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18th Anniversary Celebration

By Frank Brooks

PEN ARGYL - Families First will hold its 18th Anniversary Celebration of providing services to residents in the Pen Argyl Area School District. The Annual Celebration Meeting will be held rain or shine at the Blue Ridge Estate Vineyard & Winery on Friday, September 18, 2020 beginning at 4:00 pm.

The annual meeting will take place between 4:30 pm and 5:00 pm recognizing volunteers and funding organizations.

The cost is \$25.00 is per person and will include A Glass of Wine – Hot & Cold Hor D'oeuvres, a couple of Door Prizes.

MASK AND SOCIAL DISTANCING ARE REQUIRED

All checks must be made by September 17, 2020. Make Checks payable to Families First. Mail checks to Families First c/o Frank Jones -1620 Teels Road, Pen Argyl, PA 18072

Please contact Frank Jones at 610-863-9095 Ext. 1387 or email jones.frank@penargylsd.org for additional information.

Families First provides services, programs, resources in an environment in which families members are assisted toward a better quality of life in the Pen Argyl Area School District since June 6, 2002.

In addition to connecting families with other community services, Families First provides mentoring, advocacy, parenting information, employment assistance, housing resources and health insurance assistance.

For more information about Families First view our website www.familiesfirstpenargyl.org

Like us on Facebook.

EPA Qualified Outdoor Wood Furnaces

A new generation of clean

When John Hanley built his 4,000 square foot log home in a small Ohio township 17 years ago, he chose propane for heat and domestic hot water because it was an economical choice.

But, when propane prices increased and his annual fuel bill reached \$6000, he dropped the thermostat to 63°F to manage his costs. His wife, however, suffered with severe arthritis and lowering the ambient temperature caused her discomfort.

He began looking for a more affordable home heating solution. His research led him to outdoor wood furnaces.

Today's outdoor wood furnaces, also called wood boilers or wood-fired hydronic heaters are a clean, cost-effective alternative to the safety, mess and health concerns of indoor wood burning, while also providing a ready supply of domestic hot water.

The outdoor furnace heats water in an insulated water jacket surrounding the firebox. The heated water circulates through underground pipes to a forced-air furnace, boiler or radiant floor heating system that distributes even, adjustable and comfortable heat.

Hanley knew some townships placed restrictions on the installation of outdoor wood furnaces to address smoke emission issues. It was important for him to set a good example in his own community

by choosing a unit that was EPA qualified. Central Boiler, an American-owned company in business since 1984, helped create the EPA Hydronic Heater Program. Their E-Classic was the first outdoor wood furnace meeting Phase 2 of the program.

Central Boiler's new E-Classic models utilize a three-stage gasification technology and a self-regulating thermostatically controlled system that burns wood so completely that combustion efficiencies approach 100%. This means the owner burns less wood, with very little residual ash and virtually no smoke. By minimizing the emissions, this cleaner generation of outdoor furnaces is the optimum choice for people concerned with the environment.

Hanley chose an E-Classic to heat a 2,500 square foot barn/garage in addition to his home and hot water. Now, Hanley's wife keeps the ambient house temperature at 76°F. "She's happy and she has endless hot water for her whirlpool bath," he says.

Company reliability was also a factor in his choice. "Central Boiler stands behind their products and this sort of warranty service is really important to me."

Finally, because he cuts his own wood, he has eliminated his home heating costs enabling him to redirect the money saved to their children's university educations.

"This furnace is the way to go. You can't beat it," says Hanley.



In 2002, concerns regarding smoke emissions from outdoor wood furnaces prompted a number of manufacturers to form the Outdoor Furnace Manufacturers Caucus and ultimately partner voluntarily with the EPA to create a program that gave homeowners choices for cleaner, more efficient models. EPA states that outdoor hydronic heaters that are EPA Phase 2 program qualified are 90% cleaner than unqualified units.



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Miss America to Visit Da Vinci Science Center as Part of Women in Science & Engineering Initiative

By Allison Dolan

ALLENTOWN — The Da Vinci Science Center is excited to host Miss America 2020, Camille Schrier, on Wednesday, Sept. 9 as part of its Women in Science & Engineering (WISE) Initiative. Schrier will visit BRICKLIVE Ocean, Da Vinci Science Center's special exhibition, and perform a virtual live science show, which will be streamed on the Da Vinci Science Center YouTube and Facebook page.

Miss America Background: Miss America 2020, Camille Schrier, is a Bucks County native and holds dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Biochemistry and Systems Biology from Virginia Tech. Schrier is currently pursuing a Doctor of Pharmacy at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Schrier will visit Da Vinci Science Center as part of its Women in Science & Engineering (WISE) Initiative, which represents the Science Center's commitment to supporting aspiring young girls and female practicing STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) professionals. The Science Center offers a number of programs and events throughout the year to introduce students to STEM

career pathways and to engage female STEM professionals and provide them the opportunities to network and support each other.

Schrier will also be featured on a panel of distinguished female professionals in STEM during Da Vinci Science Center's Women in Science & Engineering Panel Discussion that evening. Panelists will discuss different perspectives women bring to these industries and challenges they face when pursuing a career in male-dominated fields. The panel will air live on PBS39 from 5:30-7 p.m.





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