



**Ken
Field**

**Owner of Slate
Belt Energy
Services**

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Choose Safe Alternatives

The dangers associated with alternate sources of heat for your home are real. Nobody enjoys shelling out hundreds of dollars every month in the winter to keep their home warm but some of the alternatives could prove to be much more expensive. Electric baseboard heat is possibly the safest form of heat but also possible the most expensive. Oil is possibly next in line as far as cost goes and is a very safe form of heat if you have regular maintenance performed on your furnace. A heat pump is also all electric but comes in lower than oil if it is efficient and the electric backup heat doesn't come on too often. Natural gas and propane are very different fuels but the furnaces that use both are very safe. They also require periodic maintenance but can be less frequent than oil. As you progress to lower cost heating options you will need to be more hands-on with the equipment. Pellet stoves require you to feed them and remove ash but they are very safe when installed correctly. Wood stoves also require feeding and ash removal but also require a good chimney to be safe as well as an area around the stove prepared for high heat and possible sparks. Regular chimney cleanings are a must too. Beyond these options come the single room units of all kinds. Each has its own risk. Unvented gas wall heaters consume large amounts oxygen and emit byproducts of combustion to the living space. A lot of moisture is also generated and can cause high humidity problems. Any portable heater that is freestanding can also be knocked over but almost all now have sensors to turn the unit off if that happens. Something you find at a yard sale may not be up to current standards with safety devices. Kerosene heaters are something I haven't seen used much recently but they are still available. Needless to say, handling of kerosene is dangerous and having a combustion appliance in the middle of the living room has risks. They also emit hydrocarbons and many times will leave a black film on everything in the house. Even portable electric heaters have risks when used in older homes. The coldest homes are usually the oldest and the wiring may not be up to par in them. A 1500 watt electric heater draws over 12 amps and that is very near the limit for a single circuit in a home. If your wiring is not up to the task it may be a fire hazard to use these heaters.

Weigh the risks against the cost reduction before choosing an alternate source to heat your home.

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



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
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FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

HALLOWEEN FUN FOR EVERYONE

HALLOWEEN TRUNK-OR-TREAT



Join us for our spook-tacular night of Halloween thrills! Trunk or Treat is a fun, safe way to trick or treat in your own backyard. Come dressed in your best costumes, and visit all of our themed trunks for some sweet treats!

We're also looking for volunteers to decorate their trunks and distribute candy. If you are able to decorate a trunk for the event as a volunteer, we need your help! Candy donations accepted too! Prepare for about 200 children. Register your car online or call the Welcome Center! **The winner of the best-decorated trunk will receive a free month Family Membership!**

WHEN: Saturday, October 21, 2023

TIME: 5-6:30PM (set up beginning at 4:00)

LOCATION: GREATER VALLEY YMCA, SLATE BELT BRANCH
315 West Pennsylvania Avenue
Pen Argyl, PA 18072
(P) 610 881 4470

GREATER VALLEY YMCA gv-ymca.org



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SPOOKTACULAR FUN FOR EVERYONE



MONSTER MASH DANCE PARTY

Calling all Pirates, Superheroes, Draculas and Witches too! We've got a spooky party planned just for you. It's sure to be a smash. A wicked good time for everyone! Wear your favorite costume and dance the afternoon away. Then stay after for Trunk or Treat.

WHEN: Saturday, October 21, 2023

TIME: 4:15 PM to 5:00 PM (Trunk or Treat starts at 5PM!)

FEE: FREE for Members / \$5 Non Member

LOCATION: GREATER VALLEY YMCA, SLATE BELT BRANCH
315 West Pennsylvania Avenue
Pen Argyl, PA 18072
(P) 610 881 4470

QUESTIONS: Contact mmcclymont@gv-ymca.org

GREATER VALLEY YMCA gv-ymca.org

Slate Belt Energy Services

SBE

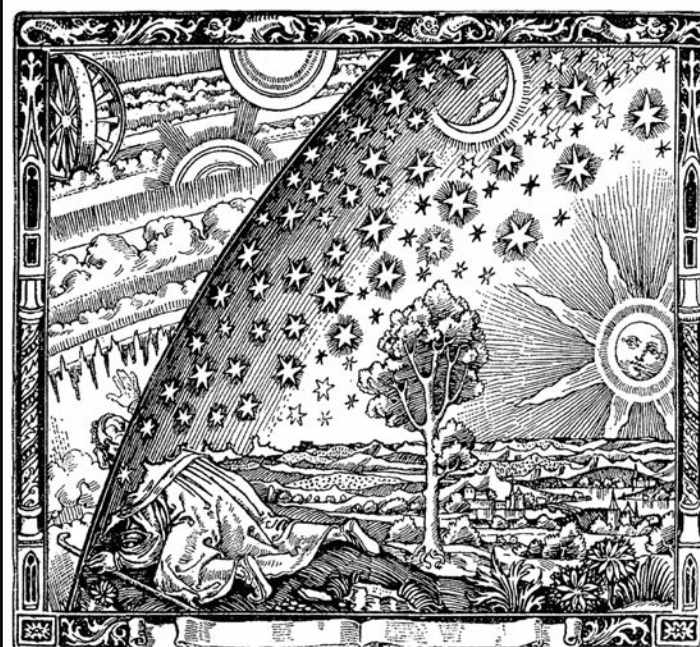
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Star Gazing at West Shore Minsi Lake!

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@norgcopavog



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