

Mitchell EMC



The news
you need to
know in
5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA
www.mitchellemc.com

Save the Date

87th Annual Meeting of the Members of Mitchell EMC

The 87th Annual Meeting of the Members of Mitchell EMC will be on **Friday, April 19, 2024**, at the EMC headquarters in Camilla. Watch your mailbox for your registration card and more details.

The Good Kind of Audit

By Anne Prince

Colder weather typically results in higher energy bills, and with winter in full swing, we'd like to remind you about a free co-op service that can help you boost efficiency *and* save money.

As your trusted energy partner, we believe savings and efficiency are within reach for everyone, and we want to help you get there. That's why Mitchell EMC offers free home energy audits.

An energy audit provides a holistic view of your home's efficiency. Understanding how your home uses energy can help determine the best ways to adjust energy consumption, improve problem areas and ultimately keep more money in your wallet. An energy audit can also identify potential safety issues surrounding electrical wiring and HVAC systems, making your home safer. You could say this is a *good* kind of audit.

So how does it work? First, request the energy audit by completing the form on our website at <https://mitchellemc.com/energy/energy-audits>, or by calling our office and requesting an audit. The audit is conducted at your home by one of our trained energy advisors.

What to expect during the audit

The audit is comprised of three parts: evaluation, energy testing and recommendations.

First, our energy advisor conducts a walk-through of your home, examining energy use and identifying problem areas. The

advisor will look at specific elements of your home impacting energy use such as doors, windows and insulation levels. The advisor will also examine major appliances including your heating and cooling system and conduct a room-by-room assessment. During the assessment, the advisor will ask questions about your energy use habits and review past energy bills.

In the testing phase, The advisor will also conduct thermal imaging of the home to detect heat loss that is invisible to the naked eye. Thermal imaging can reveal inadequate insulation levels, HVAC airflow, radiant heat malfunction and additional key factors.

The power to save is in your hands

Finally, the advisor will provide you with a detailed evaluation, recommendations regarding energy consumption and steps you can take to improve efficiency and save money. – *Continued on Page 3.*

Four Ways an Energy Audit Can Benefit You

A home energy audit can determine the overall efficiency of your home or business and ways to improve it. Here are the main benefits of conducting an energy audit.

- \$ An audit will identify where most of your energy use is going and ways to use energy more efficiently to save money.
- \$ It can determine if appliances and heating/cooling equipment are properly sized for the home or business.

- \$ An audit can identify potential safety issues with home wiring and ventilation.
- \$ Making changes based on the audit recommendations will raise your property value.



Scholarship Opportunities

Walter Harrison Scholarship

Due in the Camilla Office by: FEBRUARY 1, 2024

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.



The Walter Harrison Scholarship, created in 1985 by the board of directors of the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation, is awarded to students who excel in the areas of GPA, SAT scores, academic ability, scholastic honors, and demonstrate a financial need. The award pays tribute to the late Walter Harrison, a pioneer in the rural electrification movement and a leader at the local, state and national level in the electric cooperative program.

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.**

Entries received will be forwarded from Mitchell EMC to the **Statewide Competition**. The statewide scholarship selection committee is comprised of EMC Directors and Managers from across Georgia. **Please do not alter the original application. All submissions must be on Georgia EMC Application Forms. Walter Harrison Scholarship Applications must be submitted to Mitchell EMC. Applications must be submitted directly to Mitchell EMC by postal service or at one of our office locations. Incomplete applications or applications received AFTER the due date of February 1st will NOT be considered.**

Operation RoundUp Scholarship

Due to the Community Foundation of South GA by: MARCH 1, 2024

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.

Applicants must apply for the Operation Round-Up Scholarship through the Community Foundation of South Georgia. Scholarship application can be accessed through the Online Scholarship Portal by visiting The Community Foundation of South Georgia website or the link located on our webpage. Applications will be judged by an independent scholarship committee, and winners will be notified by May 1.

The Good Kind of Audit Continued From Front

One of the greatest values of an energy audit is helping you understand how you use electricity and more importantly, identifying ways to use it more efficiently.

Additionally, making improvements and upgrades based on the evaluation can increase your property value—all the more reason to schedule an audit for your home.

Free energy audits are just one of the many perks of your co-op membership, so we hope you'll take advantage of this valuable service. If you're looking for more ways to save, check out our additional efficiency tips at www.mitchellemc.com/energy-efficiency. These programs and services are designed with Mitchell EMC members in mind, putting the power to save in your hands.

Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing nearly 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.

BEST BETS FOR Winter Savings

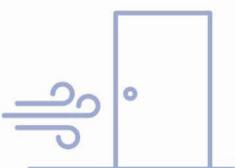
Energy consumption spikes during winter months as we spend more time indoors and heating systems work overtime. You can help reduce demand and strain on the electric grid by conserving during peak energy times. Reducing energy use will also help lower your energy bills.

UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE



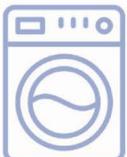
Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics when you aren't using them.

ELIMINATE DRAFTS AND AIR LEAKS



Seal air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.

USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER



Run large appliances like clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers early in the morning or before you go to bed.

MAINTAIN HEATING EQUIPMENT



Maintain your heating system by replacing dirty, clogged filters and scheduling an annual inspection for necessary maintenance.

LOWER THE THERMOSTAT



Home heating accounts for a large portion of energy consumption. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting (68 degrees or lower).

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Area rugs are an easy, cost-effective solution to cold floors. Adding area rugs to hard-surface flooring can add warmth to any room and keep your feet cozy on cold winter days. Choose rugs made from wool or other natural fibers and plush or high-pile textures for the most insulation. Place rugs in areas where you need additional warmth, like the foot of a bed or under a coffee table. Area rugs can enhance the aesthetic of your home and keep you cozier.



Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...

WINTER SAFETY WORD SEARCH

Did you know most home fires happen during colder months? Play it safe this winter season.

Read the safety tips below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.



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

Never overload electrical outlets with too many **electronics**.

Test smoke and carbon monoxide **alarms** every month.

Never leave a **candle** burning in an empty room.

Keep flammable items at least three feet away from a **space heater**.

Extension cords should only be used temporarily. Damaged or frayed cords should be thrown away.

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/D/V/D



Photo Credit: <https://www.backtomysouthernroots.com/make-hello-dolly-bars/>

Magic Cookie Bars

Ingredients

- 2 cups crushed graham crackers (usually one sleeve is enough)
- 10 tablespoons butter, melted (salted or unsalted)
- 1 ¼ cups semi-sweet chocolate morsels
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 cup shredded sweetened coconut
- 1 14 ounce can sweetened condensed milk

Directions

Preheat oven to 325°. Line a 9x9 inch baking dish with tin foil. Spray the foil with nonstick spray. Crush the graham crackers then add the melted butter in a bowl, mix well. Pour the graham mix in dish and press down with your hand. Sprinkle the chocolate morsels on top. Sprinkle the pecans on top and finally sprinkle the coconut on top. Pour the condensed milk all over the ingredients. Bake 25-30 minutes or until edges are golden brown. Allow to cool one hour before serving. Substitute walnuts for pecans if you prefer and serve with vanilla ice cream. Drizzle caramel sauce over for a decadent dessert.

Submitted by:

Leslie Williams, 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.