

Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign Kickoff Breakfast

By Majors Gilbert Corps Commanding Officer

EAST STROUDSBURG - NOVEMBER 6, 2019) - While most of us associate the Christmas season with gatherings of family and friends, there are many whose holidays are crushed by the harsh realities of simply making ends meet. This holiday season, The Salvation Army East Stroudsburg Corps will bring hope to hundreds local families who desperately need a helping hand. Gilbert Parkhurst, commanding officer in East Stroudsburg said, "The Salvation Army will provide food, clothing and emergency assistance to people in real need in our community at Christmastime as we've done for over 150 years in America. We need to raise \$150,000 to accomplish this, and will launch our 2019 Campaign with our Red Kettle Kickoff Breakfast on November 6 at 8:00 am at Stroudsmoor Country Inn."

The Kettle Kickoff Breakfast is open to individuals and businesses with a format that creates teams by table whereby attendees make donations into their Kettle with the table with the largest donation receiving the Red Kettle Award. The team with the highest giving for the event gets the award and keeps it to display in their business or organization. Tickets are \$22 each and tables for the one-hour event are \$176 for eight which includes an all you can eat buffet breakfast, music, a brief program and the opportunity to give back to the community while launching the 2019 Red Kettle Campaign.

Parkhurst continues, "Through our Red Kettle Christmas Campaign, The Salvation Army's bell ringers generate a large percentage of the community-wide support needed for our feeding and sheltering programs. We introduced the Red Kettle Kickoff Breakfast to help us with the loss of locations where we can place Kettles. While our monies have declined for a variety of reasons including the closing of traditional bricks and mortar stores due to the impact of online shopping, our requests for assistance continue to be on the rise."

The majority of the Salvation Army's local programs such as food baskets, hot meals, nights of shelter, rental, utility and heating fuel assistance, Christmas toys for children, nursing home visitation, and disaster service response, rely directly on community support and giving. Parkhurst said, "We are more determined than ever to help our neighbors bridge the gap between their resources and the cost of acquiring basic human needs. For that, we are asking friends and neighbors for help in the form of cash donations to the Kettle campaign. They can do so by attending an event, putting money in our Kettles or donate online at our website."

He concludes, "Your donations stay in Monroe County to directly help those less fortunate in our community with food, toys for their children and shelter. As our list of families in need during the holiday season continues to grow exponentially, so does our need for the community to open their hearts and wallets to giving." For information about the Salvation Army's programs, to request a Kettle to be placed at your business, reserve a table for the Red Kettle Breakfast or to volunteer to be a ringer, please call Major Gilbert Parkhurst at (570) 421-3050.

There's No Need To Rake Up All The Leaves In Your Yard

By DCNR

Slate Belt - Leaving some on the ground is not only good for wildlife, but your yard and garden as well. Check out these fall yard conservation tips:

Leave the leaves -- leaves provide food, shelter, and nesting materials to a variety of wildlife and insects, such as moth and butterfly pupae

Build a brush shelter -- branches, sticks, and leaves can be used to make brush piles that shelter native wildlife

Leave the seeds -- plants and grasses should be left standing over winter (seed-bearing perennials such as purple coneflower, Joe Pye weed, and sunflower provide food for songbirds)

Avoid chemical fertilizers -- grass clippings and mulched leaf litter can provide plant nutrition; chemical fertilizers can reduce beneficial insects

New Law Will Require Use of E-Verify System

By Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR - A new state law will require employers in the construction industry to use the federal E-Verify system to ensure their employees are authorized to work in the United States.

The law is aimed at going after dishonest employers whose unfair business practices hurt workers by driving down wages, create an unlevel playing field for other employers and deprive government of revenue that could be used to fund programs like unemployment compensation.

Under the law, failure to use E-Verify when hiring new employees will result in action against a company's licenses required to do business (i.e. corporate charters, as well as any other business license). The law is modeled after Arizona's statute, which has been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

It will take effect in one year.

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Remember: You are only going to pay one more bid than someone else was willing to pay.



Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

It's That Time of Year

I had a lengthy conversation last week with a homeowner who has had a recurring problem with condensation in his attic and mold in his bathroom. He has talked to several contractors about what they would do to remediate it and has several proposals to consider. They range from more insulation to roofing work to special paint and it is likely that none of them would completely solve the problem. Luckily this person didn't just take the first suggestion and sign on the dotted line because the first idea was the worst. In order to permanently solve any problem, the cause must be fully understood. With condensation, the first thing to understand is that it IS condensation and not leakage and that it comes from the inside. Roofing contractors are helpless to solve it. Since the problem doesn't exist in every house the unique conditions causing it must be pinpointed. First where is the excess moisture coming from and secondly how is it meeting with a temperature low enough to reach the dewpoint? When those 2 questions are answered the solution is obvious. It was harder for me to get the job because the homeowner had already heard 3 other ideas and what would make mine any more valid than them? How about a money back guarantee if the problem shows up within the next 12 months? That usually does the trick because I know from experience and building science that once I make the repairs, the problem is solved. Most times it is a combination of problems that require a thorough understanding of ventilation and air movement to solve. This particular case had several people living in the home and a bath fan vented into the attic to start with. Some fan members preferred to use the fan and some did not. That made it look like there were really 2 problems. The solution was to install a good bath fan with adequate airflow for the size of the bathroom, vent it to the outside properly and operate it with a switch that also controlled the light. It is now not optional to use the fan and when the switch is turned off, the fan will run for another 30 minutes. This repair was much less expensive than a new roof and repainting the bathroom or even installing an attic ventilator that senses humidity.

