAVINGS WORD SEARCH

When you save energy at home, you're helping your family save money and protecting our environment.



Read the energy-saving tips below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.

- Close blinds and **curtains** on hot, sunny days to block additional heat from entering your home.
- Turn off lights and **electronics**, like TVs and stereos, when you leave a room.
- Turn off the **water** while you brush your teeth.
- Only clean full loads of dishes when you run the **dishwasher**.
- Cooking with smaller appliances like **slow cookers** and toaster ovens use less energy than larger appliances.
- Unplug **phone chargers** when they're not in use—they consume energy even when they aren't charging devices.

***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



Lazy Man's Peach Cobbler

Ingredients:

1 stick of butter
1 cup of milk
1 cup of sugar
1 cup of flour
1 teaspoon of baking powder
Dash of salt
1 quart of sweetened peaches
Cinnamon if desired

Directions:

Melt butter into baking dish, mix flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and milk. Pour on top of butter. Cover with peaches. (Do not mix together). Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Sprinkle with cinnamon and enjoy.

Thanks!

to

Katherine and Travis Lane,
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.