

# Committee adds new members

**Chris Matthews**  
for the Index

Putting disputes aside, the Watershed Management Commission and the Hazel Creek Concerned Citizens Committee have agreed to work together to protect Kirksville's water supply.

The council approved the establishment of WMC in June to develop an ongoing plan concerning the watersheds of Kirksville's two public water sources, Hazel Creek and Forest Lake. The commission's goals are to improve water quality by educating the public, install and maintain septic systems, improve agricultural practices and land use and protect streams and drainage ditches, according to a document from City Manager Mari Macomber.

The City Council unanimously approved appointments to the newly created WMC on Sept. 26, accepting an amendment proposed by Macomber in August to appoint an additional citizen and landowner to the commission, expanding it to 13 members.

The new citizen is Clayton Dillavou, member of HCCCC and Truman visiting scholar for the science division, and the landowner is Martin Jayne, Truman assistant professor of justice systems, who could not be reached for comment.

Ron Gaber, head of HCCCC, said he spoke at the August meeting about his concern that no HCCCC member was approved to serve on the commission, and he said citizens in general were not given adequate representation.

"Generally, a commission is made up of a broad range of people representing citizens' interests, not a broad range of government agencies representing special interests," Gaber said. Macomber said she was responsible for recommending potential WMC members to the council, which ultimately was responsible for approving the members.

"We tried to make [WMC] as broad as possible ... to make sure people knew what was going on [and] that we had as much input as possible," Macomber said.

Council member Martha Rowe said some members of did not want to appoint a member of HCCCC to WMC, but she said she was not among them. However, Rowe said the council is glad to have Dillavou on the commission. Other members of the City Council couldn't be reached for comment.

Macomber said she did not know whether or not she recommended Dillavou in response to Gaber's complaint, nor did she know if the council chose Dillavou because he was a member of HCCCC.

"[The City] Council decided to add

[Dillavou], and I think that's really all that's important is [that] they added another citizen and chose to add him and he's representing [HCCCC]," Macomber said. "I think that's a great thing."

Scott Ellis, dean of science, ecologist and owner of 40 acres of land in the Hazel Creek watershed, said the main reason for establishing a diverse commission is to implement a watershed management plan.

"If you've got that plan, which is based on input from all the different entities, in place and approved, then you make it more likely to get [state and federal] grants to provide money to do all kinds of things to minimize all this stuff that's coming into the water from the different ditches and creeks," he said.

Ellis said grants could impel and aid landowners to implement strategies to protect the watershed, such as constructing fences to keep livestock away from the water.

Everett Baker, head of the public drinking water unit of the northeast region of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, said DNR surveys watersheds and can only make suggest to city committees what procedures should be implemented. Baker said to become eligible for state grants, the committee needs a comprehensive lake and watershed plan.

Baker said cities are only eligible for grants with the approval of DNR, which requires the city to have a management committee established to execute an approved watershed management plan.

Baker said DNR encourages cities to have an ongoing watershed committee that will include public participation.

"We want the committee to have citizens that represent the concerns of the area ... [and] will continue to lobby the city council and other government agencies as long as [the city] is using those reservoirs," Baker said.

Baker said the DNR has no legal authority over watershed regulations, but it has regulatory enforcements for quality of drinking water. He said although the actions of WMC will cost money, the watershed management procedures meant to prevent contamination will save money over time.

"This is an instance where an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," Baker said. "[DNR does] stringently regulate the quality of drinking water, so prevention will cut down on treatment costs."

Macomber said WMC has not scheduled its first meeting but initially will meet monthly to finalize a plan and then no less than twice a year to maintain the procedures put in place.



**Art Smarts**  
photo by Lisette Metz Gulke

Sophomore Jerry Jones ponders the intricacies of a piece of artwork by Charles Pritchard of Creative Woods at the Red Barn Arts and Crafts Festival last Saturday. Pritchard is a Kirksville cardiologist.

# New clerk steps up

## Governor appoints Jim Lymer to take over county post

**Rachel Gehner**  
for the Index

There is a new face behind the desk in the county clerk's office.

