



Ken Field

Owner of Slate
Belt Energy
Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Scheduled or Emergency Service

Preventive maintenance is a very important aspect of home ownership. Each season has a few areas that need to be checked, cleaned or addressed one way or another. This time of year is usually slow on scheduled maintenance because we are well into heating season and if equipment wasn't ready for the heavy use by now, it may have already broken down. Many of the service calls we get around this time of year are caused by lack of regular maintenance. Some are because of parts that fail due to regular usage too and many of them could not have been predicted or prevented by regular maintenance but any mechanical part of a furnace that is approaching 15 years or more of age should be considered for replacement. We do a complete mechanical/electrical upgrade as a package which renews the wear parts of an otherwise reliable furnace to prevent the nickel and dime breakdowns that can be so annoying when a furnace gets older. If the furnace is not worth the repairs, we also make homeowners aware of that so they don't throw good money after bad. The good thing about upgrading controls and other parts is that many new controls have some features to save energy built into them and it can make a furnace more efficient than when it was new. Very often motors get noisy when they get older and that vibration can make a furnace sound like it's about to stop working at any moment. All new parts have some kind of warranty too. Some are 1 year and others are 3 or 5 years. Breathing new life into an old furnace is a good investment and will very likely prevent breakdowns. Annual maintenance visits allow a technician time to clean and test all aspects of heating equipment and may give you time to budget for a repair that is imminent without having to do it that day. If you hear something that sounds unusual, you still have time to schedule a visit that won't be an emergency. Emergency calls are more for restoring operation and scheduled service is more for performing a thorough cleaning of the entire system. Don't confuse them because every technician has a schedule for every day and inserting a breakdown call into that day will require someone else's visit to be moved or rescheduled. Advance notice is very helpful in setting an appointment but if the heat is not working, that isn't always possible. If you pay attention to your heating system and notice a problem, don't wait to schedule someone to check on it.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com



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National Museum of Industrial History

NOW REOPENED

Now Reopened

By NMIH

BETHLEHEM - The National Museum of Industrial History has reopened as of Friday, January 8th with increased safety measures following over three months of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

KEY INFORMATION

The museum will operate on a limited schedule, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday through Sunday until further notice. Masks are required by all visitors over the age of 4.

The museum has implemented a timed ticketing system to limit the number of patrons in the museum to ensure proper protocols are followed regarding social distancing and capacity requirements. All visitors are highly encouraged to purchase their tickets prior to visiting the museum.

While the museum is operating at a reduced capacity, it will continue offering programs via the Virtual Museum

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The museum has implemented a comprehensive policy to ensure the safety of patrons, employees, volunteers, and artifacts during the reopening phase. The new measures follow local, state, and national regulations and best practices and will allow the museum to offer an educational and enjoyable experience while maintaining vigilance. In accordance with Pennsylvania guidelines, the museum will operate at a 50% capacity until further notice and utilize a timed ticketing system, to allow for controlled entry to the museum with minimal person-to-person interaction.

The museum has been professionally cleaned and sanitized following CDC guidelines prior to reopening and reduced hours allow for museum staff to disinfect between visiting days. Sanitizing stations have been implemented throughout the museum and touchless soap dispensers have been installed in the museum's bathrooms. Signage has been placed throughout the space to ensure proper social distancing between visitors and frequently touched areas, such as the museum's interactive experiences, have been modified or removed. A Plexiglas barrier has been mounted at the museum's front desk and all staff and visitors over the age of 4 are required to wear masks while inside the museum facilities.

For any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Glenn Koehler, the museum's Director of Marketing and Public Relations at gkoehler@nmih.org or call the museum during operating hours at 610-694-6644.