

Happy August everyone!

It's time again for our annual barbecue and swimming **POWER** Outage and this year again in honor of our rural county project, we're holding it at the Maytown Quarry!

Check out our facebook event for a map:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Parents-Organizing-for-Welfare-and-Economic-Rights/4558166548>
8

or contact us if you would like to carpool or need better directions:

POWER

Parents Organizing For Welfare and Economic Rights

309 5th Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98501

[360-352-9716](tel:360-352-9716) toll free [866-343-9716](tel:866-343-9716)

monica@mamapower.org

www.mamapower.org

Find us on Facebook.

Monday, August 4th Tomorrow!

5:30 – 8 pm, though feel free to come earlier, stay later

Jen will be there early heating up the coals, so bring something to barbecue and a dish to share, if you like. We'll have cold beverages.

Bring swimwear, something to barbecue and a dish to share if you wish. We'll have some cold beverages and Jen is heading down early to heat the coals.

Bring the whole family, though be aware that the quarry is rustic and not lifeguarded.

Sorry about the late notice. We're short on volunteers this summer and could use someone with promoting skills, or someone who would like to gain those skills to make fliers, facebook invitations, etc. Let us know if you're interested!

Below:

1. **POWER's** Rural County Needs Assessment a big success!
 2. SafePlace Survivor Council
 3. Maureen Taylor on MSNBC
 4. California Truck Drivers go on strike.
 5. SafePlace is hiring.
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1. POWER's Rural County Needs Assessment is a big success!

Sierra, Jen and I presented our Rural County Needs Assessment to the Thurston Home Consortium on Monday, July 14th. We got great feedback, Consortium and community members agreed that it was a well-done and informative report. It sparked a rousing dialogue, which would have continued but for time constraints. Take a look. Let us know what you think.

<http://mamapower.squarespace.com/storage/Rural%20Thurston%20County%20Needs%20Assessment%202014%20FINAL.pdf>

2. SafePlace's Survivor Council

Tuesday, August
12
at 6:00pm -
7:30pm

- Safeplace
314 Legion Way SE, Olympia, Washington
98501
-

As a survivor of sexual violence, you are the expert on the support and services you need! Join our Survivor Council to help SafePlace anchor our services in the needs of survivors in our community while connecting with other people interested in using their survivorship to create change.

Please join us at SafePlace on August 12thst from 6pm to 7:30 for our first session.

Call or email Jen Friedlander for more information at (360) 786-8754 x111 or JenF@safeplypia.org

www.dailykos.com/story/2014/07/08/1312561/-Detroit-activist-slams-reporter-on-air-for-lying-about-w-ater-shutoff-to-thousands?detail=email

Watch Maureen Taylor, Co-Chair of the Michigan Welfare Rights Committee, call a liar a liar on MSNBC!

Tue Jul 08, 2014

3. Detroit activist slams reporter on air for lying about water shutoff to thousands

by [Egberto WilliesFollow](#)

Maureen Taylor is the hero of the day. She did not allow an obvious shill of the establishment, a shill of the plutocracy, to lead the narrative. Reporter Hank Winchester's bias was immediately obvious to those who understand the narrative he was hoping to get across.

Detroit has taken much flak for their inhumane decision to disconnect water in mass to its citizens. Most of them are poor and disabled in a failing city. Detroit is one of those cities that corporations abandoned after extracting most of the human capital from its soul. Those that are ultimately responsible for the decay of the city moved on to scavenge other cities and countries.

Winchester's narrative is simple. It is always easy to attack the poor, the minorities, the others. It is easy to make it all their fault all of the time. "Some of these people have a desperate need," reporter Hank Winchester said. "They need help from state agencies. ... But there are other people, and this is where it gets controversial, who simply don't want to pay the water bill, who'd rather spend money on cable."

Winchester then pivots into a defense of the water department stating that they want to work with people. Did he do his journalistic duty to find out if actual citizens received that message? Is it even true?

Please read below the fold for more on this story.

Taylor would have none of it. Though she did not say it, she understands that black, brown, and poor communities are often maligned by the supposedly fair and balanced media. A few stereotypes from these communities are generally projected on the whole. As such, America generally gets a poor impression of these communities that is then reflected as a lack of empathy from otherwise good, decent people.

