

# Mitchell EMC



The news  
you need to  
know in  
5 minutes!

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

*MITCHELL EMC is proud to offer Scholarship Opportunities for the Youth of our area. The Walter Harrison Scholarship and The Mitchell EMC Operation Round-Up Scholarships. Visit our website and look under the community tab to find out all the details and to download your application for our 2021 Scholarships!*

## Walter Harrison Scholarship

**Due In the Camilla Office By: FEBRUARY 1, 2021**

Mitchell EMC is pleased to be a part of helping our members pursue their dream of a college education. We annually offer the prestigious **Walter Harrison Scholarship**, a program sponsored by the EMCs of Georgia. The \$1,000 scholarship can be used to defray educational costs at any accredited two- or four-year university, college or vocational-technical institute in Georgia.

To be eligible for consideration, students must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited undergraduate degree program, complete the two-page Walter Harrison application and write a two-page autobiographical sketch with references to future plans and goals. **Students applying for this scholarship MUST live in a house that receives electric service from Mitchell EMC.**



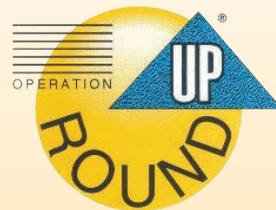
## Operation Round-Up Scholarship

**Due To The Community Foundation of South Georgia By: MARCH 1, 2021**

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 Round-Up 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.

A maximum of ten (10) renewable scholarships will be awarded on an annual basis. Scholarships will be \$2,500 per semester, twice a year, for up to four years to assist in attaining an undergraduate degree from a post-secondary institution in the United States. After the first Semester, the monies for subsequent semesters will be issued provided that students have submitted prior semester grades to verify they have maintained a minimum GPA of 2.5 and continue to be enrolled as a full-time student.

Applicants must be a graduating high school senior or a student currently enrolled in or attending a post-secondary college, technical college or university in the United States, and that has attained at least a 2.5 GPA. The applicant, their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must have their primary residence or a place of business in the Mitchell EMC Service Area. Preference will be given to Mitchell EMC consumers. However, further consideration will be given based on financial need, academic achievement, extracurricular school activities or employment, community service, and leadership qualities.



*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.*

# Five Ways to Stay Cozy This Winter

By Abby Berry

Baby, it's cold outside! When you're feeling chilly at home, there are several budget-friendly ways you can keep comfortable without turning up the thermostat.

Here are five easy ways to stay cozy this winter.

**1.** Whether you're experiencing extremely cold winter temps or you simply "run cold," **an electric blanket can deliver quick warmth** like a regular throw or blanket cannot. Electric blankets can include a variety of features, like timers and dual temperature settings (if your cuddle buddy prefers less heat). This winter, consider an electric blanket instead of turning up the heat, and your energy bill will thank you.



Electric blankets deliver quick warmth and include a variety of features like timers and dual temperature settings. Photo Credit: Abby Berry, NRECA

**2.** One of the easiest ways to stay cozy at home is to **keep your feet warm**. Our feet play a critical role in regulating body temperature, so when your feet are warm, your body automatically feels warmer. Try a pair of comfortable wool socks or house slippers to stay toasty.

**3.** On winter days when the sun is shining, take advantage and **harness natural warmth from sunlight**. Open all curtains, drapes and blinds in your home to let the sunshine in—you'll be able to feel the difference.

**4.** Another way to make your home cozier is to **use a humidifier**. Cold air doesn't hold water vapor like warm air, so by adding humidity inside your home, you can feel a little warmer. A favorable level of humidity inside your home can also help clear sinuses, soften skin and improve sleep.

**1.** Beyond adding visual appeal to your home, **area rugs can also provide extra insulation and a warm surface for your feet** on cold winter days. Use large area rugs in rooms where you spend the most time. You'll enjoy the new colors and textures of the rug, and the additional warmth will help keep your home comfortable.

These are just a few ways you can stay cozy this winter *without* turning up the thermostat. Don't forget the hot chocolate!

*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.*

Mitchell EMC offices will be closed on December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of Christmas and on January 1<sup>st</sup> for New Years.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load).

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) estimates that the average home loses \$200 annually to energy wasted by

Source: [www.nrel.gov](http://www.nrel.gov)



# 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.

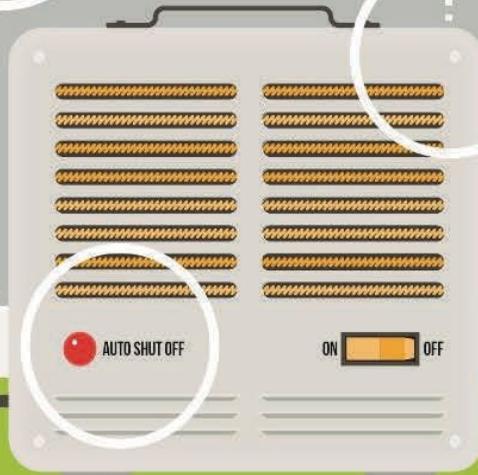


**DO:** Keep your space heater in low-moisture rooms.

**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.



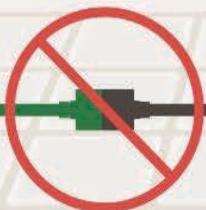
**DO:** Always follow the directions and take a broken space heater to a qualified appliance service center.



**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.



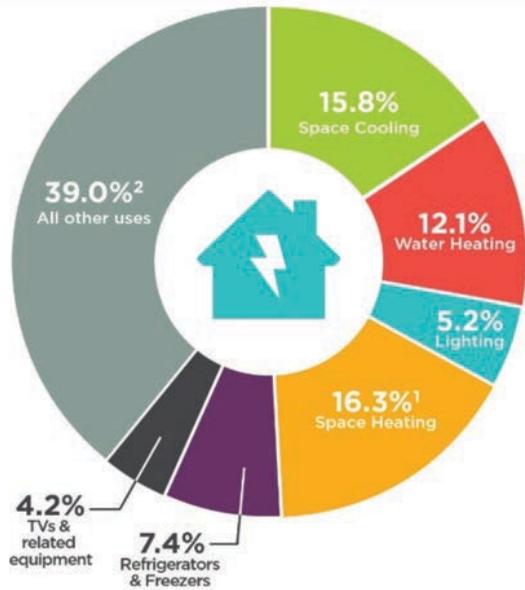
**DON'T:** Put your space heater in your bathroom. The moisture can damage the unit, which could cause it to malfunction.



# Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...

## How Americans Use Electricity

The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows the combined use of clothes washers and dryers, computers, dishwashers, small appliances and other electrical equipment (noted as "all other uses" at right) accounts for nearly 40% of electricity consumption in American homes.



Source: EIA, Annual Energy Outlook 2020

<sup>1</sup>Includes consumption for heat and operating furnace fans and boiler pumps.  
<sup>2</sup>Includes miscellaneous appliances, clothes washers and dryers, computers and related equipment, stoves, dishwashers, heating elements, and motors.

## Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption Expires Dec. 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.**



**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



## Shepherd's Pie

### Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 box instant potatoes
- 1 16 oz. bag shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- Salt to taste (add to meat when browning, also garlic and onions)
- Garlic to taste
- Onions to taste

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°. Brown ground beef and drain. Fix whole box of instant potatoes as directed. In a 9X13 inch casserole dish, put ground beef and layer the potatoes on top. Sprinkle shredded cheese on top. Cook until cheese is melted.

*Thanks!*

Submitted by: **Arlene Ferguson,**  
**Worth 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](mailto:heather.greene@mitchellemc.com).