



The news  
you need to  
know in  
5 minutes!

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

## Preparing to Serve You Better

By **Tony Tucker**, President & CEO

Providing reliable power to you is and will always be top priority for Mitchell EMC. These days, power reliability seems to be making news now more than ever.

As the energy industry continues to transition and more segments of the economy are becoming



electrified, such as vehicles, machinery and even lawn equipment, additional pressures are being placed on our nation's electric grid.

With summer storm season upon us, I thought it would be a good time to tell you about a few measures we're taking to

ensure you continue receiving the reliable power you depend on and deserve.

Let me be the first to say I love trees and the charm they add to our communities, and I know you do too. While trees provide shade and add beauty to our area, you may be surprised to learn that overgrown vegetation accounts for about half of all power outages.

That's why we strive to keep the co-op's power lines clear in right-of-way (ROW) areas. A ROW area is the land a co-op uses to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines. This ROW enables Mitchell EMC to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder distribution power lines. The overall goal of our vegetation management strategy is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our area.

### **Modernizing Vegetation Management**

Generally speaking, healthy trees don't fall on

power lines, and clear lines don't cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keep lines clear to improve power reliability. However, traditional vegetation management is costly and time consuming. It entails on-the-ground, labor-intensive efforts involving dozens of workers assessing vegetation and overseeing the quality and completion of contractor work. Although this approach has worked for decades, advances and improvements in technology have allowed us to reduce our costs and improve efficiency.

Drones are able to capture images of power lines and vegetation so we can accurately monitor the health of trees and pinpoint problems along the lines. Drone data is incorporated into our routine maintenance and inspections.

### **Planned Outages Improve Reliability**

Although it may seem counterintuitive, we also maintain power reliability through planned, controlled outages. By carefully cutting power to one part of our local area for a few hours, Mitchell EMC can perform system repairs and upgrades, which ultimately improve electric service. Planned outages can also be used to balance energy demand, but only in rare circumstances. Rest assured, we will always notify you in advance of a planned outage, so make sure we have your correct contact information on file to receive the latest emails or texts.

Vegetation management is an essential tool in ensuring power reliability and minimizing the risk of outages. As advancements become more accessible and costs drop, we anticipate using additional technologies to ensure a consistent energy supply while managing the environment.

Lastly, I encourage you to follow Mitchell EMC on social media so you can learn about the latest co-op updates.

# Energy-Saving Projects for the Weekend Warrior

By Abby Berry

Are you a weekend warrior? If you're considering home improvement upgrades that save energy and money, we've got a few project ideas for you—all of which can be completed in a day or less!

Here are three energy-saving projects that you can easily tackle whether you're a weekend warrior pro or a DIY dabbler.

### Get smart about home cooling and heating.

Cooling and heating your home typically account for a large portion of energy bills. Smart thermostats can help keep your cooling and heating costs in check, with ENERGY STAR®-certified models saving about 8% on annual energy costs.

Now that smart thermostats are more affordable (as little as \$70!), this simple upgrade makes for a fun, efficient weekend project. Smart thermostats offer a variety of bells and whistles, but the average model will allow you to set custom temperature schedules, adjust the settings from anywhere (from your phone), and over time, learn your cooling and heating preferences.

Your new smart thermostat will come with step-by-step instructions, but this project typically involves shutting off your HVAC at the breaker panel, disconnecting/removing the old thermostat, installing the new smart thermostat and connecting it to your home Wi-Fi.

Play it safe: remember to carefully read the installation instructions before you get started.

### Go green and boost your greenery with a rain barrel.

If you've got a green thumb, you already know that rainwater is the best water for your outdoor plants. Rainwater is free of minerals, salts and treatment chemicals found in tap water or groundwater. It also contains helpful macronutrients to foster healthy plant growth.

Installing a rain barrel is an easy way to harvest large amounts of rainwater and reduce home water use—it's a win-win. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, one rain barrel can save a homeowner 1,300 gallons of water annually.

Most residential rain barrels range in size from 50 to 90 gallons, so the size you purchase will depend on your watering needs.

The simplest way to install a rain barrel is positioning a plastic or wooden barrel directly under your gutter downspout. Basic piping may be required, but this is an easy way to harvest rainwater, and the barrel won't take up much space. Consider a cover for



Installing a clothesline is a great way to save energy. Not only will you save on dryer costs—you can also save on cooling since unwanted heat from the clothes dryer won't be added to your home.

the top of your rain barrel to keep insects and small debris out of your harvested water.

### Create fresh savings with a DIY clothesline.

If you have enough outdoor space available, installing a clothesline is a great way to save energy. Not only will you save on dryer costs—in the summer, you can also save on cooling costs since unwanted heat from the clothes dryer won't be added to your home (which makes your air conditioner work harder). Additionally, air drying is much gentler on fabrics and will keep your clothes and linens looking fresh longer.

You can create your own clothesline with two T-posts, wire and hook-and-eye turnbuckles. Depending on your soil, you may need a small amount of Quikrete to set the posts. Another option is installing the line between two trees. A typical load of laundry requires about 35 feet of line, so keep this in mind as you're determining the best location.

If an outdoor clothesline isn't an option, no sweat! You can easily create an indoor drying rack that folds to save space. Home improvement websites like [thespruce.com](https://www.thespruce.com) and [hgtv.com](https://www.hgtv.com) offer step-by-step tutorials for a variety of indoor clothes racks.