“Before I answer that let me say, shame on Hank, shame on him,” Taylor said, “for putting that lie and that mis and that disinformation out on the air. To suggest that people don’t want to pay for a water bill is scandalous. What is at stake here is that there are tens of thousands of low income families who cannot pay rising water bill costs. The cost of living is going up. The chances of living is going down. And we’ve got these reporters out here, like this guy, that’s just standing on the side of the people that have money.”

Taylor then brought up all the corporations that have owed tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands whose water was not shutoff. Somehow the payment delinquency of the rich and affluent is different than the generally forced payment delinquency of the poor.

Taylor's final statement in the interview was epic and bold. “The next time you invite me to be here, let’s have some truth and a fair exchange as opposed to Hank who doesn’t know what the hell he’s talking about. Gobble up all the time. I’ll talk to you later.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) has one of the most balanced accounts of the water crisis in Detroit:

In April, the city set a target of cutting service to 3,000 customers a week who were more than \$150 behind on their bills. In May, the water department sent out 46,000 warnings and cut off service to 4,531. The city says that cutting off water is the only way to get people to pay their bills as Detroit tries to emerge from bankruptcy — the utility is currently owed \$90 million from customers, and nearly half the city’s 300,000 or so accounts are past due.

But cutting off water to people already living in poverty came under criticism last week from the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, whose experts said that Detroit was violating international standards by cutting off access to water. "When there is genuine inability to pay, human rights simply forbids disconnections," Catarina de Albuquerque, the office's expert on the human right to water and sanitation, said in the communique.

"Are we the kind of people that resort to shutting water off when there are disabled people and seniors?" said Maureen Taylor, chair of the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization. "We live near the Great Lakes, we have the greatest source of fresh water on Earth, and we still can't get water here."

4. California truck drivers go on strike

07/07/14

By [Ned Resnikoff](#)

California truck drivers at three major transportation companies went on strike Monday morning, demanding an end to purported labor law violations such as misclassification and intimidation. This is the fourth strike initiated by the drivers with the backing of the Teamsters union, but it's the first without a definitive end date; whereas previous strikes have lasted between 24 and 48 hours, the drivers are now saying they won't return to work until their demands are met.

"We were fed up. It just got to the point where the drivers are done," said Alex Paz, a former driver with TTSI, one of the three firms affected by the strikes. Paz, who was fired in late May, alleges that the firm retaliated against him after he spoke out regarding [purported labor law violations](#).

Over 120 drivers will be going on strike at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, two of the main supply arteries on the West Coast. Roughly [40% of all imports to the United States](#) go through one of those two ports. The firms affected by the strike are responsible for shipping goods to major retailers such as Walmart and Target.

The National Labor Relations Board [filed a complaint](#) against one of those firms, Green Fleet Systems, in late June over allegations of intimidation and wrongful termination. But even more so than those charges, the key issue at stake in this dispute is alleged misclassification. The three firms affected by the strike – Green Fleet, TTSI, and Pacific 9 Transportation – classify their drivers as independent contractors instead of employees, meaning they don't have to pay various benefits.

"When the company misclassifies you, you're denied Social Security, you're denied medical, you're denied workers comp," said Paz. He and the other strikers argue that they should legally be classified as employees, which would entitle them to those benefits and allow them to unionize.

Misclassification is endemic to the port trucking industry, according to a [joint report](#) [PDF] from the National Employment Law Project (NELP), the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE), and the labor union coalition Change to Win. They claim that about 65% of the nation's port truck drivers are misclassified by their employers, costing those drivers a collective \$1.4 billion annually.

5. SAFEPLACE IS HIRING (In-house and in the Community)

SafePlace is currently hiring for a 2-hour Community Services Childcare Provider. The position announcement and job description are attached for your review.

If you are not interested in applying for this position, please help us by sending the attached information to anyone in the community who may qualify.

To Apply: Please send a one-page cover letter addressing how you meet the qualifications for the position, a current resume and a list of three professional references to sandys@safeplaceolympia.org.

Deadline: **Monday, August 4, 2014, at 9:00 am**

