

# Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

**Bedford REC**

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James R. Cascio

**Office Hours**

Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## From the General Manager



### Lives on the line

By Brooks Shoemaker

EVERY YEAR, we take the time to thank our extraordinary lineworkers who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our local communities. Our linemen maintain 1,285 miles of line. Without them, our world would be dark.

We depend on each of our employees to keep the cooperative running smoothly. However, on April 10, 2017, we honor the men who all too often find themselves in dangerous and challenging situations, so our lives may be a little brighter and safer every day. They repair damaged lines and maintain critical infrastructure for our communities in the worst of weather. Day or night, rain or shine, snow or sleet, weekends and holidays — when the lights go out, they go to work!

I am sure you have seen them raising their buckets into howling winds and torrential rains or in freezing, icy conditions. They work around the clock near high-voltage power lines until electricity is restored to every member. Please join us in thanking the many lineworkers — both locally and around the world — who light our lives. Remember, your power works because they do.

#### Caring for your home's electrical system as it ages

Just like the human body, our homes require maintenance to stay in good physical shape. An important, but easily overlooked, part of that maintenance

includes the electrical system.

Naturally, older homes are more likely to have electrical fires than newer homes. The insulation on the electrical wires can eventually deteriorate from a variety of factors including age, overloaded circuits and even animals gnawing on them.

Also, older homes were not designed for today's electronics and appliances. Increased electrical demands can impact the wiring in older homes. If you have an older home, you may find that you need to upgrade your wiring and electric service.

Always be aware of the signs of electrical wiring problems. They include dim or flickering lights, as well as a burning smell, smoke, shocks, or discoloration when using an electrical outlet or switch. Also, always look for frayed wires, breakers that trip or blow frequently, and signs of potential rodent damage that may affect wiring insulation. If you suspect a problem, shut the outlet or switch off at the circuit breaker, and contact an electrician to make repairs.

To check on the status of your home's electrical system, contact a qualified electrician to perform an electrical inspection of your home. The U.S. Consumer Product and Safety Commission suggests the following timeframes for inspections:

- ▶ If the last electrical inspection of your home was 40 or more years

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# From farm to ‘Touch of Class’

By Linda Williams

BEVERLY DIEHL STANTON knows what hard work is all about. She has been a devoted farm wife helping out on the Breezewood-area, 600-acre family farm for many years.

To help balance the budget, she once drove a school bus morning and afternoon, worked as a teacher’s aide during the day, and in the evening, was a waitress at a local restaurant.

Her passion, however, has always been sewing and designing clothes. Her mother taught her to sew at age 7, and she won multiple awards with 4-H sewing projects. Due to circumstances she could not control, she had to turn down going to fashion design school.

Then she met Bob Stanton, and the two were married, with Beverly wearing a dress she made herself. She also made all of the attendants’ dresses. Her three children are now grown: Kenny is a farmer, Amanda Zugg is a TSA agent in Harrisburg and Matthew “Buck” works for an excavating firm. All three children have been involved in 4-H and showing cattle.



When Beverly heard the “Uptown Tuxedo” — a small rental store that sold a few prom and wedding gowns — was for sale, her old, inner longing for working with clothes returned. She wanted to buy the store. Her husband and parents, Dwayne and Bonnie Diehl, all agreed she should realize her lifelong dream. Once she purchased the shop, she quickly changed its name to Beverly’s Touch of Class.

The shop is located at 112 East Pitt Street in Bedford.

“It’s been a lot of hard work,” she admits, “but it has continued to grow every year since we opened in 2006.”

Beverly’s Touch of Class specializes in prom and wedding gowns. Walking into the shop gives one a sense of a Cinderella ball. There are short, elegant dresses, beaded ball gowns, lovely bridal gowns, dresses for wedding attendants and flower girl dresses. To complete the

DESIGN OF HER OWN: Beverly Diehl Stanton stands beside a wedding dress she designed. She calls her line “Natalee” after her granddaughter.

wedding or prom attire, she offers sparkling jewelry, shoes, and undergarments. Beverly can dress you for a glamorous day from top to bottom. She also offers tuxedo rentals and other accessories for the groom.

As her business has grown, so has her marketing, as she does bridal shows both locally and in numerous nearby cities.

