

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 & Allegheny Director

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

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Monroe and West Providence Twps.,
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John A. Oldham

East St. Clair Twp., Bedford County

Travis Wigfield

Colerain, Snake Spring and
South Woodbury Twps.

Attorney

James R. Cascio

OFFICE HOURS

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

Season's greetings from all of us at Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

Board of Directors: Ronald W. Wilkins,
Don E. Hoenstine, Paul L. Rummel Jr.,
Reuben R. Lafferty, Earl W. Garland,
Dale R. Sprigg II, Brian I. Hoover,
John A. Oldham and Travis L. Wigfield

Employees: Dave Allison,
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Landon Clark, Lacy Decker,
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Brent Kauffman, Gary Lafferty,
Tim Mellott, Wade Mellott,
Curtis Mitchell, Troy Mock,
Dawn Mowery, Jenna Reffner,
Brooks Shoemaker, Scott Shook,
Mike Sleighter, Christy Topper,
Becky Truax, Christie Weaverling,
Cindy Wise, Ryan Young and
Ben Zimmerman

Lighting the way: Bedford REC helps turn communities into winter wonderlands

LINDA WILLIAMS

RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES follow the Seven Cooperative Principles: open and voluntary membership, democratic member control, members' economic participation, autonomy and independence, education, training, and information, cooperation among cooperatives — and always — concern for community.

At Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), concern for community includes helping the towns of Bedford and Everett hang their Christmas lights and decorations.

"It's something we do each year along with other businesses and individuals, who volunteer to brighten up our areas for the holidays," says Gary Diehl, Bedford REC's member services manager.

Keeping a tradition alive

Everett began decorating its streets in 1976 with money raised from a play directed by Beth Engle that



IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: Bedford REC lineworker Ben Zimmerman puts the finishing touches on some of Bedford's Christmas decorations.



A GROUP EFFORT: Businesses, organizations and individuals come together every year to hang Christmas lights and decorations in Everett and Bedford. Above, Bedford REC lineworkers lend a helping hand in Bedford.



READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS: The decorations in both communities go up in early November – just in time for the holiday season.

celebrated the community’s 200th anniversary. Volunteers have replaced and maintained the lights ever since.

Staff at both Bedford REC and Penelec donate their time and talents to put the lights in place and take them down when the season ends. Bedford REC also places the Christmas star on Mount Dallas.

“We are so grateful for their help,” says Paul Price, chairman of Everett’s Lighting Committee. Price, in turn, dresses as Santa Claus for the cooperative’s Christmas party for employees and their families.

Snowflake Christmas ornaments are one way Everett raises funds for the lighting project. Residents purchase the ornaments, which are hung on the community’s Christmas tree in honor of individuals, businesses and organizations. A photo and written thought can be

included on the ornament. Residents also participate in a parking meter decorating competition.

Lindsay Salas, manager of Downtown Bedford Inc. (DBI), is likewise appreciative of Bedford REC’s help with the community’s Christmas lights. She says the cooperative, along with the Bedford Fire Department, Clark Construction, and a number of volunteers, turn the town into a magical place for the holidays.

“We start early,” Lindsay says. “Our local merchants have special holiday events beginning the second weekend in November and like to have the streets decorated.”

Decorations do wear out, which creates a need for Christmas light funding. DBI recently received a \$6,250 grant from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies as well as an earlier \$3,000 grant.

Lindsay says the organization has 87 overhead lights that are more than 20 years old and 47 lamp-post

decorations that need to be replaced. The cost is expected to be more than \$100,000. Shopping will begin in January for as many new lights as the budget allows. The lights are purchased on sale in January for the next year.

It takes several days to complete the project, which includes retrieving the decorations from storage and placing them in their proper positions on Juliana, West Pitt, East, and Railroad streets. The parking spot horseheads are decorated by Lorraine Blackburn, Lladel Lichty and Jamie Tew.

Both Everett and Bedford need constant funding to maintain and buy new Christmas lights. In Bedford, a tax-deductible donation can be made by sending a check to Downtown Bedford Inc., P. O. Box 286, Bedford, PA 15522 or calling 814-623-0048. In Everett, donations should be mailed to Christmas Lights, in care of Everett Free Library, 137 E. Main St., Everett, PA 15537. 📧

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative will be awarding at least 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 under the members services tab. Applications are also available at the office.

All applications and required information must be received no later than March 1, 2023.

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

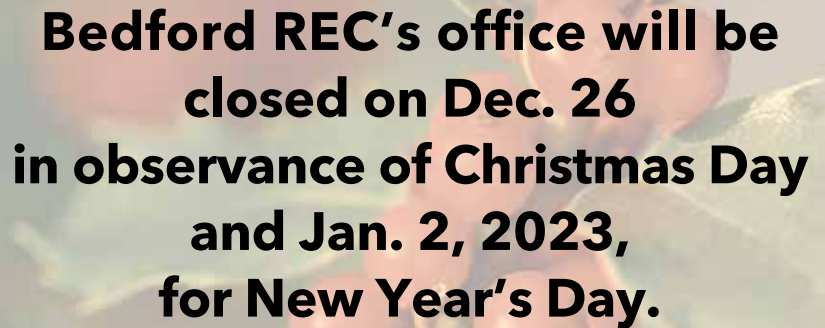
HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) will be awarding at least four scholarships of \$1,000 each to seniors whose parents' or guardians' primary residence is served by Bedford REC.

For an application, go to our website at bedfordrec.com and click on scholarship information under the members services tab. Applications are also available at the office.

All applications and required information must be received no later than March 1, 2023.

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



Bedford REC's office will be closed on Dec. 26 in observance of Christmas Day and Jan. 2, 2023, for New Year's Day.

DONATIONS FOR LOCAL FOOD BANKS

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) directors and employees are asking the members to join in and donate to the area food banks. Those wishing to donate items should bring them to the Bedford REC office on Lincoln Highway between now and Dec. 14.

Items needed include: canned goods, paper products, soap and other hygiene-related items, and food products, such as noodles, cake mixes, spaghetti, or boxed foods of any kind. The items will be donated to local food banks throughout the county.

Your help and kindness will be appreciated during this holiday season.

Those making a donation will have their name entered for a \$50 credit toward their electric bill.

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.