

Santa's helpers



Tabitha Wheeler, left, and Isabella Wheeler, right served cookies and refreshments during Santa's stop at the Pleasant View House at Richmond Battlefield Park last Sunday.

(The Citizen/Keith Taylor)

PROJECTS

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Additionally, efforts are also planned to extend an eight-inch water line from the Madison Southern Water District to the airport with the aim of expanding airport facilities to include a terminal building. Corporate air traffic, including private jets, has increased significantly in recent years as more manufacturers and businesses open in Madison County. The water line will also enhance the airport's fire suppression capabilities, Madison County Airport Board Chairman George Wyatt has stated.

Airport officials are hoping to secure approximately \$1 million to pay for the water/sewer line extension, and have applied for a grant to fund 80 percent of the cost through the Appalachian Regional Commission. The city of Berea is sponsoring efforts to secure funding for the remaining 20 percent, or approximately \$250,000 in funding, in a loan from the Kentucky Industrial Authority. Airport officials say prospects for securing both of those loans is very good.

In related news, officials from the Madison County Airport Board noted efforts to finalize the contract for the new terminal building are still under way. Negotiations on that contract are being handled by representatives of the airport's fixed base

operator, Eastern Kentucky University. The terminal will not only provide for flight instruction learning facilities for the ECU Aviation Program, it will also serve general aviation and enable the airport to entice more corporate flights to come to Berea/Richmond, thus allowing the facility to sell more aviation fuel and increase profits.

In related news, airport board officials reported at the November 1 meeting that the CKRA is halfway through a project to replace all of the facility's lighting with LED bulbs. Officials have said the project will not only help save energy, it will also reduce the cost of maintenance because of the longer life of the LED bulbs.

At that meeting, Dwayne Brumley of the Madison County Emergency Management Agency also addressed the board, requesting board members to identify a site on airport grounds where a new emergency warning siren could be installed. Brumley explained it's part of a county-wide effort to upgrade the warning sirens before the completion of the chemical weapons demilitarization project at the Bluegrass Army Depot. Fraley said aiding the completion of the Central Kentucky Regional Airport modernization program is a key goal of the city government in the coming fiscal year, due to the facility's positive impact on the regional economy.

SHOP

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home décor, home designed and embroidered t-shirts, quilts and blankets, painted gourds, and so much more," said Jennifer Parsons. "We hope to continue growing and make Berea proud. On behalf of all small businesses in town, we appreciate the proclamation and the support for Small Business Saturday."

In addition to Fraley's proclamation, city officials have been urging local residents to participate in Small Business Saturday, including Berea Business and Tourism Development Director Donna Angel.

"It's important to me in tourism that we back up the small business owners, because without them, we'd have pretty slim pickings around here," Angel said. "But Shop Small Saturday last year had 1,861 people who came through this town. Those were taken from credit card

zip codes. So, that shows you how many people come to down during that weekend."

Angel said supporting events like Small Business Saturday or Shop Small Saturday also helps send the message that keeping retail dollars in the city is good for the community.

"We do believe in shopping small, staying home, and taking care of our businesses right here. We know what a role that plays in keeping our merchants content in calling this home for their business," Angel said during a recent Berea Tourism Commission meeting.

Berea City Councilman John Payne has long maintained that if Berea residents like having small businesses in town, and if they want more, they have to support the ones that are already here. With that in mind, Payne encouraged residents to check out the new Mexican restaurant in town, Nuevo Vallarta on Richmond Road.

"Just like our other small businesses, I hope our community members will welcome them and spend their money there," Payne said.

Councilmember Teresa Scenters expressed hope that residents would seek ways to do more holiday spending in Berea this year.

"As the holiday season comes upon us, don't forget Small Business Saturday. Everybody spend your dollars at home. Have a happy Thanksgiving," Scenters said.

Economic Development Committee Chair Jim Davis echoed those sentiments, adding consumers should continue to support

local commerce even after the holiday season is done.

"It's very important to our small businesses and so, remember them on Small Business Saturday and all year long," Davis said.

Consumers can cap their Small Business Saturday experience in Old Town Artisan Village with the Mayor's

Merry Mingling Event, running 6-7:30 p.m., on the Cabin Lawn. Mayor Fraley invites residents to kick off the holiday season with the annual Christmas tree lighting, photos with Santa, hot cocoa, cookies and kettle corn, marshmallow roasting, storytelling and musical performances.

