

VOL. 57 NO. 2 • FEBRUARY 2020

# Mitchell EMC



The news  
you need to  
know in  
5 minutes!

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

Mitchell Electric Membership Corporation

## 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting *April 17, 2020*

Mitchell EMC Auditorium • 475 Cairo Road, Camilla, GA 31730

Registration 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Information Booths 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Business Meeting 2:00 p.m.

Entertainment  
by the  
Jericho Band  
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.



FREE GIFTS  
to the first 500  
consumers  
to register



## Four Tips for Winter Safety

By Abby Berry

It's no surprise that winter months bring increased potential for fire risks and electrical safety hazards. This makes sense because during the coldest months, consumers are using additional electrical devices and appliances, like space heaters, electric blankets and portable generators.

The National Fire Protection Association estimates that 47,700 home fires occur each year in the U.S. due to electrical failure or malfunction. These fires result in 418 deaths, 1,570 injuries and \$1.4 billion in property damage annually. This winter, safeguard your loved ones and your home with these electrical safety tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International.

**1. Don't overload outlets.** Overloaded outlets are a major cause of residential fires. Avoid using extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliance connections—they should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. If you're relying heavily on extension cords in general, you may need additional outlets to address your needs. Contact a qualified electrician to inspect your home and add new outlets.

**2. Never leave space heaters unattended.** If you're using a space heater, turn it off before leaving the room. Make sure heaters are placed at least three feet away from flammable items. It should also be noted that space heaters take a toll on your energy bills. If you're using them throughout your home, it may be time to upgrade your home heating system.

**3. Inspect heating pads and electric blankets.** These items cause nearly 500 fires every year. Electric blankets that are more than 10 years old create additional risks for a fire hazard. Inspect your electric blankets and heating pads – look for dark, charred or frayed spots, and make sure the electrical cord is not damaged. Do not place any items on top of a heating pad or electric blanket, and never fold them when in use.

**4. Use portable generators safely.** Unfortunately, winter storms can cause prolonged power outages, which means many consumers will use portable generators to power their homes. Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system.

For portable generators, plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator. Start the generator first, before you plug in appliances. Run it in a well-ventilated area outside your home. The carbon monoxide it generates is deadly, so keep it away from your garage, doors, windows and vents. 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 percent of the nation's landscape.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

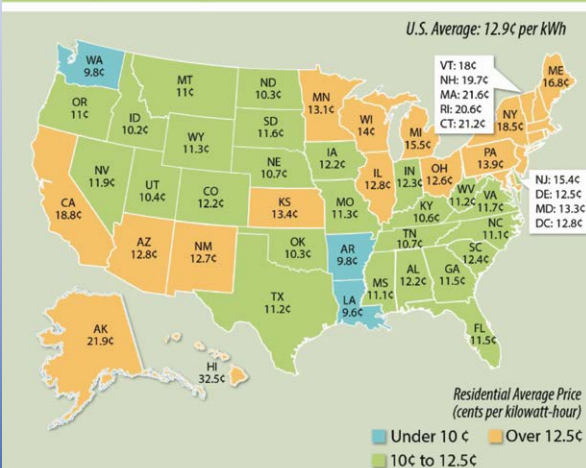
Are you using your fireplace efficiently? Remember to turn down the thermostat when burning a fire, and close the damper when a fire is not burning.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



### Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2018 figures, in cents per kWh



### Did You Know?

Electric cooperatives have retired \$17 billion to members since 1988 – \$1.2 billion in 2018 alone.

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits.

Source: National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation

\$1.2 BILLION IN 2018

\$17 BILLION SINCE 1988



# Mitchell EMC Scholarship Opportunities Available

Mitchell EMC is proud to offer two (2) scholarship opportunities for the youth of our area. We are currently accepting applications for the Walter Harrison Scholarship and our Operation Round Up Scholarships. Application forms and criteria can be found on our web site, [www.mitchellemc.com](http://www.mitchellemc.com).

## Walter Harrison Scholarships:

- Mr. Walter Harrison was a pioneer in the electric industry in Georgia, and this scholarship is named in his honor and memory.
- It is a statewide \$1,000 scholarship.
- Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement and financial need.
- Application deadline is **February 1, 2020**.



