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Mitchell
EMC



The news
you need to
know in
.5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA
www.mitchellemc.com

Mitchell EMC wishes you and
your family a very

Merry
Christmas



May Your Holiday Season Be Merry and Bright

By **Tony Tucker**

The holidays are a time of year that many of us eagerly anticipate. The season is marked by special foods, seasonal decorations and lots of festivities. Right here in Southwest Georgia, we look forward to the annual community Christmas Parades.



We cherish carrying on old family traditions and enjoy creating new ones. For me personally, I look forward to more time spent with family and friends.

However, given the hustle and bustle of the season, the holidays can also offer an opportunity to slow down and reflect. For all of us at Mitchell EMC, we are grateful for you,

the members of the co-op.

You see, one of our founding principles as a co-op is “Concern for Community.” While our main focus is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we want to give back. We want to help our community thrive.

Reflection

In looking back at this past year, I’m grateful that we were able to make a positive impact in the communi-

ty. Through programs such as Operation RoundUp, where thanks to your contributions, we have been able to assist organizations in our communities.

We were also grateful for the opportunity to partner with local schools to raise awareness of the importance of electrical safety. This year, we visited with 7,000 students from area and local schools.

In fact, we continue to work closely with our local high schools to award college scholarships. In 2019, we awarded \$16,000 to local scholars.

There are other ways we can help the community, whether we’re providing information about our Solar Sprint, safety demonstrations, career day programs, or helping you find ways to save energy at home, we want you to know we’re here to help.

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead to 2020, we hope you will share your opinions with us. We recognize that our members have a valuable perspective, and that’s why we continually seek your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you. We are led by you – the members of the co-op – and we depend on your feedback.

As we prepare for next year, we look forward to the opportunity to serve you and the greater community. On behalf of the Mitchell EMC family, we hope your holidays are indeed merry and bright!

Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption Expires December 31

If you’re an agricultural producer and receive the Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption (GATE) on electricity, you must renew it beginning this October.

GATE is an agricultural sales and use tax exemption certificate issued by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. The document identifies its user as a qualified farmer or producer who is exempt from sales tax on the inputs used in the production of their commodity.

Mitchell EMC member-owners who receive a

GATE certificate should send us a copy along with the account numbers that apply to the GATE certificate, so we can apply the exemption to their account. *We must receive a copy of the new certificate by December 31 for the exemption to continue.*



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter clothing. You’ll spend less time drying the lighter-weight items.

Source: energy.gov



We will be closed December 24-25 to spend time with our families for Christmas and on January 1 for New Years.

Mitchell EMC



Unwrap winter energy savings

By Amber Bentley

The holidays are upon us! It's that special time of year when we spend a great deal of time with friends and family, either in the kitchen or out and about shopping for the perfect gift. As you find yourself wrapped up in the holiday excitement, Mitchell EMC reminds you of a few ways to be energy efficient during this busy time of year.

Cooking efficiently

- **Be kind to your oven.** Every time you open the oven door to check on that dish, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees. This forces the oven to use more energy in order to get back to the proper cooking temperature. Try keeping the door closed as much as possible. Also, remember to take advantage of residual heat for the last five to 10 minutes of baking time – this is another way to save energy use. If you're using a ceramic or glass dish, you can typically set your oven 25 degrees lower than stated, since these items hold more heat than metal pans.

- **Give your burners some relief.** The metal reflectors under your stovetop burners should always be clean. If not, this will prevent your stove from working as effectively as it should.

- **Utilize small appliances.** During the holidays, the main appliances used are the oven and stovetop. Try using your slow cooker, microwave, toaster oven or warming plate more often. This will result in substantial energy savings.

Home efficiency

- **Take advantage of heat from the sun.** Open your curtains during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.

- **Find and seal all air leaks.** Check areas near pipes, gaps around chimneys, cracks near doors and windows and any unfinished places.

- **Maintain your heating system.** Schedule services for your heating system before it gets too cold to find out what maintenance you may need to keep your system operating efficiently.

- **Eliminate “vampire energy” waste.** When you are not using an appliance or an electronic, unplug it to save energy. Power strips are definitely a good investment for your home.

Efficient shopping

- **Purchase LED holiday lights.** A string of traditional lights uses 36 watts of power and a string of LED lights only uses 5 watts. They can even last up to 10 times longer!

- **Ask for Energy Star-rated TVs and appliances.** This will save you a lot of power use because the stand-by-mode is lower and the device will use less energy overall.

- **Combine errands to reduce the number of small trips.** To-do lists seem to pile up around this time of the year. Believe it or not, several short trips in the winter can use twice as much fuel as one longer trip covering the same distance as all of the shorter ones.

Being energy efficient is usually not top priority when celebrating the holidays, and most of us don't realize the lack of efficiency until the next bill comes in. Prevent your post-holiday shock this year by thinking creatively and remembering all of these tips!

Amber Bentley writes on energy efficiency issues 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.

Mitchell EMC Facilities Charge Adjustment

Currently, some of the fixed costs of servicing your account are recovered through what you pay for electricity. We are moving to more accurately allocate these costs, both fixed and energy, to their true sources. Effective with member billings that begin on January 1, Mitchell EMC's Facilities Charge will increase by \$3.00 per month.

The Facilities Charge partially covers the fixed costs of delivering your electric service. These fixed costs include reading your meter; maintaining the electric distribution system used in keeping your power flowing; maintaining rights of way; and performing other tasks necessary to ensure a reliable electric distribution system. The Facilities Charge **does not** include the cost of the actual electricity you use. The monthly Facilities Charge is changing because the costs of servicing your account are rising. Every member benefits from these services, so the monthly Facilities Charge helps Mitchell EMC ensure that the cost are spread fairly among our membership.

We continue to offer free in home energy audits to help Members with options to make their homes more energy efficient. Our energy efficiency program includes rebates whether you are building a home, or just upgrading your present home.

To find out more about these rebates visit <https://mitchellemc.com/customer-service/consumer-rebates>.

Employee SPOTLIGHT



Belinda is Mitchell EMC's November Employee Spotlight. Belinda is a CSR II in the Albany District Office and has been employed with MEMC for 13 years.

When she is not on the job, Belinda enjoys spending time with her family. She has 8 grandchildren. Belinda has a son named Donnie who is married to Jill, and two daughters named Carrie and Lacey, and lots of grand dogs. Most of her spare time involves her family, friends and sports. Three words that can be used to describe her are dependable, customer oriented and committed.

Her favorite part about working for Mitchell EMC is "the interaction with the customers. It is so important in making sure all of their needs are met. Communication is key in all things. I look forward to seeing my work family each day. They are a second family to me."

Join us in a Cover-Up!

Mitchell EMC will be collecting winter coats, good used and new, for the needy. If you can contribute, please bring your coats to any MEMC office or contact any MEMC employee. The coats will be distributed the first of December.



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



Southern Pecan Pie

Ingredients:

1 pie crust
2/3 cups of sugar
1/2 cup of butter or margarine
1 cup of dark corn syrup
1 cup of pecans
1/2 teaspoon of salt
3 eggs beaten
1/2 cup of evaporated milk
1/2 pack of vanilla instant
pudding mix

Directions:

Beat sugar, margarine, corn syrup, salt and eggs with mixer in a bowl. Beat in 1/2 pack of pudding mix, then add the evaporated milk. Mix real good, then pour in pecans. Mix again and pour into the crust. Bake on 350° for 35 to 45 minutes.

Thanks!
to

Deborah Posey,
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.