



Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Back in the Attic

I get to read reports from energy auditors almost every week and I am happy to see more of them mentioning realistic areas for homeowners to make improvements that will really matter. The numbers part can be somewhat confusing if you don't understand the terminology or if you can't rationalize how much air is really leaking out of your house. Stopping the major air leaks can be difficult but it is usually well worth the effort. Sometimes those leaks have to be stopped by trapping air in the attic. If there is already some heating or air conditioning equipment up there, it is another benefit because the attic will be cooler in the summer and that eases the job of the AC unit quite a bit. The problem with that approach is that we also have to make sure that no condensation is allowed to form on any surfaces in the attic. A thin layer of insulation won't stop that from happening. Neither will any kind of fiberglass. Foam board works pretty well if it is 2" thick or plywood with cellulose dense packed behind it. Plywood now is almost \$50 per sheet so we will be using a very heavy type of vapor barrier fabric instead and dense packing cellulose insulation behind it. Spray foam works well too but it must be covered with a 15 minute fire barrier in an attic to comply with the fire and building codes. The fire barrier is more expensive than the foam.

No matter how it is accomplished, it is a very good plan to bring the attic inside the conditioned space of the home. One article I read recently showed how to build a room around the attic entry and the equipment in the attic and still not insulate the roof itself. Every house has some unique differences that make some part of the energy work a challenge but anything that makes it safer and easier to work on the equipment in the attic as well as reducing energy loss from the building and the equipment is on track to pay for itself in a relatively short period of time. Since there is not just one way to accomplish this, it can be good to have more than one person present ideas on how to do it and then decide for yourself as long as you have a solid understanding of what is going to work and what is not. Getting a guarantee may be difficult because of the complexity of the job.

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

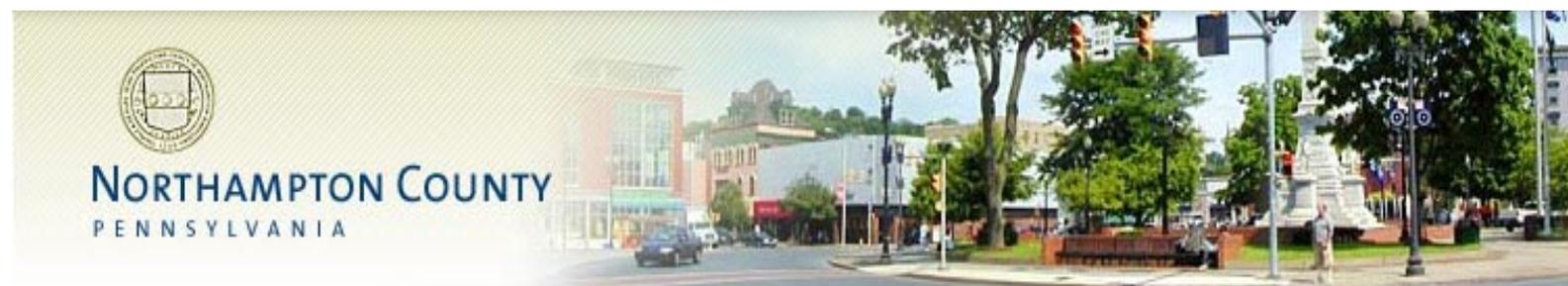
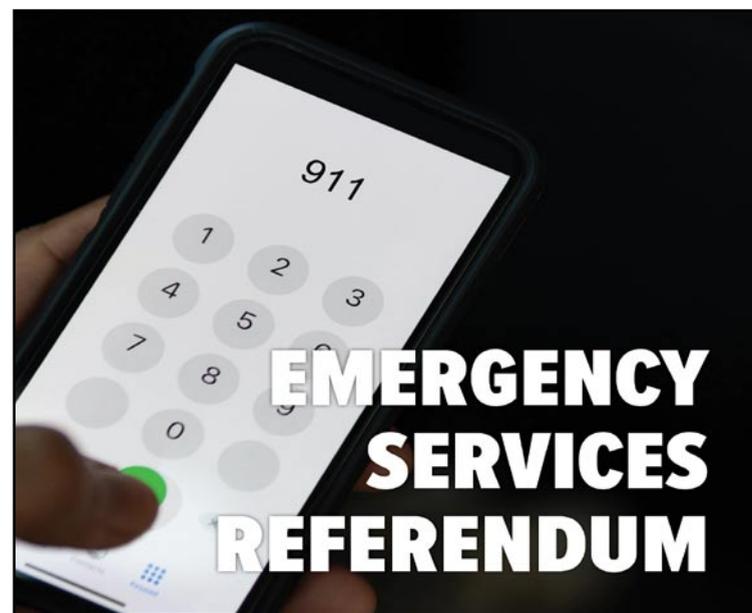
Voters to Decide Question on Fire Company Loans

