



The news
you need to
know in
5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA
www.mitchellmc.com

Be Ready for Storm Season

Preparedness is the Best Defense

Spring is on our doorstep and like many of you, I'm looking forward to more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy warmer weather. Springtime brings many of my favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, time spent working in the garden and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

Unfortunately, spring and summer can also create the perfect conditions for severe storms.

Mitchell EMC crews are always prepared and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area. When severe storms cause power disruptions, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines.

I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- **Stock your pantry** with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, including canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).

- **Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies** including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.

- **Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked** with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.

- **Set aside basic household items you will need**, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.

- **Organize emergency supplies** so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from potential power surges and will also help prevent overloading circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored.

If you plan to use a portable generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check Mitchell EMC's Facebook page for restoration updates.

ARE YOU STORM READY?

Follow these safety and preparation tips during spring and summer storm season.

Be Prepared.

- Create an emergency kit with power outage essentials: batteries, power banks, flashlights, non-perishable foods, water, medical supplies and prescriptions.
- Develop an emergency family plan with meeting points, communication methods and evacuation routes. Share your plan with all family members.
- Monitor weather for important updates that could impact your emergency plan.

Stay Safe.

- Ensure a safe shelter: Stay away from windows and doors. In tornadoes, move to a basement or an interior room without windows.
- Use portable generators safely: operate outdoors in well-ventilated areas, place on a flat, dry surface, do not overload and always read the operating manual before use.
- Severe storms can bring down tree limbs and power lines. If you encounter a downed line, stay back. Always assume a downed line is live and dangerous.



Continued on Back Page.

A Community Partner Since 1937

Operation RoundUp Scholarship Opportunity Due to Community Foundation of South Georgia by March 1st

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. Mitchell EMC Operation Round-Up Scholarship applications will be available through an online portal at the Community Foundation of South Georgia (<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=cfsга>)

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.

Guided by 7 Cooperative Principles

All co-ops, including Mitchell EMC, are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. These seven principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities while remaining true to their purpose:

1. Open and Voluntary Membership: Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.

2. Democratic Member Control: Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. Why? Because co-ops are created by the members, for the members.

3. Members' Economic Participation: Members contribute money to the co-op to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future. At Mitchell EMC, this happens through paying your energy bills.

4. Autonomy and Independence: Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.

5. Education, Training, and Information: Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives: Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive.

7. Concern for Community: All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow.

Reliable and Affordable Service

Mitchell EMC is committed to delivering reliable and affordable electricity. To achieve this, we:

- **Invest in Infrastructure:** Cooperatives maintain and upgrade power lines, substations, and other equipment to ensure consistent service.

- **Leverage Technology:** Advanced metering systems, outage management tools, and renewable energy integration are often employed to enhance efficiency and reliability.

- **Collaborate Regionally:** Many cooperatives work together through generation and transmission (G&T) co-operatives to secure wholesale power at competitive rates.

Adapting to Changing Needs

Mitchell EMC continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of our members. From integrating electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure to expanding broadband internet access in rural areas, Mitchell EMC is leveraging our resources to improve quality of life in the communities we serve.

The Cooperative Advantage

The cooperative model's emphasis on local control, community engagement, and member ownership distinguishes electric cooperatives from other utility providers. By prioritizing people over profits, cooperatives ensure that rural communities have access to the energy resources they need to thrive. Through their innovative and adaptable approach, electric cooperatives remain a cornerstone of rural America, delivering power and empowering progress.

Powering Communities: How Electric Cooperatives Operate

Electric cooperatives play a vital role in delivering power to rural communities across the United States. These not-for-profit organizations are distinctly different from investor-owned utilities or municipal power providers. They operate based on principles of democracy, community focus, and member ownership. Here is an overview of how electric cooperatives function and serve their communities.

Member Ownership and Governance

Mitchell EMC is owned and controlled by the people we serve. Each consumer-member has an equal voice in the cooperative's decisions, regardless of the amount of electricity they use. Members elect a board of directors to oversee operations and make strategic decisions. These directors are typically fellow members who understand the community's unique needs and challenges.

Annual meetings provide a forum for members to vote on key issues, review financial reports, and provide feedback. This democratic structure ensures that the cooperative remains focused on serving its members rather than maximizing profits.

In April, Mitchell EMC will be holding the 88th Annual Meeting of the Members on Friday, April 18th. The meeting will be in a drive-thru format and members will be electing directors that serve Districts 1,3, and 4.

