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Nov./Dec. 2008

The Newsletter of the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice  
112 N. Upper St. Lexington KY 40507 859.255.6999

Email List: [richard.mitchell@insightbb.com](mailto:richard.mitchell@insightbb.com) Website: [www.peaceandjusticeky.org](http://www.peaceandjusticeky.org)

## Who Loves Mountains?

**We have until November 23<sup>rd</sup> to stop a last-minute attempt by the Bush administration to “enshrine the worst abuses of mountaintop removal coal mining into law,” according to the [www.ilovemountains.org](http://www.ilovemountains.org) website:**

Current federal law requires that the impacts from mining be kept at least 100 feet from a stream. The Stream Buffer Zone rule, in effect since 1983, protects headwater streams from being buried by valley fills from mountaintop removal and radical strip mining. In August of 2007 the Bush administration and the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement (OSMRE) proposed a change to the law that would seriously weaken this stream protection. In October 2008, the proposal was moved out of the OSMRE and now must be approved by the Environmental Protection Agency before it can be published into law.

If adopted, this new rule would exempt coal companies from a law that prohibits surface coal mining activities from disturbing areas within 100 feet of streams. The end result would be thousands of miles of our nation's mountain streams destroyed, and—according to one estimate—up to 700 mountains destroyed by mountaintop removal coal mining

over the next decade. Analysis of the rule has come from: Alliance for Appalachia; Appalachian Center for the Economy and the Environment; Earthjustice; Public Justice; Kentuckians for the Commonwealth; Sierra Club; and Co-op America.

Please call EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson and tell him to save the Appalachian Mountains by rejecting the new Stream Buffer Zone Rule. Dial 202.564.4700 and tell the receptionist that you want to leave a message for Administrator Johnson urging him to reject the proposed changes to the Stream Buffer Zone rule. **The deadline for contacting the EPA to reject this proposal is November 23.**

For more details, discussion points to use with the EPA, and to see a moving nine-minute video by Appalshop of community testimony during a 2007 stream buffer zone hearing in Hazard, go to the [ilovemountains.org](http://ilovemountains.org) website and click the link “The stream buffer rule is under attack.” There, you can also send

petitions to Stephen Johnson at the EPA, to OSMRE, and to Congress, including President-elect Obama.

Turn to page two of this newsletter for local writer Anne Mareck's report on her recent participation in a Mountain Top Removal tour led by Dave Cooper, as part of our recent 20 Days for Peace and Justice events. ■

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## The Central Kentucky Council for Peace & Justice

**Staff:** Gail M. Koehler, Newsletter Editor; Jill Hanna, Administrative Coordinator [jhanna.ckcpcj@gmail.com](mailto:jhanna.ckcpcj@gmail.com) or call 859.255.6999.

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*Peaceways* is published ten times a year by the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice, 112 N. Upper St., Lexington KY 40507.

Submissions of articles or items in the Calendar are welcome. Contact the editor, Gail M. Koehler, at 859.355.5701 or [gmkkentucky@gmail.com](mailto:gmkkentucky@gmail.com). **Deadline: the first Wednesday of the month.**

The views expressed in *Peaceways* are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice.

# From the Top of Black Mountain

**Anne Mareck is a new resident to Kentucky, a professor of English at the University of Kentucky. On October 18<sup>th</sup> she participated in the Mountaintop Removal tour conducted by Dave Cooper ([mountainroadshow.com](http://mountainroadshow.com)) as part of the 20 Days for Peace and Justice series of events. Here, she offers reflections on the experience.**

Early Saturday morning, a small group gathered in Lexington for a Bluegrass Sierra Club outing to Harlan County to visit a coal museum and to view a mountaintop removal mining operation.

Since I'm new to this region, the outing was an opportunity to learn more about the local culture and ecology. Kentucky's diverse ecosystem is a marvel to me, with its rare flowers, its deer, black bear, and wild turkey. I'm taken with the lovely gentleness of this land, the easy rolling hills, the maple and oaks, hemlock and pine, sumac, magnolia, and sourwood. The Kentucky landscape carries a benevolence brimming over with life.

Our route took us down I-75 to Corbin, Hwy 25E to Pineville, and US 119 to Benham. We pulled up to the coal museum and made our way inside, where Dave Cooper, who travels the country presenting his Mountaintop Removal Road Show, welcomed us.

