



**Ken Field**

**Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services**

*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

## Pride is Dead

Building codes have existed for hundreds of years. Their purpose is to protect health and safety. The early codes applied mostly to public buildings and were used by architects, engineers and designers. Today the building codes apply to almost everything. There are energy codes now too. Both set the minimum standard for construction of residential and commercial structures. As with all governmental regulations, they add cost to a project and slow things down but without them, we would be in trouble today. I don't believe there were nearly as many contractors 100 years ago who would try to scam someone by building a substandard home. Having pride in one's trade was still cool back then and builders routinely showcased their talents with decorative extras and attempts at perfection with no other incentive than to impress customers. When I am in the attics of older homes I see construction quality that far exceeds anything today. Compound joints in roof framing that you couldn't slip a piece of paper into. Lumber was of far better quality then but technology was not and they still did a better job. I don't know if the owners having the homes built were savvy in the trades but I assume many were not. That didn't cause the builders to attempt to scam them like they do today. Code officials deal with the contractors today and a prospective homeowner only talks to the salesperson representing the builder. So anything the builder can get past the inspector is now the property of the homeowner. And what I've seen tells me it is like a contest for last place. A conscious effort to exceed the bare minimum would be nice to see for a change but I don't believe that is ever coming back. A custom home is the only thing I will even consider getting involved with today. If a homeowner wants a tight structure with good insulation and/or an efficient and comfortable heating and air conditioning system, I'm all in, but that equates to a grade of B+ and not the D- that just meeting the building code would get you. There will be more cost associated with things they can't show off to their friends but there will also be long term comfort and energy savings that they can enjoy forever.

I'm not a fan of the direction the residential construction industry is going but I certainly can't do much to change it. The best thing I can think of would be for a homeowner to have a well-trained representative frequent the job site and document defects and call them out to code officials and the owner. Eventually this could lead to a better finished product.

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](mailto:Ken@FieldsService.com)

# Bringing A Tech Hub To The Greater Lehigh Valley



## Rep. Susan Wild pushes for Lehigh Valley to cash in on \$500 million tech hub opportunity

*"I think there's nowhere better for a tech hub to be located than in Pennsylvania's 7th Congressional District," Wild said in a conference call with reporters Friday.*

CONGRESSWOMAN  
**SUSAN WILD**

nical schools and community colleges, our workforce development programs, our non-profit AND business community, and of course our geographic proximity to major metropolitan areas and ability to drive goods to most of the Eastern seaboard in a single day. In fact, I believe we can reach two thirds of the United States consumer population in one day from the Lehigh Valley.

I am so grateful to share this opportunity and will continue pushing to bring a Tech Hub to Pennsylvania's Seventh, where it will create good jobs, bolster our supply chains, and have an economic impact for generations of Pennsylvanians to come.

By Susan Wild

LEHIGH VALLEY - I am ecstatic to share that we are one step closer to bringing a Tech Hub to the Greater Lehigh Valley. Here in Pennsylvania's Seventh Congressional District, we have a proud manufacturing and innovation legacy. That's why, in 2021, I introduced the Regional Innovation Act to promote and support American technological research and innovation in places like the Greater Lehigh Valley, by incentivizing collaborative partnerships between local governments, colleges and universities, private industry, non-profits, and community organizations. My bill was passed last summer as a part of the CHIPS and Science Act, and is now being implemented!

Last week, the Department of Commerce announced Phase One of implementation of the Regional Tech Hubs program. Through the process, the Economic Development Agency expects to designate at least 20 Tech Hubs across the country to strengthen U.S. economic and national security.

I've held roundtables, met with chip manufacturers, visited local businesses and spoke with workers at every level of the supply chain to gather feedback. I made a case to the President for our district to be the site of the next Tech Hub. Our district is uniquely situated to be designated as such a Tech Hub thanks to the integration and collaboration already present between our academic sector, our many colleges and universities and tech-

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## Betty Josephson is presenting basket to Lisa Thomas of Slate Belt Nursing Home

by Marilyn Mehas

BANGOR - Bangor Womens Club GFWC members Bonnie Due, Heidi Bates, Betty Josephson, Clare Osmun, Barbara LaBar, Carolyn Smith, and Yvonne Humphreys made 70 Tussie-Mussies for Mothers Day for the ladies residing at the Slate Belt Nursing Home. A Tussie-Mussie is a Victorian Term for a small, round bouquet of herbs and flowers.