

### Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

#### Value Based Repair Strategy

Everyone has a job to do. They also have a life to live. If everything works out, the job will allow one to pay for food, housing, clothing and all the taxes that are levied on us. That is a long way to spread a paycheck. Even though I am on the job causing people to have one more thing to pay for after their system breaks down, I am also a customer of the places where I purchase materials to use for those repairs. Part of my job is to locate the best materials at the best prices and have them on hand so we can make repairs on the spot. During winter, shopping for parts and having them shipped risks frozen pipes and frozen customers. Unfortunately there are so many brands of equipment that it is impossible to have everything. Sometimes we can make a temporary repair to get a system operational as long as it is safe and then only for a few days. Keeping an older system running can get expensive after they reach the point of no return. Systems that have not been maintained seem to start to degrade and may break down more than once a year for several years. That is never a good scenario. One way to avoid this kind of headache is to upgrade the typical problem parts all at once. We call this an electrical upgrade. It saves all of the duplication of labor that comes from each visit and the time spent dismantling things only to change one part and reassemble. It does add cost to a single visit but many of the parts we use have very good warranties and you won't get nickel and dimed by your furnace for a while. Most parts have date codes on them and when I replace something that has 20 years on it, I know there are other parts on the same system with just as much wear and tear. Making a sweep of the whole system and upgrading other parts is a sure way to reduce headaches. Yes I know money doesn't grow on trees but there is an opportunity make an investment in your comfort and that's why we offer it. Sometimes the best option is to replace a system but usually not in the middle of winter. This winter is not nearly as bad as some so except for one or 2 cold weeks, replacements were still possible. I am a service person and not a sales person. I will only suggest replacement when I think it is the best value and then it is still up to the homeowner.

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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