

Mitchell EMC



The news
you need to
know in
5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA
www.mitchellemc.com

October is National Co-op Month

Celebrate the power of the cooperative difference

This month, electric cooperatives across the country take time to celebrate National Co-op Month and reflect on the unique advantages of being part of a cooperative. It's also the perfect time to thank you—the members who make it all possible. For us, it's not just a celebration. It's a chance to reaffirm the values that guide everything we do.

As the CEO of Mitchell MEC, I see purpose in action every single day. Unlike investor-owned utilities, our co-op doesn't exist to make profits for distant shareholders. We exist to serve you—our members, our neighbors and our communities. That purpose is what sets us apart. It's why we were founded, and it's what continues to drive every decision we make.

At its core, being a cooperative means we are member-owned and locally controlled. That's not just a tagline; it's the very heart of our business model. Members have a voice in how our co-op operates. You elect board members who live right here in our service area and understand the unique challenges and opportunities our communities face. Decisions aren't made in corporate boardrooms hundreds of miles away; they're made here at home, by people who care about the same things you do.

This local accountability means we can stay focused on what matters most: delivering reliable, affordable electricity and providing real value to the people we serve.

We do that by investing in essential infrastructure upgrades and technologies that strengthen our local grid and improve electric service. We work hard to

manage costs and keep rates as low as possible—because we know how much rising prices affect families and small businesses in our area. And when storms hit or outages occur, Mitchell EMC crews are here and ready to respond quickly, because we live here too.

But our commitment doesn't end at the power lines.

Co-ops were built to meet community needs, and that purpose extends well beyond delivering electricity. Whether we're supporting local schools, sponsoring youth programs, partnering with volunteer organizations or helping bring broadband to

rural areas, we are always looking for ways to improve the quality of life in the places we serve. Community support isn't an afterthought—it's part of our mission.

We're also planning for the future. As electricity demand grows due to new technologies and economic development, electric co-ops are working to ensure we continue to meet those needs

with a balanced, reliable energy mix. We know our members care about affordability and dependability, and we're committed to delivering both.

That's the power of the cooperative difference. That's what it means to be powered by purpose.

This National Co-op Month, I encourage you to take pride in your cooperative membership. You're not just a customer—you're an owner, a stakeholder, and a vital part of a larger effort to keep our community strong, connected and energized.

Thank you for the trust you place in us. We're proud to be *your* local electric cooperative.



4 Best Bets to Stay Cyber Safe

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Article provided by the National Cybersecurity Alliance

Protecting yourself online doesn't have to be complicated or expensive. A few simple habits can dramatically reduce your risk of falling victim to cybercrime. While you can never be "hackproof," you can become resilient in the online world.

At the heart of online safety are four essential behaviors we at the National Cybersecurity Alliance call the Core 4. These simple steps will help shield your personal information, protect your online accounts and keep your devices secure.



1. Use long, unique, and complex passwords.

Your passwords are the first line of defense between a criminal and your sensitive information. Here's how to have amazing passwords:

- Every password must be long, unique and complex. Nowadays, every password should be at least 16 characters long, which significantly overwhelms password-cracking programs. Use a random mix of letters, numbers and symbols.
- Don't reuse passwords. Every account needs a unique password. Unfortunately, making small changes, like adding numbers or switching out an S with a \$, doesn't count as a unique password.
- Use a password manager to store and generate strong passwords. If you're wondering how to manage so many unique, long passwords, the answer is a password manager! There are many free, secure options. Password managers are the safest way to store your passwords. If you prefer to keep a password notebook, treat it like cash.

2. Enable multifactor authentication (MFA).

Multifactor authentication (sometimes called 2FA) adds an extra security layer by requiring something more than just your password to log in. Think of it as

using two locks on your digital door instead of only one. This could be:

- A one-time code sent to your phone
- A biometric scan like a fingerprint scan or FaceID
- A physical security key

Enable MFA on your accounts—especially email, banking and social media. It's a simple way to supercharge the security on your accounts. Also, never share MFA codes with anyone—this includes not sharing them over the phone, through texts or via email. Only scammers will ask for MFA codes.

