



The news
you need to
know in
5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA
www.mitchellemc.com

Don't Fall Victim to Utility Scams

By Abby Berry

Every day, millions of Americans are targeted by scammers through phone calls, emails, text messages, online or in person. Scammers' tactics can change daily, which is why it's important for consumers to stay on top of the latest scam reports from local and national news outlets, as well as your local utility companies.

Just last month, several Mitchell EMC members were targeted through a phone scam where the scammers demanded immediate payment and threatened to shut off power if the money was not received. Remember, Mitchell EMC will never call you and demand immediate payment without notice.

We want you to be aware of two trending scam tactics. One is the overpayment trick, where a scammer contacts you and claims that you have overpaid your utility bill. The scammer will say they need your personal banking information to deposit the credit back to your checking account. Don't fall for this scam! If you make an overpayment on your energy bill, Mitchell EMC will automatically apply the credit to your account, which will carry over to your next billing cycle. Another trending scam is smishing (short for SMS phishing). Many consumers know to watch out for suspicious emails, but we tend to trust text messages sent to our smartphones. Always question suspicious texts, especially from someone claiming to represent a utility. Mitchell EMC will only send you important updates via text if you've signed up to receive text messages. These are just a couple examples of trending scams, so it's important to watch for any red flags.

Here are a few reminders on how to take control of the situation when you've been targeted by a scammer:

• **Take your time.** Utility scammers try to create a sense of urgency so that you'll act fast and hand over personal information, especially over the phone. Take a moment to think about the situation before acting.

• **Be suspicious.** Scammers typically request immediate payments through prepaid debit cards or third-party apps. Unusual requests like this should raise red flags. Remember, if the request seems strange and out of the ordinary, you're likely being targeted by a scammer.

• **Confirm before you act.** If you're contacted by someone claiming to represent Mitchell EMC or another utility but you're unsure, just hang up the phone and call the utility directly. You can reach us at 800-479-6034 to verify the situation.

Our increasingly connected world provides scammers with more opportunities to connect with unsuspecting consumers. Be vigilant, and please report any utility scams to Mitchell EMC so we can let others in our community know. Together, we can help prevent our friends and neighbors from being victimized.

Abby Berry 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% of the nation's landscape.



- Our employees will never show up at your door to demand payment.
- Never give personal information to an unknown caller or visitor. Our representatives have access to the details they need to service your account.
- Demands for immediate payment by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, gift cards or cash reload cards should immediately raise red flags.
- If you think you've been contacted by a scammer falsely representing the co-op, please let us know as soon as possible.

84th Annual Meeting of the Members

Mitchell EMC would like to thank our members for making our 84th Annual Meeting a success on April 16th.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and on the recommendations of public health officials, Mitchell EMC held a non-traditional drive-thru Annual Meeting of Members. The meeting was a hit with the members.

Members drove through the Mitchell EMC's complex to see the new warehouse and was excited with the easy scan and go process we had in place for our drive through meeting.

Members that registered through the drive-thru

registration process were automatically entered to win some incredible bill credits as door prizes! We announced our meeting and the winners of the drawings over their vehicle's radios.

Listed below are the winners from the drawing.

\$500.00 Grand prize winner was Pam Young.

\$400.00 Grand prize winner was Pleasant View Church.

\$300.00 Grand prize winner was James Shumate.

The \$100.00 winner for bringing in their registration card was Christine Thomas.

We also drew twenty \$100.00 credit winners:

Nancy Williams
Cathy Clayton

Juan Ortiz
Assembly of God
Edward Hillard
Lollie Rogers
Patricia Edmonds
Shirahland INC
James Silas
Maggie Whitus
Sanders & Co Community
Bertha Cobb
Seketha Silas
Simmon Butler Sr
Corine Moultrie
Patricia Simpson
Orplee Reed
Gloria Wheeler
James Bullard
Bratreka Troutman

Congratulations to all our winners and making Mitchell EMC's Annual Meeting a success!

FINANCIALS

REVENUE & PATRONAGE CAPITAL

OPERATING REVENUES	<u>\$63,225,498</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Cost of Power	34,003,422
Distribution Operation	3,197,435
Distribution Maintenance	5,437,106
Consumer Accounts	2,318,444
Consumer Service and Sales Information	198,072
Sales	228,870
Administrative and General	4,111,165
Depreciation	4,445,749
Taxes	<u>3,834,815</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>57,775,078</u>
OPERATING MARGINS AFTER INTEREST EXPENSE	6,450,420
NON-OPERATING LOSS	(1,188,204)
GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION	1,006,776
PATRONAGE CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS	
OTHER CAPITAL CREDITS AND	<u>585,662</u>
PATRONAGE CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS	
NET MARGINS PLUS PATRONAGE CAPITAL	<u>\$6,854,653</u>

