

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

BEDFORD REC

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OFFICE HOURS

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

Do the Electric Shift: Help Us Cool Future Power Costs



**BROOKS
SHOEMAKER**

DID YOU KNOW FUTURE ELECTRIC rates are partially based on how much power you use on hot summer days? It's true. During summer through the end of September, when demand for electricity is high — typically, on hot, humid weekdays between 1 and 6 p.m., when air conditioners are on full blast — we pay premium prices for the energy our members consume.

Fortunately, as a consumer-member of Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), you can help us contain these costs. During periods of peak demand, when you hear our alerts on local radio

and television stations requesting consumers to reduce or eliminate non-essential electricity consumption, do the "Electric Shift."

It's easy. For example, set air conditioners at 78 degrees, or better yet, use fans instead; close curtains and blinds to keep the heat outside; postpone using your dishwashers, washers, and dryers until later in the evening or early the next morning; cook on the grill or use the microwave; and run pool pumps at night. We realize these are inconveniences, but if we all work together and do our part, we can make a difference — and help reduce future power costs in the process. Remember, as a member of a non-profit cooperative, when we save money, so do you!

We are prepared for summer storms

Summer is here, school is out and families are gearing up for a few months of relaxation. While summer brings fun in the sun, it can also bring the occasional severe storm. In the event of a power outage, you can trust that Bedford REC will be ready to respond.

Wind and lightning can cause trees and branches to fall on power lines, a major cause of summer power outages. We work year-round — clearing and maintaining rights of way — to ensure power lines are clear of dangerous trees, branches and other vegetation.

Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, storms still damage our substations and other electric distribution lines and equipment. When this happens, our priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

We start by mobilizing our line crews and other critical staff. As we receive outage calls, we begin assessing the damage. The big problems — like damage to major lines and substations, which serve thousands of people — are handled first. Those problems must be corrected before we can focus on other areas where more localized damage may have occurred.

Next, crews check the lines that deliver power into towns and villages; restoring these lines may restore power to hundreds of people. Finally, we look for damage to small taps and the individual lines outside of your home or business. This process is slower, and each repair may only restore a single home.

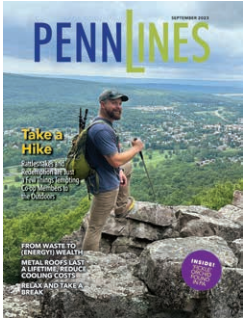
We always do our best to avoid power outages, but sometimes Mother Nature has other plans. When outages occur, rest assured we are working as

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All in the 'Spirit' of Bedford

GARY DIEHL, MEMBER SERVICES MANAGER

SOME OF OUR READERS MAY not recall his name, but I'm sure at least a handful will recognize Gregg Feaster's face as *Penn Lines*'s cover subject from the September 2023 issue.



Gregg, a Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) member, lives a short drive from our current headquarters, and back in 2023, freelancer Jeff Fetzer penned a piece about him and other outdoor enthusiasts. Well, it's that love of the outdoors that has driven Gregg to pursue his latest business venture, Cork

& Compass Craft Spirits.

How did it all get started?

Well, just across town from the Bedford REC office is a building on Railroad Street that is now home to three different entities. The bulk of the square footage is occupied by Fat Jimmy's Outfitters, a retail shop featuring mountain and road bikes. It's owned and operated by Jim Fungaroli. In the same building, co-op members Dave and Mary Heller opened Olde Bedford Brewing Company in 2018. The Hellers recently sold the business to Joe Black; however, Dave still offers advice on all things related to brewing.

Today, thanks to lots of support, Gregg has opened his own business, the distillery, in the building, too.

"Family and friends have been instrumental over the

years during the entire construction process, and now with distillation production," he says, adding that without his wife, Stacey, and friends like Eric, John, Jeremy, and Kevin, he would still be a year or two away from where he is now.

Spirited fun

For this group, it's all about having fun and helping their community by providing employment and tourism opportunities. They are a tight-knit bunch, which is why most weekends the team can be found hiking and biking together, locally and out of town.

Gregg, the distillery's sole owner, says Cork & Compass is "outdoor focused" — and that's apparent as soon as you walk into the building.

The three businesses are separated by partial, waist-high walls, which help convey that "free-spirited" feeling. It's not the typical setting for a bar or speakeasy, which is good because Cork & Compass is actually categorized as a tasting room. The retail bikes, outdoor apparel, and equipment in Fat Jimmy's space blend perfectly with the décor of both Cork & Compass and Olde Bedford Brewing.

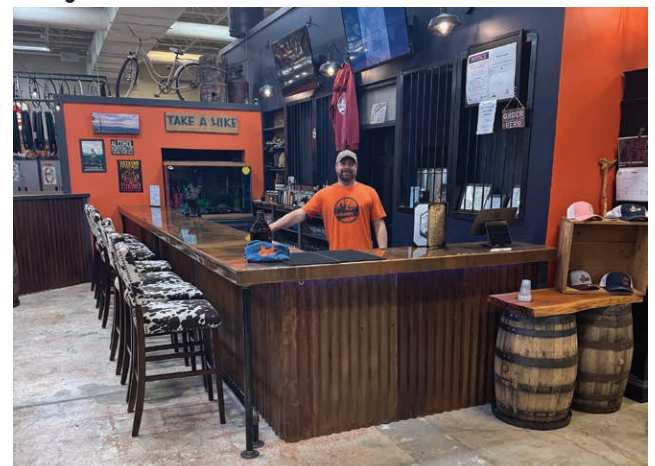
Visitors will see anything and everything outdoor related, which is part of the personality of the tasting room. When the distillery LLC was established in 2021, the goal was to blend four things: the outdoors, beer, spirits and food. Cork & Compass was the third piece of that puzzle, and even though the distillery is still in its infancy, Gregg is not sitting idle on the food part either. The wheels are in motion to have limited offerings in the future.

