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CAMILLA, GEORGIA
www.mitchellemc.com

Celebrating Membership

October is National Co-op Month

By Tony Tucker, *President/CEO*

Fall is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month with school, community and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month.

When I say Mitchell EMC celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating you! After all, our co-op wouldn't exist without you, our members.



Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. "Concern for community" is one of seven

guiding principles that all co-ops share.

Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions—because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

Mitchell EMC works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board that's comprised of neighbors who live right here in our community. Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them.

The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," meaning people working together towards a common goal—mutually benefitting one another and the larger community. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit. Our employees and member-elected board members are invested in the community in

which live and serve.

Above all, as a co-op we put our members' priorities first. As your trusted energy partner, we know that saving energy and money is important to you. That's why we have numerous programs in place to help, including Time of Use, Energy Audits, and Rebate Program.

We want to empower you to manage energy use at home. If you haven't already, I encourage you take a moment and download our app. Through the app, you can conveniently monitor and manage your energy use. And we're of course here to help, so give us a call if you have questions about your energy bills.

Mitchell EMC is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're your local co-op. We were built by the members we serve.



Focused on YOU.

Electric cooperatives were created to serve their members. Because we're a co-op, we're able to adapt to our community's unique needs. That's the power of co-op membership.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

DOUGHERTY HIGH SCHOOL AND DEERFIELD-WINDSOR SCHOOL AWARDED WITH GHSA COOPERATIVE SPIRIT SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

From figuring out their next steps in life to juggling extracurricular activities and schoolwork, high school students have much to accomplish all while they develop their character and habits that will shape the rest of their lives. For those who engage in athletic activities, this is amplified as they not only worry about their actions in the classroom, but also on the field or court. As the spotlight is often put on student-athletes in many communities, Georgia high schools continue to equip these young adults with the ability to compete with exemplary sportsmanship and class.

Electric cooperatives also strive to improve the lives of young people in communities across the state and understand the importance of shaping and recognizing the leaders of tomorrow. That is why Georgia's EMCs, including Mitchell EMC, are proud to announce the winners of the 2021-2022 Georgia High School Association (GHSA) Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Awards.

"Every choice a person makes effects what happens down the road," says Tony Tucker with Mitchell EMC. "Teaching student-athletes about character, about treating others with respect, even when it's hard or if the other person may not deserve it, instills a better attitude in these future leaders that won't go unnoticed. We are so proud to be able to recognize those who demonstrate these great qualities and encourage them to continue in the future."

Mitchell EMC, along with other Georgia EMCs, have presented the Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award to schools like Dougherty High School and Deerfield-Windsor School since 2006.

To be considered for this award, students, athletes, coaches, spectators and anyone associated with high school activities programs must illustrate outstanding respect, fairness, honesty and responsibility before, during and after

athletic competition.

"Congratulations to all of the region winners of the GHSA Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award for 2021-2022," says Dr. Robin Hines, GHSA Executive Director. "It is an honor for these member schools to be selected by their regions for this award. The characteristics of good sportsmanship are critical to the development of our young people as they transition into productive adults. The GHSA applauds our

schools on this accomplishment and appreciates Georgia's EMCs for their support of this outstanding recognition program."

Schools such as Dougherty High School and Deerfield-Windsor School have shown exemplary sportsmanship across a variety of athletics, ranging from athletes

to spectators. The Award also extends to anyone involved in the athletic event, which honors both the school and the community.

Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Awards are presented annually by EMC representatives during fall athletic events and school assemblies to the winning GHSA-member high schools, with a winner being named in each of the 64 regions from the eight classifications.

Mitchell EMC is a consumer-owned cooperative providing electricity and related services to more than 25, 440 residential and commercial members in Baker, Dougherty, Mitchell and Worth Counties, and in parts of Calhoun, Colquitt, Decatur, Early, Grady, Lee, Miller, Thomas, Tift and Turner counties.

The GHSA is a voluntary, non-profit organization comprised of more than 470 public and private high schools that strives to promote good sportsmanship, participant safety, fair play and a cooperative spirit among its member schools. The GHSA administers regulations for region and state competition in 18 sports and three activities. For more information, visit www.ghsa.net.



