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**You did it!**

Carmen Taylor-Bratton

Kathryn Skinner

Laurie Ogden

Congratulations to JCV supported candidates Kathryn Skinner, Carmen Taylor-Bratton, and Laurie Ogden on their election to the Board of Education! Thank you to everyone who voted in the Primary Election. This success was possible because of you!



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**Let's raise our voices together to fight for clean air and water!**

JCV and [The Eastern Panhandle Green Coalition](#) are excited to host for the community a **FREE** day of fun! Join us on June 5<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 pm at Sam Michael's Park Our Family Fun Day & Rally includes information from local community nonprofits and environmental group. Help spread the word! Invite your friends and neighbors to enjoy the fun activities; from horse rides to a giant bubble station, glitter tattoos and food for purchase everyone will find something to enjoy!

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### ***Make Your Yard More Hospitable to Wildlife:***

- **Avoid using pesticides and fertilizers on your lawn/gardens-** Did you know that 67 million pounds of synthetic pesticides are used on U.S. lawns annually? The impacts of pesticides on wildlife are extensive and expose animals to unnecessary risks. Pesticide exposure is linked to cancer, endocrine disruption, reproductive effects, neurotoxicity, kidney and liver damage, birth defects, and developmental changes in a wide range of species. Wild and weedy patches also provide food and shelter for all sorts of other creatures. Chemical fertilizers are equally harmful to the environment and can lead to waterway pollution, chemical burn to crops, increased air pollution, acidification of the soil and mineral depletion of the soil.
- **Start a compost pile as an alternative to chemical fertilizers-** Your fruit and vegetable waste not only becomes valuable fertilizer for your lawn or garden, but it reduces the amount of trash you produce on a daily basis. Learn how to start your own compost pile [here](#).
- **Use native plants for your garden that help local wildlife thrive-** The National Wildlife Federation has native plant collections available for purchase. Learn more about plants that are native to West Virginia [here](#).
- **Create a “Certified Natural Habitat” for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife in your own backyard with the National Wildlife Federation-** Applicants pay a \$20 fee to the [National Wildlife Federation](#), which helps fund some of the organization’s programs.

Then, you'll need to meet a set of requirements, like having a few different food sources available (things like berries, nuts, twigs, nectar) as well as clean water and a couple of places for wildlife to shelter. A certification is sent once the garden is approved. Learn more [here](#).

### ***Improve Your Household Efficiency:***

- **Switch to an electric lawnmower-** Did you know a gas-powered push mower emits as much hourly pollution as 11 cars and a riding mower as much as 34 cars? The Environmental Protection Agency states that gas lawn mowers contribute the largest share of nonroad-related air pollution generated nationwide. Electric mowers offer other advantages as well. They are lightweight and easier to maneuver, require less maintenance, and produce less noise than gas powered mowers. Learn more about buying an electric mower [here](#).
- **Switch out incandescent bulbs for LED light bulbs-** Typically, [LED light bulbs](#) use anywhere from 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs and can last three to 25 times longer. They also emit less heat (and therefore safer) and are more durable. An analysis from the Consumer Federation of America found that households using 20 lightbulbs could save \$1,000 or more in a decade by using LED bulbs instead of incandescent or halogen bulbs.
- **Install low-flow shower heads-** Installing [low-flow showerheads](#) improves your home's water efficiency. Low-flow showerheads have a flow rate of less than 2.5 gallons per minute, while most conventional showerheads use 5 gallons per minute.

### ***Clean up your neighborhood with friends and family:***

- **Join a Community Cleanup or Community Garden-** Community gardens and cleanups allow you to connect with neighbors while helping to beautify your community. Get involved with the Ranson Community Garden [here](#). Learn more about how to host a community cleanup event with Keep America Beautiful [here](#).
- **Use a grabber to pick up trash on your next walk or hike-** Equip yourself with [a trash grabber \(you can find one for under \\$20\)](#) and collect garbage on your next walk or hike. They are easy to use and keep us safe from touching the items. Every piece of trash that is picked to be recycled or deposited in a landfill means there is one

less dangerous item for wildlife to swallow or children to pick up.  
This will also inspire other people to pick up litter.

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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.

### Donate To Support Our Work

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