

Mission Of Love Food Bank Receives \$10,500 in Donations



Merchants Bank gave Pastor Frank Pons a \$500 donation



Pastor Frank Pons shows his newly paved lot donated by Hallett Contractors Paving

By Michael Ortoski

BANGOR - Pastor Frank Pons prayers were answered this week by two local business' just in time for the holidays.

Merchants Bank gave Pons a \$500 donation "this money will help the food bank serve over 150 citizens in our community we serve every week" said Pons.

Over the last two months Hallett Contractors Paving of Bangor has been paving the Food Banks huge driveway and parking lot which was in desperate need of work.

Hallett did the work at a great discount and on a pay as you go for Pons. "We started a fundraising campaign to raise the \$10,000 and a promise to pay Hallett for the work he did all up front."

All that changed last Sunday when Pons got a call while preaching at his church in Pen Argyl.

He excused himself and took the call in private. When he returned to the pulpit with excitement and joy told the congregation he just received a miracle.

The phone call was from Hallett who informed Pons he was donating the entire job!

"God works miracles, you just have to trust him and keep the faith" said Pons.

Passage of the Northampton County 2020 Budget

By Becky Bartlet

EASTON - For the second consecutive year Northampton County Council has passed a budget with no tax increase.

County Executive Lamont McClure congratulates County Council on a job well done saying, "A no tax increase budget for a second year in a row is an accomplishment Council can be proud of. We've cut the budget nearly 6% without reducing vital services. We are investing \$3 million to preserve farmland, environmentally sensitive land and investing in parks.

In our fight against warehouse proliferation our administration has already invested \$6 million. Finally, we are keeping our commitment to maintain Gracedale as a County-owned-and-operated facility and, once again, Gracedale will not require any money from the County's general fund to operate."



Lamont McClure

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Demand Perfection

Low price is the driver for low quality. You get what you pay for and sometimes even less if you don't know how to identify substandard work. Code inspectors are only looking for a few things with respect to framing, electrical, insulation and drywall but there are many more things that can make or break a construction job. Tyvek is a vapor retarder and a pretty good air barrier. It can stop drafts from getting inside the building if it is installed properly. The problem is that it is rarely installed properly. It is not supposed to be stapled on, it is supposed to be nailed on with nails that have plastic caps on them to seal the hole and stop ripping if it gets windy. It is also supposed to be wrapped and taped at the bottom of the house. I've only ever seen that in magazines. When a product is not applied according to the manufacturers' instructions, it will not function as intended.

It is not uncommon for a furnace to be installed in such a way that the air filter is difficult to replace or that access for proper cleaning requires a contortionist. I saw a brand new boiler installation this week where the door on the boiler that needs to open for cleaning was blocked by the piping the installer used. On the same job there was very difficult access to the top of the boiler which also needs to be removed annually for service. The life of this system will definitely be shortened by the difficulty of accessing it properly. I doubt it was not done intentionally but obviously the installer did not read the instructions. It is the customer's job to qualify the installer but no one should not be the victim of an improperly installed system. It is extremely difficult for homeowners who rarely even know the difference between a furnace and a boiler to interview the person who will be installing one for them.

There are many expert contractors in the slate belt. The difference between the cheapest job and the best may not be as much as you think and the middle of the road is a big area. You may not need to get 6 prices for the work you want done but you should definitely keep interviewing installers until you find one you have confidence in and who will be there after the sale even if installation flaws show up. It's OK to be blunt and ask hard questions to the prospective contractors. We can take it.

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

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Roseto Breakfast With Santa

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Go to www.bluevalleytimes.com to see all the photos of this events



Elves from Columbia Fire Co. dished out lots of great food for Santa, Mrs. Clause and all the residents from Roseto who showed up for the Christmas event