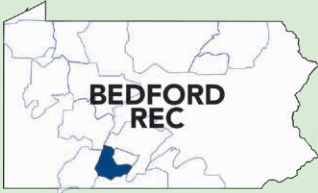


Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

BEDFORD REC

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Attorney

James R. Cascio

OFFICE HOURS

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

The Cooperative's Annual Meeting



THE COOPERATIVE'S 84TH ANNUAL MEETING is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, at the Bedford County Fairgrounds, 108 Telegraph Road, Bedford. The fairgrounds are located just west of downtown Bedford on Business Route 30, which is also West Pitt Street, and are adjacent to the Bedford exit of Interstate 99.

The drive-thru meeting begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 1:30 p.m. (Please do not arrive before 10. We cannot have traffic backing up onto Route 30.) You may arrive at any time during those hours and remain in your vehicle while you register, pick up an annual report, receive a ballot to vote in the election of directors, enjoy free refreshments, pick up an attendance gift, and finally turn in your completed ballot. Registered attendees will also be eligible to win door prizes. Lucky winners will be announced after the meeting.

Naturally, if you have already voted by mail, you will not be able to vote again at the annual meeting. You will, however, enjoy all of the other attendance benefits.

Please make plans to join us. At this point, if you haven't returned your ballot by mail, it is probably too late for it to be received by the due date of April 10. So, come to the meeting and cast your vote in person. Whether you are voting in person or not, you should have received the official notice of the meeting in mid-March. It is very important, to simplify registration, that you please tear off the top section of the notice and bring it with you to the meeting. Remember: Every vote counts!

The power behind your power

As April arrives, it brings with it the showers that produce May flowers. It is also the beginning of the thunderstorm season that inherently includes power outages. Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative always strives to provide reliable electricity to our members 24/7, 365 days per year. However, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals who spring into action when the weather is the worst: our cooperative lineworkers, who work here in Bedford, across Pennsylvania and throughout the country. Without them, our world would be dark.

Braving winter and summer storms, along with many other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment, to restore power. Having one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States, lineworkers must perform detailed, manual tasks adjacent to high-voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, our linemen always wear specialized protective clothing and equipment on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job much more complex, regardless of the weather.

In addition to the highly visible tasks we are all accustomed to seeing lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to

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'King' of Spring

GARY DIEHL

IF YOU TAKE A DRIVE through rural King Township in Imler, you might be lucky enough to find a real diamond — or at least a Titleist — in the rough (pun intended). King Valley Golf Course has been a longtime member of Bedford REC. I may be a little biased because it's my home course, but I believe it to be one of the prettiest courses, not just in Pennsylvania, but anywhere. It boasts a breathtaking view from the clubhouse, where you can see 13 of the 18 holes King Valley has to offer. The entrance drive is eye-pleasing but unassuming at first. However, when you break through the trees and look to the northeast, over what was once nothing but cornfields on the Knisely dairy farm, you will be hooked from that moment.

The course is on the Ben and Donna Knisely farm. For the majority of their lives, the Knisleys were just a hard-working farming family with very little thought or time for golf. That all changed when their grandson, Casey, took a real interest in the game. He, his dad, Brian, who served as the King Valley president until his recent passing, and his uncle, Brad, didn't just dip their toes into the water — they took the full-body plunge and began talking with Ben, Donna, and other family members about a big idea. The proverbial ball was rolling after Casey got the fever, and the family started having discussions about the possibility of turning the farm, or at least part of it, into a golf course.

By the time the decision was made to convert the rolling hills of the farm into a golf course, Brian, Casey and Brad



GOLF CHAMP: Tyler Brown proudly displays his league championship trophy. He was also the 2022 King Valley Club champion.



FIT FOR A KING: This is King Valley Golf Course from the air, where you can see most of the 700 pine trees planted so the course stays green year-round.

had been in cahoots with Blair County golf shop owner Frank Kiraly, who also had experience in course design. While the decision was a tough one, it began to make sense financially. Supporting multiple families with farming was becoming more and more difficult. As it turns out, they made a wise decision because King Valley is entering its 23rd year of operation.

Diane Knisely, Brian's wife, calls herself the secretary, but in reality she wears many hats when it comes to the day-to-day operations of the golf course. When she was contacted to sit down and talk a bit for a potential *Penn Lines* article, she agreed, not for publicity or "free advertising," but because she and the entire family are so proud of what they have accomplished.

