



Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Time and Materials

The cost of labor has always had a big impact on the overall price we pay for products and services. The quality of work being done will also have an effect on the total cost of a job because skipping steps saves time and time is money. Recently the price of lumber has skyrocketed and even the equipment I use has been affected this year with 2 price increases so far. It is unheard of to have 2 increases in one year and they were large ones at that. Two different manufacturers I use had total increases of 10%. Both had a 4% increase early in the year and another 6% recently. Some products are not available at any price. I can't even get an expected date of arrival on several models. I'm not going to speculate on why this is happening but it makes doing business even more difficult than it has been for the last year.

When I deliver a proposal to a prospective customer I attempt to explain what they will be getting. I don't explain the fact that I carry workers compensation insurance or liability insurance but I probably should. Often the question arises about how the price could be reduced. One way would be for me to find cheaper equipment to use. After all, I'm the one who suggests which model is the best value. There may be a less expensive model but invariably, the warranty is also less. The efficiency is also less as well because in order to reduce the price, something has to be removed. Copper and aluminum and stainless steel are expensive and replacing them with something else or just using less of them will certainly have an effect on the cost. The cost of installation is the same and that's another part that adds value to the job. Some equipment is so poorly constructed that it doesn't even seem worth the labor it takes to install it. I'm never offended by the question about how to cut the cost, but I'm never shy about explaining the consequences. I just won't install something that I know is poor quality or from a manufacturer who doesn't honor their warranty. I have a whole list of them from the last 33 years.

The best value is a job that will last 20 years without needing frequent repairs. Regular maintenance is something that can be planned on but breakdowns can get expensive and they can come from an improper installation or many other factors. Search for the best value, not the cheapest price.

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



Content Sale

Columbia Self Storage will sell the contents of the occupant's leased space at public auction to satisfy the owner's lien on StorageTreasures.com all personal property stored in this facility by: Unit #128, Garry Frey, consisting of totes and misc. items. Items will be offered for sale by auction to the highest bidder for enforcement of storage liens.

Auction will be held at 9AM, Tuesday April 27, 2021 on StorageTreasures.com.

All auction sales are FINAL. Cash only and paid at Columbia Self Storage, 1059 Pennsylvania Ave., Pen Argyl, PA 18072. Columbia Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any bid.

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Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9-5, Saturday 9-1

National Volunteer Week

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Thanks to a campaign by our founding volunteers, churches, businesses and frugal families throughout our community, Cetro- nia's second lifesaving vehicle was a shiny, new Cadillac ambulance purchased entirely with S&H green stamps.

Today, we have a much smaller pool of volunteers, but all of them still have the same sense of community pride and dedication for our industry. We are grateful and excited to honor five of our main volunteers this year for their longstanding efforts to make us the best we can be:

Frank Bartholomew can be found volunteering for special events. He has been a staple with the Corps since 1981. Frank is a trained EMT and often manages the Pocono NASCAR Race events.

Robert Mangano has been assisting with making sure our facility is well taken care of since 1996. Rob manages the contracts for the grounds keeping and many of the indoor items such as plumbing, lighting, and paper goods product ordering, among many other tasks.

We also have the husband and wife dynamic duo team of Michael and Lynn Nagel. Michael is our director of facilities and project management. He has served the organization since 1971. Michael recently retired from his full-time job at Reading Area Community College. You can find Michael at our facility many, many hours each week taking care of the endless infrastructure items at hand. Lynn has been one of our core CPR instructors since 1987. She is also a current board member of our organization and chairs the Compliance Committee. You can also find Lynn assisting at our reception area and with finance and office tasks.

Ronald Thomas, our fleet manager, can be found in our services and parts area. Ron makes sure our vehicles are running top notch. Ron has been with the organization since 1976.

Cetronia Ambulance Corps would most certainly not be the organization we are today without all of the hard work and countless hours of dedication by all of our volunteers over the years. For that, we are grateful. Thank you for doing what you do to help us stay the course of our mission.

Waste Management

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stated Senior Community Relations Specialist Adrienne Fors.

Waste Management of Pennsylvania (WM) is a long-time supporter of the Pennsylvania Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. Since its inception in 2001, WM has contributed more than \$20 million to deserving scholarships and contributions and education improvement organizations across the Commonwealth. In 2020, the company contributed more than \$2 million through the EITC program across Pennsylvania.

ABOUT WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste Management, based in Houston, Texas, is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services in North America. Through its subsidiaries, the company provides collection, transfer, recycling and resource recovery, and disposal services. It is also a leading developer, operator and owner of landfill gas-to-energy facilities in the United States. The company's customers include residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal customers throughout North America. To learn more information about Waste Management visit www.wm.com or www.thinkgreen.com.



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