

# Mitchell EMC



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you need to  
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5 minutes!

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

## Connect, powered by Mitchell EMC, delivers all-fiber broadband service to Mitchell EMC Consumers

Mitchell County resident takes advantage of Connect, powered by Mitchell EMC, all-fiber service, gaining access to up to 2 Gbps internet

Mitchell EMC and Conexon Connect, the internet service provider arm of rural fiber-optic network design and construction management leader, Conexon, are pleased to announce the connection of their first customers to gigabit-speed internet.

Baconton's connection to the Connect, powered by Mitchell EMC, fiber broadband network means rural southwest Georgia residents now have access to Connect's 2 Gbps service internet that is among the fastest and most robust in the nation.

"In the past, we did not have any options for internet in our area. The high-speed internet that Connect, powered by Mitchell EMC has brought into our home has been a blessing to our family and others in our area. It's fast and convenient and will certainly benefit us in our everyday lives, said Bridget Jackson."

Conexon Connect and Mitchell EMC announced its fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) project in February 2023 to launch and deploy a 5,570-mile fiber network providing high-speed internet access to homes and businesses in Baker, Dougherty, Mitchell, and Worth counties, and in parts of Calhoun, Colquitt, Decatur, Early, Grady,



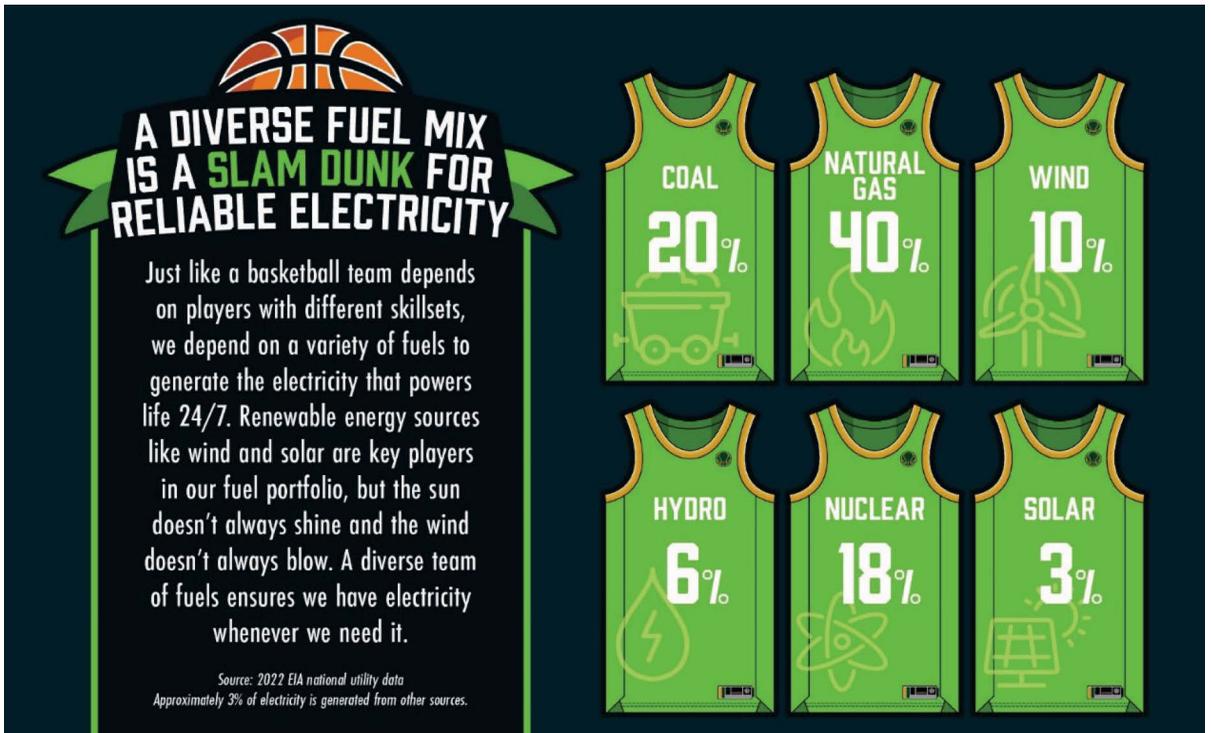
Left to right, Garth Davis, Regional Construction Project Manager, Conexon; homeowner and Mitchell EMC Consumer Bridgett Jackson; Tony Tucker, President and CEO, Mitchell EMC; Noah Carroll, Construction Project Manager, Conexon; and Chad Carden, Vice President of Consumer Services, Mitchell EMC

Lee, Miller, Thomas, Tift and Turner counties, if possible.

"This fiber project has the potential to make a significant impact, in many ways, to our members. It will also create many new possibilities for making a positive impact within our communities, by providing a level of connectivity which is necessary for the economic viability of Southwest Georgia." Mitchell EMC CEO, Tony Tucker, said. "Mitchell EMC is excited to be part of the solution by making this service available to every one of our members."

To check availability and sign up for service, visit [ConexonConnect.com](http://ConexonConnect.com).

