

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC

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Office Hours

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

From the General Manager



Stay back and stay safe

By Brooks Shoemaker

WORKING with electricity can be a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. In fact, USA Today lists that occupation among the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. That’s why safety is our No. 1 priority at Bedford Rural Electric. We live it and practice it every single day. Over time, we have created a culture of safety — putting our crews’ safety and that of the community above all else.

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. Yes, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to you. However, our No. 1 priority is for every one of our employees to return home safely to their loved ones every single day. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance — and your help!

Our men work on and around your property every day. While we appreciate your kindness and interest in our work, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on the task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous. It takes their full attention. Every man on a job site is responsible for the team’s safety. Distractions can have deadly consequences. If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews— and you.

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can’t distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our

crews work best without a pet “supervising” the job.

We recognize that for your family’s safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You will recognize co-op employees by their logoed uniform and the service trucks with our name and logo on them. You may also recognize our lineworkers because they live right here in our local community.

In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over and slow down when approaching a cooperative vehicle on the side of the road. This is an extra barrier of safety to help those who help all of us.

Defining degree days

We all know that weather can have a major impact on electric bills. When the outdoor temperatures become extreme, your heating and cooling equipment works harder to keep your home comfortable.

Did you know that Bedford Rural Electric uses degree days to anticipate heating and cooling needs for our members? Never heard of a degree day? Don’t worry; you are not alone. Let’s look at what degree days are and why they are important for co-op members.

Degree days measure how hot or cold a location is by comparing the average of the high and low (mean) outdoor temperatures recorded in that location to the standard U.S. temperature, which is 65 degrees Fahrenheit. The assumption is that we don’t need

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Gallagher, Ford-Fordson highlight Alum Bank weekend

By Linda Williams

FOR THE past 32 years, the Alum Bank Community Fire Company has been keeping its treasury in balance through the annual Antique & Classic Car Show fundraiser. Always held the second weekend in July, this year's four-day event on July 11-14 will highlight "The Voice" finalist Josh Gallagher and the Ford-Fordson Collectors Association.

Jerry Leppert, fire company president, says the organization's 22 volunteer firefighters and 34 auxiliary members could not hold the annual fundraiser alone. Instead, they rely on the entire community, even other communities, to pitch in to help.

The event was the idea of Jim Claycomb, a volunteer fundraiser.

"I had to talk long and hard to get them to listen," he says with a laugh. "I remembered drag racing back in the 1950s on the back streets of Alum Bank, and I wanted to bring those cars back."

There were 35 vintage and antique cars on display the first year. Last year, there were 374 vehicles and motorcycles.



"We now have businesses from other communities wanting to help," Leppert says. "We have more than 40 acres of land and plenty of room to expand."

This year's entertainment will include Fabulous Flashback and Josh Gallagher, a 2016 finalist on NBC's "The Voice." Gallagher, a coun-

try-western singer, is originally from Cresson, Pa., and Claycomb expects he will bring in a big crowd.

Also new this year will be the Ford-Fordson Collectors Association National Show with Ford tractors from all over the nation expected to participate.

"This is a really big deal," Claycomb says. "We have been trying to get them for some time. Usually they don't come east for their shows. We anticipate as many as 200 to 250 tractors from all over the United States."

Claycomb has been trying to include the association for several years and is very pleased when the organizers finally said yes.

"I think it is a real feather in our caps to have a group of this magnitude willing to participate in our small town," he says.

The fun doesn't stop there. Opening on Thursday evening, there will be a firefighter's parade, garden tractor pulls, farm tractor pulls and children



TRACTOR PULL: One of the attendees' favorite parts of the car show is the annual tractor pull.



on pedal tractors. There is a cruise-in, a pickup truck pull and a burn-out. Sunday will feature a closing parade of equipment, and a community worship service at 10 a.m. Sunday is open to the public.

With a carnival-like atmosphere, there are rides and games for the kiddies and a large outdoor flea market.

Participants in the shows pay a fee, and funds are also raised through the food and ride sales. Last year, the group sold 1,100 half chickens, five

hogs and two tons of potatoes. In addition, hamburgers, hot dogs, ice cream and all types of other fair food are available.

On Saturday night, fireworks sponsored by Fishertown Country Store, Whyson's Pharmacy, Bedford Ford and the Alum Bank Auxiliary are a special treat.

Jim Dull, Fire Police first lieutenant, says, "It is just such a social time, a way for all of the community to come together. Everyone helps. JLG sends a crew to help, Creative Pultrusions will be on hand with a lift if we need it, and local churches participate. We can't say enough good things about the community efforts."

Raising funds is very important for a volunteer fire company. The cost of training firefighters, equipment and trucks just keeps climbing higher year by year. Last year, the department paid \$400,000 for a new truck, while it costs \$800 to outfit each firefighter. The Alum Bank Community Fire

BEST OF SHOW: Trophies are presented in several categories, including "Best of Show."

Company responds to about 167 calls a year. About half of these are vehicle accidents, while the other half are fires.

In addition to the July fundraiser, volunteers hold chicken barbeques and sub sales throughout the year, and the auxiliary serves food at a weekly Friday night auction. 🌞



TRUCK PULL: Truck owners pit their trucks against their neighbors and friends for bragging rights in the annual truck pull.



CARNIVAL RIDES: There's something for everyone at the annual Antique & Classic Car Show in Alum Bank, including carnival rides for the kids.

From the General Manager

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 heating or cooling to be comfortable when the outdoor temperature is 65. So, the more extreme the outdoor temperatures, the higher the number of degree days. And the higher the number of degree days, the higher the amount of energy used for space heating and cooling.

Heating degree days (HDD) are a measure of how cold the temperature was on a given day or during a period of days. For example, a day with a mean temperature of 40 degrees Fahrenheit has 25 HDD (65-40). Two such cold days in a row have a total of 50 HDD for the two-day period.

Cooling degree days (CDD) are a measurement of how hot the temperature was on a given day or during a period of days. For example, a day with a mean temperature of 80 degrees Fahrenheit has 15 CDD (80-65). Two such cold days in a row have a total of 30 CDD. As summer temperatures rise, more cooling is required for your home or business. This results in more cooling degree days.

Variations in electric bills often follow closely with degree days, which is why we use this data to evaluate energy consumption. We often compare degree days from a particular month with the number of days in the same month from previous years. This is useful in evaluating if high bill complaints result from current weather patterns, or if something else may be happening in the home.

Degree days are tracked for a variety of other reasons. Farmers can better plan the planting of crops and timing for pest control, and weather experts can better assess climate patterns. To view degree days for our area, visit energystar.gov and search "degree days calculator."

If charts and data aren't your forte, no problem. Here are a few tips to help you save on energy bills this summer:

- ▶ Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower

your cooling costs will be. The Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 78 degrees Fahrenheit when you're home and a higher setting for when you're away.

- ▶ Turn off ceiling fans when you leave a room.
- ▶ Close window coverings, like curtains and blinds, during the day to

block sunlight.

- ▶ Use caulk and weather stripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows.

If you have questions about your energy use or to learn more ways to save, give us a call or stop by our office. The folks here at your cooperative are always here to help. ☀

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25 to 30 percent less energy than standard equipment.

Source: energy.gov



OFFICE CLOSING

Bedford REC's office will be closed on Thursday, July 4, 2019, in observance of Independence Day.

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.