As Dave spoke, I noticed a small man in a bright orange ball cap standing quietly by. "Folks," says Dave, "meet the Mountain Keeper, Larry Gibson from Kayford Mountain," a man who steadfastly refuses to give up his home mountain to the coal industry. As Dave and Larry began to converse, I heard troubling details

about the mountaintop removal method of coal mining. A miner raised in a mining family, Larry matter-of-factly related story after story that showed what it actually means when mountains are detonated in order to remove the coal in a "cost-effective" way.

Instead of digging tunnels, the mountaintop removal method blows up the mountains so that the coal can be scraped away from the surface. In the explosion, all life on the mountain—the bear and bobcat and deer—is blown to bits.

At least 1000 miles of local streams have been buried, ground water contaminated, and local children and families plagued with pollution-related diseases. While coal corporations like A&G and Massey reap impressive profits, the mining communities remain in poverty. They lose their diverse ecosystem, lose their clean water, lose their health, and in return they gain barely enough to make ends meet. So went the talk in the coal museum until Dave said, "Ok, let's head out!"

We followed Dave's battered hatchback along a steep dirt track that zigzagged up the forested mountainside, splendid in its fall crimson, ocher and gold.

*continued on page three*

# From the Top of Black Mountain

*continued from page two*

Near the top of Black Mountain we parked and walked to the edge of the ridge that marks the highest point in Kentucky. Far below, just across the border near Appalachia, Virginia, an A&G Coal mountaintop removal operation was underway. Larry pointed out the details. Two mountains had simply been eliminated, flattened way down to the black seams of coal, and the valley between them filled with the explosion debris called "overburden." He said we were about two miles from the site, so the site itself must have been at least a few miles long and a couple of miles wide.

What could possibly justify this kind of destruction?

Nearly 50% of the electricity in the US is produced using coal. In Kentucky, the number rises to 95%. This means the majority of

## For more information:

- Bluegrass Sierra Club, [kentucky.sierraclub.org/bluegrass](http://kentucky.sierraclub.org/bluegrass)
- Kentucky Coal Mining Museum, [www.benhamky.org/Museum](http://www.benhamky.org/Museum)
- Mountaintop Removal Roadshow, [mountainroadshow.com](http://mountainroadshow.com)
- MountainKeeper, [mountainkeeper.org](http://mountainkeeper.org)
- Kentucky Coal Education, [www.coaleducation.org/lessons/sec/illinois/envirky.htm](http://www.coaleducation.org/lessons/sec/illinois/envirky.htm)
- Edison Electric Institute, [www.eei.org](http://www.eei.org)
- Uses of Coal, [www.uky.edu/KGS/coal/uses\\_of\\_coal.htm](http://www.uky.edu/KGS/coal/uses_of_coal.htm)
- Science Daily, September 13, 2008. "Curbing Coal Emissions Alone Might Avert Climate Danger, Say Researchers." [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/09/080910160757.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/09/080910160757.htm)
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2007. The Future of Coal: An Interdisciplinary MIT Study. [web.mit.edu/coal/](http://web.mit.edu/coal/).

**Interested in one of Dave Cooper's tours?  
E-mail him at [davecooper928@yahoo.com](mailto:davecooper928@yahoo.com).**

us use coal-produced power, and so we are complicit with the killing of Appalachia. But the consequences don't stop there: coal-power is a major source of the greenhouse gasses that are disrupting our planet's climate.

Indeed, recent findings suggest that simply by limiting coal

emissions we could moderate global warming. And clean coal? Those who know say the technology is far in the future.

As I write, it's almost Halloween. I stand in a secluded residential area near homes all gussied up with electric displays: goblins, jack-o-lanterns, glowing-eyed black plastic cats. The people who live here are decent people, no doubt. Do they have any idea what happens when they flip the switch that lights the display? Do they see the electrical surge traveling all the way back to the ecological and cultural rubble of the Appalachian once-

mountains?

Since the trip to Black Mountain, I've cut further back on consumption and gotten more active in my conservation group.

Yet I continue to ask myself, over and over—what else can I do?

