

VOICES

of Central PA

Special focus on local foods and farms

Profile of local permaculture practitioners

Antibiotics in our food—the real culprit

Local farmers markets each have own character

Organics research at PSU seeing an increase

Opinions on Pennsylvania pensions, the anger of the Right

Farmland Preservation Artists celebrate solstice

Columns: Solkoff, FOBA, Cosmo, Birdwatch, Your Green House, In the Studio

July/August 2010

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The Voices 2010
Guide to Nonprofits



The price we pay for healthy food

Cost, calories and American agriculture pg. 3

Thoughtful. Fearless. Free.

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July/August 2010

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The job of government and citizens

This issue is the last issue of Voices I will help put together. Oil is still gushing in the Gulf, I'm packing boxes and Suzan Erem—the managing editor who usually writes these pieces—is enjoying Iowa.

I started writing for Voices in the fall because I wanted to do something relevant. Perhaps the need was more acute because of graduate school and all the pages I wrote that few people will ever see about books that few people have read. I snapped photographs and wrote stories about local performers, urban planning and bottled water.

But when I started researching my April article on the natural gas rush, I finally felt I was doing something important. Talking to people about their experiences—and getting involved—changed my life.

Since then I have visited Hickory, Bedford and Watrous, listening to people who feel depressed, angry and empowered.

Through it all I've come to realize that we have been given the tools of democracy. We just have make sure to avail ourselves of

**from the desk of the assistant
managing editor**

Hannah Abelbeck

them.

One of those tools is the free press. We might publish a long feature story and barely makes ends meet, while more mainstream papers get the revenue from full-page color ads created by industry groups.

Our writers are not paid PR people. They write in their spare time. Some are dilettantes, some are pros, some are parents of young children and some are students still learning how to write. We work together, and somehow a paper happens every month.

I have to give much credit to Suzan. She's a sharp editor, an insightful thinker and can offer the appropriate amount of praise and criticism with generosity—and always with honesty. I've learned a lot, and I still don't know how she does it.

If any readers out there have anything to give, think about Voices. What do we need to talk about, but don't? How can we expand our reach beyond the usual subject, beyond the center of Centre? We always need writers, proof readers, editors, and volunteers of all sorts.

We also love your feedback.

Sometimes it's tough spending weeks on a story and hearing little back. Where are the letters to the editor? Where is the revolution?

I say this mostly because Voices is your paper. Get involved. Make it what you want to see. And make your community what you want it to be. It's the best way forward. You are the grassroots.

You have the power to change things, starting right here.

I've seen it happen.

Thanks to everyone who offered advice, feedback and support. Thanks for the tips, the sources I never would have found on my own and the suprising and spontaneous conversations we shared.

I've enjoyed all of it.

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