Keep an open mind when you have odd problems with your home because the source can often be traced to an area you aren't even thinking about.

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

AARP® FRAUD WATCH NETWORK

Work from Home Scams



Today's work world is vastly different than when Labor Day was first celebrated more than 130 years ago. Today, more and more people are working from home for companies halfway around the country or even the globe. But with this new flexibility comes a new risk of falling victim to scammers looking to take advantage of people wanting to work from home.

The scams can promise work on medical billing, data entry or starting an online business, but they all require paying something up front. Once you start paying, the requests for more money for training never stop and in return you get a lot of useless information or requests to recruit more people into the scheme.

There are genuine work-from-home jobs out there. The trick is knowing how to spot the real opportunities in a sea of empty — and costly — promises. Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

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Visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline at 1-877-908-3360 to report a scam or get help if you've fallen victim.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP Northampton County, PA

BIDS WANTED

Washington Township is accepting bids for a 2006 Chevrolet Equinox LT, 4 DR SUV, V6 3.4 Liter, 5 Speed Automatic, AWD, AC, 129,500 miles, sold "AS IS". The vehicle can be seen by appointment 610-588-1524.

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Washington Township Board of Supervisors, until November 11, 2019 at 2:00 pm, publicly opened and read at 2:00 pm that day, with action to be taken by the Board at their monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at approximately 7:00 pm in the Municipal Meeting Room, 1021 Washington Blvd., Bangor, PA. Each bid must be accompanied by a check made payable to "Washington Township" in the amount of 10% of the total bid.

The Board of Supervisors reserves the right to waive any informality in the bid, to reject any or all bids, and to accept any bid which is deemed most favorable to the Township at the time and under the circumstances stipulated. Bids must be sealed and marked with the identity of the bidder and state "2006 Equinox". All bids should be mailed or hand delivered to 1021 Washington Blvd., Bangor, PA 18013.

Gail Putvinski, Secretary/Treasurer

Senator for a Day Event Held at NCC Monroe Campus

By Senator Scavello

BETHLEHEM - This past Friday I welcomed over 130 students from seven school districts for my annual "Senator for a Day" (SFAD) event at Northampton Community College's Monroe Campus. Without fail, the students who attend and participate in the event continue to impress me year after year with their knowledge, engagement and attentiveness.

The "Senators" were assigned to five different committees to discuss, debate, amend, pass and, in some cases, kill legislation. Students studied and researched bills in their home classrooms for a month in advance of SFAD and came prepared to discuss the merits of their legislation.

The elected Chairs and spokespeople of each committee then brought amended bills up for a vote in General Session for all the students to weigh in on their passage (or lack of passage).

I want to specifically thank the government affairs professionals from the PA Senate and from around the state who came to help facilitate the committee work, helping the students think critically about the various topics.

Also, a special thank you to the committed teachers and support staff from Pleasant Valley School District, Pocono Mountain School District, East Stroudsburg Area School District, Stroudsburg Area School District, Nazareth Area School District and Faith Christian School, Roseto, PA who give the students this opportunity.

Wolf Administration Hosts Roundtable Discussion with Teens on Safe Driving

By Sean Brown

Harrisburg, PA – Representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), Pennsylvania State Police, Pennsylvania Department of Education and local safety advocates held a face-to-face forum at Northeastern High School in Manchester today, sharing their collective knowledge with students to kick off Teen Driver Safety Week in Pennsylvania.

PennDOT held the forum to call attention to teen driver safety and share important safety information directly with teen drivers during the nationwide observance October 20-26. The question and answer format of the forum gave these teens a chance to glean valuable information from knowledgeable sources they may otherwise never get to speak with. Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death among teens.

"We must remember that we all have a part in making highways safer, and we all need to work together to help new drivers gain valuable experience and knowledge," said PennDOT Secretary Leslie S. Richards. "Parents and teachers are an integral part of establishing a mentality of safety behind the wheel among teen drivers."

From 2014 to 2018, there were 85,736 crashes involving at least one 16- to 19-year old driver in Pennsylvania, resulting in 530 fatalities. Nearly 69 percent of those crashes involved the teen driver driving too fast for conditions (30,010 crashes), driver inexperience (9,242), driver distraction (14,391) or improper/careless turning (13,314). There was a total of 58,789 crashes involving one or more of these factors.

The risk of a crash involving any of these factors can be reduced through practice, limiting the number of passengers riding with a teen driver, obeying all rules of the road, and using common sense.

"Parents can encourage safe driving behavior by consistently modeling good habits behind the wheel, starting long before their teen gets a learner's permit," said Colonel Robert Evanchick, commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police.