## Office Space Available!

The KY Conference for Community and Justice (KCCJ)'s Multi-tenant Nonprofit Center pilot project hopes to interest socially responsible organizations or individuals to share its special workplace. Amenities include telephone lines, a copy machine, wireless internet access, and access to a kitchen and a small con-

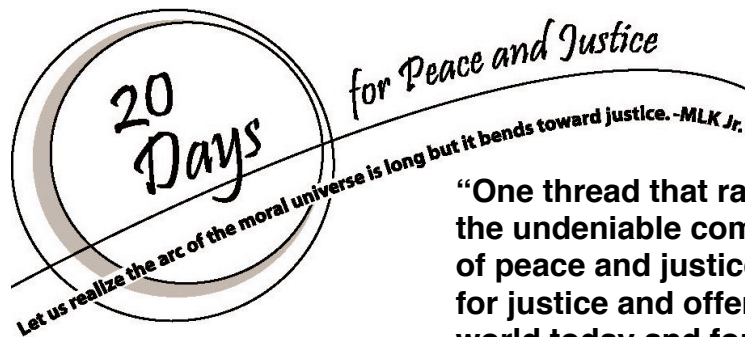
ference room. Besides KCCJ, current tenants include the Central KY Council for Peace and Justice and the Humanitarium.

We have found that the most valuable asset of the Center is not inexpensive space, but the opportunity to interact with others who share our dedication to making the world a better place.

Details: Historic 112 N. Upper Street in the heart of downtown. Available: One or two of-

fices, 168 square feet each (12' x 14') at \$500 per month (about \$3 per square foot—unbelievable!). Accessible first floor office located off central hallway; all utilities are included (heat, air, and water). Offices are furnished if desired.

**For more information, please phone Jill Hanna at 859.255.6999 or e-mail at [jhanna@kccjky.org](mailto:jhanna@kccjky.org).**



## Reports from the celebration

"One thread that ran through this 25th Anniversary celebration was the undeniable commitment of many groups to the various causes of peace and justice—which is a great tribute to working together for justice and offers much hope towards waging peace in our world today and for the future."

—board member Billie Mallory

### FrancisFest 2008: making peace, mending seams

The Lexington, Kentucky-based Franciscan Peace Center, in conjunction with Open Ground and other activist groups, hosted its fourth annual October event on Sunday, October 5. *FrancisFest 2008: making peace, mending seams* was held in the Performance Hall of ArtsPlace and was free and open to all.

*FrancisFest*, an active, peace education event for all ages, demonstrated that even when things are broken, it is possible to create something new from the broken pieces. Components of the day included:

- Storytelling: S. Hilary Mullany from Clinton, Iowa, and Don Boklage, of Open Ground, shared stories on being aware of the mending seam between people, communities, towns, and countries.
- "Making peace thru piece-building art": an exhibition of 51 pieces from K-12 youth made entirely from broken pieces, framed the spacious Performance

Hall. Pictures of these pieces will soon appear on our web page at [www.FranciscanVision.org](http://www.FranciscanVision.org).

•Cooperative games for all ages: on learning how to have fun working and cooperating with one another in order to succeed was facilitated by Don Boklage of Open Ground.

This day of cooperative games, storytelling and visual arts was borne within a growing network of people consciously working for peace in their own lives, those of their families, and the world as a whole. Its impact planted seeds of meaningful relationships, conflict resolution, peacemaking and the joy of St. Francis!

The Franciscan Peace Center is a nonprofit Kentucky corporation established in 2005 by its "Keepers of the Flame" and members of the Clinton Franciscan Family: Jeanette Watkins, Mary Anne Enoch, Pat Fogle, Eileen Golby, Pat Griffin.

*Thanks to Pat Griffin, who provided the text from which this report was excerpted.*

### Concert for Peace and Justice

Board member "Brother" Bruce Mundy served as our emcee and did a terrific job. To begin the evening, the audience viewed videographer Dominic Eardley's 16 minute video about CKCPJ's origins, interviewing founders Stanley Brun, Jack Morris, Betsy Neale, Donna Renfrow and Ernest Yarnarella (we will post a link to this video on the Council's website in the near future).

Board member Rebecca Glasscock reports: "During George Ella Lyon's performance she said that this was her first time performing these songs of peace; that she had been hesitant to do so in other venues. I look forward to the day when we can sing anywhere and everywhere about our joy of living in peace."

