

# Fire Companies Training Night

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Hauling and equally the same amount of time as a fireman. He serves as the Fire Chief for Bushkill Township Fire Company – one of the emergency crews that would service Grand Central Landfill.

Grand Central's Landfill Manager, Joe Statile and Community Relations Manager, Adrienne Fors provided bus tours around the facility stopping at the Green Knight Energy Center to discuss the landfill gas-to-energy project and the Grand Central Wastewater Treatment Plant. Having knowledge of how to access these buildings will help crews at a time of emergency.

## ABOUT WASTE MANAGEMENT'S GREATER MID-ATLANTIC AREA

Waste Management's Greater Mid-Atlantic Area (GMA) includes the company's operations in eastern and central Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York City, Delaware and on the DelMarVa Peninsula. The area's central office is in Ewing, N.J. The GMA employs about 3,000 professionals dedicated to protecting and improving the environment.



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**Ken Field**

**Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services**

*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

## What's New

Some of the biggest developments in the last 10 or so years in heat pumps and air conditioners just sort of showed up and there was really no major advertising or fanfare about them. I say that because if you don't really care about what's in the box, then they still look the same as they did before. Any changes that can't be felt in terms of comfort are only interesting to geeks like me. What is important is that almost all of the changes do, in fact, make the system more efficient which translates to lower energy cost and they also improve system performance. One huge improvement was 2-stage operation. It is still very common for installers to oversize air conditioning systems because of their fear of undersizing one. It would be helpful if they would just multiply by 2 instead of 3 when oversizing a system because many problems arise from gross oversizing of equipment. The requirement for heat in our climate zone is usually double what it is for cooling so for heat pumps that always meant a correctly sized heating system was oversized for cooling. Two stage systems can operate at a low or high output with the same efficiency and that solves many problems right away. Base models are not 2-stage but the upgrade to a model which is does not cost a fortune.

Fan motors on the inside units are another area that has seen major changes. Variable speed (ECM) motors are worth the additional cost even though there are more controls to go bad. These motors are 30% more efficient and quieter too. They still just do one job, but they do it a little better. What they don't tolerate is a poorly designed duct system so before I recommend one I always inspect the ducts. When an efficient outdoor unit is combined with an efficient indoor unit they reach a level of efficiency that will earn a rebate from the utility companies. The rebate doesn't cover the cost of the better equipment but that combined with lower utility bills will eventually neutralize the added equipment cost. Additional comfort can't be ignored either because that is the ultimate goal in a heating or cooling system.

There are some ultra-efficient equipment choices too but for most people they are still too pricey. The value point in the whole mix is the 2-stage outdoor unit with variable speed indoor fan. As far as efficiency goes 16 SEER is a good choice. Not the minimum allowed but not prohibitively expensive either.

**Ken Field is the owner of Field's Service, Inc. and Slate Belt Energy Services. He has over 40 years of experience in heating, air conditioning and is certificated by RESNET and BPI in various areas of energy conservation. He can be reached at 610-599-8832 or at www.SlateBeltEnergy.com**



**Heather Fosburg, marketing manager for Victaulic, works with participants in Lehigh Valley Let's Build, a free camp that enables girls to explore career pathways in construction trades, project management, architecture, and engineering.**

## Let's Build Program Introduces Young Women to Career Pathways in Construction

By George Lewis

**LEHIGH VALLEY** - A unique Lehigh Valley program is introducing young women to career opportunities in construction, an industry with plentiful job opportunities, but an under-representation of women in the workforce.

This summer, 27 girls ages 14 to 18 attended Lehigh Valley Let's Build, a free camp that enables girls to explore career pathways in construction trades, project management, architecture, and engineering through hands-on experiences and visits to regional employers.

"Our message to these young women is that you can find a fit somewhere in construction," said Kristen Fallon, Vice President of Membership Services for the Associated Builders and Contractors' Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter. "The industry is changing, and Lehigh Valley is exploding with career opportunities. Many of our builders are looking to hire."

The construction industry employs 11,000 people in the Lehigh Valley, with an average annual wage of nearly \$52,000, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In the last six months, Lehigh Valley employers posted 1,200 construction jobs in 46 different occupations.

The traditional male-dominance of construction jobs is confirmed by current labor data. Women make up only 3.5 percent of the labor force in construction locally, and less than 3 percent nationally.

The good news for young women interested in construction careers is that the industry has better pay equality that just about any sector of the U.S. economy. Across all occupations, women earn an average of 82 percent of what their male counterparts make, according to Department of Labor data for 2017. In construction occupations, however, women earn on average just as much as men.

Let's Build, in its third year, has grown in registrations and attendance each year. Word of the unique nature of the program has spread: This year's camp included girls from Wisconsin, Virginia, and western Pennsylvania.

Let's Build has strong employer support as well, with more than 30 sponsoring businesses and more than 100 volunteers representing builders, construction trade organizations, career and technical education schools, architectural and engineering firms, and manufacturers from across Lehigh Valley.

One volunteer is Stan Dixon, building trades instructor at Bethlehem Area Vo-Tech School, the host site for Let's Build.

"These young women have amazing work ethic," Dixon said. "They are always here, always involved, always participating."

He noted that one "graduate" of the 2017 Let's Build camp who now works in the construction industry returned this year as a volunteer instructor.

Fallon describes the program as "planting seeds" in a proactive approach to address the industry's future talent needs. But it's more than teaching girls how to build frames, install plumbing and do masonry work. As the week progresses, girls grow in confidence and leadership as they grasp the possibilities available to them.

"We see transformations," Fallon said, "which is so important for empowering young women in whatever career path they ultimately choose."

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