

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC

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814-623-5101

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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



Committed to a co-op culture for all

By Brooks Shoemaker

OVER THE YEARS, we have discussed why and how Bedford Rural Electric is different — because we're a cooperative. Our business model sets us apart from investor-owned utilities because we adhere to seven guiding principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater good of the community.

We have a unique and storied place in our country's history. We brought the American dream to rural America by electrifying the countryside throughout Bedford County when for-profit electric companies determined the effort too costly. Back then, cities were electrified, and rural areas were not, creating the original rural-urban divide. Newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in rural areas. Today, that spirit of equity and inclusion is a vital part of our DNA.

When Bedford Rural Electric was founded, each member contributed an equal share in order to gain access to electricity that benefited individual families as well as the larger local community. Each member had an equal vote in co-op matters. That sense of equity and inclusion is still how we operate today. We were built by and belong to the diverse communities and consumer-members we serve. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

By simply paying your electric bill each month, you are a member of

this co-op, and every member has an equal voice and vote when it comes to our governance. Why? Because this demonstrates our guiding principles of equitable economic participation and democratic control of the co-op. This is why we encourage all members to vote in Bedford Rural Electric's director elections at every annual meeting.

We know members of our community have different needs and perspectives, and we welcome diverse views on all issues. The more viewpoints we hear, the better we are able to reflect the needs of our entire community.

While our top priority is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we also want to be a catalyst for good in our community. Because we are your local electric cooperative, we invest in our community through scholarship programs, charitable giving, educational programs and more. We strive to make long-term decisions that improve and enrich the communities we serve.

While today's world is radically different than it was in 1939, our cooperative values have stood the test of time and remain just as relevant today. We recognize that today's co-op members expect more, and my pledge to you — the members we proudly serve — is to promote a cooperative culture of inclusion, diversity and equity for all.

Five ways to stay cozy this winter

Here are several budget-friendly ways you can keep comfortable in your home
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Snyders engage in welding venture

By Linda Williams

ADAM SNYDER of 165 Beaver Dam Road, Claysburg, has always enjoyed welding. A course at the Altoona Vo-Tech School gave him a start to on-the-job training.

Working for Curry Supply and Martins Truck Beds, he tackled numerous welding projects. In 2017, he had an opportunity to strike out on his own as a subcontractor doing work for both of these companies. The business grew to include three employees. Regular customers include Martin Truck Beds, Sheetz, Central States, Curry Supply and Shirley's Cookies. The cookie business requires large beaters, which sometimes break. While a new one would cost about \$2,000, they can be repaired for a couple of hundred dollars.

The Snyders live on a hobby farm with horses and goats. They started their welding business in the old wooden barn and prayed every time they fired up the welder. It did not



CUSTOM WORK: Andrea and Adam Snyder pose by their laser table at On-Edge Fabrication, an extension of Snyder Welding that specializes in custom unique metal work.

take long to build a metal work shed. Adam's wife, Andrea, is the bookkeeper and general manager. The couple have two children, Christy, 11, and Corbin, 5. They are homeschooled, so the recent COVID-19 shutdown of public schools was not a problem for the Snyders.

"We teach them a lot about how to run a business, and that it takes work to be rewarded," Adam says. Christy is already the janitor, and Corbin does his best at pushing a broom.

While Adam has always appreciated the regular projects the local companies give him, he loves a challenge.

"When I hired my three employees, they understood I like someone who has an imagination," he says. "Give them a project and see what they can come up with."

As a result of his ingenuity, Snyder Welding has a side company known as On-Edge Fabrication, which specializes in quality custom unique metal work. With a computer-controlled laser cutter, they are able to create metal fire rings, stoves, cooking grates and especially signs. The signs are popular and can display anything from your

patriotism with a flag to your name and a cutout of your business or farm. Andrea always wanted a nativity set for her front yard, and this year, she will have one created from metal and sprayed white.

Locally, the On-Edge Fabrication signs are sold at Bedford Farm Bureau and Thirteen Pines. The fire rings were such a hit, Bedford Farm Bureau or-



LASER SIGNS: Andrea Snyder stands by a display of signs the company has made.



AT WORK: Company employees include, from left: Andrea and Adam Snyder, Nelson Shaffer and Chase Barefoot.

dered them as Christmas gifts for their employees. The fire rings sell for \$350. Adam says he would always prefer doing quality work over quantity.

“If you do quality work, the quantity will take care of itself,” he says.

The recent pandemic has not affected the growth of their business, although back in March when it began, they had some trouble getting materials. That problem has straightened itself out.

“It was during that time that we started to diversify into custom-made products,” Adam says. “It really gave us a chance to see what we could do.”

Wanting to keep his men busy, he does not want to put all his eggs in one basket. Another idea he has brewing is to create wood and metal furniture.

As they expand their business into local shops, the Snyders also plan to sell online. Ryan Young is in the process of creating a website for them, allowing for online sales.

“We are always busy for sure,” Andrea says. “When the men go home, we still have work to do. We are over here most weekends for several hours.”

Mondays begin with an employee meeting where the projects are laid out for the week.

“I have my family to feed and three other families, so want to keep busy,” Adam concludes. 🌟



READY TO WORK: Employee Chase Barefoot prepares to weld a project.



PREP WORK: Nelson Shaffer gets a piece of metal ready for welding.

Safe Electricity[®] Storm Safety Kit

- Drinking water & food
- Blankets, pillows & clothing
- Basic first-aid supplies
- Prescriptions
- Basic toiletries
- Flashlights
- Battery-operated radio
- Battery-operated clock
- Extra supply of batteries
- Phone
- Cash and credit cards
- Emergency numbers
- Important documents (in a waterproof container)
- Toys, books & games
- Baby supplies
- Pet supplies

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative will be awarding four scholarships of \$1,000 each to non-traditional students whose primary residence is served by Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative.

For an application, go to our website at 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, 2021.

**Mail application to:
Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative
P. O. Box 335
Bedford, PA 15522**

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 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, 2021.

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From the General Manager

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without turning up the thermostat:

1. Whether it is extremely cold outside or you simply “run cold,” **an electric blanket can deliver quick warmth** that a regular throw or blanket cannot. Electric blankets can include a variety of features, like timers and dual temperature settings.
2. One of the easiest ways to stay cozy is to **keep your feet warm**. Our feet play a critical role in regulating body temperature, so when your feet are warm, your body automatically feels warmer. Try a pair of comfortable wool socks or house slippers to stay toasty.
3. On winter days when the sun is shining, take advantage of the **sun's natural warmth**. Open the curtains, drapes and blinds in your home to let the sunshine in — you'll feel the difference.
4. A **humidifier** makes your home cozier. Cold air doesn't hold water vapor like warm air, so by adding humidity inside your home, you feel a little warmer. A favorable level of humidity inside your home can also help clear sinuses, soften skin and improve sleep.
5. Beyond adding visual appeal to your home, **area rugs can also provide extra insulation and a warm surface for your feet** on cold winter days. Use large area rugs in rooms where

you spend the most time. You'll enjoy some new color and the textures of the rug, and the additional warmth will help keep your home comfortable.

These are just a few ways you can stay cozy this winter without turning up the thermostat.

Interesting tidbit

Please use cordless power tools with the Energy Star® rating. According to energystar.gov, if all power tools in the U.S. used Energy Star-rated battery chargers, 2 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity could be saved, and that's 1.7 million tons greenhouse gas emissions.

Energy efficiency tip of the month

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips. They have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load). They are designed primarily for home entertainment centers and home office areas where many consumer electronics are plugged into a power strip. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory estimates that the average home loses \$200 annually to energy wasted by phantom load. 

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.