



## Ken Field

Owner of Slate  
Belt Energy  
Services

*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

### The End

It's never a good time to hear that something expensive failed and needs to be replaced. You never want to walk into the basement and see water running across the floor. But most of all, you don't want to have to deal with a situation where you have no heat in your house in winter. Unfortunately I always end up on the bad news delivery end of situations like these. Nobody's car lasts forever, nobody's roof lasts forever and nobody's furnace lasts forever. Ignoring any of these big ticket items long enough will surely only add to the misery. With cars and furnaces, regular maintenance can really prolong the life. With a roof the clock is always ticking and there's not much you can do to make it last longer. You can pump some money into a furnace and replace aging components to keep it running but that only works for so long. 20 years is the projected lifespan of a furnace or boiler and I haven't seen too many that didn't make it that far. Once you pass that mark, it would be wise to make a plan for replacement and do it when it is warm outside. When we do a winter emergency replacement job, we don't always have the time to neaten up the pipes and reconfigure things the way they would work best. Sometimes we have to get the system operational and hopefully get to return at a later point to clean up things that are not up to our standards. All too often the homeowner sees the temperature rising in the house after we leave and will ignore the furnace for another several years. Sometimes a small leak can occur at a repairable connection and regular maintenance will let a technician spot this and recommend a repair. Initially most water leaks from repairable sources are not expensive to fix. Maybe a gasket and some labor or maybe just disassemble and reseal a pipe fitting. But let these go for a year or two and corrosion starts to damage the whole system from the oxygen that enters with makeup water. Nobody likes to hear bad news but ignoring warning signs surely leads to a worse situation every time.

A warm air furnace is more fragile than a boiler is and when the integrity of the heat exchanger is gone and there is a leak inside the furnace between the air you breathe and the air from combustion, it's game over. Not water on the floor but a serious safety hazard to the occupants.

Have regular inspections on your heating appliance and heed the warnings of your professional technician.

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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## Highlights of the 137th District

By Rep. Joe Emrick

NAZARETH - I had the incredible honor of presenting a House citation to Leona Cesari, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Leona's bright smile and remarkable wit were more than inspiring.

Also, students from Nazareth Area High School attended the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Appropriations budget hearing and had the opportunity to tour our state Capitol building. These students are part of their school's student government association. It was an honor to give them a glimpse of Harrisburg and witness the process of a state budget. I'm pictured with them on the steps of the main Rotunda.



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