

# 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

814-623-5101

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Website: www.bedfordrec.com

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President &

### Allegheny Director

C. Robert Koontz

Colerain, Snake Spring and South Woodbury Twps.

### Vice President & PREA Director

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West St. Clair, Pavia, and Lincoln Twps.,

Pleasantville Borough

### Attorney

James R. Cascio

### Office Hours

Monday through Friday

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## From the General Manager



## How can we better serve you in 2018?

By Brooks Shoemaker

IT'S AMAZING what we learn through listening and observation. New products and services are more likely to gain the satisfaction of consumers when their introduction follows market research.

Here at Bedford Rural Electric, we've provided members with SmartHub, our mobile app. It enables you to check the status of your service, pay your bill, review previous bills (including use graphs, which include temperature data for the last two years), and contact the office.

Mobile services are a new way of connecting with people. Just like the member service representatives you reach when you call us or the folks who greet you from behind the counter at our office, the app is another way to help us offer the quality service you expect us to provide.

Our goal is to find ways to help you control energy costs. That's why we communicate with you about energy prices and ways we can work together to help ease the burden on your wallet.

We also offer our Coordinated Load Management System (CLMS) program, which is designed to help us avoid paying for high-cost energy by reducing overall demand during peak use periods. The CLMS cornerstone is our Marathon Water Heater program. We sell a high-efficiency, 85-gallon tank, with a lifetime warranty, for \$125. It's a real bargain, and in exchange,

the member agrees to install a Load Control Receiver (LCR), which allows us to control the tank at certain times. It has saved all of us millions of dollars since the 1980s. About 25 percent of you participate in the program. If you don't, ask us about it — we're here to help.

Listening improves understanding, builds trust, strengthens relationships and fosters cooperation. It's also crucial to collaboration and success.

That's why everyone here at the co-op loves face time with our members. Our annual meeting is a social event for our whole co-op family. We hope you'll make plans now to join us April 11 at the Alum Bank Fire Hall (please note the change of venue) for an afternoon of co-op business, fun and prizes.

So, how do we serve you better in 2018? The same way many of us try to serve community, society and family better each day — by listening. In our offices, on telephones, through social media exchanges and in our face-to-face meetings, we're ready to listen.

When you have questions about energy efficiency, electrical service or any of our products or services, just ask us. When we know just what you want, we're in a better position to deliver successful results. So, drop in and see us; we're always glad to hear from you.

*(continues on page 12d)*

# Halvorson opens unique shop near White Sulphur

By Linda Williams

WHITE Sulphur Springs is located in one of the most picturesque settings of Bedford County.

Tall, thick trees, a bubbling stream and the Allegheny Mountains all add to the scenery. Most of the homes have been there for a very long time.

Such is the setting for the Manthano Springs General Store, located about a mile from White Sulphur Springs in an old farm house. Not a likely spot for a shop, but a magnet for those who seek the unusual.

The shop was started by Paula Halvorson and Cathy Jacobs. Clientele includes a mixture of guests at White Sulphur and local folks who are curious.

A bakery and café is a good calling card. There are cinnamon rolls baked fresh daily. They are the kind of cinnamon rolls that are loaded with butter, cinnamon and sugar and covered in a creamy white icing. The café offers soups or stews, and a variety of sweets. Folks can enjoy their culinary choices on a scenic, closed-in porch overlooking the woody area.

A corner cupboard full of home-canned products, such as relishes or



pickles, or a blueberry drink loaded with beta carotene, make good gifts or take-home finds.

Once your tummy is full, take time to browse throughout the shop. Many of the crafts have been created by local folks, including wood crafts, dried flowers, and cards by Chuck and Glen-

**SIGN OF THE TIMES:** Paula Halvorson stands beside the sign outside the café/store.

da George of Schellsburg. Kitty Heidle has hand-stitched creations and Mary May has sewing.

Handmade clothing — including sweaters and scarves — is available. Sterling silver jewelry items, camping supplies and wall art are also available.

Local artists are chosen by a committee that picks which high-quality crafts will be carried. Selection is necessary due to limited space.

Climb the stairs to the second floor and there is a cozy sitting room where visitors can just relax and enjoy the view. Across the hall is a toy room that includes items by Melissa and Doug. There is 10 percent off on Melissa and Doug toys every day.

Paula Halvorson says she got the idea for a general store by just looking at the old farm house and thinking it needed a purpose. While she has never been in business before, she is used to doing new things.

At one time, she was a letter writer for Laura Bush. She has also done



**WEARABLES:** Paula Halvorson shows off an assortment of wearable items available at the store.



**HANDMADE POTTERY:** Handmade Polish pottery is a specialty of the store.



**GOOD FOOD:** The café store offers lots of baked goods that are made fresh daily.



**GIFTS FOR GIVING:** Items such as these tea towels with whimsical sayings are perfect for gifts.



**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE:** Manthano Springs General Store has something for everyone.

wedding photography and worked in a greenhouse. At the age of 50, she became an emergency medical technician and worked at that for three years.

She and her husband, Art, have raised six children and have 12 grandchildren.

“Each child is different and each child is great,” she emphasizes.

One of the hopes for the future of Manthano Springs is a folk art school.

A young visionary friend from White Sulphur Springs has ideas that just might mature into the real thing in a year or two.

Meanwhile, the site will be available for tea parties, brunches or just browsing.

“We want people to feel comfortable,” Paula says.

As this article goes to press, it is not definite what winter hours will be, so

Paula suggests calling 410-562-1535 before going. During the warmer weather months, hours will definitely be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Friday and Saturday.

Manthano Springs has a Facebook page with giveaway gift certificates from time to time. The word “Manthano” means to learn or gain in knowledge — an appropriate name for the possible future folk school. 🌞

**From the General Manager**

(continued from page 12a)

**Interesting energy tidbits**

- ▶ Google accounts for roughly 0.013 percent of the world's energy use. It uses enough energy to continuously power 200,000 homes.
- ▶ According to Google, the energy it takes to conduct 100 searches on its site is equivalent to a 60-watt light bulb burning for 28 minutes.
- ▶ Approximately 30 percent of energy used in buildings is used inefficiently or unnecessarily.
- ▶ Inefficient appliances, drafty windows and doors, poor insulation, and other fixable energy wasters cost U.S. consumers an estimated \$300 billion a year — more than the U.S. military budget.
- ▶ If a person yelled for 8 years, 7 months, and 6 days, he or she would produce enough energy to heat one cup of coffee.

**Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month**

Consider insulating your hot water pipes. Doing so can reduce heat loss, allow you to lower the temperature setting and save an additional 3 to 4 percent per year on water heating. 



**Food drive winner**

Congratulations to the winner of this year's drawing of our members who contributed to the Bedford REC Food Drive. Joan Thomas of Alum Bank will receive a \$25 credit on her electric bill.

**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.

For an application, go to our website at [www.bedfordrec.com](http://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 1, 2018.*

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cellphone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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 during severe storms, service restoration may take several days or longer. Therefore, we strongly recommend our members with special needs install standby backup generation equipment. Please contact our office for more information on this type of equipment.

**OUTAGE REPORTING**

**In case of trouble...**

**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.*