

# Voices

of Central Pennsylvania

No easy solution to state's transportation funding woes

Bike planning gets mixed support from local officials

Trains poised for comeback

No shortcuts on road to walkable communities

Accessibility still an issue in State College Borough

Carpools make economic, environmental sense

PSU, CATA push boundaries of hydrogen technology

Bike-in film series coming soon to a park near you

Plus:

Expanded CATA service  
Food that travels well  
New PSU bicycle plan

Blog about bikes, buses and more at [www.voicesweb.org](http://www.voicesweb.org)



## Beyond Four Wheels

A guide to transportation alternatives

# Voices

The Centre Region's Independent  
Community Newspaper

© 2007 Voices of Central Pennsylvania, Inc.

March 2008

## BOARD OF EDITORS

general manager  
Suzan Erem  
suzan@lastdraft.com

managing editor  
Ben Brewer  
voices@voicesweb.org

Politics and Economics  
Aaron Troisi  
politics@voicesweb.org

Community and Lifestyles  
Peter Buckland  
community@voicesweb.org

University  
vacant  
university@voicesweb.com

Environment  
Jenn Kight  
environment@voicesweb.org

Arts and Entertainment  
vacant  
arts@voicesweb.org

Opinion  
Paul Durrenberger  
oped@voicesweb.org

webmaster  
Bill Eichman  
4bille@windstream.net

## ART and DESIGN STAFF

Mali Campbell, Jack Roberts, Michelle Rusc

## PHOTOGRAPHERS

Doug Bauman, Melanie Caban, Andy Mazur,  
Brittany Reutzel

## CIRCULATION

Suzanne Weinstein, Roxanne Toto  
circulation@voicesweb.org

## ADVERTISING INQUIRIES

advertising@voicesweb.org

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

president  
Arthur Goldschmidt Jr.  
axg2@psu.edu

vice president  
Andrew Jackson Sr.  
axj119@psu.edu

secretary  
Mary Watson  
mdwatson@aol.com

treasurer  
Paul Durrenberger  
pauldurren@verizon.net

members-at-large  
Michael Casper, David Peery

# Voices depends on community support

*Voices* is not independent.

Yes, I know what the cover says, but it's not entirely true.

The astute reader will rightly point out that *Voices* isn't owned by some massive media conglomerate that squeezes every last drop of advertising revenue out of overworked and understaffed subsidiary papers often forced to toe the corporate line.

We may be overworked and understaffed, but we derive far too much pleasure from agitating moneyed interests to ever be beholden to the likes of McClatchy or News Corp. But you knew that.

The closest *Voices* gets to dependence on corporate entities is in its relationships with advertisers. And the only real way out of that dilemma is to shift to subscriber-based financial support, something we're in the process of doing. So if you'd like to see *Voices* in your mailbox, drop us a line.

That said, longtime readers know that *Voices* doesn't shy away from material like-

*from the desk of the managing editor*  
**Ben Brewer**

ly to upset advertisers.

So if we're independent from big business and local advertisers, what about government? Even the casual reader would know that we make it our business to hold government accountable, and that folks from both sides of the aisle have gotten less than favorable play in these pages.

But if you were at last year's Fun! Raiser, you probably remember seeing a few progressive local officials in attendance. And truth be told, we are dependent on those folks—not because they hold positions in government, but because they hold positions in the community.

*Voices* is not independent from the community. In fact, our success is tied to community participation and support.

This transportation issue is proof. For our all-volunteer staff, putting together a 36-

page paper is almost inconceivable. But thanks to the knowledge and hard work of people like Paul and Jude Simpson and Jamie Barber, who helped coordinate the issue, we managed to pull it off.

Thanks is also due to the bike and bus advocates who contributed to the Opinion section, where CATA general manager Hugh Mose writes on public transportation in the Centre Region, and Mt. Nittany Wheelworks co-owner and Centre Region Bike Coalition member Frank McGuire talks about bikes as more than toys.

We want *Voices* to be their paper—and your paper. So write an opinion piece on a local issue that has you fired up. Or e-mail us with ideas for stories that you think deserve attention. Better yet, become a section editor and see those ideas to fruition.

You can also support *Voices* by attending the fourth annual Fun! Raiser at India Pavilion. Come enjoy good food and good music—all for great, independent media.

## Top Stories in This Issue

### POLITICS and ECONOMICS

No easy solution to state transportation woes <i>by Suzan Erem</i> .....	3
Bike planning gets mixed support from local officials <i>by Paul Simpson</i> .....	3
Trains poised for comeback in Central Pa. <i>by Daniel O'Brien</i> .....	4
Voices in Labor: Keep labor in mind this primary season <i>by Jeremy Smith</i> .....	5
Skateboarders left out of transportation equation <i>by Lindsey Fullmer</i> .....	6

### COMMUNITY and LIFESTYLES

No shortcuts on road to walkable communities <i>by Katie Jacobs</i> .....	11
Accessibility still an issue in State College Borough <i>by Tamara Conrad</i> .....	11
Carpool program cuts cost of commuting <i>by Anthony Spaulding</i> .....	12
Local Tidbits: Fresh, local food better for you and environment <i>by Kimberly Wong</i> .....	13
Mechanics keep wheels well-greased.....	14

### ENVIRONMENT

Rebersburg farmer puts a face on agriculture <i>by Peter Buckland</i> .....	19
---	----

### UNIVERSITY

Central Pa. leads way in hydrogen technology <i>by Michael Casper</i> .....	22
Penn State considers new bike and pedestrian plan <i>by Jude Simpson</i> .....	22
Nothing stops Penn State student and Iraq war vet <i>by Urja Dave</i> .....	23
China-Taiwan political tensions persist at Penn State <i>by Riccardo M. Ghia</i> .....	24

### ARTS and ENTERTAINMENT

Bike-in film series coming to a park near you <i>by Kevin Gombotz</i> .....	26
'Food for Thought' exhibit offers taste of local art scene <i>by Veronica Winters</i> .....	26

### OPINION

Local group helps bike co-op in Tanzania <i>by Nelsa Avallon and Autumn Evans</i> .....	30
CATA provides excellent service for Centre Region <i>by Hugh Mose</i> .....	30
Bikes more than means of transportation <i>by Frank McGuire</i> .....	31
High-priority road projects being postponed further <i>by Dan Klees</i> .....	31
Letters to the editor.....	32

### LETTERS POLICY

*Voices* encourages letters commenting on our news coverage and editorial policy. Letters should be typewritten, double-spaced and a maximum of 250 words. Include address and phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and to reject those deemed beyond the limits of good taste. Due to space limitations, we cannot guarantee publication of all letters. Letters become the property of *Voices of Central Pennsylvania*. E-mail to oped@voicesweb.org.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

Contact *Voices* for ad rate information at advertising@voicesweb.org. *Voices* reserves the right to refuse any advertising deemed incompatible with our purpose and philosophy as a socially responsible publication. Only publication signifies acceptance of an ad by *Voices of Central Pennsylvania*. Publication of an ad does not imply endorsement or recommendation by *Voices* of any product or service. Cancellation of an ad by the customer after closing date incurs full charge. Direct advertising inquiries to advertising@voicesweb.org.

### MAILING ADDRESS:

**Voices of Central Pennsylvania**  
133 S. Allen St.  
State College, PA 16801  
TELEPHONE:  
(814) 234-1699  
ON THE WEB:  
voices@voicesweb.org  
www.voicesweb.org

Submissions should be directed to the appropriate section editor.

*Voices of Central Pennsylvania* is an all-volunteer organization. We gratefully accept contributions and bequests to support our efforts.