



**Ken
Field**

**Owner of Slate
Belt Energy
Services**

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Conserving Electricity

Electricity is expensive and getting more expensive every day. If things keep going the way they are, it will be very difficult to afford to heat a home with electric baseboard soon. Fossil fuel powered generating plants are dropping like flies and they are not being replaced with anything equivalent or sustainable. There are some things that electricity can do that nothing else can do, such as running your refrigerator and your washing machine. Even safe lighting is not achievable without electricity. Anything with an electric motor is probably done best with electricity. But devices that turn perfectly good electricity into nothing but heat should be examined for their possible replacement. You can still keep your toaster, hair dryer and air fryer but any kind of electric heater should be on the top of your list to do without in the event of utility bill sticker shock. Changing all light bulbs to LED is a great investment. Even if you already have CFL bulbs now, get rid of them. They are junk. Conservation is also a good way to save electricity. I have installed occupancy sensors around my office and house. They turn the light on when someone enters the room and turn off after a preset time. I have mine set to 5 minutes. I know they have saved electricity. Newer TVs also are better on electricity than older ones. The plasma TVs generate a lot of heat and will also overwork your air conditioning system in the summer.

I am currently trying an energy monitor that tracks all usage. It is called the VUE and is made by Emporia Energy. It requires wifi and an internet connection but then allows you to view your usage from anywhere and can show you each circuit in real time and let you know which are using most. It needs to be installed in your main circuit panel but can really be enlightening when it comes to de-aggregating the electric bill. In my case it helps me to separate business use from personal use and keeps track of total usage as well as individual circuits. I have tried other monitoring devices in the past and this is far superior to any others I have used. I would recommend having someone familiar with electrical panels to install it but the investment will be eye-opening and can lead you to a better understanding of where your money is being spent. That is the first step in figuring out how to spend less.

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

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NORTHAMPTON COUNTY FESTIVAL



OCTOBER 14, 2023 • 11AM — 5PM

Louise W. Moore Park

151 Country Club Road, Easton, PA 18045

FREE ADMISSION!

FOOD & BEVERAGES • LIVE MUSIC

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Slate Belt Energy Services

SBE

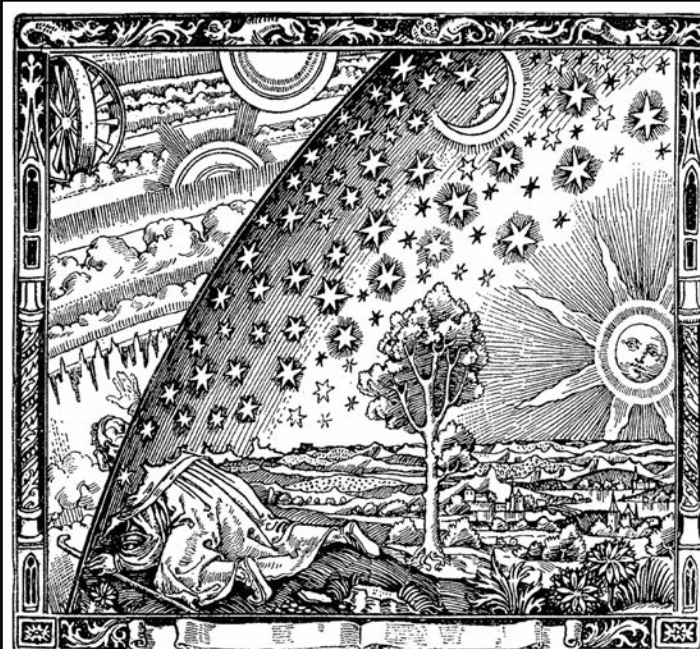
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Star Gazing at West Shore Minsi Lake!

Thursday, September 21

Arrive by 7:20pm; program begins at 7:30pm.

Join Dr. David Buckley, Professor of Physics and Resident Astronomer at ESU! There will be telescopic views of the Waxing Crescent Moon and the planet Saturn and its magnificent rings! Depending on night sky conditions, we may also view the great Hercules Star Cluster and the Ring Nebula! We'll also learn about the constellations Scorpius, Sagittarius, Cygnus the Swan, Lyra the Harp, the Big Dipper, the North Star, Cassiopeia and Pegasus!

This program is free of charge; however, registration is required.
West Shore Minsi Lake is located at 33 Blue Mountain Drive, Bangor, PA 18013

Registration Required
Contact Jim Wilson
(610) 829-6404
jwilson@norpap.gov



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