

## Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

### Don't be a Troglodyte

It is apparent to me that fossil fuels are becoming the black sheep of the energy family. I don't have to agree with that but I will have to live with it. To think it all started when a cave man witnessed a lightning strike shows how far we really have come. Or not.

Efficient use of any natural resource is not only a smart thing to do, it is necessary to prevent the depletion and imbalance of the worlds gifts. Technology is expensive but it advances the worlds ability to maximize the work done by a fixed amount of fuel.

Cars are much more efficient with computerized fuel injection. Modern heating and air conditioning systems are much more efficient than they were 10 years ago but the newer systems are more expensive. The older ones are still on the market and many people just choose them because they are cheaper. It is really up to the consumers to step up their game and use more efficient systems. It is not the job of the government to ban inefficient systems but that is the only way we have seen any increased use of the more efficient systems. It seems that even with some education, people just look at the bottom line. When a price spike happens like the one we are in the middle of right now, the system that saved you \$500 a year on energy just saved you \$1000 this year. The old minimally efficient systems just keep plugging away and eating up energy. The efficient ones save money every time they run.

I'm sure readers of this column get tired of me harping on the use of efficient equipment but those who have taken my advice are in a much better position to pay their energy bills right now. I have one customer whom I have been recommending system replacement for over 10 years. Sure I can keep it running but it is horribly inefficient and he just won't pull the trigger. Eventually he will, and I know from experience the regret he will have after a few years of much lower fuel bills. I told him that if he had replaced the system 10 years ago it would have paid for itself in reduced fuel bills by now. And that is a fact, not a sales pitch. There aren't too many things worth borrowing money for but a new heating system just became one with the price of fuel. Not all equipment is created equal. You need to do some research.

**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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## Second Harvest

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perience working with Lehigh Valley communities to attain greater access to local food. Prior to joining CALV, Czapp was the director and outreach coordinator for Buy Fresh Buy Local of the Greater Lehigh Valley, a nonprofit that works to build the food economy of the Lehigh Valley.

Additionally, Czapp has been a staple in the local food community within the Lehigh Valley. Working on initiatives to create more nutritious food options in Lehigh Valley corner stores and strengthening the impact of local farmer's markets are among her contributions. Czapp has also served on multiple boards and committees pertaining to food insecurity and agriculture, such as the Penn State Extension Advisory Committee and the Lehigh Valley Food Policy Council, further broadening her understanding of local food systems and the ways they can be improved.

"I am approaching this job with a stark awareness of how food insecurity is just one part of larger, systemic problems in our communities and nation that contribute to extreme wealth disparities, racism, and generational trauma. My goal at Second Harvest is to ensure people know that we are here to help; we can at least help take the pressure off one major stress point in the short-term -- not having enough nutritious food to eat -- while working in the long-term to move our community forward in ways that center equity and compassion," Czapp said.

Her vision includes better integrating The Seed Farm into the activities of the Food Bank and continuing to move the organization in a fresh direction by strengthening food justice initiatives. Czapp's goal is for Second Harvest to remain a resilient organization that can support the needs of the community by fostering a collaborative environment between its staff, donors, volunteers, community partners and participants.

Czapp officially began as the new Associate Executive Director of Second Harvest Food Bank on March 7, 2022. A Virtual Meet & Greet will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, March 30 at 12pm for members of the media, volunteers, donors, and community partners.

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