3. Keep software updated. Software updates don't just bring new features. They often fix security flaws that criminals exploit. It usually takes a few minutes, but updates are worth it. Here are some tips:

- Turn on automatic updates when possible for your devices and apps. You can usually find these options in your Settings menu.
- Install updates promptly for your operating systems, browsers, antivirus tools and apps.
- Don't click Remind Me Later--the security is worth it.
- Remember your phones, smartwatches and tablets are computers, so keep these devices updated as well!

4. Look out for phishing and scams. Phishing remains the most common online threat. Criminals send fake emails, texts or social media messages to trick you into revealing sensitive information or clicking malicious links. These messages aim to get you to click before you think by playing your emotions. Scammers will even call you! Here's how to look out for phishing and scams:

- Be highly skeptical of unexpected messages, especially those urging immediate action or asking for personal details.
- Phishing emails can light up positive emotions ("You've won our sweepstakes!") or negative ones ("You've been hacked!").
- Don't click suspicious links or download unexpected attachments.
- Report phishing attempts to your email provider, social media platform or IT department.
- If you're unsure if a message is legit, ask a friend, coworker or family member. A second set of eyes can be invaluable in spotting scams.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

As winter approaches, now is the time to inspect your home for air leaks around windows. Leaks reduce indoor comfort and lead to higher heating costs. If you can see daylight around the edges of a window frame or if a window rattles slightly when touched, air is likely leaking. Caulking and weatherstripping are simple, effective methods for sealing windows. These materials are available in a variety of compounds and forms, each designed for different types of surfaces. Choose the right product and apply it properly to reduce heat loss, improve comfort and lower energy bills.





Mitchell-Baker Farmers Appreciation Dinner and SOWEGA Agfest

We were honored to be a sponsor at the Mitchell-Baker Farmers Appreciation Dinner & SOWEGA Agfest! We enjoyed talking to everyone that stopped by our booth! Our farmers are vitally important, particularly for our local communities. They support local businesses, create jobs for local people and bolster the local economy. Remember to "Thank a Farmer."

EMC and Georgia 104.5 are proud to recognize our HOMETOWN HERO!

Known affectionately as "The Gourdmaster Sam X," Sam X is a celebrated artist specializing in gourd art, and his home in Sylvester doubles as a folk-art landmark.

Beyond his artistry, Sam X is deeply rooted in his community as an art educator, community activist, and ardent supporter of the 4-H program.

Sam X co-founded the Village Community Garden around 2016 with his co-founder and wife Eda Garcia, transforming a former junk-filled lot, including spaces used for dirt biking and junk storage—into a thriving five-acre urban garden and community space.

He served as the project coordinator, leading the initiative in collaboration with his wife, the city of Sylvester, Fort Valley State University's Cooperative Extension, and local schools and volunteers.

Sam X organized and led free produce giveaways—distributing thousands of pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables weekly—including staples like potatoes, okra, eggplant, blueberries, lemons, and muscadines, with some donations sourced from local farms. The garden provides fresh produce to more than 1,000 Sylvester households at no cost.

Additionally, Sam and Eda have introduced advanced growing techniques such as aeroponic towers, hydroponic systems, hoop houses for year-round cultivation, a bee apiary, a banana orchard, and weather-monitoring technology to teach modern agriculture in a hands-on way.

His philosophy: "We're bridging art and agriculture." As a professional artist, Sam X injected

creative vision into the project, often calling it "agro-art," to inspire youth and families.

Sam X and his staff emphasize mentorship and youth-led programming, instilling the message: "It's not where you're from, it's what you're doing where you are."

The garden has become a learning hub for youth, especially through 4-H and STEAM

initiatives (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Agriculture, Mathematics), where local teens take leadership roles as farm manager, managing aeroponic systems, organizing food distributions, and helping coordinate expansion

Sam X pioneered the concept of "agri-cise", encouraging health and fitness through working in the garden. Many seniors

who participated reported improvements in mobility and well-being.

