



## Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

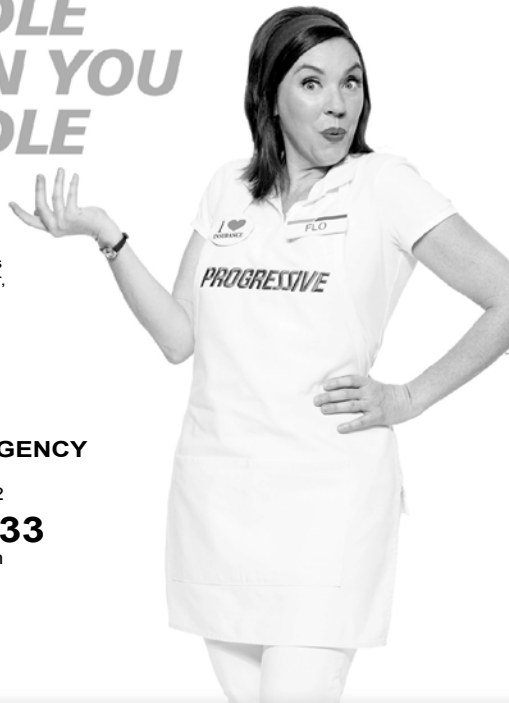
### Annual Cost

Everything you buy has a finite lifespan. For things not attached to your home, you may be able to resell it if you no longer need it. Like a lawn mower or a car. So it is unusual for many people to know how long something actually lasts. If you thought about it and knew the cost, you could break things down into a dollars-per-year price. I don't advise this though because it really adds up and can bring you to a realization that things are very expensive. For example, you need a new washing machine. You don't want to buy something to cheap because you want something that will last. You read reviews and ask others what they have and settle for a good name brand front loading model for \$1000. It makes it through the warranty period but at the 5 year mark it develops a knocking sound so you call for service. The repair technician finds that the drum is cracked which he says he has seen numerous times with this brand. You can replace the drum for \$800 or junk the machine. That repair isn't worth the investment in my opinion. So that machine cost you \$200 a year to own. I don't think that's a good value. That's my story and I will never own another washing machine of that brand. If you replaced the air conditioner in your home and the cost was \$5000 what should you expect? One consideration is the warranty. 10 years on all parts is good because you won't get stuck with a washing machine story like mine. How about a lifetime warranty on the most expensive part in the system too? Yes, that's comforting. Plan for 20 years because nothing that expensive should wear out any sooner. I'm speaking from experience here. There may be some repairs needed and of course maintenance but no obsolescence and no huge repair bills. That comes out to \$250 per year. I have systems lasting 30 years that are just beginning to fail now. That's \$166 per year. You could go with the \$4500 system but the warranty is much shorter on all parts and it's a sure bet that it will cost you more in the end. You can't always know which things to invest more money into initially and you certainly can't get the best of everything, but once you get stung a time or two it makes the high end warranties and brand track record more important in the decision process.

**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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## Emergency Rental Assistance Program Available

By Senator Scavello

PEN ARGYL - The federal eviction moratorium ends Sat. July 31st. Families facing eviction can find help through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). These state appropriated federal dollars can provide help for renters as well as landlords.

For those residing in Monroe County you can contact Pocono Mountains United Way for more info and to apply. Learn more and apply for assistance today.

For those residing in the Northampton County portion of my district you can contact Third Street Alliance for Women & Children for more info and to apply. Northampton County tenants can start by calling Tenant Navigators Ziana Keith at 610-438-1763 or Elizabeth T. Reyes at 610-258-6272 to begin the application process, or start it online.



## Dominic Martocci Eagle Scout

By Senator Scavello

ROSETO - Saturday we congratulated the newest Eagle Scout of Troop 41, Dominic Martocci! Dominic constructed a beautiful gazebo at the Roseto Ball Park. Best wishes Dominic in all your future endeavors!