

# Mitchell EMC



The news  
you need to  
know in  
5 minutes!

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

## Scholarship Opportunities

### Walter Harrison Scholarship Due in the Camilla Office by Feb. 1st

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 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=cfsga>)

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.



# The Future of Reliable Electricity

By Anne Prince

As our country's economy continues to grow, so too does the demand for reliable electricity. Data centers, new manufacturing facilities and our daily lives are requiring more and more electricity. In fact, U.S. power consumption is expected to rise to record highs this year and next, and the demand for electricity in the U.S. is expected to at least double by 2050.

Meanwhile, our supply of electricity is already decreasing as always-available power plants are being prematurely shut down. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation has warned that 19 states could see rolling blackouts during times of high electrical usage over the next five years. We all know what happens when supply can't meet demand—prices go up, and the lights go off.

As we prepare for this rising demand, Mitchell EMC is planning ahead to ensure local families and businesses have access to an affordable, reliable supply of electricity.

### Meeting the challenge

To meet these challenges, Mitchell EMC is utilizing a balanced mix of always-available energy sources as a safeguard to maintain a reliable energy supply. We're also investing in innovative technologies to bolster grid resilience and enhance data management

to improve operational efficiency, expedite outage response times and minimize service disruptions.

As electricity demand in the U.S. continues to rise, upgrading and building new infrastructure will be critical. That's why Mitchell EMC is collaborating with other electric co-ops by pooling resources and expertise on projects that advance technology, security, infrastructure and innovative energy sources

to meet the increasing needs of our communities.

As a co-op, this collaborative approach is a core strength of Mitchell EMC and enables us to deliver affordable energy to local families and businesses. Our priority is ensuring energy solutions that are tailored to the unique needs of our community to help it thrive now and in the future.

Mitchell EMC was built by the community it serves, providing essential services

that drive growth and pave the way for an energy future that prioritizes reliable electricity at a cost local families and businesses can afford.



*Data centers, new manufacturing facilities and our daily lives are requiring more and more electricity. U.S. power consumption is expected to rise to record highs this year and next, and the demand for electricity in the U.S. is expected to at least double by 2050. (Image provided by Pexels.com)*

*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.*





# ENERGY SAVINGS SCAVENGER HUNT

Saving energy at home is a great way to help the environment (and save money). With the help of an adult, look for ways you can save energy around your home. Use the tips below to get started, then check off the areas where you've identified ways to save!



## ☐ TASK: Bright Ideas

Ensure your home uses energy-saving LED bulbs. If you find incandescent or CFL bulbs, replace them with LEDs.



## ☐ TASK: Empty Rooms

Turn off lights and ceiling fans in unoccupied rooms to conserve energy.



## ☐ TASK: Sealed for Savings

Check windows to make sure they are closed and locked. Sealed windows help prevent air leaks, which saves energy.



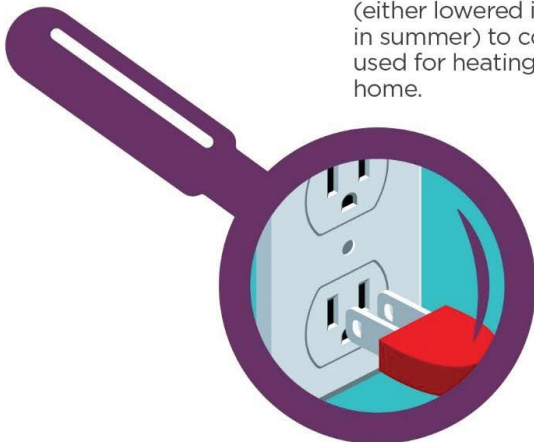
## ☐ TASK: Set to Save

Check the thermostat to see if it can be adjusted a few degrees (either lowered in winter or raised in summer) to conserve energy used for heating or cooling your home.



## ☐ TASK: Slay Energy Vampires

Energy vampires are devices that consume energy even when they're not being used. Unplug these items, like phone chargers and tablets, when you're not using them.



# Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...

## TIPS TO AVOID

## ENERGY SCAMS



Never make a utility bill payment to anyone calling you on the phone, coming to your door (unless that is a verified bill payment method used by your utility company), texting you or emailing you. Always call your utility company at the number provided on your bill or on the utility's website if you have a question about payment or billing information. Know your utility bill payment options—online, by phone, automatic bank draft, mail or in person.

