



Slate Belt Young at Heart Club Visits Capitol

By Michael Ortoski

HARRISBURG - On June 26th, the Slate Belt Young at Heart Club sponsored a trip to the state Capitol in Harrisburg. On arrival, the group met with Rep. Marcia Hahn and Sen. Mario Scavella, who accompanied the group on an amazing tour of many sites of the Capitol. Rep. Emerick also was able to join us. The Group thanks Mario and Marcia and Joe for an amazing and informative tour.



Pa. Outdoor Corps Installation Of An ADA Accessible Ramp

By Becky Bartlett

UPPER MT. BETHEL - Lamont McClure met with members of Pennsylvania's Outdoor Corps on July 3rd at to congratulate them on their installation of an ADA accessible ramp at Bear Swamp Archery Complex.

The Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps program offers young people, ages 15-18, the opportunity to serve on a team completing conservation projects to protect, enhance and restore Pennsylvania's public lands.

"Northampton County is very appreciative of the work these young people are doing by installing an ADA ramp to our archery complex," says Lamont McClure. "We want our parks and facilities to be as accessible as possible to all residents and visitors."

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Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Keep Up With the Upkeep

Occasionally I review older articles to be sure I'm not repeating myself and usually I find that I am. So at the risk of repeating myself I will mention what I think are the biggest problems a homeowner faces with respect to the structure. Lack of maintenance is definitely at the top of the list because nature will destroy any man-made structure if it is not kept water tight. There are usually more maintenance tasks than can be done by the owner either because of time, or skill level. Cleaning gutters is not for everyone but it is important if you have trees near your house. Carbon monoxide will snuff you out in minutes so maintenance on any fossil fueled heating appliance is important. Preventing any kind of moisture or water buildup is necessary to prevent mold growth. Even having trees and shrubs right against the house can trap moisture too close to the walls and eventually it will get inside. Electrical problems are not as common but we still see homes with turn-of-the-century wiring using new appliances which use a lot more power than the system was designed for. Meter boxes and main electrical panels are virtually ignored and really should be checked at least once every 5 years for water entry and corrosion. Some brands of main circuit boxes were known to be fire hazards and we still see some of them in use. Decks and outside stairs don't last forever and many are not built as well as they should be. If they are checked before they fall, they may be able to be reinforced instead of replaced saving a lot of money and a lawsuit. Slate roofs are great and most will last 100 years. For some of them, the time is up, especially if there were problems that were never repaired for years. And last but not least, trees around your home that have grown too big are a danger you should not ignore. The weather lately has tested many of them but waiting too long could be disastrous. Your home is probably your biggest investment and while there is never a shortage of things to spend money on, you can let it lapse into disrepair and cause the value to drop drastically.

When it is time for those repairs, you can go low budget or you can hire a professional. Asking for proof of insurance from any contractor is just a smart thing to do. Research the consequences of having an incident with an uninsured person working for you and you will be shocked.

Ken Field is the owner of Field's Service, Inc. and Slate Belt Energy Services. He has over 40 years of experience in heating, air conditioning and is certificated by RESNET and BPI in various areas of energy conservation. He can be reached at 610-599-8832 or at www.SlateBeltEnergy.com

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Family Fun Day At Slate Belt Senior Center

By Marianne Schweitzer

BANGOR - The Slate Belt Senior Center hosted a family fun day on June 28. Approximately 75 people including children and our seniors attended. There was lots of fun. It started off with a great lunch of hotdogs, BBQ, baked beans and chips. Activities included an indoor

baseball game, Face painting, ring toss, bean bags, spin the wheel, go fish and other games. Bill Kessler was our clown and entertained the kids. Families of our seniors and others participated in these and other fun activities and received prizes as well. We had hot popcorn and a Cotton Candy machine too. A fun time was had by all. These are just some of the fun activities that the Slate Belt Senior Center offers throughout the year.

Northampton County Accepting Applications for AHP Grants

By Contact: Becky Bartlett

EASTON - Lamont McClure and the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) announce that the County of Northampton will begin accepting applications for 2019 Affordable Housing Program (AHP) grants on July 15th

AHP funds are available to eligible non-profits, public agencies, local governments, government authorities and private, low-income housing providers.

Grants can be used to maintain or increase the availability of quality affordable housing for residents

of Northampton County whose annual incomes are below 80% of the household median income for

the County using the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 8 income

limits for 2019.

Proposed projects must fall into one of three categories:

- Create, retain or improve rental units or owner-occupied housing
- Emergency housing services
- Transitional housing facilities and affordable housing supportive services

Applications open on July 15th and close September 13, 2019.

Details and applications can be found on the Department of Community and Economic

Development's (DCED) webpage: <https://www.northampton-county.org/CMTYECDV/Pages/Applyfor-Funding.aspx>