

## Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

### Still Steaming

Last week I described some generalizations about steam heating systems. How complicated can it be? Not really too complex at all as long as you have dry steam pushing air out of the way and filling every radiator. As soon as the water turns to vapor, it expands 1700% when it turns to steam. A cup of water would fill an entire room when it turns to steam. It moves through the pipes at about 16 mph. When a boiler and the piping near it are working as they should, dry steam is leaving and no water is being carried along. This requires clean water with most free oxygen having been driven out by heating it up. The steam looks like cotton above the water line of the boiler. Because of the additional energy needed to turn it from water to steam, it carries a lot of energy through the pipes. For reference purposes it takes about 180 btus to heat a pint of room temperature water to the boiling point but then it takes an additional 970 btus to turn it into steam. Most of that energy is available to the first surface cool enough to turn that steam back into water. That surface is supposed to be the radiators in the rooms of your home. If the pipes in the basement are not insulated anymore, those surfaces will condense a large amount of steam and that heat will never reach the far points of your home. The boiler's ability to make steam is limited by its rated size. It should only be large enough to heat every radiator in the house, not all the uninsulated pipes so don't get a bigger boiler when you do need a replacement, re-insulate the pipes instead. Many homes I see had pipe insulation removed because of possible asbestos contained in it but were never re-insulated.

Every steam system has a way to let air get out of the way of the steam. Any water trapped in a steam pipe will immediately be turned to steam when it comes in contact and will expand rapidly and sound like a hammer hitting the pipes. Once you have heard that hammer, you will never forget it. Contaminated water can cause many problems too. Oil from new pipes and a new boiler can be a real problem because the steam has to push through that on the surface of the water and it causes the water line in the boiler to jump drastically. I may continue yet again next week,

**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**

# House GOP to Launch Investigation into Wolf Administration's Handling of Nursing Homes

By Rep. Joe Emrick (R-Northampton)

NAZARETH - House Majority Leader Kerry Benninghoff (R-Centre/Mifflin) has announced plans to have the House Government Oversight Committee investigate the Wolf administration's handling of nursing homes and other senior and long-term care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, roughly half of all COVID-19 deaths in Pennsylvania are attributable to nursing homes. Questions remain about data reporting related to nursing homes and especially about a March 18 order from the Department of Health requiring nursing home readmissions from hospitals of COVID-19-positive patients, among other things.

According to Rule 45(A) of the Pennsylvania House Rules, the Pennsylvania House majority leader can refer investigations to the House Government Oversight Committee. The House Government Oversight Committee is comprised of five Republicans and four Democrats and has subpoena power to compel documents and witnesses.



## Meals On Wheels 19th Annual 'March' For Meals

By Keri Young

Bethlehem, PA March 4, 2021 – Meals on Wheels of the Greater Lehigh Valley (MOWGLV) announced today that it will be participating in the 19th annual March for Meals – a month-long, nationwide celebration of Meal on Wheels and our senior neighbors who rely on this essential service to remain healthy and independent at home, now even more so amid the COVID-19 pandemic. MOWGLV's celebration will include various activities throughout the month of March, including special social media postings, outreach to local and state legislators, and sharing stories from clients on what Meals on Wheels means to them.

"MOWGLV has been an integral part of the Lehigh Valley for 50 years," said Vicki Coyle, CEO of Meals on Wheels of the Greater Lehigh Valley. "In the last year, MOWGLV volunteers, and our community, have redefined the phrase 'care and compassion.' They have adapted to so much change, given more, and put themselves at risk with no interruption in services to our clients. Yet, we have more to do. We don't reach all the seniors who need us. I have confidence that our team, and our community, will do more to help more with the same dedication and support that MOWGLV is known for".

The annual March for Meals celebration commemorates the historic day in March of 1972 when President Nixon signed into law a measure that amended the Older Americans Act of 1965 to include a national nutrition program for seniors 60 years and older. Since 2002, community-based Meals on Wheels programs from across the country have joined forces for the annual awareness campaign to celebrate this successful public-private partnership and garner the support needed to fill the gap between the seniors served and those still in need. For more information on how you can volunteer, contribute or speak out for the seniors in the Lehigh Valley this March, visit [www.mowglv.org](http://www.mowglv.org).



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