



Bringing More Jobs, Opportunities to PA

By Rep. Joe Emrick

NAZARETH - Legislation to establish a Local Resource Manufacturing Tax Credit to attract private investment and create jobs in the Commonwealth was signed into law last week.

The tax credits will be available to entities that invest in the construction and operation of Pennsylvania manufacturing facilities that use dry natural gas to produce fertilizer and other petrochemical products. The credit would be applied against 20% of a qualified company's annual tax liabilities.

To qualify, a company would have to invest at least \$400 million in the construction of a new manufacturing facility, create 800 new and permanent jobs, pay prevailing wages and benefits, and use carbon capture and sequestration technology when economically feasible. One estimate indicates 4,400 jobs and more than \$1.6 billion in economic benefits would be generated from the construction of four manufacturing facilities as provided for in the legislation.

The measure is part of the House Republican GoodJobs4PA Initiative.

Minsi Lake

Continued from page 1

The Minsi Lake Cooperative Habitat Improvement Project was a collaborative effort undertaken by the PA Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC), Northampton County Parks and Friends of Minsi Lake, a standing committee under the bylaws of the Northampton County Junior Conservation School. The friends groups includes representatives from 11 conservation, community and government organizations and two at-large members, who represent the citizens of Northampton County.

Other partners that the friends group engaged in the project, all of which were instrumental to its success, include the Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association, PA Wildlife Federation, Waste Management, United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership, US Fish & Wildlife Service and scores of sportsmen's clubs, conservation and civic organizations and generous individuals.

The project remediated a lack of fish habitat that was identified as an issue effecting the ecological health and function of reservoir systems in a nationwide reservoir habitat impairment assessment by the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership in 2013.

PFBC confirmed this issue at Minsi Lake during a 2017 survey of the empty lake basin, which was drained earlier that year for a dam rehabilitation and spillway reconstruction project. That same year, Northampton County, which has leased Minsi Lake from the Commonwealth as part of its County Parks System since 1975, signed on as a cooperating organization with PFBC's Cooperative Habitat Improvement Program.

The program calls for the cooperator to coordinate a community effort that brings public attention to the need for the project, engages the community in the project and raises fund to purchase all the project materials. In turn, PFBC develops the plan and builds the project. Both the dam rehabilitation and lake habitat improvement projects were completed in 2019 and Minsi Lake was refilled early this year. The County formally partnered with the nonprofit Northampton County Conservation School to establish Friends of Minsi Lake in 2017.

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The County led the friends group on behalf of the partnership, which developed and delivered print and digital outreach materials, presented dozens of informational and marketing programs to local clubs and civic groups, engaged youth in building turtle basking platforms as part of the project, and raised enough funds through grants and local donations for PFBC to construct one of the largest lake habitat projects in its history.

The result is a much improved sport fishery, which will improve angling success and recreational enjoyment for the thousands of children, adults and families who fish and boat at Minsi Lake each year. Minsi is one of only three public fishing and boating lakes in the entire Lehigh Valley.

Because of FOML's partnership efforts with the Minsi Lake Cooperative Habitat Improvement Project, the National Fish Habitat Partnership recognized Minsi Lake as one of the nations' Top 10 Waters to Watch in 2020.

The Top 10 Waters to Watch list, assembled by the nation's leading authorities on aquatic conservation, is a collection of lakes, rivers, streams and shores that are cleaner and healthier habitats for the many fish and wildlife species and people who call these areas home, thanks to the combined actions of concerned community groups, nonprofit organizations, local watershed groups, Native American tribes and local, state and federal agencies. Minsi Lake is the only Pennsylvania water body to make the 2020 list and is, in fact, the only water body east of the Mississippi to make the list. Minsi Lake was nominated for this prestigious recognition by the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership, which provided a \$30,000 grant for the Minsi Lake Habitat Improvement Project from the US Fish & Wildlife Service.



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Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Do Yourself a Favor

The absolute best way to get the most value possible from an air conditioning system is by doing preventive maintenance and making recommended repairs promptly with original equipment parts. If a system is installed properly and maintained annually, there is not much to worry about, however that statement covers a lot of unknowns. For an air conditioning system the biggest unknown is the duct system. It has a huge impact on the performance and longevity of even the best equipment. If someone replaces or installs new equipment and doesn't verify the capacity of the duct system, there is probably a 1 in 3 chance of recurring problems with comfort or breakdowns. Many systems I installed 30 years ago (by the book) are still running today and have never broken down. They have reached the end of their useful life and it is now time to select a replacement. They did not rack up thousands of dollars in repair bills over the years which would have diminished the overall operating cost so they did very well. The new equipment will have a 10 year warranty on all parts and a lifetime warranty on the most expensive one. That should start another long run of trouble-free comfort. Most of the breakdowns we have are within a few years of the initial installation and are just part failures due to manufacturing defects. But once those are shaken out, it's smooth sailing for a long time.

Annual maintenance is a good investment because it catches anything measurable or visible that is not up to snuff and allows the problem to be addressed before it cascades into something bigger and more serious. One of my pet peeves is homeowners who want their system 'topped off' with refrigerant because they have a leak. That leak needs to be located and repaired. Period. The only time that system is working properly is the day it is topped off. As it loses refrigerant it loses residual cooling that the compressor needs to prevent it from slowly dying from its own heat. You will never feel that heat but you will get a little hot when you have to pay for a compressor. Nine out of 10 leaks are caused by poor workmanship. Maybe at the factory and maybe on the installation but 10 out of 10 need to be repaired. Preventive maintenance doesn't let a small problem turn into a large one. It improves the overall value of any system and insures long life of the components.

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

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

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VFW Annual Essay Contest

By Bob Washock

BANGOR - Applications for our VFW annual essay contest for grades 6-8 & 9-12 are now available on our website vfwpost739.org. Open to the public not limited to affiliates of VFW or Veterans Status.

Deadline is October 31, 2020.

Age Group 6-8

Commander Nick Alfero Jr. and Auxiliary President Deborah Riley of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 739 in Bangor, PA announce the kick off of this year's VFW and Auxiliary "Patriots Pen Essay Competition." Middle school students in grades 6-8 in this area have the opportunity to compete in the VFW's annual essay competition and win thousands of dollars.

Students begin by competing at the local Post level. Post winners advance to District. District winners compete in the state competition. The state winners compete for \$46,000 in awards, and then compete at the National level for \$54,500 in prizes.

Students are invited to write a 300-400 word essay on a patriotic theme. The theme for 2020-2021 is

"What is Patriotism to Me?"

Create a typed essay and entry form to submit to their local Post in Bangor.

Deadline for student entries is October 31, 2020.

Submit applications to

VFW Post 739
Deborah Riley
202 Veterans Rd
Bangor, PA 18013

Age Group 9-12

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