The real guts of the operation — a double-wall, bain marie-style still — is behind the wall of the tasting room and is equipped with six, 5,500-watt heating elements.

FREE SPIRIT: Gregg Feaster, below, owner of Cork & Compass Craft Spirits, stands proudly behind the bar at the brewery and distillery's tasting room.



STILL GOT IT: The heart and soul of Cork & Compass Craft Spirits in Bedford is this bain-marie 100-gallon still.



Some of the voodoo and alchemy behind making spirits is understanding that various alcohols boil off at lower temperatures than water. Thus, the heaters on the still have to stay below 212 F to allow the various alcohols to separate from the mash.

Along with equipment, you need some knowledge and expertise. In conversation with Gregg and Dave, I learned that to distill spirits, you first need to create something similar to beer. Therefore, as Dave puts it, breweries and distilleries have a “symbiotic relationship.” While Dave and Joe have the brewing expertise, Gregg is the head distiller. But, let’s face it, he does a little bit of everything when it comes to running the business.

A learning experience

But how does one learn about distilling liquor?

In Gregg’s case, the answer is essentially two-fold. He has attended training courses over the years at different venues, including Moonshine University in Louisville, Ky. Equally important is the shared information and help from other distillers. The craft distilling world is one big fraternity, so distillers don’t compete against each other directly.

Because of this, Gregg has been able to soak up an abundance of knowledge. In fact, one of the most appealing things to him is continuous education, and he looks forward to making many more new friends and visiting other craft distilleries.

In addition to his education, Gregg was recently appointed to the Pennsylvania Distilled Spirits Promotion Board, which works with the state Department of Agriculture to award grants.

When it comes to Cork & Compass, Gregg says the main goal is to offer fun, classic, and original cocktails and mocktails as well as spirits that you can enjoy outside during all seasons. Initially, the focus has been on producing rum, vodka and gin. Gregg wants to expand the product line to

include brandy, flavored liquors, whiskey and bourbon. He also wants to develop ready-to-drink beverages, which offer convenience and portability, making them popular for on-the-go consumption and easy entertainment.

One pain point for Gregg during multi-day backpacking and biking trips is having nothing to sip around a fire. This is what’s driving him to create the refreshing, portable cocktails — something compact and lightweight that doesn’t require refrigeration.

The road to launching a business

As with any start-up, you don’t just snap your fingers and begin making and selling products. So for Gregg, Cork & Compass has been a process, from conception to fruition, that included licensing, inspections, electrical upgrades, equipment procurement and layout, and a couple dozen other things.

In fact, the long and sometimes sleepless nights got longer when Gregg decided to not only produce the juice but also add the tasting room.

The hard work is starting to pay off, and soon Cork & Compass Craft Spirits will become a household name, starting here in Bedford County. 🍷

TAKE A HIKE: A Cork & Compass signature drink is shown here with one of Fat Jimmy’s mountain bikes in the background.



WEARING MANY HATS: Several hats for sale sport the two different logos designed and used by Cork & Compass Craft Spirits.



**FROM THE GENERAL
MANAGER & CEO**

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quickly and efficiently as possible to restore service.

**Powering safely
during an outage**

One of the great things about the modern American electric grid is that power almost always flows when we need it. Given our dependence on electricity, it's understandable why portable generators are popular. But, if not used properly, generators can cause more harm than good.

Never ever plug a portable generator directly into one of your home's outlets — unless you have had a licensed electrician install a transfer switch. If you don't have one, power provided by the generator can backfeed through your home and onto the power lines and electrocute lineworkers.

In addition, portable generators create carbon monoxide, the odorless, colorless gas that quickly becomes deadly if not vented properly. **Therefore, they must be used outside in a dry area** — attached garages with an open door don't count — which means you might need to erect a canopy to protect the generator. For safety, a generator in use should also be more than 15 feet from your home's windows, doors and vents.

Other things to keep in mind: Plug appliances directly into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords, but don't overload it. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for maximum load. Shut off the generator before refueling, or a fire could start — and it's a good idea to have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby, just in case.

Safety is our top priority, for both

our employees and our members. Contact us if you'd like to learn more about how to properly install and use a portable generator.

**Energy efficiency tip
of the month**

Routine maintenance is important to keep your refrigerator running efficiently. Lint and dirt should be cleaned from the refrigerator coils every six months to a year — and more

often if there are pets in the home.

When coils are coated with lint, dust or pet hair, your refrigerator works harder than it's designed to, which can prevent the appliance from cooling properly and efficiently. The additional work can increase the energy costs of the refrigerator by as much as 35% and shorten the life of the appliance. 📺

BROOKS SHOEMAKER
GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

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.

**Bedford REC offices will
be closed Friday, July 4,
in observance of
Independence Day**

UTILITY SCAMS TIP OF THE MONTH

Some scammers will pose as utility workers or contractors affiliated with your electric utility by knocking on your door and claiming to be employed or hired by the utility company. They may claim they were hired to reset, repair, replace or inspect your electric meter or other utility-related device. If a utility employee or authorized contractor needs access to your home, we will schedule an appointment in advance, and proper identification will be provided for your review.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams