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Protect PT Progress

Fall '23 Edition

## New Merch!



You asked, and we've delivered! We are introducing a burst of color to your wardrobe with our "We Speak for the Trees" shirt, which is now available in green, peach, and magenta. Our collection has expanded to include stylish tote bags, drawstring bags, dad hats, adorable pet bandanas, and more! Dive into our captivating merchandise selection today at [protectpt.org/shop](https://protectpt.org/shop).

Your support fuels our mission!

For a list of all upcoming events, please visit [protectpt.org/events](https://protectpt.org/events).

# Upcoming Events

## Protect PT

- October 06 Fat Bear Week Paint and Sip (21+)**  
Celebrate Fat Bear Week with us on Friday, October 6 at 7:00PM. Adult beverages, snacks, painting supplies, and brackets will be provided. There will be raffles and prizes as well! Tickets are \$17.
- October 07 Living Near Shale Gas Workshop (Lower Burrell)**  
These workshops aim to provide valuable information on the health, safety, and financial implications associated with local oil and gas activities.
- October 07 Mr. Fox Kids' Painting**  
Kids will paint their very own Hipster Foxes while drinking yummy apple cider at this autumnal educational event. There will be a discussion of how to protect wildlife yearlong and general fun! Snacks will be provided. Tickets are \$15.
- October 29 Nature's Tricks and Treats**  
Join Dr. Maria Wheeler-Dubas for this fun and spooooky educational event on Sunday, October 29th at noon! There will be a craft activity and snacks as well! Tickets are \$5.
- Nov. 22 - Dec. 22 Food Drive**  
From Nov. 22 to Dec. 22, our office will be accepting food donations for Westmoreland Food Bank! Drop off your cans for a great cause!

### #GivingTuesday Lunch & Learn

November 28, 2023  
[www.protectpt.org/donate](https://www.protectpt.org/donate)

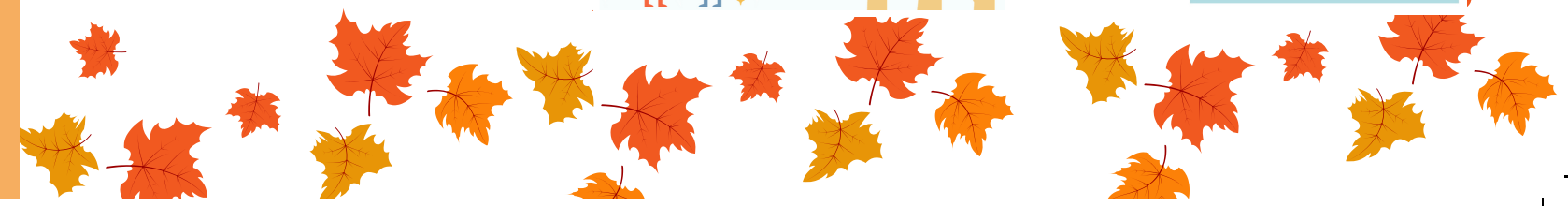
An illustration featuring a red heart hugging a blue globe, with several hands holding smaller red hearts below.

### SAVE THE DATE!

A photograph showing a group of people sitting at tables in a room, likely at a holiday party.

**Protect PT** **DEC 15**

### HOLIDAY PARTY





## Premier Youth Ambassadors

On September 7, we hosted a webinar that showcased the Premier Youth Ambassadors for Radon Reduction program, an initiative led by Citizens for Radioactive Radon Reduction (CR3). This program empowers young adults aged 15 and up with a strong sense of civic responsibility, enabling them to champion radon gas testing, mitigation, and education in their communities. Participants will gain valuable insights into radon-related issues, develop strong leadership skills, and foster collaboration between industry and healthcare sectors. Watch a recording of the webinar at [protectpt.info/pya](http://protectpt.info/pya).

Learn more about the program at [radonreimagined.org](http://radonreimagined.org).

## Wins against Oil & Gas Injection Wells

In Fayette County, home to Fallingwater and the Laurel Highlands, Protect PT helped our partners at Mountain Watershed Association organize grassroots resistance to a fracking waste injection well proposed by a corporation called G2 Stem. Our analysis showed that the proposed well would have contaminated private water wells and the Monongahela River.

We met with local leaders to educate them on the dangers of injection wells. Unified local resistance forced the company to withdraw its application on August 4th. Fayette County is now drafting

legislation, based on Protect PT's model ordinance, that will protect residents from future injection wells.

Meanwhile, in Murrysville, we called for the passage of an ordinance that would restrict fracking waste injection wells to a reasonable distance away from peoples' homes. Murrysville Council passed this ordinance unanimously.

There are more protections Murrysville can still put into place, such as bonds to plug the wells when they are done being used, and requiring drillers to have liability insurance. Murrysville Council may act on these ideas if residents call on them to do so.

This summer, Clara Township, Potter County sought our help to protect residents from injection wells. Our Community Advocate, Jim Cirilano, wrote them a sample ordinance overnight. Clara Township was successful at passing that ordinance, which now protects some of the most pristine watersheds in Pennsylvania at the headwaters of the Triple Divide.

## Municipal Sustainability Project

Protect PT's new initiative, "Green Dreams: Grant Writing for a Sustainable Future," is set to empower municipalities, townships, and cities in Westmoreland and Eastern Allegheny Counties to secure federal funding for climate-friendly projects. With no cost involved thanks to support from the Rural Climate Partnership, this project,

spearheaded by Laura Vincenti, Protect PT's Municipal Grant and Outreach Program Manager, offers assistance in crafting federal grant applications and technical guidance for green initiatives such as clean school bus programs, solar panel installations, weatherization, and more. With the opportunity to tap into federal dollars from key acts like the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Protect PT aims to help communities thrive economically and environmentally. Join us in this journey to make Westmoreland and Eastern Allegheny Counties pioneers in clean energy and sustainability. For more information, contact Laura Vincenti at [laura@protectpt.org](mailto:laura@protectpt.org) and stay tuned for enlightening community learning sessions on the impact of successful green projects.

## Sedat 4A Plum Boro Advocacy

Protect PT advocated against the permitting of an additional injection well in Plum Boro at the same site as the Sedat 3a well. We, along with Plum Borough Council, have appealed the grant of the permit to the Commonwealth Court. Health risks related to this proposed injection well include drinking water contamination, as well as quality of life concerns such as heavy truck traffic and noise pollution. The oral argument will be on October 10, at 9:30 a.m. at the Pittsburgh City-County Building, 8th Floor. We want to stop this polluter. If you would like to support us in this effort, we encourage you to attend! Sign up at [protectpt.info/plum](http://protectpt.info/plum).

## Fracking at Metis and Gaia

Living in close proximity to existing shale gas drilling sites in Penn Township presents an ongoing struggle for residents as the expansion of infrastructure looms. The relentless 24/7 industrial noise pollution has disrupted the peace and tranquility of the community, while heavy truck traffic has strained local roadways. Property values have taken a hit, and the air quality has deteriorated, posing health risks to those living in the area. The alarming fact that the PA DEP Oil & Gas Compliance website currently lists Olympus, the operator of these sites, with over 700 violations, underscores the gravity of the situation.

We encourage residents to actively engage by attending PT Commissioner's meetings, held on the 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of each month, at 2001 Municipal Court, Harrison City. Protect PT is steadfast in the ongoing effort to improve the Penn Township ordinance, advocating for strengthened regulations for oil and gas companies. To learn more, visit [protectpt.org/ordinance](http://protectpt.org/ordinance).



Photo provided by FracTracker

## Living Near Shale Gas Community Workshop

Protect PT is dedicated to educating residents of communities affected by oil and gas activities through our ongoing Living Near Shale Gas workshop series. These workshops aim to provide valuable information on the health, safety, and financial implications associated with such activities. We plan to continue hosting these workshops for the foreseeable future. If you have concerns about oil and gas dangers in your community or would like to schedule a workshop for your community, please reach out to Francisco, our Community Organizer at [francisco@protectpt.org](mailto:francisco@protectpt.org). The planned dates and communities for this year are: October 7 Lower Burrell and November 11 Penn Township. Sign up at [protectpt.org/lnsg](http://protectpt.org/lnsg).



Photo provided by FracTracker



## University of Pittsburgh Study

On August 15, researchers from the University of Pittsburgh and the Pennsylvania Department of Health made a significant announcement regarding the health impacts of fracking. Their research, based on data from thousands of individuals, revealed a strong connection between fracking and lymphoma, as well as asthma. People living near fracking well pads were found to have 5-7 times higher rates of lymphoma. Tom Pike, Protect PT's Environmental Policy Advocate, calls on Pennsylvania's elected officials and policymakers to take action, urging them to listen to the concerns of affected individuals. He highlights the Department of Environmental Protection's authority to regulate fracking infrastructure's proximity to water bodies under the Clean Streams Act and calls on state Senate President Pro-tempore Kim Ward to allow relevant legislation to progress. You can read more at [protectpt.info/oped](http://protectpt.info/oped), and share with your friends, neighbors, and local elected officials.