The concert organization was shared by board member Rebecca Glasscock and Jerry Moody of New

Morning Band. New Morning performs eclectic music and organizes community drumming sessions. The band's focus is on creating peace through music. On the web at <http://newmorningworld.com>

Short 5-7 minute samples from the concert are posted on YouTube:

- George Ella and Steve Lyon:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6f830QwFw8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6f830QwFw8)
- Reel World String Band:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0ArD6WW27U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0ArD6WW27U)  
the band's website: [www.reelworldstringband.com](http://www.reelworldstringband.com)
- Alma Gitana:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rMnT4gO500](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rMnT4gO500)  
the band's website: [www.almagitanamusic.com](http://www.almagitanamusic.com)

(Or go to our <http://justicelist.typepad.com/jl/concert/> page and click the links from there if you have difficulty with the YouTube addresses.)

More reports from the celebrations and updates from the causes the events supported are upcoming! Be sure to send us your photos and reflections if you do not see your organization or experience reflected here.

Contact *Peaceways* editor, Gail M. Koehler, at 859.355.5701 or [gmkkentucky@gmail.com](mailto:gmkkentucky@gmail.com).



## Fair Trade Committee Report

The Council's Fair Trade table was present at four events during the 20 Days celebration: the "Made in L.A." film showing; "Peace and Justice in your Cup and Candy Bar" presentation by Kim Browning and Anne Hopkins at the Unitarian Universalist church; the Food Gap Conference; and the Woodland Triangle Fall Festival. We would like to sponsor additional presentations by Kim and Anne as their high-quality material clearly demonstrates the benefits of fair trade relationships with growers.

This year for the holiday season the Council is no longer selling Fair Trade merchandise directly. Instead, the committee is focusing its efforts on educational

displays and partnering with the new local retailers such as Lucia's, and Peacecraft from Berea. Seasonal sales are in the process of being scheduled as this issue of Peaceways goes to press. We will be at these sales:

- Nov. 14 from 10-2 and Nov. 18 from 1:30 to 4:30 at Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC)
- Nov. 16 from 12:30-4 at the Unitarian Church on Clays Mill Road.

If your school, organization, or congregation would like to have a Fair Trade presence at seasonal events contact me at 859.285.5211 or [mallorybillie@yahoo.com](mailto:mallorybillie@yahoo.com).

*Thanks to Billie Mallory, who provided the text from which this report was excerpted.*

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## Woodland Triangle Fall Festival includes poetry readings

As part of the fall festival held in support of the Council's 25th anniversary by the Woodland Triangle, Lafayette high school students read original poetry.

Below we reprint the first stanza of a poem by Julie Niklas (photo, right):

I think—  
Is it right to give up on a nation  
Or is that the same  
As giving up on a life  
Or running away from every  
Shining dark cloud silver lining  
Crossing the sky of your mind that  
Resembles the possibility of faith  
Reminds you that maybe  
There used to be a God somewhere  
Up in the bluest washed cumulonimbus  
While it hovered over history  
For a century or five and made  
Our ancestors lives worth living  
Because they never gave up  
Did they?



Samara Pohl, left, and Julie Niklas, right, are in the Creative Writing program at Lafayette High School's SCAPA (School for the Creative and Performing Arts) program.

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## A message from Lucia's as they celebrate their One-Year Anniversary

Lucia's World Friendly Boutique, Lexington's premier Fair Trade store, would like to give a special thanks to the Council and especially to board member Billie Mallory, not only for initiating and promoting Fair Trade in Lexington but also for supporting Lucia's in our first year.

After living and working with artisans in Guatemala for 16 years, we opened Lucia's to connect with and help artisans around the world. We are also

committed to preserving the environment by introducing Lexington to environmentally friendly purchases. Lucia's offers alternative gift-giving opportunities that support the cause of a just and equitable world through improving the quality of life to some of the poorest people in the world.

If you are planning a holiday event and would like to offer Fair Trade products for sale, please contact us at 859.389.9337. Or you can shop locally this holiday season at Woodland Triangle Shops' Open House Dec. 5-6. Come see us at 523 E. High St. We are open Mon-Sat 11-6 and Sun 1-5.

# Interfaith Vigil for Peace marks its 7<sup>th</sup> year with renewed hope for an end to our wars



In November of 2001, a small group of central Kentuckians began a weekly interfaith prayer vigil in response to their shared fear that our nation would respond to the 9/11/01 attacks by military attacks of its own. That fear has proven well founded.

