



## Ken Field

Owner of Slate  
Belt Energy  
Services

*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

### A Giant Step Backward

If you don't choose wisely that's exactly what can happen when replacing your heating equipment. Not so much with a furnace but definitely with a boiler, especially one that makes your hot water. I recently visited a customer who wanted to know why they would be using more oil now than last year when they had a brand new system installed this past summer. It didn't take me long to figure that out because they have a new shiny piece of inefficient junk. I was familiar with their old system and it had many years on it but it was efficient in every way. They had someone come in for a free estimate and they really did a number on them. Boilers that hold a lot of water are normally not efficient because they have to heat too much mass before they send it to your radiators. Boilers that have vertical flue passes are also not particularly efficient because that's the way the heat wants to go and if you just let it go up and out, the only place it heats is the chimney. Boilers with horizontal flue passes generally are much more efficient. The second big mistake is using a boiler with a hot water coil built in. That is probably the worst way to heat hot water. There are many boilers on the market and many ways to heat hot water. The cheapest to install will definitely not be the cheapest to operate. One moment of satisfaction for 20 years of misery is no way to live. We get calls every week from people with summer/winter hookups or boilers with hot water coils asking if we can help them with hot water problems. We certainly can but it is usually not just by making an adjustment. Inefficient boilers typically waste more than 100 gallons of oil in one summer. I have proven this numerous times by tracking fuel usage before and after a replacement job. They waste at least that much over the rest of the year too so an inefficient oil boiler will actually waste \$600 of your money (at today's price) every year. If you saved say \$1000 on a cheap system, you will pay that before the end of the second year of operation and you will continue to pay it every year after that. I will not install that type of boiler and I haven't done it for probably 20 years. If you want a life sentence to pay too much, call one of the fast talking sales jockeys in the area.

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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## Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to You and Yours

By Rep. Ann Flood

PEN ARGYL - As the year draws to a close, I have taken the time to reflect on all that we have accomplished in the 138th district. As a person who has been a public servant assisting children with special needs for many years, my belief as a legislator is to keep in that spirit of helping people and provide as much as I can to the district that I serve with compassion and understanding.

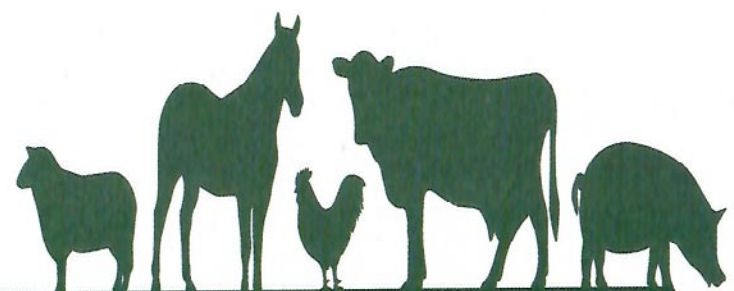
We provided one or two outreach events almost every month. Whether it was cleaning up trash, hosting a senior expo and special needs expo, a PHEAA or scam seminar, or an event to shred your most sensitive documents, I am always looking for ways to help and inform you. My amazing office staff is always at the ready and willing to help in your time of need. I couldn't ask for better. I love this community that I serve.

I grew up here and I want to see it grow and thrive, but most of all, I want to see you thrive. That is why you will see me or a staff member at citation events and momentous celebrations throughout the year. We are happy to attend and celebrate with you.

Likewise, I am always willing to help and fight when needed with issues in the district within the capacity of this elected position. As I look forward to the Christmas season with gratitude and hope, it is my honor to serve you in the 138th District.

As we celebrate, let us remember the importance of gratitude and kindness, spreading the joy of the season to those around us. Whether you're enjoying cherished traditions or creating new ones, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season filled with warmth, happiness and the company of those you hold dear.

Here's to a festive season that brings us all closer together and sets the stage for a bright and hopeful New Year!



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