

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

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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



Season's greetings

By Brooks Shoemaker

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

Board of Directors: Don Hoenstine, Ronald Wilkins, Paul Rummel Jr., Reuben Lafferty, Earl Garland, Dale Sprigg II, Brian Hoover, John Oldham, William Popovich Jr.

Employees: Dave Allison, Corinna Browell, Landon Clark, Lacy Decker, Nathaniel Dell, Sara Detweiler, Gary Diehl, Emile Feuillet, Brad Glessner, Ed Hankinson, RJ Houpp, Brent Kauffman, Gary Lafferty, Tim Mellott, Wade Mellott, Curtis Mitchell, Troy Mock, Dawn Mowery, Jenna Reffner, Jim Seymour, Brooks Shoemaker, Scott Shook, Mike Sleighter, Christy Topper, Becky Truax, Christie Weaverling, Cindy Wise, Ryan Young, Ben Zimmerman

Fisher's Country Store welcomes Christmas shoppers

By Linda Williams

IT'S COOKIE-baking time, and a good place to find necessary ingredients for Christmas goodies is Fisher's Country Store on old Business 220 in Cessna.

Owner Mike Fisher says that while the store is busy all year, Christmas is especially so. Fisher's sells flour, sugar, brown sugar and all the spices you might need in bulk and at a price much lower than most chain stores.

Baking supplies are not the only holiday items in demand at Fisher's. Party trays of lunch meat and cheese for family or office gatherings are always popular. The deli makes up the largest part of Fisher's year-round business. Bulk supplies are second.

The concept for a modern country store began in 1981 in the spare bedroom of a trailer on the former Steve Kauffman farm on Hoagland Road. From there, the store moved to the garage and eventually to the 3,200-square-foot building where it is today. In June 1990, it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. John Fisher, and in 2003, a 2,300-square-foot addition was built.

The Fishers have five children but only one chose to become the store owner. Mike was a teacher for four years before taking over the store's responsibilities. He and his wife have 12 children, and are hopeful that at least one of them will someday run the business.

Melanie Karns of Everett is the assistant manager, and there are an additional 40 employees.

"We have good help," Mike says, "but could use more."

Like many other businesses, the store has had difficulty finding and hiring staff and keeping items stocked.

"Our candy, which comes in every variety, has always been popular," Mike says, "but now, we never know what we will have. One week, it is the licorice that is scarce; the next ... the caramel. You just never know."

An array of canned items — all



POPULAR ITEMS: Assistant Manager Melanie Karns stands with an array of both common and unusual canned items.

with the Fisher's label — are among the most popular items. They include pickles, relish, salsa, peaches, and some rather unusual options, like pickled mushrooms and Brussels sprouts.

Produce is bought from local growers during the summer months. Some of the ready-to-prepare baked goods are from Martin's in Lancaster.

While deli items are popular for party trays, they are also a hit for the average household. Local organizations holding hoagie sales make their own with ingredients from Fisher's. Karns says it is normal to get an order for 12,000 slices of meat and cheese for a hoagie fundraiser.

The store offers other items that



READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS: Mike Fisher at work at his desk at Fisher's Country Store.



DEALS AND DISCOUNTS: The store's sign displays the specials of the day.

aren't available in all supermarkets. Fresh flowers from a local gardener have been popular all summer. Mike's mom makes aprons, and a local crafter makes wood items. A variety of liniments are also available to relieve aches and pains.

In March 2015, the store added a café that offers sandwiches and ice cream. Folks can grab lunch and sit at outside tables to enjoy the surrounding countryside.

Frozen meats and seafood, sold in bulk, have been a more recent popular



A MODERN COUNTRY STORE: The outside of Fisher's Country Store – a rare time when it is not busy.

addition. Specials are offered at various times of the month and are posted on the store's Facebook page. Customers can also email or text Fisher's to learn more about deals and discounts. The store offers beef, pork, chicken and seafood.

The country store has stayed up to date with technology, and Mike is the IT guy with some help from local consultants. There is a backup generator if there is a power outage so freezers can continue to operate, and backups for the computers, too.

Mike says that no matter the equipment, the most important part of the business is the people.

"We value our employees and our customers," he says. "Without them, we would not be here."

Meanwhile, despite his busy schedule, Mike still finds time to volunteer at the Bedford County Jail. Seven of the Fishers' children attend the Allegheny Valley Foundation Christian School in Schellsburg.

"We have a van that accommodates all seven," Mike says, "and the oldest one drives." ❁

Bedford REC will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24, for Christmas and Friday, Dec. 31, for New Year's.

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**. Applications are also available at the office.

All applications and required information must be received no later than March 1, 2022.

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

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative will be awarding at least 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, 2022.

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

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.

DONATIONS FOR LOCAL FOOD BANKS

Bedford Rural Electric directors and employees are asking the members to join in and make donations to area food banks. Those wishing to donate items should bring them to the Bedford Rural Electric office on Lincoln Highway between now and Dec. 10, 2021.

Items needed include: canned goods, paper products, soap and other hygiene-related items, food products such as noodles, cake mixes, and 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.

Anyone making a donation will have their name entered for a \$50 gift certificate toward their electric bill.