Not-for-Profit Model

Mitchell EMC operates on a not-for-profit basis. Revenue generated from electricity sales is reinvested into the cooperative to maintain infrastructure, improve service, and keep rates affordable. Any surplus revenue, known as margins, is allocated to members as capital credits. These credits are either refunded to members

or reinvested into the cooperative for future projects.

Local Focus and Community Engagement

Unlike large investor-owned utilities, Mitchell EMC is deeply rooted in our local communities. They prioritize the needs of their members and often support community initiatives, such as scholarships, economic development projects, and educational programs about energy conservation and safety.

By focusing on local priorities, cooperatives ensure that their operations align with the community's goals and values.

Save the Date

88th Annual Meeting of the Members of Mitchell EMC


The 88th Annual Meeting of the Members of Mitchell EMC will be on **Friday, April 18, 2025**, at the EMC headquarters in Camilla. Watch your mailbox for your registration card and more details.


CONNECT DROP IN


COME LEARN ABOUT YOUR FIBER INTERNET PROJECT


Your local sales rep will be onsite with **FREE donuts and exclusive promotional sign-up offers!**

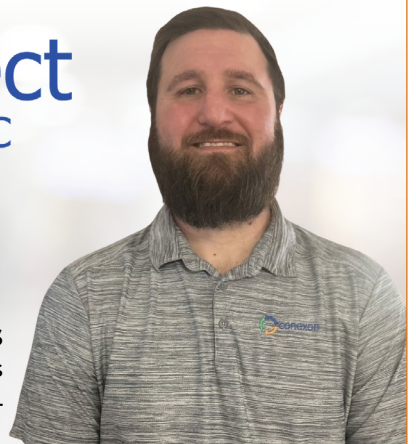
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

 Albany Office
5807 Newton Road
Albany, GA 31706

 Sylvester Office
208 Dexter Wilson Blvd
Sylvester, GA 31791

 **March 3 & March 6**
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

 **April 1 & April 3**
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Kasey Nobles
Kasey.Nobles@conexon.us
912-710-4344

Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

March is an ideal time to service your home cooling system, ensuring it runs efficiently when the heat of summer arrives. Routine maintenance, like cleaning or replacing filters, checking refrigerant levels and inspecting parts, can improve your system's energy efficiency and lower your energy bills. By addressing potential issues early, you can avoid costly emergency repairs and extend the lifespan of your unit. Scheduling service in the spring helps you beat the peak-season rush, giving you faster access to qualified technicians. A well-maintained cooling system can save energy and keep your home comfortable all summer long.



TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS ⚠️

Be cautious of fraudulent websites pretending to be an electric utility. Scammers often create look-alike sites to steal your personal or payment information. Always type your utility's official web address directly into your browser instead of clicking email or text links. Watch for signs of a secure website, such as "https://" in the address bar and a padlock icon. If you're ever unsure, call your utility company using the official phone number listed on your bill to verify payment or account details. Stay vigilant to protect yourself from utility fraud.



Ready for Storm Season

Continued from Front

Severe storms can occasionally bring down power lines. If you see a downed line, always assume it's energized and never approach it. If flooding occurs, never walk through areas where power lines could be submerged.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and lessen the impact of the storm's effects.

Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings and follow us on Facebook for the latest power restoration updates. If you experience an outage, please don't report it on Facebook. There are several ways to report your outage-Mitchell EMC's Outage App, the Outage Center on our website, texting Out to 83137, or by calling 800-479-6034.

I hope we don't experience severe storms over the spring and summer months, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At Mitchell EMC, we recommend that you make a plan today--because storm preparedness is always our best defense.

STAY IN THE KNOW



Stay connected by keeping your contact information up to date. Current contact information benefits you in multiple ways.

- ✓ Faster outage reporting and response
- ✓ Timely alerts about planned outages and other important updates
- ✓ Smoother customer service interactions
- ✓ Improved access to member benefits and programs

Ensure your phone number, email address and mailing address are up to date so you can enjoy the benefits of staying connected.

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



Spinach Artichoke Dip

Ingredients

- 8 oz cream cheese
- 1/4 cup of sour cream
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 2/3 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup grated mozzarella cheese
- 14 oz. chopped artichoke hearts
- 10 oz. chopped fresh spinach

Directions

Mix all ingredients until well combined.
Pour into an 8"x11" pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

Submitted By:

Gwen Isdel
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.