

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

President & PREA Director

Donald Hoenstine
Kimmel and King Twps.

Vice President & Allegheny Director

Ronald W. Wilkins
Napier and Harrison Twps.,
New Paris, Manns Choice and
Schellsburg Boroughs

Secretary

Paul L. Rummel Jr.
Bedford and Cumberland Valley Twps.

Treasurer

Reuben R. Lafferty
Juanita Twp., Bedford County, and
Allegheny Twp., New Baltimore Borough,
Somerset County

Assistant Secretary

Earl W. Garland
East Providence Twp., Bedford County,
and Brush Creek Twp., Fulton County

Assistant Treasurer

Dale Sprigg II
West St. Clair, Pavia, and Lincoln Twps.,
Pleasantville Borough

Brian I. Hoover

Monroe and West Providence Twps.,
Everett Borough

John A. Oldham

East St. Clair Twp., Bedford County
William F. "Bill" Popovich Jr.
Colerain, Snake Spring and
South Woodbury Twps.

Attorney

James R. Cascio

Office Hours

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

From the General Manager



Make your voice heard

By Brooks Shoemaker

THERE is an old political saying, "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." This adage is the perfect answer to the question, "Why vote?" It's a blunt description of what happens when you don't engage in the political process.

If you do not vote, you miss the opportunity to support a candidate who shares your views and concerns. You are also allowing others to chart a course that impacts your future. We encourage all Bedford Rural Electric members to register to vote. If you are not registered, please visit pavoterservices.pa.gov.

If you are already registered, please encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to get registered and to vote. Rural America needs to hear your voice!

While state and local elections may not be as exciting as the high-profile presidential election, they are just as critical. These elections have a direct impact on your community and on your quality of life. This has been very evident during the 2020 pandemic.

Voting is designed to hold elected officials accountable for their actions. Elections are a direct and tangible source of feedback. A strong voter turnout shows investment in the community and ensures that a diverse number of views are represented. The whole community benefits when more people participate in the process, because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

Voting demonstrates your support for the community and helps officials



chart a course for the future. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Research candidates, learn about issues that are on the ballot, and get out and vote!

Stay in the know

We are constantly striving to improve our operational efficiency so we can provide the most reliable electric service possible for our members (that's you!).

We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, and we need your help. By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service you expect and deserve. Accurate information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communications for reporting and repairing outages. It also allows co-op members to receive information about other important programs, events and activities.

Up-to-date contact information can potentially speed up the power restoration process during an outage. For example, the phone number you have given us links your service address

(continues on page 12d)

Choice campground has a busy year

By Linda Williams

AMERICANS are pretty resilient and have found ways to have fun regardless of the virus that has wreaked havoc with everyone's plans this year. One way they have found to enjoy the outdoors is camping.

Camping is more popular than ever these days, and there are a number of campgrounds right here in Bedford County, including Choice Camping Court. The Manns Choice campground celebrated its 50th anniversary last year.

Founded by Harold and Doris Wertz, it is now owned and operated by Charles "Chip," Troy, and Karah Wertz.

"It used to be a dairy farm," Troy says. "In the 1960s, Dad switched over to beef cattle and fenced off enough land to make three campsites."

When the boys were young, their father put an old cable over the deepest part of the creek that runs through the property, and a whole gang of kids from Manns Choice would spend hot summer afternoons having fun. Those were the early days of what would become the campground.



Today, there are 246 camper sites. Chip says the majority of campers come from about an hour away, with many from the Johnstown area. Some are from as close as Schellsburg, and others come from the Philadelphia, Northern Virginia, and Pittsburgh areas. They all have one thing in common: they enjoy the outdoors and like

CHRISTMAS IN JULY: Tent campers are part of a family reunion at Choice Camping Court. It was Christmas in July weekend and they decorated for the weekend.

the camaraderie experienced in the campground setting.

The campground's innovative playground with a giant slide and tire swings greets the children as they arrive. Families enjoy riding about in golf carts, and there is always the creek that started the whole thing where children like to plop into the water with an innertube. Chip says several times a summer he sponsors a float trip where the campers will ride a tube down the river. He then picks them up with a tractor and wagon to haul them back to where they started.