Four Ways to Boost Your Cyber Hygiene

By Abby Berry

In today's digital world, cyberattacks are unfortunately nothing new. Cyber criminals can attack on a multitude of levels, from large-scale attacks targeting corporations to smaller



phishing attacks aimed to gain an individual's personal information.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, but good cyber hygiene should be practiced year-round. This year's theme is "See Yourself in Cyber" – because we *all* have a part to play in cybersecurity. When we hear about massive data breaches, it can feel overwhelming and lead us to think we're powerless as individuals to stop cyber criminals.

The truth is, there are several practical steps we can take to safeguard our devices and data. Here are four easy ways to boost your cyber hygiene:

1. Enable multi-factor authentication. Also known as two-step verification, multi-factor authentication adds a second step when logging into an account (to prove you're really you), which greatly increases the security of the account. This second step could include an extra PIN, answering an extra security question, a code received via email or a secure token. Regardless of the type of authentication, this additional step makes it twice as hard for cyber criminals to access your account. Not every account offers multi-factor authentication, but it's becoming increasingly popular and should be utilized when available.

2. Use strong passwords and a password manager. Remember, passwords are the "keys" to your personal home online. Your passwords should always be long, unique and complex. Create passwords using at least 12 characters, never reuse passwords for multiple accounts and use a combination of upper- and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters. If you have a lot of accounts, consider using a password manager to store them easily *and securely* in one place.

3. Update software. It may seem obvious, but regularly updating software is one of the easiest ways to keep your personal information secure. Most companies provide automatic updates and will send reminders so you can easily install the update. If you're not receiving automatic software updates, set a reminder to do so quarterly. Be aware that some cyber criminals will send fake updates; these typically appear as a pop-up window when

visiting a website. Use good judgement and always think before you click.

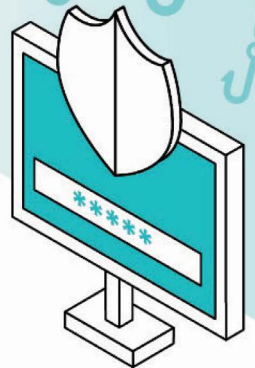
4. Recognize and report phishing attacks. Don't take the bait when cyber criminals go phishing. The signs of a phishing attack can be subtle, so take the extra time to thoroughly inspect emails. Most phishing emails include offers that are too good to be true, an urgent or alarming tone, misspellings and poorly-crafted language, ambiguous greetings, strange requests or an email address that doesn't

See Yourself in Cyber.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Improve your cyber hygiene by doing these four things:

1. Enable multi-factor authentication
2. Use strong passwords and a password manager
3. Update software regularly
4. Recognize and report phishing attacks



match the company it's coming from. Most platforms like Outlook, Gmail and Mac Mail allow users to report phishing emails. If you suspect a phishing attempt, take an extra minute to report it.

Cyber criminals are here to stay, but when we all take a risk-based approach to our cyber behavior, we're creating a safer internet for all. Visit www.staysafeonline.org for additional cybersecurity tips.

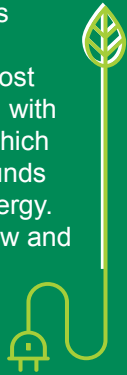
Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.

Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you can see daylight around a window frame or if you can rattle a window (movement means possible leaks), the window likely needs to be sealed. Most window leaks can be sealed with caulk or weatherstripping, which come in a variety of compounds and materials. Visit www.energy.gov/energysaver to learn how and where to seal air leaks.

Source: energy.gov



EQUIPMENT AUCTION

Due to Lack of Inventory Available for Purchase, Mitchell EMC will **NOT** Hold an **Equipment Auction** This Year.

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.



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



Pumpkin Muffins

Ingredients:

- 1 box of spice cake mix
- 1 cup cinnamon apple sauce
- 1 can of pumpkin

Instructions

Mix apple sauce and pumpkin pulp thoroughly, then mix with the spice cake mix. Fill muffin cups half-ful and bake at 350° for 30 minutes.

Submitted by:

Cristi Lewis, 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.