Sam X White is far more than the founder of Sylvester's Village Community Garden—he's a visionary blending art, agriculture, and activism to build a vibrant, inclusive, and educational community space.

He leveraged creativity and innovation to address food insecurity, foster youth leadership, promote health, and bring people together—turning a neglected plot into a hub of growth, learning, and community pride.

In recognition of his many contributions to the people of southwest Georgia, Mitchell EMC and Georgia 104.5 are proud to name Sam X White as a "Hometown Hero".



Equipment Auction

Mitchell EMC has the following vehicles/equipment for sale 'as is' to the highest bidder. If you wish to bid, please pick up a form from any of the district offices or download one from the website. You can view the items at our Camilla Office Monday - Friday, 8am until 5pm. For more information, contact Keith Gilliard, Shop Mechanic, at (229)336-5221 or (800) 479-6034. Please submit your bid in a sealed envelope no later than 5pm, Friday, November 7th, 2025, to the Camilla Office location, PO Box 409, Camilla, GA 31730. The winners will be contacted by Friday, November 14th. Pickup and payment of vehicles/equipment no later than Friday, November 21st.

Year	Make	Model	Description	Mileage	VIN
2003	FORD	F150	PICKUP F150 4X4	171,362	2FTRF18W93CA95630
2007	DODGE	1500	PICKUP 1500 REG. CAB	191,566	1D7HU16P07J636834
2008	FORD	F150	PICKUP F150 4X4 SUPERCAB	210,196	1FTRX14W78FA82907
2012	GMC	1500	PICKUP SIERRA K1500	222,103	1GTR2TE70CZ308861
2014	GMC	1500	PICKUP GMC SIERRA	151,442	1GTV2TEC5E2302777
2016	DODGE	1500	PICKUP 1500 4X4 CREW CAB 4X4	108,098	1C6RR7FT2GS106320
2016	DODGE	5500	SERVICE BUCKET	205,681	CC7WRNAL4GG334160
2016	DODGE	5500	SERVICE BUCKET	218,393	3C7WRNAL8GG334159
2009	INTERNATIONAL	4300	BUCKET TRUCK 4300 SERIES ALTEC	117,213	1HTMMAAN19H678411
2008	INTERNATIONAL	4400	BUCKET TRUCK 4400 SBA 4X2	111,237	1HTMKAAN99H101373
			Wire Spool Stands (3)		
2008	FORD		EXPEDITION XLT	238,002	1FMFU15598LA07883
2012	FORD		EXPEDITION XLT	180,628	1FMJU1K57CEF24207

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Do you know the warning signs of an energy scam? Scammers will often use **high-pressure tactics** that create a sense of urgency. They may also ask for unusual payment methods such as gift cards or cryptocurrency. Dodgy communication is typically associated with a scam, including poor grammar, spelling errors or unusual email addresses. If you spot any of these warning signs, take a moment to pause and determine if it's legitimate or if it's a scam.





FUTURE-PROOF
Your Connection
with Fiber

No more dropped connections or spinning wheels. With Connect, powered by Mitchell EMC, you get reliable internet that just works—plain and simple. Fiber internet from Connect, powered by Mitchell EMC, is built for the future—faster speeds, better reliability, and unlimited potential. Learn more at [www. ConexonConnect.com](http://www.ConexonConnect.com).

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



Picture Credit: www.cocoandash.com/cream-cheese-pumpkin-pie/

Pumpkin Cream Cheese Pie

Ingredients

1 8-ounce pkg. cream cheese
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1 can pumpkin pie mix
1 egg
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
Whip cream for topping
1 pie crust

Directions

Mix brown sugar and cream cheese with mixer. Add pumpkin pie mix and egg, then add cinnamon and pumpkin pie spice. Mix with a mixer until smooth and creamy. Put mixture in pie crust and bake at 350° for 35 minutes. Once the pie has cooled top with whip cream.

Submitted by
Rocky Posey, 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.