

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

BEDFORD REC

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Website: www.bedfordrec.com

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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,
Troy A. Mickle and Travis L. Wigfield

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Joey Love, Tim Mellott, Wade Mellott,
Dawn Mowery, Jenna Reffner,
Brooks Shoemaker, Scott Shook,
Mike Sleighter, Christy Topper,
Becky Truax, Christie Weaverling,
Cindy Wise, Cole Yingling, Ryan Young
and Ben Zimmerman

And the Bedford County Chamber Said, 'Let There Be Light'

GARY DIEHL, MEMBER SERVICES MANAGER

THE BEDFORD COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS HOST many events each year, including the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting, exciting racing, the Home, Garden & Lifestyle Show, drive-in movies during the summer, and the Great Bedford Fair, among others. But this time of year, all eyes are focused on the Bedford County Chamber's Holiday Nights of Lights.

For those not familiar with the Holiday Nights of Lights, it is a grassroots, community-based, drive-thru light display. Businesses, community organizations, school groups, churches and more put their own spin on constructing a display for the public to enjoy during the holiday season. Some displays are simple and small, while others are elaborate, featuring moving parts and flashing lights galore. But no matter how big or small, simple or fancy, basic or complex, all of the displays are beautiful. Each has been built with a festive attitude and is worth the trip to the fairgrounds to witness.

This year marks the Fifth Annual Holiday Nights of Lights, but according to Chamber President/CEO Kellie Goodman-Shaffer, a longtime Bedford REC member, the idea originated way back in 2015. The event isn't about promoting commercialism; it's about community — and for the community. Kellie says she is proud and excited to be part of such a wonderful network of businesses and community groups.



WELCOME COTTAGE: Santa leans in for a photo with some volunteers at the Welcome Cottage during the 2022 Holiday Nights of Lights.

And just how involved do these local businesses and community groups get when it comes to Holiday Nights of Lights? During the first year, the goal was to have at least 30 groups create displays. More than 70 businesses and organizations blessed the fairgrounds with their creativity. Even during the height of COVID-19 in 2020, more than 100 displays lined the grounds. This year, more than 160 businesses and groups will share displays. The event



SHOP WITH A COP: Santa Claus and one of the elves decide to shop with a cop at the State Police display during the Holiday Nights of Lights.

grew so quickly the Bedford REC gang pitched in and donated labor and materials to set three poles and string more than 500 feet of triplex wire so a previously unused portion of the fairgrounds could be powered up for additional displays.

As you drive through the fairgrounds and take in the sights, it may seem like magic is appearing right before your eyes. However, an activity of this magnitude doesn't just magically happen.

"Without the fair partners and all the wonderful volunteers," Kellie says, "this event could never take place."

Here are just a few of the ways local agencies have pitched in to support the event:

- ▶ **Cessna Communications**, which owns and operates multiple AM and FM radio stations in Bedford, donates airtime via FM 106.5 for three hours each night for the event. As visitors drive through the fairgrounds, they can listen to beautiful Christmas music and hear Kellie's voice promoting the event if they tune into WRAX 106.5.
- ▶ **Shawnee Structures**, a local builder, donates the "Welcome Cottage" that volunteers use for storage. This year, they're adding a gazebo where carolers will sing on select nights.
- ▶ **The Rotary Interact Club** from Bedford High School spends an entire day decorating and preparing.
- ▶ **Best Way Pizza** in Bedford began handing out 2,000 coupons for pizza in 2020 as a way to recognize community need. That practice has continued and will happen again this year.

And let's not forget the many volunteers who power up all 160-plus displays and unplug them at the end of the night. Needless to say, the chamber and the community appreciate all the hard work and dedication that goes into making the Holiday Nights of Lights a growing success.

If you decide to visit the Holiday Nights of Lights, admission is \$10 per vehicle. Kellie says on many nights, a "pay-it-forward" chain will begin, where one car pays for the next, a practice that could continue for an hour or more. Proceeds benefit the educational programs of the not-for-profit Bedford County Chamber Foundation, which is preparing the leaders of tomorrow through workforce development and career exploration programs as well as leadership and literacy initiatives. The foundation is for grades pre-K through 12.

The event officially kicks off on Black Friday, Nov. 24, and runs through that weekend and all subsequent weekends, as well as some select weekdays, until Dec. 30. If you want to have a good time and get into the holiday spirit, make time to visit the Holiday Nights of Lights this year.

Chances are, you will like it so much, you will want to visit more than once.

"I've never seen anyone come through and not be happy," Kellie says.

Gates are open from 6 to 9 each night, weather permitting. Learn more at bedfordcountychamber.com/holiday-lights.



SNOW PROBLEM: Snow people joyfully take part in the Holiday Nights of Lights.



BRIGHT LIGHTS: Shawnee State Park transforms the Bedford County Fairgrounds into lights on a lake.



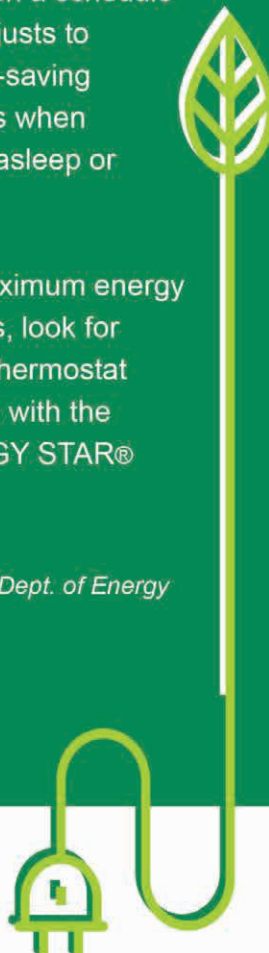
REINDEER GAMES: Some other reindeer friends stand in for Rudolph at the holiday display created by the Bedford County 911 Call Center.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away.

For maximum energy savings, look for smart thermostat models with the ENERGY STAR® label.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Bedford REC's office will be closed on Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas Day and Jan. 1, 2024, for New Year's Day.

Bedford REC will close at noon on Dec. 22.

DONATIONS FOR LOCAL FOOD BANKS

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative directors and employees are asking members to join in and donate to area food banks. Those wishing to donate items should bring them to the Bedford REC office on Lincoln Highway by Dec. 13.

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 into a drawing 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.