The prayer vigil has now continued weekly without missing a Thursday for seven years. From three to fifteen participants have been on the corner at Triangle

Park, where cars and emergency vehicles zip past the busy intersection of Broadway and Main.

Over the past seven years, it has become clearer to many that a military solution to terrorism is costly, both in lives and dollars, and ultimately ineffective. It has always been clear that the best of our various and diverse religious traditions support non-violent solutions to conflict.

The weekly vigil plan proceeds like this: beginning at 5:30 participants hold signs for 15 minutes, standing in silent prayer or not, as they prefer. Then follows a brief fifteen minute liturgy of song, poetry and prayer, prepared by different volunteers.

On November 6<sup>th</sup> just two days after the historic federal election, as she has so often before, local writer George Ella Lyon provided the liturgy, including a moving poem written for the occasion. The last stanza of that poem reads:

We have stood  
we are standing  
we will stand  
at this corner  
of democracy  
and history  
bearing the signs  
of a new direction  
holding the hope  
of the world  
in our hands.

We have an ideal opportunity to change the course the country has been on, but as writer Phyllis Bennis writes in her October 29<sup>th</sup> op-ed "Bonfires for the Global Vanities," "The end of the Bush administration makes REAL change—ending wars—possible, but only if we fight for it. ...if the Republican reign of abuse of power and its drive towards empire is ended, it will take a powerful, mobilized antiwar movement across the United States—and indeed, around the world—to hold a new administration accountable to promises made, and to obligations undertaken and imposed." See the complete text of her editorial at [www.ips-dc.org/articles/861](http://www.ips-dc.org/articles/861).

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## Project Censored Top 25 stories just released

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, Project Censored released its 2009 list of the top twenty five of what they call "national news stories that are underreported, ignored, misrepresented, or censored by the US corporate media." For the full list of twenty five top censored stories, plus specific links to the articles associated with each headline you can go to their site at: <http://www.projectcensored.org/top-stories/category/y-2009/>.

The number one story on the list is this: Over one million Iraqis have met violent deaths as a result of the 2003 invasion, according to a study conducted by the prestigious British polling group, Opinion Research Business (ORB).

Yet there has been a media blackout on studies such as this one. The effectiveness of that blackout is vividly illustrated by an Associated Press poll con-

ducted in February 2007, which asked a representative sample of US residents how many Iraqis had died as a result of the war. The average respondent thought the number was under 10,000, about two percent of the actual total at that time.

Project Censored also publishes these findings in book form each year, although our public library does not carry a newer edition than 2007.

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# Events at a Glance

<i><b>Date/Time</b></i>	<i><b>Event Description</b></i>	<i><b>Contact</b></i>
Tuesday, November 18 5:30 pm  Location: University of Kentucky W.T. Young Library Auditorium.	<b>Jewish-Muslim Dialogue: Problems and Possibilities:</b> A panel discussion presented by Interfaith Dialogue Organization. With Mehri Kiknam, Executive Director, Joseph Interfaith Foundation of Britain, and Ibrahim Kalin, from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. This event is free and open to the public.	For details, e-mail: <a href="mailto:info@dialogueuk.org">info@dialogueuk.org</a>
Friday and Saturday December 5 and 6 11:00 am to 6:00 pm Location: East High and Maxwell Streets at Ken- tucky Avenue	<b>Woodland Triangle Shops' Open House</b> As the holiday season is quickly approaching, these Fair Trade shops offer alternative gift-giving opportunities that support the cause of a just and equitable world through improving the quality of life to some of the poorest people in the world.	For details: 859.389.9337 or <a href="http://luciasimports.com">luciasimports.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday 7:00 pm	<b>CKCPJ Board Meeting</b> , in our offices at 112 N. Upper St. All are welcome.	Nabeel Jawahir, Co-chair 859.619.3369
Every Thursday 5:30 - 6:00 pm	<b>Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace</b> , Triangle Park in downtown Lexington.	Richard Mitchell 859.327.6277
1 <sup>st</sup> Monday 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm	<b>Kentucky Migrant Network</b> , Cardinal Valley Center 1306 Versailles Road	Miguel Rodriguez, Chair <a href="mailto:miguelug929@yahoo.com">miguelug929@yahoo.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 5 pm	<b>U.K. Socialist Student Union</b> in the Center for Student In- volvement in the UK Student Center. We have a Facebook Group! Join us there at "U.K. Socialist Student Union."	Joan Braune <a href="mailto:standinsolidarity@yahoo.com">standinsolidarity@yahoo.com</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 7:30 pm	<b>Bluegrass Fairness of Central Kentucky</b> , KCCJ office, 112 N Upper St.	Paul Brown, Chair, <a href="mailto:heme1588@yahoo.com">heme1588@yahoo.com</a>
4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday 5:30 pm	<b>Lexington Living Wage Campaign Meeting</b> Community Action Council, 710 W. High Street	Richard Mitchell 859.277.6106
1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday 4:00-6:30	<b>Franciscan Peace Center</b> , 3389 Squire Oak. <a href="http://FranciscanVision.org">FranciscanVision.org</a>	Pat Griffin 859.230.1986
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm	<b>Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky (AHA)</b> , Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Rd.	Dick Renfro 859.255.7029
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday 7:00 pm	<b>Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC)</b> , Episcopal Diocese Mission House, 4th St. and Martin Luther King	Dave Newton 859.420.8919
TBA -- call John Walker, right, for details	<b>Gardeners of the Bluegrass</b> , Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Rd.	John Walker 859.225.3866
Every Sunday 2:30-4:00pm	<b>NAMI Lexington</b> Support Groups -- Faye Morton Center, Eastern State Hospital, Lexington, Wendall Building basement	call 859.272.7891 or go to <a href="http://lexington.nami.org">lexington.nami.org</a> for



