



**Ken
Field**

**Owner of Slate
Belt Energy
Services**

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

How Long Can You Delay the Inevitable?

How long does a new car last? How long does a refrigerator last? How long does a roof last? I could go on all day about the lifespan of things and everyone would have different answers. Many people replace a vehicle every few years. I don't know many people who keep a car for 20 years. Eventually things that we use every day will need major repairs or replacement. Since you get in your car every day, it is on the top of your mind when something isn't right. Maybe you get it fixed or maybe you just say "it used to work right but now it doesn't, oh well". You can live with the broken stuff for just so long and then can't ignore it any longer. I don't know much about cars or refrigerators but I see the same behavior with heating systems. Unless it is making enough noise that someone can't sleep, they just ignore the monster in the basement. The average life of a heating system is 20 years but when times get tough nobody wants to spend several thousand dollars on system replacement. The real fact is that you're eventually going to spend it on repairs and still have an outdated piece of scrap down there trying to keep your family warm. It will just have some new parts on it. If you ask a competent technician if they can keep it running for another year or so they will almost always say yes. That's what we do. But SHOULD you keep it going? Putting off the inevitable is not smart because your car and your refrigerator and your roof are getting older too. At a certain point you feel like you'll never be able to get all of these things back in order. I suggest that you take the advice of a professional heating technician that you trust and repair everything that needs to be fixed or replace the system when it is a better choice. Then you can sit back and worry about all of the other things that are aging and will need your focus soon. You can't add value to a system that is 20 years old.

You can just prolong the agony.

A modern, high quality piece of heating equipment is a good investment. It will save energy and not be nearly as troublesome as older designs. Annual maintenance will keep a system working like new for its entire life. When choosing a replacement, take the advice of the installer. Many times changes can be made at that time to improve deficiencies in the original design and it will cost less during the replacement.

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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County Executive Lamont G. McClure's Acceptance of the Resignation of Charles M. Dertinger From the Position of Director of Administration

By Brittney Waylen

EASTON - It is with deep regret that I have accepted the resignation today of Charles M. Dertinger from the position of Director of Administration, County of Northampton.

Mr. Dertinger has spent nearly six years honorably serving the people of Northampton County in my Administration. While the 2019 and 2023 Elections were failures under his leadership of the Elections Division, the '20, '21, and '22 elections were nearly flawless, as any complicated human activity can expect to be.

Mr. Dertinger has had many accomplishments, great and small, as Director of Administration. Specifically, he led the team that built the new Forensic Center during a global pandemic. Mr. Dertinger brought that project in on time and under budget. A feat that's normally impossible to achieve, let alone during a time of stay-at-home orders and massive supply chain disruptions.

Mr. Dertinger and I have been working together on a shared vision of county governance since at least 2005. Many of the things I care about, he cared about first. The preservation of open and green space comes to mind. Many of the successes of our Administration have come due to his efforts in helping implement our initiatives.

Despite his Election failures of 2019 and 2023, the foregoing reasons stated is why his resignation is regrettable. I wish him well in his future endeavors.

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