



The news
you need to
know in
5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA
www.mitchellemc.com

87th Annual Meeting of the Members of Mitchell EMC

The 87th Annual Meeting of the Members of Mitchell EMC will be held on Friday, April 19, 2024, at the EMC headquarters in Camilla. This will be conducted as a drive-in meeting. Registration will take place in your automobile as you drive-in. The meeting will be broadcast over your radio. A brief report of the business operations for the Cooperative will be made to the members, and we will draw for door prizes later that day and winners will be contacted. Registration begins at 7:00 am and will close promptly at 10:00 a.m. To be eligible for the drawing of prizes, you must register before 10:00 a.m. and you will not have to be present to win.



Whatever it Takes: Powering Life From a Lineworker's Perspective

By Brian Baggett

Lineworkers are ranked as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the country. The lineworkers at Mitchell EMC work rain or shine, in often challenging conditions to ensure you have reliable electricity. We're celebrating Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 8, 2024. The following column was written by Brian Baggett, one of our many dedicated lineworkers.

My name is Brian Baggett, and I'm one of 51 lineworkers at Mitchell EMC who work every day in all weather conditions to make sure our community has the power to live their lives. I love my job. It's hard work, but it's very rewarding. I hope this will give you a better look into what we face and more importantly, why we do it.

The Danger

A lot of people know linework is dangerous because we work near high-voltage electricity. Move just the wrong way or lose focus for a split second, and it could be deadly. You have to be aware of your surroundings and the safety of the person next to you. We often work on energized power lines, and you can't always tell they are energized by just looking at them. You're working with an element of danger that requires concentration, and there is no margin for error. The environment compounds the pressure, because when you need power most is usually when the weather is worst. I'm often working in storms with rain, wind, extreme heat and cold, in the dark, or on the side of the road next to fast-moving traffic. Yes, it's dangerous, but that's what we're trained to do.

Continued on Page 3.

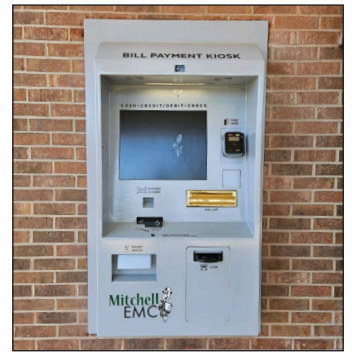
A Community Partner Since 1937

PAYMENT KIOSKS

Mitchell EMC is excited to offer another quick, easy and convenient option for our members to pay their electric bill! Our new payment kiosk is NOW available 24/7 at our Camilla Corporate Office, Sylvester, and Albany Office.

The kiosk accepts cash, checks and credit/debit cards. Kiosks are available 24/7, including weekends and holidays and all payments will post immediately to your account! Just make sure to bring your account number or your bill to scan the QR code that's printed on your bill. If you are using cash, the kiosk only accepts bills, and doesn't accept coins or provide change. Any overpayments will be applied directly to the members' accounts.

For each completed transaction, the kiosk will provide a printed receipt.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

A well-designed landscape can add beauty to your home and reduce home heating and cooling costs. Plant deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns to the south of your home to block sunlight in the summer and reduce the need for air conditioning. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter, allowing sunlight to warm your home. Plant evergreen trees and shrubs with low crowns to block winter winds. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs planted to the north and northwest are the most common type of windbreak and can help lower energy used for home heating.

Source: energy.gov



WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK

APRIL 15-19, 2024





STARTING A NEW PROJECT?

- NOTIFY-Call 811 or make a request online 2 to 3 days before you plan to start your project.
- WAIT-Wait 2 to 3 days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will mark underground lines.
- CONFIRM-Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 811 call center notified.
- RESPECT-Respect the markers and use them as a guide for the duration of your project.
- DIG CAREFULLY-If you can't avoid digging near the provided markers, consider moving your project.

Mitchell
EMC



KNOW WHAT'S BELOW.
CALL BEFORE YOU DIG.

WWW.CALL811.COM

Whatever it Takes Continued from Front Page

Many may not realize it, but we undergo years of training before we can officially be called a lineworker. We typically start as a groundperson, helping crews with tools and keeping job sites safe, then we transition to apprentice status, which typically spans four years. After an apprenticeship, with more than 7,000 hours of training under our belts, we transition to journeyman lineworker status—that's when we're considered officially trained in our field.