SOUTHERN MADISON WATER DISTRICT CUSTOMER NOTICE

On May 24, 2022, the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) accepted for filing Southern Madison Water District's (Southern Madison District) application requesting to increase its revenue from water sales by \$70,972, an approximate increase of 3.82 percent. On October 5, 2022, Commission Staff determined Southern Madison District would require an increase of \$424,983 or 22.84 percent in revenue from water sales. Southern Madison District requests the PSC approve its recommended revenue requirements and that Southern Madison District be allowed to implement the revised rates as follows:

| Monthly Rates for Water | Current | Proposed | \$ Increase | % Increase |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------------------|-------------|------------|
| First 2,000 Gallons | \$13.446 | \$16.508 Minimum Bill | \$3.062 | 22.77% |
| Next 1,000 Gallons | 0.006633 | 0.008138 Per Gallon | 0.001520 | 22.92% |
| Next 3,000 Gallons | 0.006223 | 0.007635 Per Gallon | 0.001412 | 22.69% |
| Next 4,000 Gallons | 0.005763 | 0.007070 Per Gallon | 0.001307 | 22.68% |
| Next 15,000 Gallons | 0.004883 | 0.005999 Per Gallon | 0.001116 | 22.86% |
| Next 25,000 Gallons | 0.004583 | 0.005630 Per Gallon | 0.001047 | 22.85% |
| Over 50,000 Gallons | 0.004033 | 0.004955 Per Gallon | 0.000922 | 22.86% |

Water Loss Reduction Surcharge \$1.94 per month; limited to 48 months

Nonrecurring Charges

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 5/8 x 3/4 Inch Water Tap On | \$1,337.00 |
| All Larger Meter sizes | Actual |
| Late Payment Charge | 10% |
| Connection Turn-On Charge | \$15.50 |
| Field Collection Charge | \$15.50 |
| Meter Re-read Charge | \$15.50 |
| Service Call / Investigation | \$15.50 |
| Meter Test Charge (5/8 x 3/4) | \$15.50 |
| Meter Test Charge (1 1/2 or larger) | Actual |
| Turn On Charge After hours | \$51.00 |
| Field Collection - After hours | \$51.00 |
| Meter Re-read After hours | \$51.00 |
| Service Call - After hours | \$51.00 |
| Returned Check Charge | \$0.75 |
| Meter Relocation Charge | Actual |
| Damage to Meter Equipment | Actual |

The proposed rates shall not become effective until the Public Service Commission has issued an Order approving these rates. The rates, including the water loss reduction surcharge, will increase the monthly bill of a typical residential customer using 4,000 gallons a month from \$26.30 to \$34.23, an increase of \$7.93, or approximately 30.15 percent. This filing may be examined at the offices of Southern Madison District located at 207 N. Dogwood Dr., Berea, Kentucky, 40403; telephone (859) 986-9031.

Any person may examine this filing at the PSC located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or on the PSC website at <https://psc.ky.gov/>; telephone (502) 564-3940. A copy of the PSC Commission Staff's Report can be found at the following address:

https://psc.ky.gov/pscscf/2022%20Cases/2022-00129//20221005_STAFF_REPORT.pdf

Any person may submit comments on the proposed request no later than 30 days after the date of publication of customer notice. Comments shall be in writing and shall be submitted to the Executive Director, Public Service Commission, 211 Sower Boulevard, P.O. Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602. Comments may also be submitted by electronic mail to psc.comment@ky.gov. If the Commission does not receive any request for intervention or hearing in this matter within 30 days after the date of publication of this customer notice, the Commission will proceed to render a decision in the matter.

FRALEY

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capital expenditures, including, for example, new emergency equipment like fire trucks or police cruisers.

Berea's notable accomplishments outlined by Fraley included:

- Substantial completion of Phase II of the Berea Bypass;
- Expansion of local industry, including AppHarvest and Hitachi Astemo Electric Motor Systems;
- Landing funding for major projects, including \$1.7 million for the Scaffold Cane Shared Use Trail, \$500,000 for industrial economic development, and \$588,000 for the Brushy Fork Sanitary Sewer Project;
- Continuing to improve road infrastructure, including the repair and repaving of Chestnut Street and supporting the continuing upgrade of the Central Kentucky Regional Airport.
- As for priorities in the coming year, Fraley outlined some of the

goals the city council, administration, and staff will be pursuing including:

- Completing the Owsley Fork Dam project;
- Adopting financial strategies to deal with inflation;
- Implementing the strategic plan to improve city parks;
- Finalizing a power purchase plan project for the city;
- Continuing positive working relationships with the city of Richmond, Madison County, Berea College, and Eastern Kentucky University.

In closing, Fraley had words of praise for staff and the council who showed that Berea has a "big heart" when it comes to supporting other communities in need, including helping tornado victims in western Kentucky, and stepping up to help flood victims in eastern Kentucky in July. He noted that all facets of the community come together - citizens, churches, civic groups - to help those in need, whether they are in different parts of Kentucky or right in Berea.