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Join us & [The Eastern Panhandle Green Coalition](#) for a day of fun activities with friends and neighbors. Our Family Fun Day & Rally will be held on June 5th from 1-4 pm at Sam Michael's Park. We'll have fun activities to enjoy for the whole family including horse rides, a giant bubble station, glitter tatoos, and food for purchase! There will also be other local environmental organizations in attendance to share information on their work.

Entry is free - let's raise our voices together to fight for clean air and water!

Supporter Spotlight



Maureen Cohen Harrington and her partner, Jonathan Rosenberry, have always loved the Harpers Ferry area. They bought a home in Jefferson County late last year, after living most of their lives in the DC area. Maureen is an attorney for the Library of Congress, and Jonathan is a video production manager for the nonprofit, Animal Outlook. They were initially drawn to Jefferson County due to its natural beauty and wildlife, welcoming people, and rich local history. Maureen and Jonathan have always loved the outdoors and are excited to take advantage of the county's outdoor recreation, including hiking, swimming, and paddleboarding. Last year, they did a 73-mile house-to-house hike from their home in the DC Navy Yard to their home in Harpers Ferry. They slept in lockhouses along the C&O canal and posted updates and related historical facts along the way.

Maureen initially learned about Jefferson County Vision after seeing "Stop Rockwool" signs along the road. As she and Jonathan did more research, they became very concerned about the factory. However, instead of moving to a different area, they decided to join our group of activists and contribute their skills to the fight. Jonathan has extensive professional and personal experience in activism promoting social and environmental changes, especially via film and video.

Maureen is also no stranger to environmental activism. Soon after moving into her house in DC, she heard that CSX was planning to expand its operations in DC. Two double stack train tunnels were going to be built about 20 feet from her front door. One of her main concerns was about the

shipment of hazardous materials through the nation's capital. Throughout the fight, she worked with a core group of other activists to educate and engage with the community, government agencies, and local politicians. Their efforts included extensive participation in a federal and city environmental review, DC FOIA requests, testimony at DC Council hearings, community and individual meetings with elected representatives, opinion pieces in local newspapers, and working with investigative journalists, DC's Board of Ethics and Government Accountability, and the DC Auditor.

Even though the project ended up being approved, and was completed several years ago, there were some wins along the way. DC opened a rail safety office and conducted a study of rail operations - including commuter rail - in the city. The track was pushed back a bit further from local homes, and local residents received monthly "temporary inconvenience" payments throughout the construction. The original proposal to have trains running at full speed through an open trench in an active construction site was rejected. The new proposal allowed the trains to run only at lower speeds and in a covered tunnel.

Maureen and Jonathan have also been involved with the West Virginia Poor People's Campaign. In December, they participated in a PPC motorcade from Sen. Joe Manchin's Martinsburg office to the U.S. Capitol. In April, they joined the PPC in walking from Harpers Ferry to Sen. Manchin's Martinsburg office.

After joining our fight, Maureen and Jonathan have been impressed with the creativity and hard work of the local activists they met. Going forward, Maureen believes that legislative action and bringing more awareness to residents in the DC area needs to be part of the discussion. "A lot of people don't know about the issue in DC," she said. "They don't know the things that are at risk."

Reminder- 5/17 Public Hearing on Solar Facilities

The Jefferson County Planning Commission (JCPC) will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, 5/17 at 7 pm** to receive public input on the proposed Solar Energy Facilities zoning ordinance text amendment (File #ZTA22-01). We encourage you to attend this hearing and continue to submit public comments regarding this amendment and conditional use. The proposed amendment to the zoning ordinance will impact all of Jefferson County and how and where the future solar utility development

can happen.

Also, during the 5/17 JCPC meeting, a Public Workshop will be held to review a Concept Plan for Sam Michaels Park Master Plan consisting of the layout for full build-out of the 137 acre public park.

[View the Zoning Amendment Draft](#)

Attending local government meetings is another important way you can be active in the community. Your presence helps to hold our officials accountable to the values and concerns of Jefferson County's citizens. "Think global, act local!"

[View This Week's Meetings](#)

Please consider a gift to support our critical work if you are able to. We greatly appreciate every donation. All proceeds benefit JCV's efforts to lead legal, political, and community action to support sustainable growth, without heavy industry, and to empower our citizen's voices to ensure a clean, transparent government in Jefferson County.

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