

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Office Hours

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

From the General Manager



Patriotism in action

By Brooks Shoemaker

ACCORDING to Merriam-Webster's dictionary, patriotism is "the love for or devotion to one's country." Perhaps no other day of the year evokes more patriotic feelings than Independence Day. With flags rippling in the wind — red, white, and blue adorning the town, parades with marching bands, and fireworks to cap the day, it's easy to feel a sense of pride for our country.

Arguably, another, perhaps deeper form of patriotism is active engagement in public and civic life. Involvement in your town promotes a richer community, and ensures that institutions thrive and communities remain vibrant, inviting places to live, work, and play. Besides being enjoyable, your participation in community events and activities, together with your friends, neighbors, and coworkers, makes a difference. Simple things like supporting a bake sale or attending a local high school event signals to the young people in your community that you care and support them, and that the community itself is worth sustaining.

In fact, there are civic engagement opportunities through the cooperative. You may recall that one of our most important cooperative principles is that of democratic participation. If you pay your bill, you are a member of the co-op with an opportunity to provide input through voting during our annual meeting.

Bedford Rural Electric, like other types of co-ops, originated to serve a need that was not being met by traditional for-profit electric companies. While providing safe, reliable and economical electricity is our top priority,

we are always exploring other opportunities to fill voids in the community. We chart our future based on long-term, big-picture thinking. One of our guiding principles involves making decisions that benefit our local community, choices that are the most cost-effective and beneficial. One of the best ways you can engage with the cooperative is by casting your vote when it's time to elect board members. These are folks just like you, from our community, who provide guidance to co-op management on a myriad of issues and decisions both short and long term.

Perhaps you haven't voted in the past because you didn't think your vote mattered, or maybe you simply didn't have time to vote. Regardless of the reason, your opinion does matter and we want your particular perspective.

Everyone has valuable experience that helps make wise, informed decisions. Diverse perspectives benefit not only the cooperative, but the whole community. You may have a different view than your neighbor, but together, those perspectives provide a more balanced view of the community. You could be bringing new information that hadn't been previously considered. We seek more members participating in the process, because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

The next opportunity to vote in the board election is in April 2019. I would argue that voting, whether in the co-op or in local and national elections, is a form of patriotism, as it reflects a devotion to one's community and commit-

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Mary Cessna loves her flowers

By Linda Williams

IF YOU are driving on Route 220 south toward Cumberland, Md., be sure to take a quick glance at the home and flower gardens of Tom and Mary Cessna.

Mary's flower gardens would make *Better Homes and Gardens* envious. She says she has always loved flowers. As a child, her father planted all the flowers he could afford. He was a master with roses and also loved portulaca and zinnias.

About 30 years ago, Mary and Tom moved to their present home on Route 220 and got really serious about gardening.

"I could not do it without Tom," Mary says. "He does most of the digging. Sometimes he can't understand why

I want to move plants, but he goes along with it."

Both perennials and annuals decorate the back yard and hillside of the Cessna home. At some point, Mary thought she would like a potting shed.



FOR THE LOVE OF COLOR: Mary and Tom Cessna show off their colorful garden.

GARDEN OF THE MONTH: The Cessnas received the Garden of the Month Award in 2016. Pictured at the presentation, from left, are: Jan Walent, Tom Cessna, Mary Cessna, Micki McCahan and Judy Jackson.

Tom agreed and they bought a small building. As time went by, she thought it would be nice to have it insulated against the cold winds.

"I did that myself," she remembers. "I cut it and put it in place while Tom was at work."

The insulation led to paneling and then they added electricity, some furniture, and gradually, the potting shed turned into a little house.

"I call it my dollhouse," Mary says with a laugh.

It was a neighbor, Bill Simons, who suggested adding a greenhouse. On a cold winter night, Bill, his wife, Nancy, Tom and Mary drew up the plans, and that spring the



PREPARATIONS: Mary Cessna works in her greenhouse as planting time nears.

greenhouse was added.

It is the perfect spot for hundreds of seedlings to get a start while the cold winds are still whipping through the valley. Mary plants from seed, and also buys plugs and some plants. She says they spend the winter browsing through catalogs to see what they might add the next year.

She uses very little fertilizer and practically no weed killer.

“I am not one for chemicals,” she explains. “I am a simple gardener, and I get good results just as is.”

The young son of a friend, Wyatt Wigfield, helps plant when permanent warm weather arrives. She and Tom then spend several hours each day weeding and watering.

“Watering is the biggest chore,” she admits.

Two rocking chairs on the porch of the dollhouse allow her to sit back and enjoy the fruits of her labor. From there, she can enjoy the birds flitting through the fruit trees and the rolling hills of scenic Bedford Valley.

A curved bridge takes her back to row upon row of flowers that reach

from one end of the property to the house. Their waterfalls are surrounded by flowers, and a gazebo provides just the right accent. On the porch is an antique cabinet where the drawer overflows with shade plants.



THE DOLLHOUSE: Flowers surrounding Mary Cessna’s dollhouse are in full bloom at the height of summer.

Mary says her annuals include begonias, zinnias, Angelonia, marigolds, coleus, geraniums, hollyhocks, New Guinea impatiens, petunias, salvia, portulaca, sunflowers and verbena.

Her favorite perennials are hydrangeas and garden phlox. She also has coneflowers, daylilies, sedum, monarda (bee balm), hostas, peonies, clematis, and Asiatic or oriental lilies.

In addition, the yard has several unusual trees of various species.

Two summers ago, the Cessnas were awarded the “Garden of the Month” by the Bedford County Garden Club. 🌻



FLOWERS GALORE: This colorful cluster of annuals and perennials is in the Cessna garden.

From the General Manager

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ment to ensure that it thrives.


Our representative democracy is not a spectator sport; it takes active civic engagement by citizens to thrive. This Independence Day, I hope you will embrace the local celebrations and actively participate in your community — and vote at every opportunity!

Energy efficiency tips of the month

- ▶ Laundry tip: use rubber or wool dryer balls, which help separate clothing in the cycle, providing better airflow and a shorter drying time. Wool dryer balls can help absorb moisture, which also reduces drying time.
- ▶ When streaming online content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.
- ▶ Here's a cool tip for your fridge: cover liquids and wrap foods stored in your refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture, causing the compressor to work harder. — *Courtesy of Energy.gov.* ⚡

Environmentally Beneficial Electrification

Innovations in energy technologies are creating new ways to use electricity rather than on-site fossil fuels, like propane, natural gas and gasoline.



This concept is known as **beneficial electrification** and suggests that the use of more all-electric appliances and equipment, like water heaters, weed trimmers and electric vehicles, provides consumers with greener products and benefits the environment.

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 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.