On one particularly hot evening, some of the campers carried their picnic table into a shallow part of the creek and enjoyed a cool, wet dinner followed by a game of cards.

Karah, Chip's daughter, thinks up special activities for various weekends and promotes them on social media. The camp's Facebook page lists activities for each weekend. Troy reports that over the July 4 weekend, they had nearly 1,000 campers with fireworks,



UNDER THE SHADE TREE: Shade trees provide cooling and soundproofing at the campground.

a patriotic parade and water games. Another weekend might feature a yard sale. The third week in July was called “Christmas in July,” featuring a covered dish dinner and Christmas crafts. Some campers even brought out their decorations and Christmas lights. On movie night, they showed “Home Alone.”

Chip says they always have something special scheduled, such as karaoke or a musical group. The biggest event of the season traditionally is the last weekend in September when they celebrate an early Halloween with trick-or-treating, costumes and fall decorations. Bingo is always popular, as is the annual corn boil and the

an electrical engineer, he transformed the campground electric service to underground wiring with 50-amp service at each site.

When the coronavirus hit this past spring, it didn’t stop the self-contained campers or tent campers who felt safe at the campground. The bath houses are open and are cleaned several times a day with a disinfectant.

Many of the campers at Choice are seasonal, leaving their recreational vehicles there all year. Some have even added porches or sheds to their RVs. Skip Reffner is a snowbird who has been there for 43 years. Each winter, he heads to Florida where he has another recreational establishment,



GONE FISHIN’: Campers try their luck fishing in the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River.



CHRISTMAS CRAFTS: The Wertz family displays a table of Christmas crafts at the campground.

chicken barbeque.

A former teacher, Karah has brought an educational aspect to the grounds, asking Matt Godisart from the Bedford County Library to lead some educational programs.

Each year, the campground opens April 1 and closes Oct. 31.

“That’s when the maintenance work begins,” Chip says.

Each campsite has water, electricity, sewage and Wi-Fi. Troy remembers his dad putting in overhead electric lines. Using his Air Force training as

and in the spring, he comes north. He helps out part time on the grounds.

The Wertz family still has beef cattle, which are an added attraction, especially to the city campers.

“Some of them got to see a calf being born,” Troy remembers. “That was quite a thrill. The cattle, used to an audience, will come to the fence for a pet or an apple.”

Surrounded by large shade trees, noise from the nearby turnpike is pretty well blocked and not a problem for the campers.

“We know we will always have to keep expanding,” the Wertz family agrees. “Down the road, we may have to look at some solar power and adding a pool.”

Karah, in an effort to keep the campground up to date, has enrolled them in the Pennsylvania Campground Owners Association, ARVC and several online sites.

They all agree the coronavirus has contributed to a very busy season for the campground as more and more people are choosing to camp when they have a few days available for recreation. 🌞



From the General Manager

(continued from page 12a)

to our outage management system. When you call to report an outage, our system recognizes your phone number and matches it with your account location. Accurate information helps our outage management system predict the location and possible cause of an outage, making it easier and faster for our crews to locate and correct the problem.

Naturally, we always do our best to keep your power flowing. However, we occasionally plan outages to update, repair or replace equipment. In these instances, we try to provide advance notification to affected members through an automated phone message or an old-fashioned letter, IF we have your updated contact information.

Many of you have been members of the co-op for years, and most likely your account information has not been updated for some time. We also know that many members now rely on a cellphone as their primary, maybe their only, phone. It is important that we have that number in our system.

I want to emphasize that when providing your contact information to the co-op, we will never share this information with any third parties. It is only used by Bedford Rural Electric to send important information to you. Please take a moment to examine your next bill and confirm your information.

You can correct it on the back of the statement or by calling the office. If we do not have your cellphone number on file, please provide it. Keeping us up to date will enable us to improve service and efficiency so we can better serve you and all members of the co-op.

**Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month**

Clothes dryers make up a large portion of your appliance energy consumption. Clean the lint filter after each cycle, and scrub the filter with a toothbrush once a month to remove film and increase air circulation. Also, don't forget to also clean your dryer vent duct hose at least annually. ⚡

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.

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.