



## Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

### Pay Now or Pay More Later

I saw a photo last week that someone posted on facebook because they were looking for someone to repair a slate roof. Slate is a very prevalent roofing area here in the slate belt and many of those slate roofs are getting old. They need maintenance and the sooner they are repaired, the better it is for all the wood underneath. In this case it was obvious that the damage went far beyond the slate. The entire corner of the roof was sagging and looked like it was ready to break off and fall. That's not just a slate repair anymore; it's a major rebuild of roof structure. Why would someone wait that long to fix a problem? Every problem that can happen around the house gets worse with time and usually at an exponential rate. Three years ago this roof may just have needed a few slates. Nobody wants to spend money on things like that but it is necessary to protect the value of the biggest investment you will ever make. Even in my own trade I hear excuses for lack of maintenance which don't hold water, no pun intended. You can't be oblivious to an appliance that makes a strange noise or doesn't work properly. You can't be oblivious to water on the floor or on the ceiling. The only thing that ever goes away when you ignore it is a salesman. Finding a contractor for home repairs might take a few phone calls and even after you find one you may have to wait in line until your job can be done but the longer you wait, the more damage is occurring in your home. I see neglected heating and air conditioning systems every week that need a clean bill of health so the home can be sold. I can't ignore all the things the homeowner has been neglecting. These systems usually need some heavy duty maintenance before they can even be certified as operational. I often wonder if the reason people are selling is because they have worn out everything in the place and are moving on to a new place to let fall into ruin. If the next homeowner is a diligent homeowner, they will have a laundry list of repairs to get things working like a Swiss watch again.

Almost every contractor I know will look at a project and give a free proposal for what needs to be done and what the cost would be. Knowledge is power and it will allow you to set a budget and plan for a small repair before it becomes a big one.

**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**

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