



**Ken Field**

Owner of Slate  
Belt Energy  
Services

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## Loopholes and Gaps in Codes

I am amazed at some of the things I see in the field. There are numerous building codes that are enforced by officials who are trained to know the intricacies of construction and insure that everything meets those codes. But it is allowable to install a furnace that is 300% too large for the home and then use duct sizes that are too small for even the actual load of the home. We recently completely removed a furnace and all ducts from a 3 year old home because comfort was nearly impossible with the original system. All air ducts should be sized by the amount of air that needs to flow through them. Just like water pipes, there is a requirement at the end of the pipe or duct for a certain amount of air or water. If you opened your faucet and got a steady trickle of water, would you be able to get a shower? You could just stand there under the trickle and eventually get clean but you would be very frustrated if the plumbing was new and this was just how it was going to be forever. Air is no different and 5 or more degree differences between rooms is unacceptable while the furnace is spinning wildly in the basement trying to help. An example would be for you to try to breathe through a straw. I'm not sure that could be done at all. You may die trying. The furnace certainly did. There are design criteria for furnaces and air conditioners because they want heat or cooling moved away from them as fast as it is made. New furnaces have safety controls built in to prevent them from getting too hot. When the air is moving slowly, they reach that temperature and the burners shut down. That is called cycling on high limit. The control is not meant for daily use. It is just for safety. Many of the oversized systems we see cycle on high limit daily. Those controls fail often due to overuse. That is the proof of undersized ducts or an oversized furnace. I do a load calculation when I design a system and use the appropriately sized equipment and ducts. It guarantees comfort and minimum fuel usage in addition to extended system life. I can't for the life of me understand why that is not a requirement of the building code. But it is not. Double oversize is the norm and triple is far too common today for furnaces. In a world where responsible energy use is talked about constantly, it is not followed in residential construction. We could use some sensible codes soon.

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)

## Graduation Celebrations Return to the Allentown Rescue Mission

By Stephnie Appel

(ALLENTEW, PA) – The Allentown Rescue Mission is excited to announce the return of its graduation celebrations for clients in the Transformation Program after a long hiatus due to the pandemic.

Homeless men who complete the eight-week program to change the trajectory of their lives are being honored with a ceremony and reception for their friends and family. The graduation is a significant step in the men's lives. During the eight weeks, guests evaluate their lives through self-reflection to determine changes they need to make to end their homelessness.

The participants attend three classes per day consisting of life skills and Bible classes and perform light chores around the Mission. They also develop a plan for their future with the guidance of Mission staff during this time.

The day after the men graduate, they are eligible to work on the Allentown Rescue Mission's Clean Team Workforce. The workforce development program allows the men to gain work experience and save money to secure an apartment and end the cycle of homelessness. The monthly ceremonies acknowledge the clients' journeys and invite them to give their testimonies. Former graduates of the program return as guest speakers to encourage and inspire the new graduates as they prepare for the next chapter of their lives.



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## Northampton County Ballot-On-Demand Deadline

By Brittney Waylen

EASTON - The deadline for voting by Ballot-on-Demand for the November 7th Municipal Election is Tuesday, October 31, 2023, at 5:00 pm.

Ballot-on-Demand voting is available at the Northampton County Elections Office, located on the Lower Level of the Courthouse at 669 Washington Street, Easton, PA 18042, on the below dates:

Monday, October 23 - Monday, October 30 (8:30 am - 6:00 pm)

Saturday, October 21 & Saturday, October 28 (from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm)

The LAST day will be Tuesday, October 31 (8:30 am - 5:00 pm)

Residents of Northampton County who are eligible to vote can come to the Elections Office, vote on a paper ballot and turn it in all in the same visit. Eligible voters can also take the ballot home with them to mail/place in a drop box later. All ballots must be returned to the Election's Office NO LATER THAN 8:00 pm on Tuesday, November 7th. USPS postmarks will NOT count if received after this deadline. Showing ID is required before you can receive your ballot. Registered voters who have already applied for a mail-in ballot are not eligible for Ballot-on-Demand and must wait to receive their ballot in the mail.

Applications can be filed at the Elections Office or online at <https://www.vote.pa.gov>.