But the education is ongoing. Lineworkers continuously receive training to stay mindful of safety requirements and up to date on the latest equipment and procedures.

The Physical Demand

The daily expectations of a lineworker are physically demanding, but you won't hear any of us complain about that. I know what I signed up for—loading heavy materials, climbing poles and in and out of buckets. A lot of times, we go places the trucks can't, so I might be hiking through the woods loaded down with 40 pounds of personal protective equipment. But that's the job. Most of us are just glad to be outside.

The Sacrifices

There are some sacrifices to being a lineworker. I'm often first on the scene of an emergency, seeing things that are devastating like car accidents, structure fires and damage from severe storms. You don't know what type of situation you're going to face or when you're going to face it. We get calls all hours and in the middle of the night. I've missed a

lot of school events, games, and family dinners, but my family is very supportive, and it pays off in the end. We make sure there is nothing standing in the way of helping our friends and neighbors get back to normal life.

It's Worth It

One thing that makes this job worthwhile is the camaraderie. My co-op is my second family, and the line crews are a brotherhood (and sisterhood). In this work, you have to depend on the person beside you in life-or-death circumstances. It's a culture of trust, teamwork and service. It's all about keeping the teammate beside you safe and the lights on for everybody else.

I have a lot of pride in my work. Even when it's cold and wet, I know I'm working to keep people warm. There's a lot of satisfaction in hearing someone yell "Thank you" from the window after the lights come back on or seeing people flipping the light switches on their porches after an outage is restored. No matter how tired I am or how long I've been working, that feeling always makes it worth it.

Mitchell EMC and its employees are members of this community. We live in the same neighborhoods. We shop at the same stores. Our kids go to the same schools. If your lights are off, there is a good chance ours are off too. So, you can trust that we are doing our best to get the lights back on as quickly and safely as possible—so you can get back to normal life.

Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...

LINEWORKER SAFETY GEAR WORD SEARCH



Lineworkers use a variety of gear to stay safe while working near power lines and other electrical equipment. Read about their safety gear below, then find and circle the **blue** words in the puzzle.

- Safety **goggles** keep debris out of a lineworker's eyes while they work.
- Rubber **gloves** are insulated and protect lineworkers from electric shock.
- Steel toe **boots** provide extra protection when lineworkers lift heavy objects.
- **Hard hats** protect lineworkers from potential head injuries.
- Lineworkers wear a safety **harness** to prevent falls while climbing poles or working in a bucket.
- Lineworkers use a **hot stick**, an insulated tool made from fiberglass, when working on energized lines.

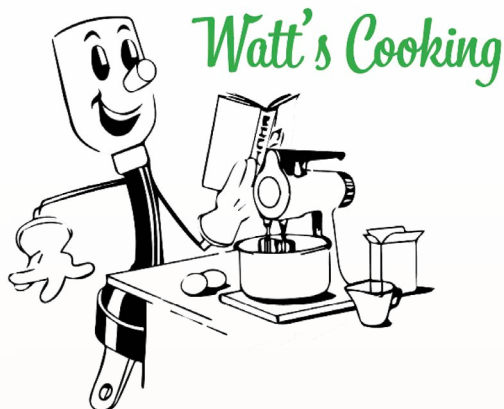
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G	J	H	U	P	M	K	T	P	E	U	Q	T	W	C
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M	W	F	R	Z	P	L	V	L	O	W	B	H	E	Y
F	F	S	E	V	O	L	G	S	R	B	N	D	G	D
I	E	N	Z	D	Q	R	S	M	Z	F	G	R	A	Y
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P	T	S	Z	L	S	B	E	Y	T	E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



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 applications 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



Sweet and Sour Meatloaf

Ingredients

1 pound ground beef or venison
1 egg
Salt and pepper to taste
3/4 cup Italian breadcrumbs
1 medium onion, chopped
1/2 can tomato paste
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
1/2 cup brown sugar
3/4 cup water
2 tablespoons vinegar
2 tablespoons mustard
1/2 can tomato paste

Directions

Mix beef, egg, salt, pepper, crumbs onion, paste and sauce. Form into loaf and place in sprayed casserole dish. Mix sugar, water, vinegar, mustard, paste and heat until mixed. Pour over loaf and bake 1-1/2 hours at 350 degrees. Baste while cooking. Delicious way to prepare venison.

Submitted by:

Pat Simpson, 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.