In addition to proposed constitutional amendment questions, the May 18 primary election ballot features a referendum regarding low-interest loans for municipal fire and ambulance companies staffed with paid personnel.

The Commonwealth already has a loan program in place that was established in 1976 to provide funding support for volunteer emergency response organizations. The referendum simply asks voters if they support expanding eligibility for the program to include municipal fire and ambulance companies staffed with paid personnel. A "yes" vote would not result in additional debt for the state, as there is ample funding available now to support the need for loans.

The fund is self-sustaining and currently provides loans at 2% interest to volunteer first responder organizations. Funding may be used for upgrading or expanding fire stations, as well as purchasing emergency vehicles or equipment. Each organization is capped at three open loans at a time and must show unencumbered funds in the amount of 20% of the project.

If approved, it is estimated the referendum would result in 40 additional fire departments becoming eligible for loans from the fund. The bill placing the question on the ballot was approved unanimously by the House and Senate.



Historic Bangor Business Association's...

Sweets & Treats Trail

Sunday, May 16th

1 to 4 Downtown Bangor
Entertainment until 6pm



TICKETS for TRAIL & SAMPLING at HBBapa.org include:

- ✿ Sweets & Treats to Sample
- ✿ Walking Map & Scorecard
- ✿ Vendor Raffle Prizes
- ✿ HBBA 'Live Strong' Wristband
- ✿ Commemorative Travel Cup & Lid

\$20 per sampling ticket - RAINDATE Sunday May 23rd

TICKETS MAKE A GREAT MOTHER'S DAY GIFT! and proceeds benefit HBBA beautification programs, events & festivals in Bangor. The HBBA is a charitable organization run by volunteers from local businesses.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT | VENDORS | WINERIES | BREWERIES

Farmer's Market Coupons for Seniors Distribution Of Coupons Begins June 1

By Becky Bartlett

EASTON - Lamont McClure is pleased to announce the continuation of the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Beginning June 1st, coupons worth \$24.00 will be available to Northampton County residents age sixty and over who meet the income eligibility criteria. The coupons are distributed by the Northampton County Area Agency on Aging Department.

Each eligible senior may receive four \$6.00 coupons for a total of \$24 in SFMNP benefits during the program year. The coupons can be used to purchase Pennsylvania-grown produce at farmer's markets. Any Northampton County resident age sixty or over who meets income eligibility (example: \$23,828/yr. for a single person, and \$32,227 for a couple) can obtain the coupons. For married couples, both spouses may obtain coupons. The SFMNP does not include seniors who live in nursing homes, convents or residential facilities where meals are provided. Proof of age and residence must be presented by all persons wishing to receive coupons.

There will be no in-person distribution of coupons in 2021. Application forms are available on the AAA website at [https://www.northamptoncounty.org/HS/AGING/Documents/2021%20SFMNP%20application%20\(English\).pdf](https://www.northamptoncounty.org/HS/AGING/Documents/2021%20SFMNP%20application%20(English).pdf)

Seniors may only receive coupons once during the program, which runs from June 1, 2021 until November 30, 2021.

A list of participating farmer's markets can be accessed at: www.PAFMNP.org