

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC

P.O. Box 335
Bedford, PA 15522
814-623-5101

Email: support@bedfordrec.com

Website: www.bedfordrec.com

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Office Hours

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

From the General Manager



Call before you build

By Brooks Shoemaker

ARE YOU thinking of building a new home, garage or office building? New projects are always exciting. However, before you begin, you should have a clear idea of what you want to accomplish. That includes involving Bedford Rural Electric in the planning process.

You should also look ahead and decide how potential future improvements may affect the work you are contemplating today. For example, if a room addition, deck, shed, patio, or pool is in your future, where is it likely to be located and how will it co-exist with your current project? Future plans may only be today's dreams, but it pays to discuss them with your contractor and electrician now.

Once the concept of the project has been agreed upon, contact Bedford Rural Electric before ground is broken and construction begins. We will visit the site and determine where our facilities will be located. We will also agree on where the meter will be located and ensure that you have proper clearance from any of our other existing facilities on the site. We may also suggest alternatives that can avoid costly relocations, future problems with service restorations or having to undo all the work you are about to undertake.

Teaching youngsters the important lesson of energy efficiency

Electronic and mobile devices, TVs, computers and gaming stations have become fixtures in our homes, particularly those with children. Now, smart home appliances, thermostats,

lightbulbs, outlets and other related technology are becoming increasingly popular. They are slowly but steadily changing our homes and lifestyles.

This new, always-connected world is the modern environment in which our children are growing up. With lifestyles increasingly reliant on technology and in turn, energy consumption, teaching youngsters to save energy is an important life lesson.

But before parents can teach their children how to save energy, they must first answer the question that every kid asks, "why?" As most parents can attest, convincing kids to care about energy efficiency is a hard sell. Parents need to explain why it is important to save energy and how it benefits the child — otherwise they will not understand the need to change their habits and will be less motivated to do so. In the simplest terms, less money spent on an electric bill can mean more money used for fun activities. That is something that motivates children!

Less tangible, but just as important, using less energy means running your home more efficiently, conserving natural resources and helping the environment.

Because "saving energy" is an abstract concept for children, be specific about energy efficiency actions and set an example. We know that children learn by observing what their parents do. Even if they don't say anything, children are processing your actions. When you turn off the lights when leaving a room or unplug the phone charger once the device is fully

(continues on page 14d)

Bedford County Technical Center offers lifelong learning

By Linda Williams

THE BEDFORD County Technical Center through its collaboration with Allegany College of Maryland offers educational opportunities to everyone from high school students through adults.

High school students enrolled at the center may continue on the career path they are studying by taking additional college classes. Others may chose a different path, but continue to use the valuable technical skills they learned at the six high school educational divisions including: ag science, cosmetology, building, automotive, culinary arts and nursing.

Tim Turner, who is the chef at Spring House at Homewood, is an example of someone who began his lifelong career in the culinary arts department at the technical center. Prior to his current position, he was a chef at Omni Bedford Springs and the popular 10/09 Restaurant in Bedford.

The vo-tech nursing program offers everything from nurses' aide certification to advancing to becoming a registered nurse (RN) through Allegany College of Maryland. Mechanics leave



the school certified to do inspections, while beauticians who complete the program are ready to take their state board tests.

Some classroom college courses are offered through Allegany College of Maryland, which saves making a trip to Cumberland, Md. For those who

COLLABORATION: A sign outside the Bedford County Technical Center indicates the collaboration between the center and Allegany College of Maryland.

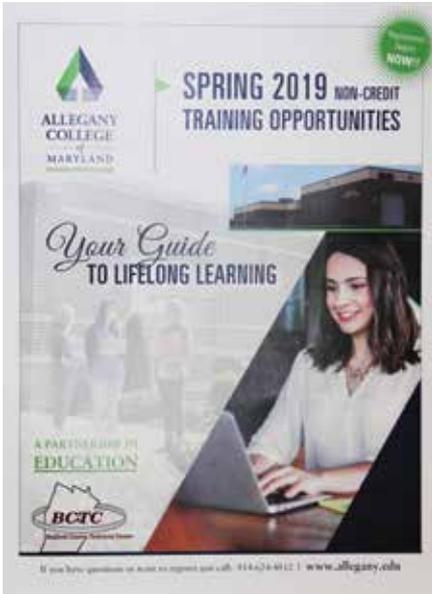
enjoy lifelong learning, there are adult courses offered in the evenings. Mark Bollman, administrative director of the Bedford County Technical Center, says it is the hope of the administration to allow adults to intermingle with some of the student programs, but for now, that is not a possibility.