## Operation Round Up Scholarships:

- Funds for these scholarships are provided by consumer

participation in the Operation Round Up program at Mitchell EMC.



- A maximum of fifteen (15) \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors and/or college/technical school students.
- Scholarships are awarded based on "All Around Student Performance" including academic performance, volunteerism, and participation in school, church and community activities. Financial need is also considered.
- Application deadline is **March 1, 2020**.

Please note that the scholarships have different deadlines and should be mailed to different addresses listed on the scholarship form. We encourage students to apply for both scholarships. Applications will be judged by an independent scholarship committee, and winners will be notified by May 1.

## Space Heater Safety Tips

Space heaters are a great way to warm specific rooms in your home without having to crank up the thermostat, but using space heaters doesn't come without risk! Use the tips below to keep your home safe.

**DO:** Plug your space heater directly into the wall outlet.

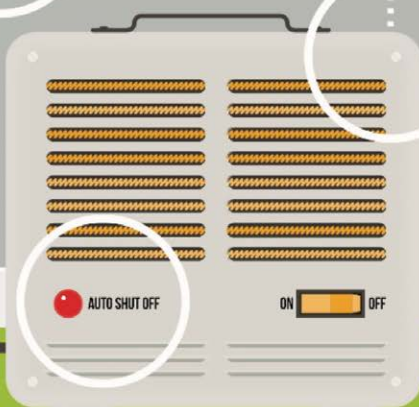


**DO:** Keep your space heater in low-moisture rooms.

**DO:** Keep your space heater at a safe distance (at least 3 feet) from kids, pets and flammable items.



**DO:** Buy a unit with an automatic shutoff in case the unit tips over, or you forget to shut it off.



**DO:** Always follow the directions and take a broken space heater to a qualified appliance service center.



**DON'T:** Leave your space heater unattended. Always unplug it before you leave the house or go to bed.



**DON'T:** Use an extension cord to plug in your space heater. It can cause the heater to over-heat, and can be a tripping hazard.

**DON'T:** Place your space heater near curtains, clothing, furniture or bedding.



**DON'T:** Try to repair a broken space heater yourself.



**DON'T:** Put your space heater in your bathroom. The moisture can damage the unit, which could cause it to malfunction.



## Employee SPOTLIGHT



**Nathan Ireland** is Mitchell EMC's February Employee Spotlight. Nathan is an Energy Auditor in the Camilla District Office and has been employed with MEMC for 26 years.

When he is not on the job, Nathan enjoys traveling, remodeling his home, and working in the yard. Three words to describe Nathan are headstrong, people person, and a cutup. He also enjoys spending time with his family on their farm riding the ranger with his nephews and nieces. Nathan recently moved into his grandfather's original farmhouse that was built in 1943 and has spent the last eight months remodeling.

His favorite part about working for Mitchell EMC is his coworkers.

## Coat Cover-up

For over ten years, Mitchell EMC has collected winter coats, good used and new, for the needy at each of the district offices. The coat cover-up project is one that our employees and consumers enjoy doing every year. This year we collected over 200 coats that were donated to multiple area organizations in each of the district areas.

Mitchell EMC would like to thank Westwood Schools 1st Grade Class for helping us with the Coat Cover-up Drive. They donated many good used children's coats for needy kids in the area. This year Westwood partnered with SWGA Farm Credit. A total of 5 boxes of children's coats and 2 boxes of adult's coats were collected!



**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



## Sour Cream Lemon Pie

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup sugar
- 3 ½ tablespoons cornstarch
- ½ cup fresh lemon juice
- 3 egg yolks, slightly beaten
- 1 cup of milk
- 1 cup of sour cream
- ¼ cup of butter
- 9-inch baked pie shell
- 1 cup of heavy whipping cream whipped

### Directions:

Combine sugar, cornstarch, lemon juice, egg yolk, and milk in a heavy saucepan. Cook over medium heat until thick. After mixture is cooked stir in butter and sour cream. Pour in baked pie shell, let cool. Spread on whipped topping and serve.

*Thanks!*

to

**Bertha Simmons,**  
Mitchell 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.