



## Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

### SDHV

One of the biggest challenges with installing a heating and air conditioning system in modern homes is the duct system. It has always been difficult to reach a few rooms in the house with a properly sized duct. Almost everyone with a 2 story house and only one heating system has a room or two that just doesn't stay at the same temperature as the rest of the house. Putting ducts in exterior walls is a bad idea and with large rooms it sometimes seems like the only way to accomplish the goal. Architects don't help make it any easier. They design for appearance and leave the rest to the trades. Many builders will now put one system in the basement for the lower level and one in the attic for the second floor. That adds considerably to the overall cost but does help with the comfort. It however puts one system in an unconditioned attic which adds about 30% to the energy required in summer or winter because of the harsh temperatures the ducts are exposed to. Airtight ducts and good duct insulation helps but it is rarely done properly. Once a house is built, there is no way to make improvements or corrections and if a duct system was never installed because hydronic heat was used, it is nearly impossible to have a central system. I did say nearly because there is a system that can be retrofitted and eliminates all of the shortcomings of a system that has to be installed post-construction. It is known as a SDHV for small duct high velocity system. We have installed dozens of them in every kind of home you can imagine. From large historic homes to cape cods and even new construction. I have had one in my own home for more than 20 years and could not imagine anything more comfortable. Recently the manufacturer of this system added a new feature to control the fan and it allows the possibility of zoning the system without any of the usual complications of zoning a duct system. What makes it so different is that the ducts are only 2 inches in diameter and even with the insulation they are only about the size of a pool noodle. The room outlet is small and unobtrusive and much more attractive than the large round or square ones used for a conventional duct system. The cost is slightly higher and a conventional system but the advantages are numerous and the overall efficiency is better than any comparable heat pump on the market today. Google SDHV duct system and see what it's all about.

**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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## Preserving More Farmland

### Preserving Farmland in Northampton County

By Senator Scavello

PEN ARGYL - I'm happy to announce that the Charles J. Hilliard & Alice V. Simmons farm, a 121-acre crop operation, received an investment of \$427,364.65 from the PA Farmland Preservation Program. The Hilliard-Simmons farm is located on Deer Run Rd in Bangor.

We know that once farmland goes out of production, it rarely comes back, which is why farmland preservation is so important. It also an important tool in preserving open space in Northampton County which is highly important.

Pennsylvania leads the nation in the number of farms and acres permanently preserved for agricultural production. The program guarantees a future food supply and contributes to a healthier economy. It also assures a way of life Pennsylvanian's cherish will continue for generations to come. The program is a partnership between all levels of government and non-profit organizations – with a common goal of saving prime farmland and preserving open space.

## Reducing Your Energy Cost & Use

### October is National Energy Awareness Month

By By Senator Scavello

PEN ARGYL - Ways to Reduce Your Energy Usage and Costs. Since October is National Energy Awareness Month, it's the perfect time to become more energy efficient. In addition to the environmental benefits, it will also benefit your wallet.

Click here for ways you can reduce your energy usage and associated costs <https://www.energy.gov/eere/femp/home-energy-checklist>.

Another way to save on energy costs is by switching your electric supplier. In Pennsylvania, you can choose the company that generates your home or business's electricity. This means you can choose a supplier that offers the lowest price or provides a specific service you want, such as renewable energy.

Click here to shop for your electric supplier at PA Power Switch, the official electric shopping website of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission <https://papowerswitch.com/>.