



**Ken
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Complaining Does Not Save Energy

I hear people complain constantly lately about the cost to heat their home. That's not really anything new because that's the business I'm in but complaining doesn't fix anything. Many homeowners focus on things that aren't really productive while looking right past opportunities that could actually help their situation. I think people who drive cars understand how to save gas and many of the same thoughts can be transferred to home heating. Driving 50 miles to a gas station to save a few cents a gallon equates to ordering a small amount of oil and paying a premium price for it. Idling your car for an hour equates to having an inefficient boiler make hot water for the faucets. Driving 80 miles an hour equates to setting your thermostat at 74°. Driving an old gas hog equates to having a dinosaur in the basement. You probably don't do any of the gas wasting things and you spend less time in your car than you do in your home. It doesn't have to be that way and playing the victim will never allow you to see any improvement. Those of us in the energy business who know how and where to make improvements can have a huge impact on the cost to heat any home. This isn't meant to sound like tough love but the ball is in your court. No matter what your heat source is, you need to minimize the waste.

There are very efficient oil systems on the market and although there was a price spike early this winter, oil has been priced much lower than we predicted in the fall. And don't look now but winter is already scheduled for December 2023. You can be surprised by it or you can start thinking about it now. But don't overlook the fact that oil systems that make hot water for the faucets will waste about 150 gallons of oil in the summer. That's \$600 down the drain. The best time to replace an outdated and inefficient oil system is in the spring because you get to save that money right away and then use less oil all winter long.

Gas is never going back to \$2.00/gallon and oil isn't either so plan your life accordingly. Take the reins and talk to someone who has practical solutions for improvement of the whole picture. Or get an Amish Fireplace and sit next to it and complain on facebook about the cost of energy. 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

A New Shop In Monroe County That Supports Local Artisans Opened Inside The Stroud Mall

By Amanda Eustice (WNEP)

STROUDSBURG - When people think of malls, they usually think of big-box stores, but a new mom-and-pop shop all about supporting local artists and their creations opened in the Stroud Mall.

Crafting Creations sells handmade gifts and personalized items from artists and crafters in the area.

"It's all local. It's not mass-produced. It's handmade and



co-owner Mary Scrivani

thought out, so you're not only supporting a local store, you're supporting many local people by coming out," said co-owner Mary Scrivani.

Scrivani says they previously had a smaller shop in the Lehigh Valley but wanted to move closer to home. That's when they found the spot at the Stroud Mall but quickly realized it was too big to fill up on their own.

So, they opened up the space to other crafters, like Carlos Santiago from Lansford.

"We do a lot of custom woodwork. It's all about the home. If you see something you like and you know it's out of your range per se out there, you come to me, and I give you a fairly competitive price for it. It's more mom-and-pop than retail," Santiago said.

From customizable mugs to personalized signs, the owners say the shop offers artists a place to feature their work all year long.

"In the spring and summer, we'd have our craft fairs, and then you're lugging your product there, and then you have to display it, and then you have to take it all down and find a place to store it. So, this way, they can have their work, and you can see it's beautiful, displayed year-round, and they don't have to be here, so we take care of that all for them," Scrivani said.

Crafters say there is something for everyone.

"There's a nice variety. It's like a one-stop shop. You can get everything from your woodwork, your little baby clothes, some sublimation done," Santiago said. "It's a little bit of everything."

The shop features custom creations from a dozen local crafters and artists.

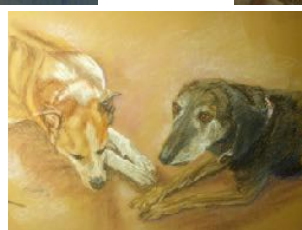


James Gloria Fine Arts Studio

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