

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC
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Bedford, PA 15522
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Website: www.bedfordrec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President & PREA Director
Owen L. Miller
East St. Clair Twp.

Vice President & Allegheny Director
C. Robert Koontz
Colerain, Snake Spring and South Woodbury Twps.

Secretary
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Treasurer
Reuben R. Lafferty
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Assistant Secretary
Earl W. Garland
East Providence Twp., Bedford County, and Brush Creek Twp., Fulton County

Assistant Treasurer
William Howard Atkinson
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Wayne M. Hillegass
Napier and Harrison Twps.
Ned H. McDonald
West St. Clair, Pavia, and Lincoln Twps.
Paul L. Rummel Jr.
Bedford and Cumberland Valley Twps.

John J. Dirienzo Jr.
Attorney

OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Local before local was cool



by Brooks Shoemaker
General Manager

WHETHER you travel across the country or stay close to home, you've surely noticed the emphasis on "Buy Local" campaigns. They are based on one simple fact: for small towns to succeed, it's important to support the businesses that support our community.

The U.S. Small Business Administration and the research firm, Civic Economics, estimate that dollars spent at locally owned businesses stay in the community more than three times longer than money spent at stores that are headquartered out of the area. Shopping locally obviously is a key to ensuring that our communities flourish.

Cooperatives like Bedford Rural Electric have known this forever. We were formed in 1939 to serve the people who live and work here. Since we are controlled locally, we are able to continually adjust our course, allowing us to serve your needs. This is a critically important principle.

The fourth of the Seven Cooperative Principles states that cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. Sure, we do business with other organizations, but it is done on terms that ensure democratic control remains in the members' hands. This maintains the cooperative's independence, and allows us to remain the self-help organization envisioned by our founders.

You can be sure that Bedford Rural Electric will not be moving our operations to Mexico, China or Ohio for that matter. We began right here in Bedford County, and we plan on being here for a very long time. You can take that to the bank, or better yet, the credit union — did you know that all credit unions are financial cooperatives? As always, we welcome your participation and suggestions about how we

can improve our locally owned and controlled services. Stop in or give us a call — either way you'll get to talk with a friend and a neighbor, right here in Bedford.

Five tips for space heater safety

As temperatures drop this winter, many folks are looking for supplemental heating sources for their homes. Space heaters are popular and can be a good alternative for those who want to warm one small area of their home without turning up the thermostat on the entire central heating system. However, space heaters are also responsible for 32 percent of house fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association. If you are planning to use a space heater in your home this winter, review these tips to keep you, your family and your property safe:

Materials — How is your space heater constructed? Parts like metal grating can be hot to the touch and may burn anyone who gets too close. Make sure you purchase a heater that is cool to the touch and has guards over the coils just in case little fingers get too close.

Placement — It is tempting to place a small heater on a shelf so it is not in the way of pets and children, but it is safest to leave the heater on a level floor on a non-flammable surface. This helps keep it from falling over, preventing the possibility of fire. Also, remember that space heaters and bathrooms are not a good combination unless the heater is designed for bathroom use, because moisture can damage the heater. The most important rule about space heater placement is the 3-foot rule. Whether you are using the heater in the bedroom, living room, or kitchen, space heaters should always be kept at least 3 feet away from flammable materials and out of the way of children and pets.

Special features — Is your unit equipped with "auto shutoff" if it's accidentally tipped over? Auto shutoff is a

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Township, municipal authority have new building

BY LINDA WILLIAMS

AFTER MANY YEARS of working in cramped quarters, sharing offices, and not having enough room for a large public meeting, Bedford Township and Bedford Township Municipal Authority (BTMA) have a spacious, modern facility.

The 4,500-square-foot building located on 1007 Shed Road next door to the old facility was built at a cost of \$750,000. According to Eric Zembower, chairman of the Bedford Township Municipal Authority Board of Directors, both the township and the township authority saved for many years in order to pay cash for the building. The land was already owned by the township.

Because of the lack of space, Jake Hoover, supervisor of the township authority, was actually working out of his truck. He had a small desk crammed into the office of the municipal authority secretary, Jill Smith. If Jill had a customer, there was no privacy.

Zembower says both boards get along



very well and they had no problems making decisions on the building. Construction began in March. Royce

Coughenour was the engineer and Clark Contractors did the construction. Jeff Wright of Select Security installed the security system, and electricity installed by Zimmerman Electric is provided by Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative. Kerry Barefoot, municipal board member, supervised the project as needed.

The building meets state regulations with a handicapped entrance, and a fireproof room for records. It will accommodate members of the public up to 50 people. This room will also be available to be rented for parties, baby showers or other events. Kitchen facilities are available. There is an additional small kitchen for the employees. Space that is rented can be locked

NEW BUILDING: The new Bedford Township building located on Shed Road houses both the township and the township's municipal authority. It was built at a cost of \$750,000. The cost was covered with savings by both entities.

off from the main part of the building.

At last, Jake has his own office, as does Jill. Janie McMillen, township secretary, and Dorine Smith, her assistant, also have offices, and there is an office for the supervisors. Bedford Township's tax collector, Rose Barefoot, no longer has to do tax business out of the back of a store.

The Bedford Township Board of Supervisors is made up of elected officials who serve the constituents of the township and, while they once were known as maintainers of the roads, that is no longer all they do. They also are in charge of zoning and ordinances involving development of the township. Ricky Fetter is the roadmaster and Greg Crist is the chairman, while the third member of the team is Dean Shuller. The township also employs four operators in the field in addition to the secretary and her assistant.

