

Voices

The Centre Region's Independent
Community Newspaper

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While the good Earth is still here

from the desk of the Managing Editor
Suzan Erem

The weather gets warm a little too early in the Spring or stays warm a little too long in the Fall. We watch videos of edges of glaciers falling into the ocean. We see *An Inconvenient Truth* and feel an urge to do something, and now.

I grew up with our leaders' fingers on the button, ready to blow the world to smithereens with nuclear weapons, so I'm used to being afraid. But the immensity of this global warming problem, of all the damage we do to the Earth, is overwhelming. It can be paralyzing. It's our job to keep moving.

We at *Voices* report, photograph and publish. That's what we do, and every month we cover environmental issues. But this month, many of our stories focus on the environment. We've attempted to cover them in a different way in each section. We hope these stories provoke discussion, debate, and ultimately, change.

We've been changing in other ways as well. We have 80 new locations where you

can find us, and we'll print those soon. For now, you can get them at voicesweb.org. We have new advertising commitments, and keep getting more, that will help us purchase more newspaper racks and other tools that improve our visibility. Our Fun Raiser this year drew a record crowd and helped us raise needed cash to pay for our nonprofit application and other important infrastructure improvements.

All of this helps us stay alive and publish stories that make a difference. Where else have you read that we could be spreading arsenic-laden poultry waste on our own food? Where else will you find a profile of a fascinating young activist like Darryl Watson, a man who faces discrimination on so many fronts it's hard to count them? Where else will you learn that our own democratic process is at stake because so many local elected positions go without

candidates? You'll read about that here. So help keep us alive. Support our advertisers so they can keep supporting us. "Buy local" means something in the newspaper biz too. It means when you "buy" *Voices* by supporting us and our advertisers, your dollars stay here in our community. You are the only people we answer to. You are our only audience. I don't know another publication in our community that can say the same.

So tell our advertisers you read *Voices* and enjoy this month's informative issue. And don't forget Earth Day, April 21!

Celebrate Earth Day

Saturday, April 21
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

HUB Lawn
Penn State Campus

For more information contact:
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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*. Email to oped@voicesweb.org.

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Submissions should be directed to the appropriate section editor.

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