Wayne M. Blue is the executive director for workforce development for Pennsylvania and helps to oversee the adult education programs. Courses for adults include those aimed at gaining better skills for a present job or those who simply want to learn a new hobby.

Both spring and fall courses are offered. A complete listing can be found online at the BCTC website or by calling Amy Weicht at the school at 814-624-4812. Weicht can also be contacted at aweicht@allegany.edu. Registration is also available through the Allegany College of Maryland Center for Workforce Development, by mail with a form from the catalog, or



MULTIPLE CHOICES: The Bedford County Technical Center offers a wide variety of courses for both young and old. They teach skills allowing students to start a new career, enhance a present one or learn a new hobby.



AVAILABLE COURSES: Call 624-4812 to get a catalog of courses now available at the Bedford County Technical Center. Fall courses will be available later in the year.

by fax or scan.

Noncredit courses offer lifelong skills such as beekeeping, hand-stamping greeting cards, selling on the web, extreme savings with coupons, yoga and fitness. Each course is taught by local professionals. Some of the programs are located at the technical center and others are taught at local businesses or at the Allegany College of Maryland's Bedford County Campus in Everett. Some courses are one session; others last an entire semester. Cost for adult courses can range from as low as \$25 per course to several hundred dollars. There is a 15 percent discount for groups of six or more and a 10 percent discount for Chamber members. People over 55 and veterans



HANDS ON: A student learns how to work the control panel of a Computerized Numerical Control Machine in a CNC Machining Lab.



EDUCATION OFFERINGS: A welded and sculpted welder and baker outside the Bedford County Technical Center highlight two of the courses offered.

also receive a discount.

There are computer courses for design and technology, while professional development programs offer up-to-date drone pilot training, and cake-decorating basics are taught by an expert. Churches or organizations with food service may be interested in the ServSafe Sanitation Certification course.

There are courses in health care education ranging from nurse aide to Heartsaver First Aid, CPR and automated external defibrillator. After becoming a nurse aide, some students go on to take the RN program through Allegany College of Maryland. From there, a nurse could continue with their education to get a bachelor's

degree or doctorate.

Skills training classes include: welding, electricity, and milling and lathe. Automotive classes offer training in state auto inspections and an emissions inspector certificate. The technical center is an ASE certification and recertification testing site. There is also a commercial driver's license program.

If you don't want to spend the time away from home, courses are offered online in health care, QuickBooks and electronics.

For more information, including a catalog, suggestions for a course or interest in becoming an instructor, call 814-624-4812. Local businesses can also request training or certifications for their employees. ☀

From the General Manager

(continued from page 14a)
 charged, they will notice.

Learning about energy efficiency doesn't have to be a boring lecture. Make it fun for greater impact.

For younger kids, turn energy efficiency into a "treasure hunt" game to locate all the things in your home that use electricity. Depending on the age of the children, challenge them to count and group the items into categories: electronics, appliances, lights, etc. If age appropriate, have them create a list. Ask which gadgets and appliances could be turned off or unplugged to save power every day.

For older children, show them how to program the smart thermostat and appliances. Shop with them for LED lights and discuss Energy Star-rated appliances. Show them the electric bill so they can see the costs, energy use and how their actions impact the bill.

Kids of all ages can learn a few simple energy-saving habits that can last a lifetime:

- ▶ Turn off lights, devices, computers and video consoles when not in use.
- ▶ Open blinds and curtains during winter days to let warm sunlight in (don't forget to close them when the sun goes down) and close them during summer days to keep your home cooler.
- ▶ If your children are old enough to run the dishwasher or wash their own clothes, teach them to run these

appliances only with a full load and during off-peak energy hours.

Offer rewards for agreed upon milestones. Rewards provide positive reinforcement on energy-saving actions. The idea is to create a habit of being energy efficient. And for parents, this could mean less nagging about turning off the lights!

Teaching your children about saving energy is not only a creative way to spend time with them; it helps your

home to be more energy efficient and can instill good habits that will benefit your child long into adulthood.

Energy efficiency tip of the month

Spring is nearly here! Now is the perfect time to test your air conditioning and ensure it's ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency. ☀

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.

OFFICE CLOSING

Bedford REC's office will be closing at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 for our annual meeting.

The office will also be closed on April 19, 2019, for Good Friday.

**Committed to the job.
 Committed to safety.
 Committed to you,
 our members.**

**Lineworker Appreciation Day
 April 8, 2019**

