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Fluid Properties

Even though water is colorless, you can tell how much and how fast it is flowing when you open a faucet or the nozzle on your garden hose. That's because unlike air, it is a liquid. It is still a fluid and it follows the same rules for how it flows but measuring it is easier. If you had a bucket to fill and the water was just trickling out of the hose, you could be sure something was wrong. You would start by looking for a kink in the hose. Would you suspect that the hose was too small to handle the flow of water? Possibly if your hose was a couple hundred feet long that could be the cause. The constant with water is the pressure at the point where it starts. That is either the regulator where water enters from the street or your well tank. From there pressure only goes down. Everything it passes through will reduce that pressure. The more water you flow, the more the pressure will be affected.

But this article isn't about water; it is about air that flows through the ducts in your home. Just because you don't see it doesn't mean it isn't struggling to get to the rooms you need to heat or cool.

There are design rules we need to follow to get it there without it trickling into the room. It begins its journey at the fan in the air handler. Unlike water, it is not brought to the fan under pressure, the fan has to pull it from rooms and then turn around and send it back after changing the temperature of it. If it can't get enough back, it can't send enough out. The air filter also sits in the path and slows the air somewhat. Undersized ducts and flexible ducts not installed correctly add friction and drag to the air and problems begin to occur. These problems are predictable and obvious to someone who has the tools to measure airflow. Each room in the house needs a certain amount of airflow to keep it comfortable. That is determined by doing a load calculation and is the very first step on any job.

Once the ducts are installed it is nearly impossible to increase the amount of airflow to a room. Even after a system is installed, it may need balancing. But balancing is impossible if there is already not enough airflow. Systems built incorrectly struggle year round and rarely provide the comfort that homeowners expect. Replacing the equipment or increasing the size of it won't help. Guaranteed comfort starts on paper with a load calculation.

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

Boscola Secures \$100,000 State Grant for Palmer Kiwanis Youth Center

By Office of Senator Boscola

PALMER - Bethlehem, August 16, 2022 - - State Senator Lisa Boscola today announced today that she has secured a \$100,000 state grant for the Palmer Youth Center Project to assist with the completion of the Palmer Kiwanis Youth Center, a new two-story facility to be used for increased programming needs in Palmer Township.

"The Palmer Kiwanis Youth Center will be a tremendous asset for the Palmer Township community to meet the need for additional space to provide recreational, educational and cultural programs for those who live and work in Palmer," Boscola stated. "State funding to aid in the replacement of the old one-story fieldhouse into a two-story youth center and community building will play a pivotal role in moving this critical community development project forward."

"The Palmer Youth Center Project is extremely grateful to Senator Boscola for her assistance in obtaining this grant," stated David Colver, President of the Palmer Youth Center Project. "The Palmer Kiwanis Youth Center will offer a positive impact on our youth, seniors and members of the community when completed."

The \$2 million project consists of replacing the one-story Palmer Athletic Fieldhouse, which was built in 1960's with story building, with two story structure exceeding 8600 square feet. The first floor will be used for Palmer Township Athletic Association activities and the second story will include a nearly 3000 square foot community room, a meeting room and kitchen area that can be used by community-based organizations.

The Palmer Youth Center Committee is a collaborative effort with members representing the Palmer Kiwanis, the Palmer Business, Industrial, and Professional Association, the Palmer Township Athletic Association, and the Palmer Township Recreational Board.



Lehigh Valley Zoo Welcomes Code, A Common Eland

Common Eland is a New Species at LV Zoo

By Matt Provence

SCHNECKSVILLE -- Lehigh Valley Zoo is excited to announce the arrival of "Code," a one-year-old Common Eland, from The Wilds in Columbus, Ohio. Common Eland are the second-largest species of antelope after the Giant Eland. Starting Aug. 20, guests will be able to observe Code in the Africa section of the Zoo, directly across from our Masai Giraffe and the Kiannala Feeding Deck.

"Eland is a new species to LV Zoo and we, along with the Lehigh Valley community, are excited to welcome him and to learn more about him and the conservation of his species," said Amanda Shurr, President and CEO.

Code is currently one year old and is still growing. Once he reaches adulthood, he will weigh anywhere from 1,200 to 2,000 pounds -- roughly the same weight as our resident giraffes, Tatu and Joshua. These athletic antelope can jump great heights and have sustained running speeds of 20 mph when escaping predators.

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums' cooperatively managed Species Survival Plan (SSP) is designed "to manage a genetically diverse, demographically varied, and biologically sound population" of certain animals. The SSP pairs members of the same species at accredited zoos based on their genetics. Based on the recommendation of the SSP, LV Zoo expects the arrival of two female Eland later this year and hopes to breed calves in the future.

The Zoo's future plans also include combining the habitats of the Eland and the Scimitar Horned Oryx, another of the Zoo's African hoof stock. These animals live together in the wild, so by combining their habitats, the Zoo will enhance the welfare of each species while also educating guests about natural groupings.

Upon his arrival, Code will be able to access all areas of his exhibit, including his behind-the-scenes space, to ensure he is comfortably welcomed to the Lehigh Valley.

