



Left L-R SBRP officer Glenn Connoly, Chief Dave Mettin, officer Andrew Daly who were promoted to Sergeant.

Promotions to Sergeant

Continued from page 1

After signing their respective documents for the board each was awarded new stripes, patches and shields for their uniforms by Chief Dave Mettin. "It will be an honor to have both Andrew and Glen as a member of the Command staff and the Slate Belt Regional Police Department."

The Slate Belt Regional Police Department operates a 24 hour, full time police department providing police coverage as well as a range of public services serving Plainfield Township, Pen Argyl Borough and Wind Gap Borough Northampton County, Pennsylvania.

The Slate Belt Regional Police Department is located at 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, PA 18064. Phone: 610.759.8517, Fax: 610.759.8523. website <http://slatebeltpd.psatswtp.org>.

Trouble In Toyland

By Grace Brombach and Adam Garber, U.S. PIRG Education Fund

PHILADELPHIA - Over the past 33 years, our annual reports have led to more than 150 recalls of unsafe toys, inspired legislation like the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, and empowered parents to take key actions to ensure toys are safe.

DOWNLOAD THE REPORT at www.ToySafetyTips.org.

We've come a long way, but there is more to be done

While stronger safety standards have significantly reduced the number of dangerous toys for sale, problems remain. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, hundreds of thousands of children go to the emergency room every year for toy-related injuries. This year's Trouble in Toyland report identifies three categories of hazards in toys: detectable dangers, hidden toxics and recalled toys.

We need to push for new and stronger safety standards.

Small, powerful magnets used in various toys, including construction sets, educational tiles and sculpture kits can cause serious harm and even death when swallowed. Since a ban on these powerful magnets was overturned in 2016, they pose an ongoing threat to children. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission should propose a new safety standard for these rare-earth magnets.

The U.S. currently has no limit or warning label requirements for boron in children's products. Without warning labels, parents are unaware of the potential danger that popular slime products pose. Policymakers should require labeling for children's products with high boron concentrations and consider setting new health-based standards.

We need to make our recalls more effective

Since last year's Trouble in Toyland report, 12 more toys were recalled due to a number of threats, including choking hazards, burn risks and more. Our recall system should require companies to directly notify customers through retailer partnerships, engage in recall marketing campaigns equivalent to those that sold the product, and directly notify child care centers of recalled products potentially being used in their facilities.



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**Ken
Field**

*Owner of Slate
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Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

A Problem with No Solution

As an employer I see a shortage of well trained technicians to fill the job market in many trades. As a consumer, I have made calls to contractors for work I want to have done at my home and out of 8 calls I made I had 3 return calls and one actual visit to my home. That visit yielded exactly nothing because I never received an estimate even after 2 more calls to that company. The work is not difficult or complicated. It is just out of my area of expertise and I want to have someone else do it.

None of the trades are glamorous and none are fun year-round but they provide careers for people who like hands-on problem solving and find building things to be rewarding. I enjoy sharing the knowledge I have gained in my career with people who want to pursue the areas I have knowledge in. So when I hire someone new, I get to be a teacher for a while and fine-tune someone to follow the procedures we use in our trade. Some aspects of the heating trade have almost no place a person can go today to get trained. There was a school for oil heat training in the area in the past but it has closed and there isn't any place locally I could send someone if I wanted to. I know what you are thinking, there may be a school for writing and I should sign up for that. But this is my place to vent frustrations and eloquence doesn't pay the bills.

What local contractors could use are more technicians who are well-trained in their field. An incentive for employers to hire and train young workers would be nice too. We are losing ground with manpower in the trades. We don't just need laborers, we need trained technicians. So much new equipment has complicated controls and troubleshooting works better with young eyes and a sharp brain.

Once I find a contractor who is really good at what they do, they are on my list for all future work and also to recommend to my customers when asked about other areas of construction. I may drop the ball occasionally but more times than not, I provide a clearly written proposal in plain English which is based on value. The problem is that I can only be in one place at a time and can't keep up the feverish pace I used to. So a backlog is common anymore even though I don't like it that way.

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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Jeff and Denise Fox of Pen Argyl received a \$10,000 residential makeover

Another Facade Project by Slate Belt Rising

By Steve Reider / Slate Belt Rising Dir.

PEN ARGYL - Jeff and Denise Fox of Williams Street in Pen Argyl participated in the Slate Belt Rising Residential Façade program in late 2018. The total project cost was \$10,000 and was funded by Northampton County Community Investment Partnership Program grant funds and Pen Argyl Borough.

Façade improvements included restoring and installing second floor windows, replacing the porch railing, installing a new exterior light and house numbers, painting the porch deck and columns and re-installing decorative brackets, concrete sidewalk and step repair.

The homeowners were also eligible for funding for interior repairs through the countywide housing rehabilitation program that is funded by Northampton County and facilitated by the Lehigh Valley Community Land Trust.

Improvements for this program included: lead encapsulation work, electrical repairs and upgrades, and rehabilitation of existing the existing kitchen.

If you would like to apply for facade and other grants through Slate Belt Rising our office at 484-523-0900 or visit us at www.slatebeltrising.org.