
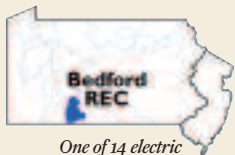


Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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John J. Dirienzo Jr.
Attorney

OFFICE HOURS

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

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Access and pay your bill online with E-Bill



Brooks Shoemaker
General Manager

BEDFORD Rural Electric is pleased to introduce E-Bill, our electronic bill presentation and payment program. Through our website, E-Bill notifies you by email whenever your new bill is available for your review online. Then, you can view and pay your electric bills anytime, safely and conveniently. Once you've signed up at www.bedfordrec.com,

you can review your current bill or any bill from the past year. Billing history information and payment history information are also available, along with graphs detailing daily and monthly cost and consumption information for your account. All this is available any time of the day or night — 24/7, for free. Our E-Bill site features the same type of encryption as online banking accounts, so your password-protected account information is safe and secure.

With E-Bill, paying your monthly bill was never easier. E-Bill payments can be made by electronic check, VISA, MasterCard or Discover on the website. Credit cards and electronic checks may now be used over the phone or at the office.

What about your meter reading? While you're logged onto the E-Bill server, simply click on the "Enter Meter Reading" link and enter your reading. It will be automatically entered into our billing software, saving you, and all of our members, the cost of manually keying the information into the system.

For more information about E-Bill, call or stop by the office, and we'll answer your questions and help get you started. You may also email your questions to support@bedfordrec.com.

Food bank donations

During the holiday season, the cooperative sponsored a food drive to benefit local food banks. I would like to thank our members for their generous donations and contributions. All members who donated had their name entered into a drawing to win a \$25 credit on their bill. Congratulations to the winner, Patricia Smith of Bedford.

Need help paying your bill?

We recognize that many families are struggling in today's economy. If you are finding it more and more difficult to pay your bill, please call the office and discuss your situation with a billing department representative. We may be able to offer suggestions or refer you to agencies that can help.

Interesting tidbit

The standard incandescent lightbulb is terribly inefficient because it uses only 10 percent of the energy it consumes to produce light — the other 90 percent is wasted as heat. Compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) produce 30 percent less heat, which means they are safer to use and cheaper to operate. The savings can be significant since lighting accounts for 20 percent of the average home's electric bill!

Energy efficiency tip of the month

Clean or replace heating or cooling system filters at least once a month. Dirty filters make your system work harder and run longer than necessary. They also encourage the buildup of mold and mildew, making cleaning more difficult. ☀



Quilters come to hotel's rescue

BY LINDA WILLIAMS

TWENTY-FIVE years ago, Theresa Leppert saw a photograph of a quilt in *Family Circle* magazine.

"I wanted to make it," the Spring Hope resident remembers, and eventually, she did.

She learned the process and stitches of quilting from ladies of the Church of the Brethren in Ryot, and then took more lessons from two Mennonite ladies at the vocational-technical school in Johnstown.

Theresa loves all phases of quilting,

from choosing a pattern to creating her own tiny stitches. She says she is not a competition quilter although she has won a few ribbons.

"You have to add a sleeve to quilts to show them," she says. "And, I just don't like doing that."

About four years ago, Theresa fell over a rock, landed on her arm and shattered a bone. For a quilter, it was a tough accident but her therapists at Pro-Care did everything possible to get her arm back to normal.

"It's not the way it used to be," Mary says. "But I have developed my own method of dealing with the problem and I can still quilt."

Theresa is employed by Mary Koval, a fabric designer in Schellsburg, who calls on Theresa when she needs help with any phase of quilting.

AUTHENTIC: Theresa Leppert displays one of the quilts she helped to design using an antique pattern.

Theresa was a natural to become involved with the Quilt Shop, located on the west side of Bedford just off the County Home Road. Owned by Linda Brouse and Joan Prew, a mother-daughter team, the shop also features quilters Shirley Whetstone and Cindy Foor.

Wanting to spread the love of quilting, Theresa and fellow quilters have started a quilting guild that meets the third Monday of each month at the Church of the Nazarene across the street from the quilt shop.

"We are looking forward to welcoming all types of quilters from beginners to very experienced," says Theresa. "The church is wheelchair-accessible so even



those with disabilities can participate.”

While Theresa thoroughly enjoys creating new quilts, she says repairing old quilts is her true passion.

“There are two kinds of old quilts,” Theresa explains. “Those that are pristine and never used and those that have been loved to death.”