“I think the most difficult thing has been getting local people to realize I am here,” she says. “I get customers from Altoona, Cumberland, even Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C., but it is the local people who are hard to reach.”

She smiles as she recalls brides-to-be who have walked into the store and admitted, “We didn’t know you were here.”

One local lady looking for an outfit to wear to her grandson’s wedding found just what she wanted.

“It was the bluebird in my own



FLOWER GIRL DESIGN: Beverly Diehl Stanton’s granddaughter, Natalee, models one of the flower girl gowns from her grandmother’s shop.

backyard,” she said.

The mother-of-the-bride or mother-of-the-groom business has always been good, as have prom and homecoming gowns.

Once the shop was up and going, Beverly’s daughter and mother both became great assistants. Amanda has now moved away, but she still helps when she is able. Beverly’s granddaughter, Natalee, used to sit in the window and wave at people as they passed in the street. She also loves to model the flower girl dresses.

The shop eventually led Beverly to do what has always been her deepest passion: designing dresses. Beverly has her own bridal dress line known as “Natalee” after her granddaughter. She does the sketches and works with the factory choosing fabrics and getting the finished product.

*“I think the most difficult thing has been getting local people to realize I am here. I get customers from Altoona, Cumberland, even Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C., but it is the local people who are hard to reach.”*

Designing, buying, selling, displays, and shows keep Beverly busy, and her only help is her mother, a faithful assistant, occasionally her daughter, and two great friends from high school, Kim and Dina McGee. Kim is a life skills teacher at Everett, and Beverly has donated discontinued gowns to her to use in her classes. Kim has been able to help in remodeling the dresses and some have been worn to proms.

During the major snow of January 2016, Beverly found herself stranded in Harrisburg. Her two friends used this time to paint the entire inside of the store. They were also there to help out when tragedy struck the Stanton household last year.



ANOTHER DESIGN: Beverly Diehl Stanton displays a wedding dress she designed.

First, Bob was struck with a rare skin disease, requiring a life flight to Pittsburgh and 21 surgeries to get him up and going again. Then, Kenny fell off the back of a truck and also required a life flight to Pittsburgh.

Despite her busy schedule, Beverly focused on helping out as much as possible on the farm. Things are now getting back to normal, but she still feeds the calves on a daily basis.

Bob takes care of the mechanics and

crosses on the farm. Kenny does the other half of the farmwork with close to 90 head of Holstein and Brown Swiss dairy cattle. They also buy and sell farm machinery. Her love for agriculture allows Beverly to generously support local schools and the fair.

Beverly’s Touch of Class is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday from noon to 7 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ☀

**From the General Manager**

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- ago — an inspection is overdue.
- ▶ If the last inspection was 10 to 40 years ago — an inspection is recommended, especially if your electrical demands have increased significantly or you have noticed any of the warning signs of electrical problem.
- ▶ If the last inspection was less than 10 years ago — an inspection should not be needed unless you have noticed any of the warning signs of an electrical problem or any temporary wiring has been added.

If you are not sure when your home last had an electrical inspection, you might be able to find a label or tag with that information on your electrical panel door or cover. If there is no label or tag, then use the age of the house as a guide to the probable need for an inspection.

**Energy efficiency tip of the month**

Air-dry clean dishes to save energy. If your dishwasher does not have an automatic air-dry switch, turn off the dishwasher after the final rinse and prop the door open slightly so the dishes will dry faster. ☀

**OFFICE CLOSING**

Bedford REC's office will be closed Friday, April 14, 2017, in observance of Good Friday.

The office will also close at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 12, 2017, for our annual meeting.

**ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG**

**811**

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident: Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig. Visit [call811.com](http://call811.com) for more information.

**811**  
Know what's below. Call before you dig.

U.S. Department of Transportation  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
Jobite Certified

TRAVELERS  
Common Ground Alliance

NEVER CALL 911 FOR SERVICE

**OUTAGE REPORTING**

**In case of an outage...**

- 1** Check your fuses or circuit breakers.
- 2** Check with your neighbors, if convenient, to see if they have been affected by the power failure.
- 3** Call the 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 the person receiving the 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.

**To report an outage call:  
(814) 623-7568**

*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.*