These are just a few simple ideas to help you save energy and money. So, get out there, roll up those sleeves and tackle a few projects.

Check out Mitchell EMC's website for additional energy-saving ideas and 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.*

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for additional ways to save energy this summer? Your laundry room is a great place to start. Wash clothes with cold water, which can cut one load's energy use by more than half. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up when you can. When drying clothes, separate the heavier cottons. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)



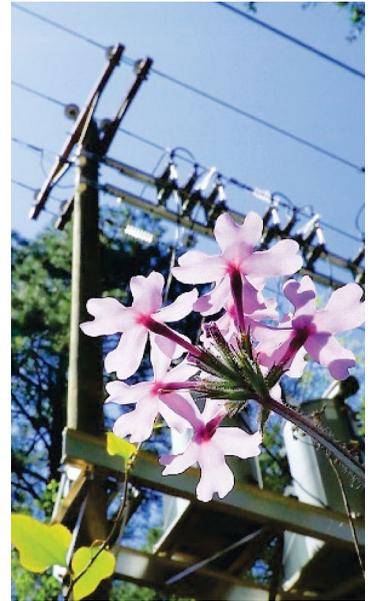
# SWIMMING POOL SAFETY WORD SEARCH



Water and electricity never mix. Always practice safety when you're near or in the swimming pool this summer. Read the following safety tips, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle below.

Never bring electrical **devices** near a swimming pool. **Electrical** devices that come in contact with **water** can cause electric shock. When possible, use **battery**-operated devices when **outdoors** near a swimming pool. Outdoor electrical **outlets** should be **dry** or covered. If you hear thunder, immediately exit the swimming **pool**. Thunderstorms and lightning may be near.

C	Y	P	G	V	Q	B	X	S	E	D	R	N	L	Y
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V	T	P	A	D	T	M	C	K	T	Z	G	E	U	Q
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Z	M	J	Y	L	X	R	L	B	E	N	B	H	C	K



## We Trees, Too.

We know everyone in our community enjoys the beauty and shade trees provide. But trees and power lines can be a dangerous mix without regular trimming during the growing season.

If you see us out in the community trimming, remember the many benefits it brings:

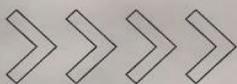


- Keeps power lines clear of tree limbs
- Helps us restore power outages more quickly
- \* Keeps crews and members of our community safe
- \* Reduces unexpected costs for repairs

Trimming improves service reliability for you, the members we serve.

# RIGHT-OF-WAY PROFESSIONALS WEEK

JUNE 12-18, 2023

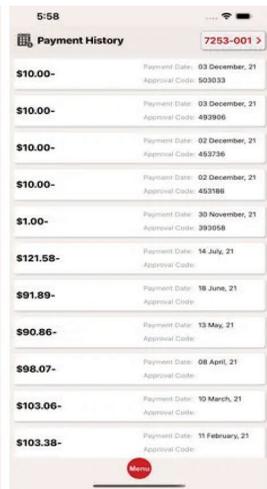
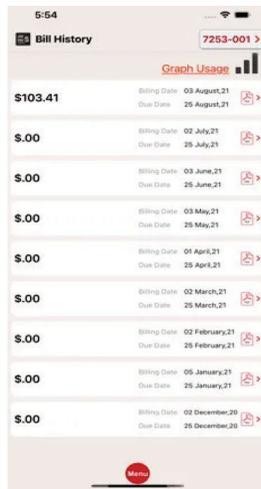
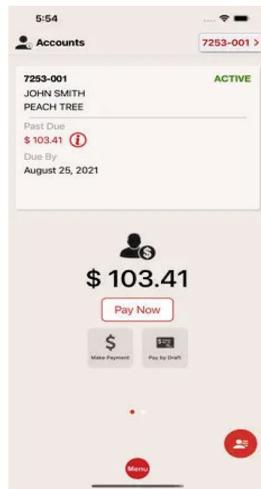
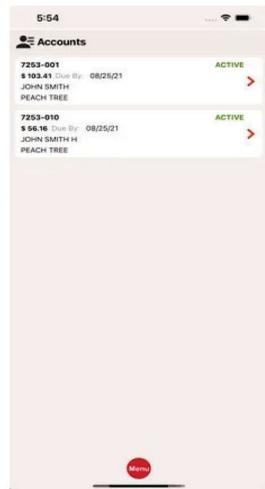


# Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...



## Our Mobile App has a new look!

Our mobile app is designed to give you fast, secure account access so you can easily manage your account details, view your bill and your account balance, make payments, find payment locations, schedule alerts and reminders, receive push notifications, and more. Nearly everything you can do from our web portal can now be handled instantly, whether you're at home, at work, or on the go. You can download the app in the Apple app store or on Google Play.



**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 applications 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



### **Speedy Little Devils**

#### **Ingredients**

1 Devils Food Cake Mix  
1 stick butter, melted  
2/4 cup peanut butter  
1 (7-oz or 7.5-oz) jar marshmallow  
creme

#### **Directions**

Combine melted butter and dry  
cake mix, reserving 1/2 cup of this  
for topping. Pat remaining into an  
ungreased 13x9x2-inch pan. Top  
that with combined peanut butter  
and marshmallow creme and spread  
evenly. Crumble remaining cake  
mixture over that. Bake 20 minutes at  
350 degrees.

#### **Submitted by:**

**Mary Beth Cary, 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.