



Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

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You Call That Progress

I have been in the heating business for a long time. Even before I ran a business I worked in the trade and have serviced a lot heating equipment that was converted from coal or city steam. For those who don't know what city steam is there used to be buried pipes in some cities that carried steam into the buildings and they could use it to heat with. The steam was a byproduct of a local power plant. Eventually that went by the wayside and customers had to install a steam boiler to generate their own heat. Some were powered by coal and some were powered by oil at the time. Many that started with coal eventually converted those boilers to oil. By today's standards those systems were dirty and inefficient. Over time as they failed, more modern systems were installed and operating efficiencies in the 60% range were elevated to the 75% range. Today with oil, 86% is our goal for combustion and eliminating all of the waste we can from heat lost to the basement and up the chimney makes those systems cost effective. The government can't mandate the replacement of any equipment in residential use but they do set the standards for equipment that can be sold so there is a progression toward higher efficiency. Even customers who don't care about the environment or wasting money on fuel by installing an inefficient unit can't get their hands on a unit with less than about 80% today. That seems like a good way to move toward the future. Sadly, there are still a huge number of wasteful, inefficient systems still in place and it may take another 20 years until they get removed from operation. Many customers switch from oil to natural gas if the infrastructure is in place for them to now connect to a gas line. A high efficiency gas system can have an efficiency of 96% or more which is admirable.

I read an article last week that said California is going to ban natural gas heating and hot water systems by 2035. They want everyone to use electricity for that. The electricity will likely be generated with gas and oil because wind and solar will never be able to sustain the grid. They aren't banning gas to cook with yet but suggesting people not do that either. If California was a tropical island that might not be a horrible plan but just like most ideas that come out of California, it seems half-baked for a state as large as it is with the topography and climate.

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 Announces \$120,000 for Lower Nazareth Township Splash Pad Project

By Senator Boscola's office

EASTON - State Senator Lisa Boscola announced the approval of a \$120,000 state grant for the Lower Nazareth Township's Newburg Park Splash Pad project through the Act 13 Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program.

Lower Nazareth Township Securing needed capital to improve parks and public pools has been important to me because they provide families low-cost activities to enjoy close to home. Splash pads offer an interactive water experience for users of all ages and abilities and the splash pad at Newburg Park will be a tremendous asset for Lower Nazareth Township residents.

"Lower Nazareth Township is deeply grateful to Senator Boscola for securing funding so we can continue to provide quality park improvements for our constituents," said Lori Stauffer, Township Manager of Lower Nazareth Township. "The addition of a splash pad at Newburg Park will be a most welcome amenity and it will be heavily used by the public. Public parks are essential services to our constituents as they serve to promote positive mental and physical well-being. They also promote social and community gathering, which is highly important in having a connected community."

In continuing the development of Newburg Community Park, Lower Nazareth Township will be installing a splash pad area, which will be 71' x 75' with a generous buffer of grass surrounding it along with ADA-compliant paths that are 6 feet in width to enable better access for people of all abilities.



\$100,000 for City of Easton's Vanderveer Project

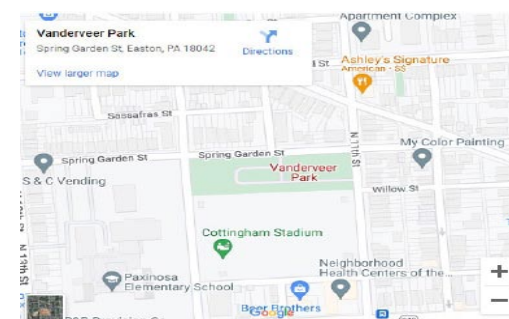
By Senator Boscola's office

EASTON -State Senator Lisa Boscola announced the approval of a \$100,000 state grant for the City of Easton's Vanderveer Park Greenspace project through the Act 13 Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program.

Open space and providing recreational opportunities in urban settings are important in providing an improved quality of life for the residents of Easton. The Vanderveer Park Greenspace project will improve Vanderveer Park and add much needed new greenspace for passive recreation in the City's West Ward.

Vanderveer Project "This is an important green space in our most densely populated neighborhood," state Sal Panto, Mayor of Easton. "It will give the people of the area an opportunity for exercise and fresh air."

The City of Easton has for some time desired to further improve Vanderveer Park and add new greenspace in the City's West Ward. Along with adding greenspace for passive recreation, the project will improve the crosswalk across North 12th Street. These grants were approved today by the state Commonwealth Financing Authority Board in Harrisburg. Funding from the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program uses revenue generated through Act 13 of 2012 that imposes an impact fee on the state's unconventional natural gas wells.



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