



## Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

### Conservation Ideas

It looks like heating oil prices will be excessive this winter. What can you do to reduce the cost to heat your home? The simplified version of the way a heating system works is that there is a switch (thermostat) that turns on and off the heating portion of the system. The first way to reduce heating cost is to reduce the setting on the thermostat. Keeping your house at or below 65° is a good start. Actually 60° sounds cold but you can get used to it if you dress accordingly. Anything below 55° has the potential to allow pipes to freeze if they are in or near an exterior wall and it is in the single digits outside. It is not worth taking that risk because the cost to repair broken pipes is just as bad as the cost of oil. Something else you can do is to keep some rooms cooler than others. If you have radiators you can put a blanket over the radiator to stop the air from moving over it. There is no need to worry about a fire because the water in the system never gets hot enough to catch anything on fire. You can cover part or all of it to adjust the room temperature in relation to other rooms. If you have baseboard heaters you can close the louver on the front to reduce the heat output. You can even put a piece of painters tape over the slot if there is still more heat than you want coming out. Don't cut the heat down in the same room as the thermostat or it will have the opposite effect. Just set the thermostat lower for that area. A benefit of blocking airflow is that the hot water is still circulating and pipes will not freeze unlike if you turn the switch off for the boiler.

If you have a furnace you can close some of the dampers on the supply registers in some rooms. Again, don't adjust the damper in the room where the thermostat is. And don't fully close more than about 25% of the supply dampers because the furnace needs to keep air moving when it is running. Make sure the air filter is clean as well. It is not unreasonable to expect savings of 25% on oil by making some comfort concessions and constantly thinking about ways to conserve. Even that won't take the sting out of \$5/gallon oil but it will help. If this price spike is temporary these tactics may only be necessary for one winter. If they are a permanent thing, you may need more drastic measures.

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



Bangor Halloween Parade, Bangor Memorial Park Bangor PA October 20, 2022 7 PM

**Theme: It's the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown**

Remit the following form to [bangorelks@gmail.com](mailto:bangorelks@gmail.com) by October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual or Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Theme: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:

Group	Vehicle	Individual	Band	Float	Fire/Ems
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We will reply to your email with your entry number and where you will be lining up. (a few days before the parade)

Lineup will begin at 6:00 pm at your designated area at the park.

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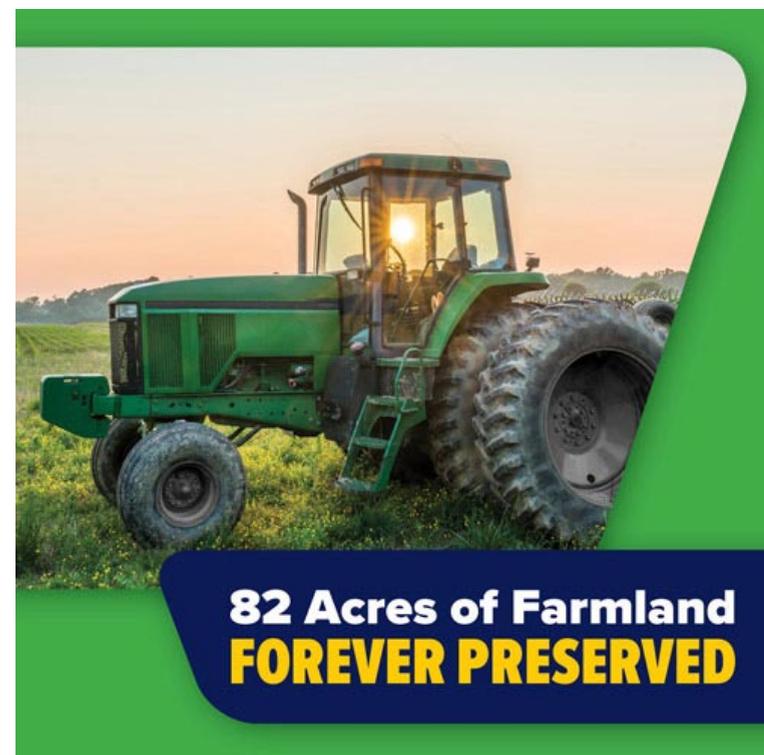
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## 82 Acres of Farmland Forever Preserved

By Rep. Ann Flood

JACOBSBURG-Congratulations to the Walter M. Jr. & Melody A. Schlegel Farm in Plainfield Township, a Crop operation with 40.09 acres and an additional Crop operation in Moore Township with 42.57 acres that have been forever preserved through the farmland preservation program.

To learn more about the farmland preservation process, or if you are interested in preserving your own farm, visit the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's website to read more.

## October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By Rep. Ann Flood

SLATE BELT - According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. During one year, this equates to more than 10 million women and men. An estimated one in four women and one in nine men will be subjected to abuse by an intimate partner.

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior used to establish power and control over an intimate partner, causing both physical and emotional harm. Victims may be subjected to abuse, harassment, threats, vandalism, trespassing, burglary, theft and stalking. As one of the most chronically underreported crimes, domestic violence affects men and women in all racial, ethnic, religious, educational, social and economic backgrounds.