"You've heard the saying, 'Find a job you love, and you will never work another day in your life,'" she says of the experience. "Well, that is certainly true for me, and I think I speak for the whole family when I say we just love what we're doing here because it brings joy to others."

Having a successful operation is a product of tons of hard work — you can't just snap your fingers and wave a magic wand over farmland and make a golf course appear. Once the primary design for the first nine holes was on paper — a group effort headed up by Kiraly — the family along with some volunteers rolled up their sleeves and by and large built the course by themselves. They had to contract some bigger equipment for various projects, including the irrigation pond which comes into play on multiple holes. Although the bulk of labor was done by the family, building a golf course carries a hefty price tag. The initial costs were financed primarily by borrowing money from the public via promissory notes as well as private investors. The notes have long since been paid with interest, but a cool thing about the original 24 is that each received a lifetime membership to the course.

The farming and golf world, along with the community in general, lost two of the best with the passing of Ben and Brian. Both were humble, hard-working gents you just loved to sit down and chat with when given the opportunity. Rest

assured, their legacy carries on in the day-to-day operations of King Valley, which truly is a family affair. Brad took over as president. Their sister, Shari Brown, handles the accounting and works in the pro shop. Her husband, Ron, works on the course full time, while their son, Tyler, can be seen at the pro shop or taking care of the grounds, depending on which day you visit. Ben and Donna's great-niece, Kendra Myers, also handles duties in the shop in addition to social media. And Casey — who Diane says “learned from the best,” referring to Brian — is the head superintendent.

The clocks have been moved forward and spring has sprung, thus the golf world has awakened, so scratch golfers and hackers alike are heading to local courses. Why not visit King Valley on one of your ventures? Memberships are available, and they have 80 carts for rent. The golf season includes league play, tournaments, scrambles, and other events sponsored by local businesses and organizations.

There is a pavilion that seats 100 and plenty of parking. If you want to just practice or get loose before your round, there is a putting green and a unique driving range with a vista almost as good as the one from the clubhouse. It's unique in that you're hitting downhill into a small valley that creates some incredible hang time. The clubhouse is stocked with merchandise and has limited food and snacks for sale during golfing hours. During peak season, there is a snack shack at hole No. 10, which is open on holidays and weekends for food and drink. The greens are up to United States Golf Association specifications for bent grass, and the course is open year-round due to its state-of-the-art drainage system. King Valley is also the home course for two local high school golf teams — Chestnut Ridge and Claysburg Kimmel.

Check out their Facebook page for information and fantastic pictures. You can book your tee times by calling 814-239-0199 or visiting kingvalleygolfcoursepa.com.



PREPPING FOR THE SEASON: Brad and Casey Knisely take a quick break from working to pose for a photo.



PRACTICE TIME: At the driving range at King Valley Golf Course, golfers have the option of hitting from mats or real grass.



GREAT GOLFING: A local golfer admires his drive on a beautiful day at King Valley Golf Course.



SCORE! Diane Knisely tallies scores from the Monday Night League Championship.

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER


Continued from page 18A

repair a wire. They also have become information experts who can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews now use tablets and cellphones to map outages, take photos of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. Our linemen are responsible for keeping 1,300 miles of lines across Bedford County (and small pieces of Somerset and Fulton counties) operating efficiently, so we may deliver power to your home and our community every minute of every day, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

Many of the tools lineworkers use have changed over the years, and technology has become a major part of

the job. However, the dedication to the job, the cooperative and its members has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near energized lines in the worst of conditions, at any time of the day or night. During hurricanes, ice storms, snowstorms, thunderstorms or sub-zero winds, our crews often work around the clock repairing the damage done by Mother Nature until electricity is restored to every single member. Remember, your power works because they do!

National Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 10. So, this month, if you see one of our hard-working linemen, please pause to say, "Thank you," to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate their sacrifices and hard work that keeps the lights on, regardless of the conditions.



CELEBRATE
the Power Behind Your Power.
Lineworker Appreciation Day | April 10, 2023

Energy efficiency tip of the month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home's cooling system. April is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest.

A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors, and other factors that can greatly impact the efficiency of your system. 📞

BROOKS SHOEMAKER
GENERAL MANAGER

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, 814-623-7568, 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.