



the Berea citizen

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Light House Lays Off 99 Workers

By Beth Myers
Citizen Editor

Light House Home Products laid off 99 workers this past Friday, well over half of the plant's workforce. Mayor Steven Connelly announced the layoff at the city council meeting on Tuesday.

He had received a letter from the company, which stated the layoff was for an indeterminate period of time, though there are initial plans to hopefully hire the workers back within six months.

Light House Home Products is located on Walnut Meadow, in the old Gibson Greetings building. Haymaker/Bean Commercial Real Estate has listed the property for sale at \$7,250,000. In the listing, it was written that the space could be subdivided for lease purposes down to as small as 50,000 square foot to 200,000, 300,000 or 600,000 square foot.

The company provides candles and other items to different retail outlets. During the city council work session, it was mentioned that the Wal-Mart and Walgreen's lines had been sold.

City Administrator Randy Stone mentioned the layoff during the city council's work session on Tuesday, stating that the layoff of 99 workers would result in \$3,000 less revenue for the city a month.

As of press time, the management at Light House Home Products had not responded to several attempts to contact them about the layoff and the status of the organization.

Alcohol Vote Goes Strongly "Yea"

By Beth Myers
Citizen Editor

For the first time in its history, Berea can legally allow a business to sell alcohol. Results from the local option election on Tuesday turned in a strong "yes" to the question of, "Are you in favor of the sale of alcoholic beverages by the drink at qualified historic sites in the A102B East Berea Precinct?" By the end of the day, 147 people voted to allow alcohol sales at qualified historic sites, with 47 voting in opposition to the idea.

Mayor Steve Connelly announced the informal tally of votes at the end of Berea City Council meeting Tuesday evening.

There are 1,241 registered voters in the East Berea precinct; approximately 16 percent voted in the local option election.

The only qualified historic site in the East Berea precinct at the present time is Boone Tavern. Whether they will take advantage of the opportunity to sell alcohol will be up to the leadership at Berea College. This particular local option election was a much more limited attempt to bring alcohol into Berea than in the past. Before, the local option elections always focused on the whole town of Berea, though often limited in scope as far as where and how alcohol could be sold.

Boone Tavern is the only qualified historic site in all of Berea, which is why a petition calling for this type of local option election only circulated in the East Berea precinct.



Beth Myers/The Citizen

Marlena Hoover walks across the Habitat work site with her daughter, Jaidyn. They will be the new homeowners of the Habitat house being constructed behind them, located on Brown Street. Habitat for Humanity of Madison and Clark Counties held the wall-raising ceremony on Saturday for this first Passive House in Berea, a highly energy efficient design that cuts energy costs by 70 percent or greater. Habitat is partnering with SENS and Sustainable Berea in educating and promoting the Passive House to students and builders around Kentucky.

Habitat Constructs Passive House

By Beth Myers
Citizen Editor

City officials, volunteers, Berea College faculty, Habitat homeowners and Habitat staff all came together Saturday to celebrate the construction of the first Passive House in Berea, and to have the official wall-raising ceremony. Located on Brown Street in Berea, J.T. and Marlena

Hoover will be the proud new homeowners of the energy efficient home once construction is complete.

"We're just honored to have a Habitat House," Marlena said, tearing up during the Habitat ceremony, "and really honored to have a Passive House. And we're very thankful."

This new building will be the most energy efficient that Habi-

tat has constructed yet, meeting certification standards of the Passive House Institute. A Passive House refers to a very well-insulated, virtually air-tight building primarily heated by passive solar gain and by internal gains. People in these homes can usually expect their energy costs to drop by 70 percent or more.

SEE HOUSE, PAGE A7



Submitted Photo

Singer/songwriter Patty Larkin in the program, La Guitara, will be the final performance for the Stephenson Memorial Concert Series at Berea College, a series that is funded by an endowment from the Stephenson family. La Guitara will be performing next Thursday, April 12 at Phelps-Stokes Auditorium.

Stephensons' Gift of Music to Berea

By Beth Myers
Citizen Editor

This past year, a rather eclectic mix of musicians traveled to Berea during fall and spring to play at Phelps-Stokes Auditorium at Berea College. The groups included the jazz orchestra from the Smithsonian, a group charged by the U.S. Congress to recognize and archive jazz music; a Nashville singer/songwriter who played "gritty, bluesy" music; a classical pianist performing Liszt and Busoni; chamber music by a pianist, bassoonist and oboe player; a classical guitarist and finally, the upcoming show La Guitara, which will explore the contributions of women to the guitar.

This eclectic mix, however, is nothing new to Berea. For years now, a diverse group of music has been featured at Phelps-Stokes, for

SEE MUSIC, PAGE A7

Council Reviews Budget Changes

By Beth Myers
Citizen Editor

Department heads presented their adjusted working budgets to Berea City Council on Tuesday, as a preliminary to when the council will vote on the 2012 amended budget. The two-hour work session on Tuesday covered all the departments, with special attention paid to the municipal utilities and tourism, both of which have their own budgets and revenue streams.

Most of the suggested changes in the Berea City budget were minor, as different unexpected

expenses or other occurrences affected the different line items. Utilities Director Ed Fortner presented the financial situation of the utilities company, stating that the past increases in both the water and sewer rates in Berea were bringing those two utilities into better financial shape. In the past year, the city had to raise water rates by 15 percent and 37 percent, because of expenses far outpacing revenue. Electricity though, according to Fortner, is still running a deficit. They recently raised the customer service charge for electric while lowering the

usage cost, but the administrative costs are still not covered by the customer service charge. The warmer winter, according to City Administrator Randy Stone, was good for individuals but not so good for the city, since they have to sell a certain amount of electricity to cover the administrative costs.

"It's caused us some headaches in the utilities as far as electric goes," Fortner said. "We're right on point with water and sewer, however, so that's worked out."

The City of Berea had anti-

SEE CITY, PAGE A7

THURSDAY

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Inside

Obituaries	A2
Police Reports	A3
Viewpoints	A4
Sports	A6
Classifieds	A8
Church Listing	B4
Calendar	B5
Public Record	B6
Reflections	B8



B7

Berea Elementary Students receive yellow belts through Pirate 21.



B5

Kiwanis Club annual Egg Hunt this Saturday.

Deadlines

- Noon on Monday for news submissions, announcements, calendar items, letters to the editor.
- Noon on Tuesday for all advertising.

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