Formed in 1950, the Bedford Township Municipal Authority is the waste-



BTMA EMPLOYEES: The Bedford Township Municipal Authority has five employees: front, from left, Jake Hoover, manager; Jill Smith, secretary; and Bradly Foor, operator; and back, Brandon Hartramp and Verl Miller, both operators.



BUILDING TOUR: Among the group recently touring the new facility are: front, from left: Jim Clark, Bedford REC; Dick Clark, Clark Contracting; Jamie McMillen, secretary/treasurer, Bedford Township; Ricky Fetter, road supervisor, Bedford Township; Kerry Barefoot, BTMA board; Eric Zembower, BTMA chairman; Ronald Spring, BTMA; Jill Smith, Secretary, BTMA; and Jake Hoover, BTMA manager; and second row, from left: Tim Naugle, MARC Service; Greg Crist, supervisor and BTMA board member; Royce Coughenour, engineer; and Jeff Wright, Select Security. Not pictured are: Dean Shuller, Bedford Township supervisor, and Tom Bingham, BTMA board.

water and water authority for Bedford Township. The board consists of five members appointed by Bedford Township supervisors. Officers are: Eric Zem-



PREVIOUS BUILDING: The new construction is next door to the old site, which will be used for storage.

bower, chairman of the board; Greg Crist, vice chairman; Kerry Barefoot, treasurer; Thomas Bingham, secretary; and Ronald Springer, assistant secretary/treasurer. Each one serves a five-year term in office.

The board authorizes the construc-

tion of new wastewater and water lines to serve the residents of Bedford Township. They employ a staff of five, including manager, Jake Hoover; office secretary, Jill Smith, and three operators, Verl Miller, Bradley Foor, and Brandon Hartrampf, who are licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). They maintain all operations on conveyance of wastewater, the treatment of water and five miles of in-ground pipe.

Fifteen wastewater life stations convey wastewater to the Bedford Borough Treatment Plant. They have three water wells with treatment plants and three water storage tanks. The BTMA has more than 1,500 customers. The authority continues to meet DEP regulations on connection of unconnected properties. The authority's role in Bedford Township is continuing to grow with the expansion of the business parks, housing developments and other areas.

The public is invited to stop by and visit the office any day, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. ☀

Heating and Cooling Tips:



Right Size, Right System

Choosing the right heating and cooling system for your home is a matter of asking the right questions, getting the right contractor, and installing the right size. Here are some tips:

Right Questions

- What's the weather like in my region?
- How many people live at my house?
- What type of energy efficiency upgrades have I made to tightly seal my house?

Right Contractor

- Only a NATE (North American Technician Excellence)-certified contractor should install your heating and cooling system.
- Your contractor should use computer software to calculate the size of system your home needs.

Right Size

- Systems that are too large are:
 - more expensive to install
 - break down more often
 - operate inefficiently.
- Central air conditioners and heat pumps that are too large don't run long enough to dehumidify the air, which can spur mold growth and leave inhabitants feeling clammy.

Need more information? Visit TogetherWeSave.com.

Sources: EnergySavers.gov, Cooperative Research Network

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

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lifesaver. If yours doesn't have it, consider buying one that does.

Cords — You should never use an extension cord to plug in a space heater. They can overheat, and be a fire hazard. Space heaters should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Also, make sure the cord isn't in a high-traffic area. It is a tripping hazard.

Use — Never leave a heater unattended while in use. If you are leaving your home or going to bed, make sure to unplug the heater. 

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative will be awarding four scholarships of \$1,000 each to non-traditional students whose primary residence is served by Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative.

For an application, go to our website at www.bedfordrec.com and click on **scholarship information**. Applications are also available at the office.

All applications and required information must be received at our office no later than Feb. 2, 2015.

Mail application to:
Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 335
Bedford, PA 15522

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative will be awarding four scholarships of \$1,000 each to seniors whose parents' or guardians' primary residence is served by Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative.

For an application, go to our website at www.bedfordrec.com and click on **scholarship information**. Applications are also available at the office.

All applications and required information must be received no later than March 2, 2015.

Mail application to:
Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 335
Bedford, PA 15522

Emergency Power Needs

As a service to our members, Bedford Rural Electric needs to be aware of situations where special needs exist. Please provide the following details:

(Please print clearly)

Account: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Special Needs: Medical Farming/Livestock
 Other _____

Each year, our goal is to provide service with no outages. Unfortunately, that is not a realistic expectation. Outages do occur, and especially during severe storms, service restoration may take several days or longer. Therefore, we strongly recommend that our members with special needs install standby backup generation equipment. Please contact our office for more information on this type of equipment.

TROUBLE CALL SCHEDULE

In case of trouble ...

- First Check your fuses or circuit breakers.
- Second Check with your neighbors, if convenient, to see if they have been affected by the power failure.
- Third **Call 24-hour number, 623-7568**
OR call 800/808-2732 during office hours
(Please help us save money - only use this number if toll charges apply.)

Please give person receiving call your name as it appears on your bill, your telephone number and your map number if known. Any specific information about the outage will also be helpful in pinpointing the problem.

Alternate numbers ...

Troy Mock.....	Week of December 29	276-9759
Greg Miller	Week of January 5.....	839-0037
Al Hileman	Week of January 12	766-9971
Jim Seymour	Week of January 19	839-2848
Dennis Tursich.....	Week of January 26	623-0922

In case you cannot reach any of the above ... Call:

Jim Wood	Bedford	623-6121
James Clark	Everett	652-9791
Mark Rowan	Bedford	623-7890

During widespread power outages, many members are calling to report power failures. You may receive a busy signal, or in certain cases your call may go unanswered. This occurs in after-hours outages when the office is not fully staffed. Please be patient, and try again in a few minutes.