MEMBERS' EQUITY AND LIABILITIES

MEMBERS' EQUITY	
Patronage Capital	\$71,692,483
Other Equities	<u>16,747,795</u>
	<u>88,440,278</u>
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	
Long-Term Debt	56,912,500
Accumulated Provision for Post-retirement	
Other Long-Term Liabilities	18,858,638
	<u>75,771,138</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Mortgage Notes-Current Portion	3,271,939
Accumulated Provision for Post-retirement	
Benefits Other Than Pension-Current	542,000
Short Term Loans	7,000,000
Accounts Payable	3,443,289
Consumers' Deposits	1,186,592
Accrued and Withheld Taxes	438,131
Other	<u>2,464,283</u>
	<u>18,346,234</u>
TOTAL MEMBERS' EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	<u>\$ 182,557,650</u>

**WE HOPE
YOU HAVE A
HAPPY JULY 4TH!**

**OUR OFFICES WILL BE
CLOSED**

on MONDAY, July 5th

Energy Efficiency

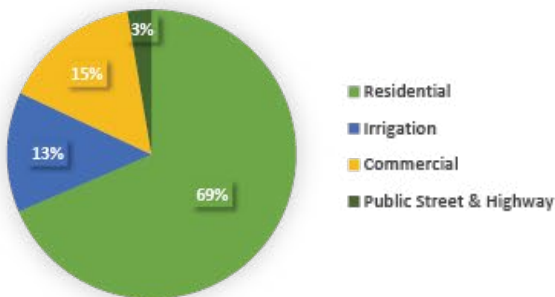
Tip of the Month

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat (like clothes dryers and dishwashers) during the evening when it's cooler. This will minimize indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest.

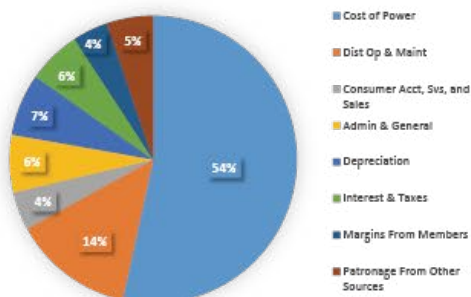
Source: www.energy.gov



Total Sales in 2020



How Your Revenue Was Used in 2020



ASSETS

UTILITY PLANT	
Electric Plant in Service-At Cost	\$171,470,901
Construction Work in Progress	7,137,828
Gross Utility Plant	178,608,729
Accumulated Provision for Depreciation	(36,124,366)
	<u>142,484,363</u>

INVESTMENTS IN ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS 29,305,758

CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2,465,149
Accounts Receivable	6,456,037
Materials and Supplies	1,694,049
Other	86,795
	<u>10,702,030</u>

Deferred Debits 65,499

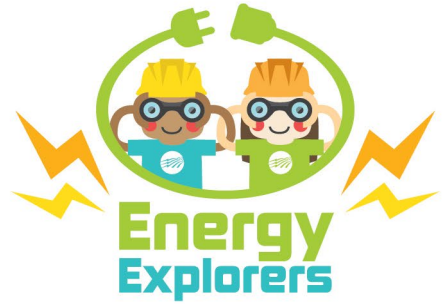
Total Assets \$182,557,650

Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...

COOPERATIVE WORD SEARCH

As a member of an electric cooperative, you're part of something special!

Read the facts below to learn how co-ops are unique, then find and circle the **BOLDED** words in the puzzle.



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

WORD BANK:

- **COOPERATIVES** are local organizations and businesses, so they understand the communities they serve.
- Co-ops don't have customers; instead, they have **MEMBERS**.
- All co-ops are guided by the same set of cooperative **PRINCIPLES**.
- "Concern for **COMMUNITY**" is the seventh cooperative principle.
- Co-ops are led by the members they **SERVE**.
- You're a member of an **ELECTRIC** cooperative, but there are also housing, grocery and other types of co-ops.

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



Quick Sweet and Sour Chicken

Ingredients:

- 2 chicken breast (10 oz), cubed
- 1 can pineapple tidbits
- 1/2 cup pineapple juice
- 1 red bell pepper, sliced
- 2 TBS soy sauce
- 2 TBS brown sugar
- 1 TBS cornstarch
- 2 cups cooked rice

Directions:

Saute chicken until done. Add red bell pepper to the pan. Once tender, add pineapple tidbits. In a separate bowl, mix pineapple juice, soy sauce, brown sugar, and cornstarch. Pour over the chicken mixture and bring to a boil until thickened. Serve with rice.

**Submitted By: Jennifer Bruce,
Dougherty County**

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.