

# Mitchell

# EMC

VOL.52 NO.7  
July 2015



The news  
you need to  
know in  
.5 minutes!

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

## Keeping you safe during and after **summer storms**

No one knows electrical safety better than the experts who practice it every single day. Mitchell EMC encourages you to practice safety with these reminders – for during and after a summer storm:

***Avoid wires and water*** — When lightning strikes a home during a storm, the electrical charge can surge through pipes and utility wires. That means you can get zapped if you're touching water or any device that's plugged in, whether it's a landline phone or toaster.

***Skip the makeshift shelter*** — During a storm, it's tempting to take cover under a picnic gazebo or golf cart, but in open-sided structures with no conductors to channel strikes, a bolt's path of least resistance to the ground could be you. On top of that, these structures raise your risk of a lightning strike because of their height. Keep moving toward suitable shelter.

***Portable generators*** — Take special care with portable generators, which can provide a good source of power, but if improperly installed or operated, can become deadly. Do not connect generators directly to household wiring. Power from generators can back-feed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including co-op line workers making repairs. It's best to hire a qualified, licensed electrician to install your generator and ensure that it meets local electrical codes.

***Flooded areas*** — Stay away from downed power lines and avoid walking through flooded areas. Power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Report any downed lines you see to Mitchell EMC by calling 1-800-479-6034 immediately.

***Electrical equipment*** — Never use electrical equipment that is wet – especially outdoor electrical equipment, which could be a potential danger after a summer storm. Water can damage electrical equipment and parts, posing a shock or fire hazard.

For a checklist to assess safety hazards around your home or to take a quick safety quiz, go to <http://www.togetherwesave.com/power-of-community/safety>.

Mitchell EMC has served our local community since 1937, and safety for our members is our number one concern. To learn about our safety programs and tips, visit [www.mitchellemc.com](http://www.mitchellemc.com).

## Safety Tips for **OUTDOOR** Activities

Outdoor adventures such as swimming, camping, and hiking are rewarding ways to connect with nature. However, a few common-sense precautions can help to ensure a safe, fun excursion.

When planning your outdoor trip, make certain you know the area and weather forecast. Buy a map and plan to go with at least one other person. Give a copy of your itinerary and list of any equipment you're bringing as well as the make, year, and license plate number of your car to someone your trust. Find out the location of the nearest hospital and also the nearest ranger station and phone, as cell phone coverage is not always available.

**Take an American Red Cross Basic First Aid course** so you can deal with common mishaps. The American Red Cross offers a Wilderness and Remote First Aid course, designed to teach folks how to respond to emergencies—such as animal-bite wounds, broken bones, plant poisoning, lightning strikes, and hypothermia—when help is more than one hour away. Make sure everyone in your group is physically able to handle the trip. If you have a medical condition, get the approval of your doctor beforehand and pack extra supplies of any required medications.

**Make an emergency checklist** of necessary items for each potential situation and include accordingly. Although an overnight trip may not be planned, pack as though it were, with extra clothes, food, water, a compass, blankets, a radio with batteries, flashlights, waterproof matches, and a whistle.

At the top of any emergency checklist should be a first aid kit. While available in a variety of sizes and prices, you may wish to assemble one at home, so you can tailor it to your specific needs. Remember to pack all items in a waterproof container. Below are lists of essential and optional materials to include:

**Essential:** First aid manual, bandages, gauze, medical tape, knife, tweezers, scissors, pain reliever, antiseptic, antibiotic ointment, antacid, burn ointment, insect repellent, sunscreen, mirror, plastic gloves, pen/pencil, notepad.

**Optional:** Ace bandage, anti-allergy, anti-itch, anti-diarrhea medicine, children's medications, thermometer, ice pack, irrigation syringe, sling, splint, snake-bite kit, bee-sting kit, saline solution.

These tips offer a good start to a safer outdoor adventure and may make the difference between a great trip and a potential disaster.

Source: American Red Cross

### Summer Storm Safety Tip

Strong summer storms can create dangerous situations. Always avoid downed power lines - the wire could be live, which could be deadly for those nearby. Quickly report downed power lines to your local electric cooperative.





## Mitchell EMC Members Help Send Local Students to College Through Operation RoundUP Scholarships

What better way to invest in the future than by investing in the outstanding youth of our communities? Mitchell EMC members who enroll in Operation RoundUP are doing exactly that by providing scholarships to deserving students. Participating members allow us to round their electric bills up to the nearest whole dollar amount. Though it may not seem like much, those funds added together make a huge positive difference in our local community. Graduating high school students receive a \$1000 scholarship. Current post high school students attending a college or university in Georgia receive a \$1500 scholarship. Graduating children of Mitchell EMC employees receive a scholarship of \$500.

