

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



Census Day

By Brooks Shoemaker

CENSUS DAY was April 1. If you haven't responded online, by phone or through the mail, it's not too late. Do it now! Your response ensures that our communities will receive their maximum amount of funding for vital state, county, municipal and social service programs for the next 10 years, until the census is conducted again in 2030. Remember, your answers can't be shared with anyone — not landlords, law enforcement, immigration — no one. There are NO exceptions! It only takes about 12 minutes for the average household to respond to the census.

Register to vote!

Bedford Rural Electric remains engaged in the national get-out-and-vote campaign called Co-ops Vote. Not only is this a presidential election year, but there are state and local races on the ballot that will have a major impact on life in our local, rural communities. We invite you to join us.

Co-ops Vote is a nonpartisan effort designed to encourage co-op members to vote and support their co-ops and rural America at the polls. The program does not endorse candidates for

election. Instead, its goal is to reverse a troubling trend: a significant decline in rural voters between the 2008 and 2012 elections. This was twice the voter drop-off seen nationally.

More than 700 electric co-ops in 47 states responded by joining the Co-ops Vote program to increase voter engagement in the communities they serve. It was a tremendous success in 2016 because rural voter turnout increased by more than a half-million Americans. Together, we grew our political influence and encouraged lawmakers to pay more attention to the issues affecting rural Americans.

Let's continue that trend and make sure your voice is heard. Pennsylvania's Primary Election is April 28 and the last day to register to vote in the primary is April 13. You may register now at the county courthouse or by visiting pavoterservices.pa.gov. Don't delay and remember to vote for America!

Electric vehicles gaining momentum

The appeal of electric vehicles is *(continues on page 12d)*

CANCELED

The Bedford REC Annual Meeting scheduled for April 8 has been canceled. In an effort to ensure the health and safety of our members during the COVID-19 situation, the board has decided to follow the governor's directive regarding the cancellation of large group gatherings.



LOCAL BUSINESS: Deasey Machine Tool & Die Works is located on Ott Town Road. A longtime valuable business in Bedford County that aids nearly all industries, the Deaseys credit Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative with adding three-phase lines to run their heavy machinery.

Deasey Machine makes it all out of metal

By Linda Williams

IF YOU need anything in the way of metal, stop by Deasey Machine Tool & Die Works at 339 Ott Town Road, Everett.

This shop has machines to create or repair whatever might need to be done, including seven lathes and four milling machines. Owned by siblings Paul Deasey and Sharon Deasey, the business was started by their father, Paul Deasey Sr., in 1979. The elder Deasey had worked for a machine shop on the railroad in Philadelphia where they manufactured ball bearings on a German-made machine by Kohler. When that shop closed, Deasey came back to Bedford where his wife had grown up. He opened a shop in a milk house near Rainsburg, and brought some of the business with him. He continued to work in the shop until his death a few years ago at the age of 89.

While the metal-working business has advanced over the years, the Deaseys still rely heavily on their old equipment, enhanced with a computerized lathe. Sharon says a program has to be written each time they use this computerized equipment, so it is valuable for big production, but



EQUIPMENT: This large drill press bit is used for making very large holes.

not so useful if only a few items are needed.

While it was always assumed Paul would follow in his father's footsteps in the machine shop, Sharon's interest in the business was a surprise. It was probably the most unexpected to Sharon herself. She was working at Kennametal and was one of multiple employees who lost their jobs in a major layoff.

"I was never one to stay idle," she says, "so I came to the shop to help Dad with answering the phone, typing, making deliveries, whatever needed done."

One day, her father poked his head into the office and told her he needed her at the machines. He gave her a quick lesson and said he needed 200 of whatever he was making.

"But I can't do that," Sharon says she replied.

"Yes, you can," her father said.

So, she watched, learned and has



AT WORK: Paul Deasey works at a computer-controlled lathe.

been at it ever since.

Most of the firm's work is local. Paul says they have stayed away from government contracts because the paperwork is overwhelming; however, they have acted as subcontractors for government projects through other companies.

When Cannondale Corp. first came

Deasey Machine Tool & Die Works does work for the township, boroughs, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative.

"I imagine we have done something for every industry in the area at one time or another," Paul says.

A small water company needed a filter for a reservoir outlet, and it was Deasey Machine Tool & Die Works that designed it.

