



## Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

### Pumping Heat

A heat pump removes air from the outside of the house and transfers it to the inside through a compression cycle using a refrigerant that boils at -40°F. The heat cycle is the same as the air conditioning cycle but it is reversed depending on whether the heat needs to be moved from the inside of the house or the outside. A heat pump is most efficient down to 47°F then it begins to lose capacity as the outdoor temperature drops. That means the capacity is least when you need it most. I'm not sure who decided that these devices were appropriate for the climate of PA but it's too late to debate that now. When the unit is working properly the discharge air inside the house will be about 20°F warmer than the air entering it. So if the setpoint in the house is 70°F the thermostat will turn on around 69° and the air temperature leaving the unit will be 89°. The temperature of human skin is approximately 91° so this air will feel cool because it is cooler than skin and the moving air will also cause an evaporative cooling effect. The air is warm enough to raise the room temperature to 70° because it is nearly 20° warmer than the room.

The colder it gets outside, the lower the discharge temperature will be. The system will run almost constantly to heat the space. When the room temperature drops 2° below the setpoint on the thermostat, there is an electric heater inside the fan unit that will turn on to catch up. It is called backup or auxiliary heat. It costs more to run this heater than the heat pump. To further complicate matters, because the outdoor unit is taking heat from air that is below freezing, a coating of frost will build up on the outdoor coils during operation when there is moisture in the air. If it builds up enough, the unit must go into defrost mode to thaw the frost. During defrost mode, the unit turns on the air conditioning and takes heat from the house and sends it through the outdoor coils to melt the buildup. During the defrost cycle, the backup heat will be turned on to prevent cold air from blowing through the vents. When that cycle is completed, the heat pump returns to normal operation. These cycles will go on all winter. It is not the most comfortable form of heat but it does work provided that air filter is changed at the proper interval.

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

## FLX Solutions Wins Ben Franklin Venture Idol

By Dannah Hartman

LEHIGH VALLEY - FLX Solutions won the 19th annual Ben Franklin Venture Idol, held at Ben Franklin TechVentures on November 15, 2022. FLX Solutions, a Bethlehem-based startup, created the FLX Bot, a modular, snake-like robotic arm that can be used for visual inspection and 3D mapping in spaces that are inaccessible or difficult to access. The event brought together 200 business leaders, entrepreneurs, students, and investors from Northeastern PA for the first time in person since 2019, after two years of virtual events due to the pandemic.

Angelo Valletta, President and CEO of Ben Franklin Northeast, welcomed everyone to TechVentures and noted that this year's prize money increased from \$15,000 to \$20,000 thanks to Presenting Sponsors Service Electric and PenTeleData.

"Supporting early-stage technology firms is a key component of our mission. In addition to providing seed capital to tech startups, Ben Franklin investments are a significant endorsement to help them attract additional funding. We also share in-house expertise, provide business and technical support, and bring in a network of experts, many of whom are here with us tonight, to advise our clients. Our Venture Idol event is one of the many ways that we help prepare and introduce our clients to follow-on funding opportunities," said Valletta.

The event started with a keynote panel discussion, "Anatomy of the Perfect Deal," moderated by Mark Mitchell of Delaware Crossing Investor Group and featuring Karen LaRochelle of Advent Life Sciences, Sylvester Mobley of Osage Venture Partners, and Sue Yee of Broad Street Angels.

After the keynote panel, three entrepreneurs - Amit Parmer of Cliquify; Matt Bilsky, PhD, of FLX Solutions; and Greg Martz of VZRscada - pitched to attendees and investor panelists including Jeffrey Davison with Activate Venture Partners; Tiara Durham with Founders First Capital Partners; Veronica Fey with Soundboard Venture Fund; and Brett Topche with Red & Blue Ventures.

The final three were selected from a total of seven Ben Franklin portfolio companies that pitched to investors earlier in the afternoon. Other companies included BettorFantasy, GUIDE, Heudia Health, and Unison Workforce. The group of 25+ investors voted to select the three finalists.

After the pitches, audience members invested "Ben Bucks" among the finalists and waited for results during a dessert reception. Michael Starner of Service Electric congratulated Matthew Bilsky, PhD, of FLX Solutions on his win and noted that the \$20,000 is awarded among all three companies, prorated based on the crowd-funded audience vote.



## Desaki Restaurant & The Salvation Army Hosts Red Kettle Gala Fundraiser

By William Booth

(EAST STROUDSBURG, PA - DECEMBER 2, 2022) - The Christmas season is a time for sharing with family and friends but for many, the realities of life under the shadow of inflation continues to make it difficult to make ends meet. The Salvation Army East Stroudsburg Corps, serving Monroe County PA and the Poconos, brings hope to hundreds of local families who desperately need a helping hand. Major John Wheeler, Commanding Officer of the East Stroudsburg Corps said, "As we have done for over 150 years in the United States,

The Salvation Army will continue to provide food, shelter and emergency assistance at Christmastime to people experiencing desperate times in our community. The substantial fiscal burden of so many families asking for our help has tasked us with raising thousands to cover our shortfalls."

Knowing the never-ending demand for help from The Salvation Army East Stroudsburg Corps, nine years ago local business owners Vincent and Charlie Lynn Trapasso offered to donate their Desaki Restaurant for the Red Kettle Gala. This year's event is being held on Friday, December 2, 2022. Wheeler continues,

"We keep our doors open to so many in crisis in our community. The generosity of the Trapassos gives us the chance to gather together to raise much needed funds. Their all-expense event donation allows us to put all monies raised towards achieving our Christmas campaign goals." The evening will include a social hour, hors d'oeuvres, beef filet and lobster tail dinner for \$175 per person.

The Salvation Army's local programs such as food baskets, hot meals, nights of shelter, rental assistance, clothing, Christmas toys for children, nursing home visitation, and disaster service response rely directly on community support and giving. Wheeler concludes,

"We are more determined than ever to help our neighbors bridge the gap between their resources and the cost of acquiring basic human needs. We continue to ask friends and neighbors for help in the form of cash contributions, donations of time to ringing bells, and to join us at the Red Kettle Gala."

For information about the The Salvation Army's programs in our area, to request a Kettle to be placed at your business, reserve a table, make a donation, place an ad for the program for the Red Kettle Gala or to volunteer to be a ringer, please call Rose or Jason at The Salvation Army at (570) 421-3050 or visit SAESRKGALA22.GiveSmart.com Desaki is located on Route 611 in Swiftwater, PA.