Pictured Left to Right: (Front Row) **Abby Peterson**, Tift Area Academy, **Mary Brooks**, Pelham High School, **Margaret Ruth Owens**, Westwood School, **T'Yunna Smith-Washington Youth Tour (WYT) Delegate**, Mitchell County High School, **Morgan Miller**, Darton College, **Hannah Singletary**, Baconton Charter School, **Reilly Harrelson**, Lee County High School, **Lily Houston-WYT Delegate**, Southwest Georgia Academy. (Back Row:) **Dru Ford-WYT Delegate**, Westwood School, **Chandler Bearden**, Worth County High School, **Albert Bryant**, Mitchell County High School, **Dillon Van Blount**, Baconton Charter School, **Matthew Tucker-WYT Delegate**, Westwood School, **Taylor Adams**, Valdosta State University.

## Is Your Home as Ready for Summer as You Are?

By: **Harris Walker**

*Communications Specialist, Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program*

It took longer than expected, but the harsh winter is finally over and summer is right around the corner. If you're anything like me, that means you're going to be turning on the air conditioner soon—but is your house really ready? With residential energy costs at an all-time high, it's important to make sure that your house is as efficient as it can possibly be—and I'm not just talking about your HVAC system! Luckily, we have some basic tips for success.

To evaluate your home's energy efficiency, you can either perform your own home energy audit or hire a professional to do it for you. First, let's cover some basics for the do-it-yourself home energy audit!

### LOCATE AND SEAL AIR LEAKS

The quickest way to waste money in your home is to let all the air escape, but a simple check around your windows, doors, and floors will do the trick. Whether you're a DIY aficionado or a home improvement klutz, you can use a smoke pencil from any home improvement store to identify leaks in the house and then use a caulking gun or weather-stripping tool to fix the problem.

### CHECK YOUR INSULATION

Depending on the age of your house and the last time you had insulation installed, you might not have the recommended amount or the optimal type of insulation for today's climate. Also, make sure the access your attic is properly sealed and insulated with a comparable amount of insulation as the attic itself.

## Home Ready for Summer? | cont. from page 3

Checking a wall's insulation level is more difficult. Select an exterior wall and turn off the circuit breaker or unscrew the fuse for any outlets in the wall. Once you are sure your outlets are not getting any electricity, remove the cover plate from one of the outlets and gently probe into the wall with a thin, long stick or screwdriver. If you encounter a slight resistance, you have some insulation there.

### LIGHTING

In terms of your overall energy bill, anything related to climate control in the house definitely makes up the majority, but lighting also accounts for about 10% of your bill, as well. Take a few minutes to check out your light bulbs to see if there's a more efficient option. If you're looking to save some money over time, phase out those old incandescent light bulbs and switch to compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) or LED bulbs.

If you follow all of these tips, you'll be ready for a cool summer in your energy efficient home in no time but be sure not to miss out on the beautiful weather!

Source: U.S Department of Energy

## Employee SPOTLIGHT



**Michael Grimsley** is Mitchell EMC's July Employee Spotlight. Michael is a Staking Technician in the Sylvester District Office. He has been employed with Mitchell EMC for 19 years.

When asked what he enjoyed most about his job, Michael said, "I enjoy meeting people. Every job to me is a new challenge. No two jobs are the same. When I started staking, I feared the unknown. Mitchell EMC has provided me with the skills and knowledge I needed to perform my duties."

"During my first few years at Mitchell EMC I thought I had made a huge mistake. I remember summer storms would roll in and we would spend days restoring the power. Since then, I have decided that working with a co-op like Mitchell EMC is not just a job, it's a family and a lifestyle."

**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



## Deluxe Pimento Cheese

8 ounces cream cheese  
1 cup mayonnaise  
½ teaspoon garlic powder  
½ teaspoon black pepper  
2 to 3 hard-boiled eggs  
2 cups mexican 4  
cheese blend  
2 cups sharp cheddar  
cheese  
7 ounce jar diced  
pimento, drained



Cream together cream cheese and mayonnaise with an electric mixer. Add seasonings and blend well. Chop hard-boiled eggs finely, either with a knife or food processor; add to the creamed mixture. Stir in shredded cheese and drained pimento. Blend well and chill for several hours.

Makes 6 cups of pimento cheese.

*Thanks!*

to **Linda Hatcher**,  
Dougherty 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).