



## Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

### Peek A Boo

A contractor friend recently sent me some photos of a bathroom remodel he did. There were photos from start to finish and the finished bathroom was beautiful. He took something straight out of the 70s and brought everything up to date. I'm sure the homeowners were thrilled to have such a quality upgrade done.

However in a couple of the photos the subfloor was removed and I could see a horribly gross crawl space underneath.

There was trash visible that was not from the bath remodel and a dehumidifier was also visible in one photo. Crawl spaces under homes are relatively common in our area and horrible ones are all too common. How could you ever remove the humidity from a crawl space with a dirt floor? You can't, but you can add \$30 to your electric bill every month by trying. You can also bring some really funky smells into the house by leaving the damp soil exposed in the crawl space. You might never expect that they come from there but the whole house acts like a chimney because of its construction. Good air leaves at the top and bad air enters at the bottom. All day every day. Encapsulating the crawl space does not fall above a bathroom remodel on any homeowners list of things to do but it needs to be on that list somewhere. Constant moisture will eventually destroy the wood exposed to it and that repair is extremely expensive.

Encapsulation is the term used for isolating the crawl space from the earth and bringing it into the same envelope as the house. It completely eliminates all problems associated with crawl spaces and reduces energy bills usually by a large percentage. Ventilation used to be the norm for crawl spaces and it is now known that it is a bad idea. It causes many more problems than it could possibly solve. Adding a liner to the floor and walls and eliminating any vents to the exterior. Will allow a dehumidifier to work as expected and sump pits with pumps are available that don't allow any moisture from the sump to enter the crawl space. Once that is completed, the space can be used for storage and within a very short time the dampness in the wood will subside and the odors will be gone forever.

There are some very good materials available for encapsulating crawl spaces. There are also some really bad ones. Any plastic sheeting less than 12 mils is unacceptable and any job that doesn't have every seam and edge taped is worthless. Do it right and you'll only have to do it once.

**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**



## Content Sale

Columbia Self Storage will sell the contents of the occupant's leased space at public auction to satisfy the owner's lien on StorageTreasures.com all personal property stored in this facility by: Unit #128, Garry Frey, consisting of totes and misc. items. Items will be offered for sale by auction to the highest bidder for enforcement of storage liens.

**Auction will be held at 9AM, Tuesday April 27, 2021  
on StorageTreasures.com.**

All auction sales are FINAL. Cash only and paid at Columbia Self Storage, 1059 Pennsylvania Ave., Pen Argyl, PA 18072. Columbia Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any bid.

THE

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# Blue Valley Times

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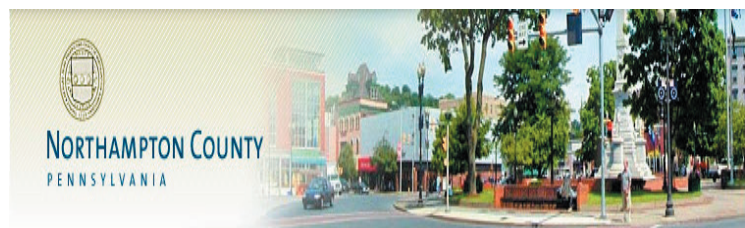
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## 2021 Grow NORCO Program Grants for Non-profits

By Becky Bartlett

EASTON - Lamont McClure and the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) have begun dispersing the first round of 2021 Grow NORCO grants following County Council's approval during their April 1st meeting.

The grants were recommended by a review committee comprised of DCED staff will fund sixteen projects for a total of \$183,713.00. The grants will be used for operations and capital improvements with a maximum award of \$15,000. "The pandemic has shown us the important role non-profit organizations play in both public health and economic development," says Lamont McClure. "These grants will help support those missions." Grow NORCO grants are funded using Northampton County's share of local table games revenue.

To be eligible a non-profit must be located in Northampton County, have under \$3 million in gross receipts for calendar year 2019 and did not receive any prior CARES Act money from Northampton County for operating expenses.

Locally the Blue Valley Farm Show was awarded \$15,000.00 for a Gas Boiler Replacement in their Slate Belt Senior Center

Organization	Project	Grant
Aspire to Autonomy Inc.	Community Intervention Services – salaries	\$ 6,300.00
Bethlehem Economic Development Corporation	Street Mural/PI: Internet Infrastructure Upgrades	\$15,000.00
Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering, Inc.	2021 Emergency Shelter Operations-salary costs	\$15,000.00
Blue Valley Farm Show	Gas Boiler Replacement Slate Belt Senior Center	\$15,000.00
Boys & Girls Club Easton	Cleaning and Sanitizing Procedures – salaries and professional services	\$15,000.00
Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor	National Canal Museum Operations – salaries	\$15,000.00
Easton Area Community Center	Technology Improvement Plan	\$ 4,206.00
Equi-Librium, Inc.	Equine Assisted Services – programming support	\$10,000.00
Families First, Inc.	Family Center serving Pen Argyl SD – salaries	\$10,000.00
Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley	Community Empowerment Program – Social Services Coordinator Salary	\$15,000.00
Jacobsburg Historical Society	Early American Craft Center Upgrade Project	\$ 7,454.00
Levitt Pavilion SteelStacks	Free concerts for community members-performer payments	\$15,000.00
Memorial Library of Nazareth & Vicinity	Environmental & Emergency Exit Remediation	\$ 6,325.00
Moravian Historical Society	Preservation of the Historic Whitefield House	\$ 9,395.00
Nazareth Economic Development Commission	NEDC Salaries Plus	\$10,033.00
Northampton County Historical & Genealogical Society	1743 Bachmann Publick House Roof Replacement	\$15,000.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$183,713.00</b>