*Source: Utilities United Against Scams*

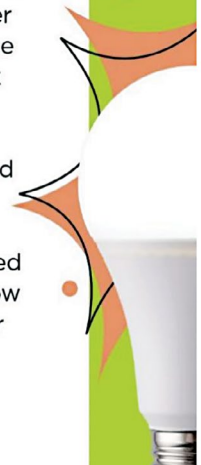


## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

### TIP OF THE MONTH

Taking steps to help your home heating system run more efficiently can reduce energy use and lower your winter bills. Check to see if any air vents around your home are blocked by furniture, curtains or other items. Obstructed vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and can increase pressure in the ductwork, causing cracks and leaks to form. If necessary, consider purchasing a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture or other obstructions.

*Source: energy.gov*



## Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption Expires Dec. 31

If you're an agricultural producer and receive the Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption (GATE) on electricity, you must renew it beginning this October.

GATE is an agricultural sale and use tax exemption certificate issued by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. The document identifies its user as a qualified farmer or producer who is exempt from sales tax on the inputs used in the production of their commodity.

Mitchell EMC member-owners who receive a GATE certificate should send us a copy along with the account numbers that apply to the GATE certificate, so we can apply the exemption to their account. **We must receive a copy of the new certificate by December 31 for the exemption to continue.**

Producers who have never received GATE can also apply and send a certificate copy to Mitchell EMC. Visit <https://forms.agr.georgia.gov/gate/> or call 855-FARM TAX for more information, to renew or apply.



**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



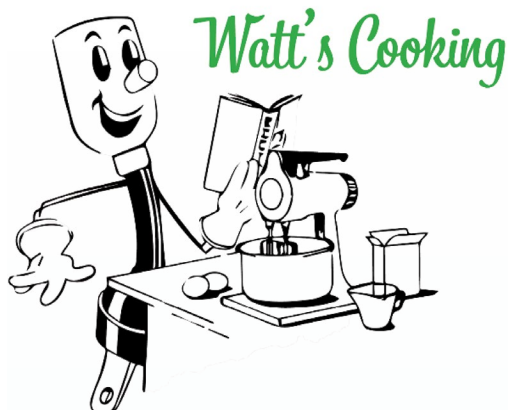


Photo Credit: Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times

### **Black-Eyed Peas with Ham Hock and Collards**

#### **Ingredients**

2 lbs. black-eyed peas, soaked overnight if possible  
 2 lbs. smoked ham hock, meaty ham bone or slab bacon  
 2 teaspoons kosher salt  
 1 large onion, peeled and stuck with 2 cloves  
 1 bay leaf  
 ½ teaspoon black pepper  
 ½ teaspoon allspice  
 2 tablespoons vegetable oil  
 4 garlic cloves, minced  
 ½ teaspoon crushed red pepper  
 2 lbs. collard greens, cut in 1" ribbons (about 8 cups)  
 1 bunch scallions, cleaned and chopped, for garnish

#### **Directions**

**Step 1** - Drain peas and put them in a large Dutch oven or heavybottomed soup pot. Add ham hock or bone (if using slab bacon, cut it into 2-inch chunks), cover with 10 cups water and turn heat to high. Add salt, onion stuck with cloves, bay leaf, black pepper and allspice. **Step 2** - Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to a gentle simmer. Skim off and discard any foam that rises to the surface. Simmer for 1½ to 2 hours, until peas are tender. Throughout cooking, add water as necessary, always keeping liquid level 1 inch above surface, stirring with wooden spoon occasionally. Turn off heat. Check broth for salt and adjust seasoning. Mixture should be fairly brothy. With a pair of tongs, remove ham hock, ham bone or bacon. Chop meat and skin in rough pieces and set aside. **Step 3** - Put a large wide skillet over medium-high heat. Add vegetable oil and heat until wavy. Add garlic and red pepper and let sizzle without browning. Add collard greens and stir to coat. Season with salt and add 1 cup water, stirring to help wilt greens. Add For the New Year's good fortune, a plate of black-eyed peas or other beans is considered auspicious, auguring wealth and prosperity. In the American South, they are traditionally eaten on the first day of the year. Adding cooked greens (the color of money) is said to make them even luckier. Simmered with onion and a meaty ham bone (other options are salt pork, bacon, pig's feet, hog jowl and ham hock), black-eyed peas are often seasoned quite simply, with just salt and pepper. They may also be made highly seasoned with hot pepper and spices. Freshly baked cornbread is the perfect accompaniment. chopped ham and reduce heat to medium, then cover with lid slightly ajar and cook until greens are soft, about 20 minutes. Check seasoning. **Step 4** - To serve, put greens and meat in low soup bowls, then ladle over hot black-eyed peas. Sprinkle with scallions.

**Submitted By:** <https://cooking.nytimes.com/recipes/1017090-black-eyed-peas-with-ham-hock-and-collards>

## **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).