



**Ken
Field**

*Owner of Slate
Belt Energy
Services*

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Lights, Camera, Action

I get to work in some big beautiful homes in the course of my job. As much as I love the fancy woodwork and the fixtures and even the designs with multiple rooflines and shapes, I always feel like I'm on a movie set. Behind the scenes is where I work and it's not surprising that a whole lot of important equipment is crammed into the least hospitable spaces. The actors are sitting in the living room reading the newspaper or in the kitchen preparing a meal. I am traversing the attic like an orangutan swinging from one truss to the next trying to step somewhere safe enough to support my weight in between the wires and ducts. It seems that not one thought was given to the people who service these systems or even how the hostile temperatures of the attic would affect the operation or the efficiency them. Just getting to that space can require a ladder and in some cases the actors have to empty a closet to make room for the ladder. Most of them have never been backstage and ask me questions about the condition of things there. I don't sugar coat anything as I explain the horrors of the attic. Unlike a movie set, these homes are permanent residences and someone has to pay the bills to keep them comfortable. It takes an extraordinary amount of balance and agility to carry tools and a flashlight to find the parts that need to be repaired. I rarely get the opportunity to address the layout of things in an attic during construction, but when I do, things are a lot different. The amazing part is that it doesn't cost thousands of dollars to install a walkway and a service platform and it doesn't cost a fortune to have an actual set of pull-down stairs. I don't think it should need to be a building code requirement to make it safe for someone to be in these attics but until it is, most builders won't spend a dime on it. Maybe the stage hands union could lobby for better working conditions. In the end it probably takes longer for a technician to diagnose a problem using only a single 25 watt light bulb in a 1500 square foot attic while kneeling in fiberglass insulation and balancing on trusses but that's not the builders' problem. Over the years I have done energy retrofits in many attics and improved every aspect of them. I still get to work in most of them and the difference is immeasurable. They could easily be used in a documentary about tales from the dark side.

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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a WILD week IN REVIEW

Rep. Wild Announces Historic Funding for the City of Allentown



On Monday, I joined Senator Bob Casey and Allentown Mayor Matt Tuerk to celebrate an incredibly exciting announcement for our district! After a lot of hard work and advocacy, Allentown was selected as the recipient of a Rec-ompete grant, which will provide the city with \$20 million to address barriers to employment and create more pathways for job-seekers to be connected with opportunities.

This grant will be a game-changer for our economic growth, and I will keep working to put the Greater Lehigh Valley on the map of decision-makers in the federal government so I can bring additional federal funding home to our community.



Rep Wild Visits Crayola Headquarters in Easton

Later this week, I stopped by Crayola Headquarters in Easton to tour the factory and see how they create their wide range of products. It's always so interesting to experience our businesses firsthand, and meet so many hard-working Pennsylvanians that make the products we know and love. Thanks, Crayola, for showing me how the crayons get made!