"We have to think things through," Sharon says. "If someone comes in with a metal problem, we have to think about how we might fix it."

She laughs as she remembers her dad would sometimes call at 2 a.m. and say he had been mulling something over and had come up with the answer.

Paul recalls a lady who wanted a clip for something at her place of business.

He thought it over and said, "You mean like a clothes pin?"

It was exactly what she wanted, and he designed her a metal clothes pin.

Sharon recalls a family who was traveling through the area with a disabled child who had a special wheelchair. The chair had broken and Deasey Machine Tool & Die Works was able to fix it, much to the gratitude of the family.

When drilling was taking place near the hospital, a valve seat broke on the drilling rig. Someone came up with an idea of making a machine to regrind the seats without replacing the housing, which saved days of downtime. Deasey Machine Tool & Die Works designed and built a seat grinder that bolted to the machine to renew the valve seats, and eventually got a patent on this design.

Clark's Well Drilling lost a drill bit and Deasey Machine Tool & Die Works had to make an attachment to grab it while it was still in the shaft. A broken drill bit would mess up the entire project, so it was well worth the effort of getting it.

The business of working with metal has been both a livelihood and a source of fun for Paul, who has his own race car with a chassis built by him. His father was also into race cars. Paul has also made a couple of electric guitars that he plays.

At this time, the Deaseys have only one part-time employee, Sharon's daughter. Paul says no one in the family seems interested in taking over the business, so the future is uncertain.

"We have had a great business over the years," Sharon says. "We have met so many wonderful people and it is great to do business where a handshake still means something ..."



PROGRAMMING: Sharon Deasey programs the lathe at Deasey Machine Tool & Die Works.

to Bedford from a garage in Connecticut, it was the Deaseys who helped them get started.

"We had some intense times helping them get started," Paul says as recalls one weekend when they worked 28 hours nonstop.



COMPUTERIZED PART: This is one of the computerized parts designed by Sharon Deasey and Paul Deasey for Deasey Machine Tool & Die Works.

From the General Manager

(continued from page 12a)

gaining momentum. The push for greater mileage in terms of miles per gallon that began in the second half of the last century has been joined by the push for greater miles per charge.

Electric vehicles (EVs) are dominating the automotive news. Thanks to the electric cooperative movement, electricity is available everywhere in the U.S., the majority of roads are paved and environmental concerns are increasing awareness.

While many drawbacks of EVs are gone, there is still a major concern limiting EV growth dubbed “range anxiety.” This stems from the persistent limited range of all EVs. While the

Tesla offering provides over 300 miles for their all-wheel drive model and approaches 400 miles on their standard models, that pales in comparison to most internal combustion cars. And the lack of a rapid charging infrastructure is an ongoing impediment. Pure EVs are great “city cars.”

Fortunately, advances in battery technology are hammering away at the range issue. Range is steadily expanding and battery management systems are squeezing out more miles. At the same time, more companies are installing efficient charging stations at their places of business and in popular public locations.

Range anxiety notwithstanding, EVs have a bright future. Prices are dropping and range is expanding so owners can confidently drive nearly everywhere with a little bit of planning. On top of this, the cars are just plain cool. The Tesla Model 3 promises a minimalist interior with all the necessary controls and information presented on a large touchscreen in the center of the console as opposed to using the traditional instrument cluster.

Further, if you’ve never driven an electric vehicle, you are in for a treat. While an internal combustion engine must rev up to speed, an EV has full power at its disposal instantly. Of course, there are limits on this 0-60

miles per hour capability to prevent inexperienced and over-eager drivers from launching themselves into accidents and speeding tickets. They are quiet, well-appointed inside and allow you to forever bypass the lines at the gas station. However, note the lines are beginning to form at the charging station!

One final word, if you do purchase an EV, your friends here at the co-op would love to know about it. We are curious to know how popular EVs are in rural Pennsylvania. Stop in and say “Hi!” Also, the service to your home is sized to meet the demands of your house as they existed when service was connected. Adding the EV charger creates a risk of overloading the wires and transformers powering your home. Overloaded services can fail and leave you in the dark with an uncharged EV. ☀️

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.

OFFICE CLOSING

Bedford REC's office will be closed on April 10, 2020, for Good Friday.

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.