

# 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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### Attorney

James R. Cascio

### Office Hours

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

## From the General Manager



## Let's talk

By Brooks Shoemaker

THE ENERGY industry is undergoing rapid change, and technology is paving the way for innovation in the way energy is used, produced, stored, and shared. Consumers are interested in more green energy alternatives while smart homes and apps make managing energy use and paying your electric bill more convenient than ever.

While the changing energy market has created more options for consumers, it has also resulted in more utility scams and misleading information. This is particularly true with alternative generation installations.

Utility scams are common because of the vast number of utilities that exist, and consumers are understandably anxious about the threat of disruption to their electric, heating, or water service. Second, new products and services in the energy industry provide an opening for scammers and pop-up companies to provide misleading information or shoddy products and services.

A common phone scam typically begins with a phone number that appears to be from a valid utility company. The scammer will claim you have a past due account and threaten to disconnect service or take legal action. The scammer will typically demand that you use a prepaid debit card or money order, often within a very short, urgent time frame to pay the "past due" amount.

A second scam involves a caller who claims that you have been overcharged by your electric utility (they never actually say the utility's name) and the scammer wants to help you get a refund. As you might have guessed, they

will require your personal information in order to process your refund.

You can combat these scams by being aware of the status of your account. Never give your banking or personal information over the phone to someone you did not call. If you are unsure about one of these calls, and are concerned about your energy bill, call us directly at 814-623-5101. Do not use the phone number given by the scammer.

Other scams we see from time to time are connected to residential wind and solar projects. First of all, solar panels and wind turbines are not free, regardless of what an ad may claim. In fact, they tend to have high upfront costs. Homeowners may also receive sales calls offering accessories, upgrades or extended warranties to their existing systems. The calls are typically from unscrupulous companies promising to replace faulty or broken parts or improve the efficiency of your system. Vet these calls very carefully. Again, if you are not expecting the call, do not be fooled. Calls making misleading or too-good-to-be-true offers are most likely scams. Call the cooperative or the company that installed your system if you think there may be a problem. Once installed, these systems should be virtually maintenance-free.

If you are considering wind or solar for your home, make sure you are working with a reputable company. These remain emerging industries with evolving technology. There are many companies in the market simply trying to make a quick buck. Representatives of these companies may have more

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# REC members sell products at Bedford's Farmers Market

By Linda Williams

THE OPENING of the Farmers Market in downtown Bedford is an event that many people look forward to every year. With the coronavirus lockdown this year, the opening of the market was especially welcome. It is a place to get fresh air, meet old friends, and most of all, support local farmers by purchasing their homegrown or homemade goods.

Held each Wednesday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., the market has numerous rural electric cooperative members who participate.

The Hen and Rooster, owned by Brandi and Justin Naugle, and located south of Bedford, is in its second year at the market. Brandi Naugle and her grandmother, Sandy Duvall, usually man the booth, which opens in May with flowers, seedlings, and early spring salad makings. They progress through the summer with seasonal offerings such as strawberries, garden vegetables, fresh pork and sweet corn. Naugle also sells homemade soap at their location. The Naugles also have a stand in front of their home on Route



220 South where they sell fresh pork, chicken and turkey, as well as their early-spring to late-fall produce.

Bill Lingenfelter and his daughter, Cassie, of Sylvan Glen Farms, 866 Yellow Road, Everett, have been coming to the market for several years, bringing homegrown beef, chicken, and fresh eggs. With a decline in the supply of meat in some grocery stores due to the supply chain issues related to the pandemic, the Lingenfelters have been selling out of their prod-

ucts. Their grass-fed beef sells for \$5 a pound. Lingenfelter will also sell direct to customers and is on Facebook.

One of the youngest entrepreneurs at the market is Cora Foreman, who raises dairy goats on the Deep Well Farm owned by her aunt, Lynne Shaffer. Deep Well Farm is located at 3839 Pleasant Valley Road, Crystal Spring.

An encouraging aunt, Shaffer has advised her niece regarding her goat milk soap and duck eggs. The soap and eggs are also available for sale at Whole-some Living. Cora likes colorful soaps and has studied ways to make them more attractive to customers. She also researched ducks and the value duck



FOR SALE: Bill Lingenfelter and daughter, Cassie, sell beef, chicken, eggs, and fresh herbs at their Farmers Market stand.



YUM! BLACKBERRIES!: Delanee Cessna shows the array of items offered by the Blackberry Bottom Farm.



**YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR:** Cora Foreman operates a stand selling soap and duck eggs as her aunt, Lynne Shaffer, oversees the project.



**FLOWERS, ANYONE?** Terri Smith, Twin Maples Greenhouse, brings a healthy array of flowers to the Farmers Market every Wednesday during the growing season.

eggs have in terms of nutrition. She and her aunt have designed brochures that include recipes for the eggs and information about the benefits of goat milk soap for the skin.

Horn O Plenty is located in Wolfsburg, but the farm that supplies this farm-to-table establishment is located near Manns Choice. Mandy Horn brings an array of homegrown nutritious vegetables, baked goods and sandwiches to the market.

Twin Maples Greenhouse located on Younts Road in Bedford is owned by

Terri Smith and her daughter, Jessica Claycomb. Smith also has a greenhouse in the Everett area. They bring an array of healthy annuals and perennials to the market. Both ladies have a good knowledge of their flowers, and they can offer advice regarding where and when to plant them for the best results.

William “Bill” Harris is a regular at the Farmers Market. He brings his wife’s baked goods, including cinnamon rolls, cookies, bread, and gobs, as well as floral baskets, fresh vegetables, and watermelon from the Harris

Greenhouse, 5178 Cortland Road, New Paris. Their baked goods are also sold at Fisher’s Country Store. The Harris family moved to the area from Belize.

Blackberry Farm LLC located at 768 Belden Road is a 20-acre vineyard producing blackberries and selling products made from blackberries, as well as some items made by friends. Delanee Cessna is in charge of this



**LOTS TO OFFER:** William “Bill” Harris from the Harris Greenhouse in New Paris brings both vegetables and baked goods to sell at the market.

booth, where business is usually brisk. Blackberry items include salsa, barbecue sauce, several kinds of salad dressing, blackberry jam, blackberry syrup and cider. They also sell honey from a farm in Hagerstown, but they are working on getting their own beehives. In addition to selling their products at the market, they also sell items at their farm. 🌻



**EAT YOUR VEGETABLES:** Mandy Horn of Horn O Plenty provides an array of healthy vegetable items for customers to choose from.

**From the General Manager**

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 sales experience than knowledge of the energy industry, and their primary goal could be making a sale and moving on to the next prospect.

As always, we are here to help. We can offer a candid assessment to determine if a solar installation is right for you. After all, the co-op has a different “bottom line” that is not directly tied to the sale of a product or service. We take a more holistic, objective view of how to achieve energy and cost savings for our members, and that may or may not include solar panels.

In this ever-changing environment, it’s important to remember you have a trusted energy adviser — your local electric cooperative. We are a community-focused organization that works to efficiently deliver affordable, reliable and safe energy to our members.

Remember, we’re just one call or click away, so please reach out with any questions about your electric service or bills — we’re here to help.

**Energy efficiency tip of the month**

As the dog days of summer approach, consider using a rain barrel to save energy. Rain barrels capture rainwater from a roof that can be used later for watering your lawn, garden or indoor plants. ☀

**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.*



**BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES**

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.



**■ WATER**

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.



**■ TOOLS**

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.



**■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS**

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week’s supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

*Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.*