The Central Kentucky Council  
for Peace and Justice  
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**We do not have a money problem in  
America. We have a values and  
priorities problem.**

**—Marian Wright Edelman**

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## *Bits and Peaces*

### **Support affordable housing: attend Nov 20<sup>th</sup> LFUCG Council Meeting**

To honor a pledge made to 1,000+ members of BUILD (Building United Interfaith Lexington through Direct action), last April, Mayor Jim Newberry appointed a commission to research and propose a workable plan for an affordable housing trust fund.

BUILD is very pleased that the commission's exhaustive September report has resulted in a proposed ordinance for relocating people displaced by development. On November 6<sup>th</sup>, an ordinance proposing a tenant relocation assistance program received its first reading, along with a separate motion to place \$50,000 into the fund as startup money.

BUILD is urging concerned citizens to support these efforts by attending the second reading of this ordinance on November 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm at council chambers on West Main Street.

While this is an important first step, further work lies ahead as the mayor has not ap-

proved the commission's recommendations for a dedicated revenue stream.

For more details, you can go to the Herald-Leader editorial of October 31 (available at <http://www.kentucky.com/591/v-print/story/575099.html>) or contact one of BUILD's co-presidents, Rev. Richard Gaines at Consolidated Baptist Church (e-mail [richard.gaines@cmbclex.com](mailto:richard.gaines@cmbclex.com)) or Rev. Ron Luckey of Faith Lutheran Church (e-mail [pastor@faithlutheranchurch.com](mailto:pastor@faithlutheranchurch.com)). ■

### **National Priorities Project Update**

The council is not the only worthy advocacy group celebrating its 25th anniversary: the National Priorities Project (NPP) is a group that provides solid numbers regarding the uses to which our tax dollars are put, and the source of that dizzying counter other websites have incorporated that continually ratchets up the tally on the "Cost of the War in Iraq,"

zipping by faster than the dial at the gas pump.

#### **Cost of the War in Iraq**

**\$ 569,467,311,080**

[www.nationalpriorities.org](http://www.nationalpriorities.org)

A twelve-minute video produced by the Media Education Foundation summarizes NPP's achievements of the past 25 years. The video is available for viewing at [http://www.nationalpriorities.org/25th\\_anniversary\\_video](http://www.nationalpriorities.org/25th_anniversary_video). And NPP just released a new report titled: "The Military Cost of Securing Energy." Their research has produced hard facts about specific social programs that could be provided for the money the federal government spends on the military.

For example, by going to their "Trade Offs" feature on the website, we find that taxpayers in the Lexington-Fayette county area will pay \$60.6 million for the military cost of securing energy in FY2009. For the same amount of money, we could have been provided with 705 affordable housing units. ■