She is presently repairing a quilt from 1840. Her prized repair job was a quilt she bought for \$5 at an auction. It had been used to cover potatoes in a root cellar.

Anyone that handy with a needle

HAND-CRAFTED: Theresa Leppert displays some of her quilts.

gets a reputation and so it was that the day before the Bedford Springs Hotel was to open, Theresa was asked to undertake an emergency repair.

A flag from the William Defibaugh Civil War collection was to be framed and hung behind the desk at the hotel. It is a flag with 36 original stars. Someone had sewn three more stars onto the edge of the flag, apparently representing the states of Nebraska, Kansas and North Dakota. Although the flag had been altered, it was flown as evidenced by the wear and several tears. Expecting a repair company from Texas, the Bedford Springs Hotel was disappointed to learn the job would not be completed on time for the grand opening. Word spread to the quilters of Bedford County and Theresa was contacted, along with Donna Shaffer, Charlie Thompson and Mary Koval.

Theresa was more than willing to come to the rescue with her needle and thread and she spent 14 hours, with the help of her fellow quilters, putting the unusual flag back together.

“There was one repair spot someone had already fixed,” she says. “It just wasn’t done correctly, so I ripped it out and did it over.”

The ladies were happy to help in the opening of the elegant hotel and volunteered all their efforts and talents.

“It was an honor to be able to see that flag hanging without any holes or rips,” Theresa says. ☀



RESTORED GLORY: This flag that hangs behind the admission desk at the Bedford Springs Hotel was expertly repaired by Theresa Leppert with the help of some fellow quilters. The quilters worked almost round the clock to accomplish the task.

Taking stock of your outage preparedness

Power outages can strike at any time, but they are particularly challenging – and potentially dangerous – during the winter months when accompanied by severe weather.

Will you be ready if the lights go out this winter? Maybe it's time to do a little preparation so when the next winter storm-related outage occurs, you're not totally left in the dark.

A home survival kit and emergency food and water supply can go a long way toward ensuring your safety during extended power outages that leave you confined to your home.

In the confusion of severe weather accompanied by an outage, you'll want to be sure to have the following items on hand:

- ▶ Portable, battery-powered AM/FM radio
- ▶ Flashlights
- ▶ Extra batteries
- ▶ Manual can opener and bottle opener
- ▶ Cellular or standard telephone that does not require electricity in order to function. (Most cordless phones require electricity.)
- ▶ First-aid kit, medications and prescriptions
- ▶ Three to five-day supply of non-perishable foods that need little or no cooking and are high in nutrition. Be sure to pack any special dietary foods, baby food and formula, if needed.
- ▶ Water: One gallon per person per day for drinking, cooking, washing and sanitation. Store as much clean water as possible in clean, nonbreakable containers.
- ▶ Extra pet food
- ▶ Personal hygiene and sanitary supplies, diapers
- ▶ Ice chest and ice or frozen ice packs
- ▶ Camp stove or canned-heat stove and enough fuel for three to five days
- ▶ Candles and matches or a lighter

Emergency Power Needs

As a service to our members, Bedford Rural Electric needs to be aware of situations where special needs exist. Please provide the following details:

(Please print clearly)

Account: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Special Needs: Medical Farming/Livestock

Other _____

Each year, our goal is to provide service with no outages. Unfortunately, that is not a realistic expectation. Outages do occur, and especially during severe storms, service restoration may take several days or longer. Therefore, we strongly recommend that our members with special needs install standby backup generation equipment. Please contact our office for more information on this type of equipment.

TROUBLE CALL SCHEDULE

In case of trouble ...

- First Check your fuses or circuit breakers.
- Second Check with your neighbors, if convenient, to see if they have been affected by the power failure.
- Third **Call 24-hour number, 623-7568**
OR call 1-800-808-2732 during office hours
- (Please help us save money - only use this number if toll charges apply.)

Please give person receiving 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.

Alternate numbers ...

Scott Shook	Week of February 2	623-2395
John Karns	Week of February 9	977-5109
Troy Mock	Week of February 16	276-9759
Greg Miller	Week of February 23	839-0037
Al Hileman	Week of March 2	766-9971
Jim Seymour	Week of March 9	839-2848

In case you cannot reach any of the above ... Call:

Jim Wood	Bedford.....	623-6121
James Clark	Everett	652-9791
Mark Rowan	Bedford.....	623-7890

During widespread power outages, many members are calling to report power failures, so you may receive a busy signal. Please be patient and try again in a few minutes.