



*Hachman Hardware & Feed, one of Bedford Township's oldest businesses, is set to close this summer. The business was founded in the 30's when it was a grain elevator called Hachman Brothers. It has always been a Hachman family owned and operated business.*

## Bedford to lose one of its oldest businesses

By Jackie Giroux  
Reporter

One of the oldest businesses in Bedford Township will be closing its doors sometime this coming summer.

Longtime employee and an owner of the family-owned Hachman Hardware and Feed business, located at 627 W. Temperance Rd., Bill Mannor said the family regrettably recently made the decision to close the business. "We had hoped to close by the first of June, but it's going to take longer," he said.

Bill cited the changing makeup of Bedford Township, which has resulted in a decline in business, as a deciding factor in the decision to close.

"We've lost a lot of heating oil business," he said. He explained that gas lines have been run farther out into the township resulting in customers choosing the cheaper natural gas over heating oil.

The sale of custom-made animal feed has been another major part of the business over the years. "There's not as many of the large animals in the township anymore or horses and small farm animals," Bill said.

The hardware store is likened to an old-time general store with a wide variety of items for sale — almost anything

related to hardware store type of items. They also have carried some hard-to-find items that the more modern hardware stores don't have. "The younger generation only know the big box stores," Bill said. "We've had trouble drawing in new people."

In addition to Hachman Hardware & Feed's reputation as a place to go to locate an item you haven't been able to find anywhere else, the business is known for its great customer service provided by Bill and the four people that he employs.

"Our customers are like family. Some people have been coming here forever," he said. "They're having a hard time that we're closing."

Hachman Hardware & Feed's long history of serving the residents of the Bedford area dates back to the 1930's when William and Harry Hachman founded Hachman Brothers. Bill is the grandson of William Hachman.

Back then they operated a grain elevator and during harvest season Bill said that horses and wagons would be lined up all down the road waiting to dump their grain at the elevator.

Through the years changes and updates to the business were made. The grain elevator was remodeled in 1945. In re-

cent times the elevators no longer accepted grain from farmers but were used to store the grain that Hachman Hardware & Feed used to make their own feed.

"The hardware store opened in the early 50's," Bill said. "I worked here before I was out of high school. I've worked here for 45 years. My sons worked here when they were in high school but there wasn't enough money to be made for them to stay. We've had four generations over the years work here."

He added that he has enjoyed running the family business and providing area customers with the service that the business has been known for since the 30's.

Bill said he is uncertain what he will do after the business closes. "I'm going to have to find something else to do because I'm not old enough to retire. We've been here 80 some years, but it's time to move on."

Hachman Hardware & Feed will be running some specials to clear out their inventory. "We're offering 30% off at the present time," Bill said.

Store hours at Hachman Hardware & Feed are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call them at (734) 847-3235 with any questions.