# A Community Partner Since 1937



## A Balanced Team for Reliability

By Maura Giles

The winningest basketball teams in history are ones that are consistent and have players with varying abilities. Some are better at shooting three-pointers, some are best at defense. Having a balanced mix of skills makes the team a powerhouse on the court. The way to keep electricity reliable is a bit like that too.

The power team first requires a foundation of consistent sources that can be put in the game any time they're needed. Having enough "always available" fuel sources like natural gas and coal can ensure consistent power generation.

Just like a team needs different players for different situations, our power grid requires multiple sources to keep the grid running. Relying solely on one player to win every game is not an effective strategy—if they get injured, you'll likely lose. Similarly, using a single fuel source for electricity generation poses a significant risk to energy reliability. Natural disasters, geopolitical tensions or unforeseen disruptions can severely impact the supply chain of a particular fuel. A diverse mix of energy sources acts as a safeguard, ensuring that the grid remains operational even in the face of unexpected challenges.

A diverse energy mix also enhances grid flexibility by accommodating the intermittent nature of renewable energy sources like solar and wind. Think of solar power like a team's inconsistent three-point shooter. It's awesome when the sun is shining bright, but what if it's nighttime or a cloudy day? That's where the other players, like wind, hydro, nuclear, natural gas

and coal can step up and keep the team scoring.

Diverse fuel sources contribute to the stability and reliability of the electric grid. The different sources have varying characteristics, including generation patterns, responsiveness and storage capabilities. This diversity allows for a more balanced and resilient energy system that can adapt to fluctuating demand and unforeseen circumstances. Having a mix of these energy sources is like having a team with different skills to handle various situations and scenarios.

A diverse set of energy sources is essential, but that's not the only thing we need to have reliable electricity—or a winning team. Basketball teams are always trying out new plays or training rookies to create a versatile lineup. Similarly, electric cooperatives are constantly innovating to maintain reliability for tomorrow. But creating new ways to make our power sources more efficient and reliable takes time, money and advances in technology that aren't necessarily ready yet.

As we continue to work on the innovations of tomorrow, the key to keeping our electricity reliable right now is ensuring a diverse "team" of fuels. Each one brings something special to the table, and together, they make sure we have the power we need, whenever we need it.

*Maura Giles 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.*

## New Service Offered: Payment Kiosk

Mitchell EMC is excited to offer another quick, easy and convenient option for our members to pay their electric bill! Our new payment kiosk is NOW available 24/7 at our Camilla Corporate Office and will be coming soon to our Sylvester and Albany Office.

The kiosk accepts cash, checks and credit/debit cards. Kiosks are available 24/7, including weekends and holidays and all payments will post immediately to your account! Just make sure to bring your account number or your bill to scan the QR code that's printed on your bill. If you are using cash, the kiosk only accepts bills, and doesn't accept coins or provide change. Any overpayments will be applied directly to the members' accounts.

For each completed transaction, the kiosk will provide a printed receipt.



## Save the Date

### 87<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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.

Applications are available at: The Community Foundation of South Georgia, P.O.Box 2654, Thomasville, Ga. 31799 or visit our website for application. *Please do not alter the original application. Incomplete applications or applications received AFTER the due date of March 1st will NOT be considered. Applications must be submitted to the Community Foundation of South Georgia.*

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.



# STORM SAFETY FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Spring is a wonderful season, but it can bring powerful storms.

Read the clues below, then use the word bank to complete the storm safety tips.



1. Keep a \_\_\_\_\_ handy in case of a power outage.
2. Be watchful for signs of a thunderstorm, including dark skies, flashes of \_\_\_\_\_ or strong winds.
3. If a \_\_\_\_\_ is issued, seek shelter in a centrally-located room in your home, a basement or storm cellar.
4. If you're outside and hear \_\_\_\_\_, go indoors immediately.
5. Practice a tornado \_\_\_\_\_ with your family once a year.



## WORD BANK

- thunder
- drill
- flashlight
- tornado warning
- lightning

Answer Key: 1. flashlight 2. lightning 3. tornado warning 4. thunder 5. drill

**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



## **Hearty Italian Meatball Soup**

### **Ingredients**

3 cups water  
2 (14 ounce) cans diced tomatoes with onion and garlic, undrained  
2 (14 ounce) cans beef broth  
1 teaspoon Italian seasoning  
1 (16 ounce) package frozen cooked Italian-style meatballs  
2 cups frozen Italian-blend vegetables  
1 cup small star-shaped dried pasta  
¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese

### **Directions**

Stir water, tomatoes, beef broth, and Italian seasoning together in a large pot; bring to a boil. Add meatballs, Italian-blend vegetables, and pasta to the pot; bring to a boil, reduce heat to medium-low, and cook until meatballs are heated through and the pasta is tender, about 10 minutes. Ladle soup into bowls and garnish with Parmesan cheese.

### **Submitted by:**

[www.allrecipes.com/recipe/231282/  
/hearty-italian-meatball-soup/](http://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/231282/hearty-italian-meatball-soup/)

## ***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).