Jim Lymer, former member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol and district supervisor for the Division of Liquor Control, was appointed for the position when the former county clerk, Jon Cook, retired in July because of his failing health.

"At that time I had some health concerns and felt that my health was leaving me rather quickly," Cook said. "Due to that fact, I knew that I was not going to seek another term, and by taking my retirement in the middle of the term, I might be able to have some influence on who took the office after me."

Cook has served as the county clerk of Adair County for the last six years, and he announced his retirement in the middle of

his second four-year term.

Cook said making his decision to retire in the middle of his term enabled him to suggest candidates from whom Gov. Matt Blunt would choose to serve the remaining time in Cook's term.

Cook said he had made an effort to get Pamela Speaks, his chief deputy, appointed to the position.

Speaks was unavailable for comment, but Cook said she has worked in the clerk's office for more than 12 years.

She had run against Cook in the last election on the Democratic ticket, but has since moved to the Republican ticket, Cook said.

He said Speaks was an excellent candidate for the position, but Blunt appointed Lymer in part because of a long-standing relationship between the two.

Lymer worked as Blunt's campaign coordinator for Adair County during the 2004 election.

Cook said that even though he originally wanted Speaks to get the position, he was happy

with the governor's appointment of Lymer and thought that he would do well in the position.

Lymer was born in Booneville, Mo., but has lived in Kirksville since 1966, except for a two-year period he spent in Jefferson City. His wife, Patricia, is a retired elementary school teacher. They have two children, a daughter, Paula, who works as a public accountant in Des Moines, Iowa, and a son, Bill, who is a vice president of the Bank of Midwest.

Deputy Clerk Maggie Ferrell has worked in the county clerk's office for the last five years and said that despite the differences between the two men, the transition has been smooth.

"Jon was very outgoing and very out there," Ferrell said. "Jim is quieter and more reserved."

Ferrell said the fact that this is not an election year also has helped the transition because the office is a lot less hectic.

Lymer has spent slightly more than 90 days in office so

far and said that because there is no official training for the job, he is just picking things up as he goes.

He said this is the first time he has worked in county politics, but his staff is helping him get used to working in the office.

"It's learning in motion," Lymer said. "I'm just trying to comprehend all the programs and systems and all the complexities of the job."

Lymer said he looks forward to the work and challenges that will come up for him soon, such as elections and writing the 2006 budget.

His first election to run will be in April 2006, and soon after will be the primaries in August and the election in November, he said.

Lymer said he was appointed by the governor only to finish Cook's term. If he wants to remain in the clerk's office, he will have to apply for candidacy in late winter.

He said he does not wish to make a formal statement about the election at this time.

# New technology, staff will keep heart patients in Kirksville

**Rebecca Easterwood**  
for the Index

Patients soon will no longer have to be transported to Columbia, Mo. when they have a heart attack.

Ranee Brayton, associate chief executive officer of Northeast Regional Medical Center, said new cardiac equipment and staffs are coming to the hospital as a part of the \$2.6 million intensive care unit project that will provide the interventional service of stenting.

Brayton said she hopes the catheterization lab will provide stenting, or the procedure of placing a metal tube inside an artery to keep it open, by February 2006.

Brayton said eight or nine new machines have been purchased for the new procedure. The cost of the expansion is tied into the intensive care unit project that broke ground Sept. 28.

Brayton said the hospital's annual planning meetings with the board of directors and focus groups have helped to find its needs and to make a plan to fill those needs.

"Cardiology has long been identified as an expansion the hospital needed to grow to

support the community," Brayton said.

Lowell Gerber, an interventional cardiologist recently hired at Northeast Regional Medical Center, said the guidelines for providing stents as a primary treatment for heart attacks require interventionalists who regularly perform such procedures. Staff also should be trained in treating severely ill patients and in being comfortable with the equipment.

Brayton said the staff will have training opportunities for these requirements. She said the hospital has hired the team of Gerber, Danielle Duval, an advanced nurse practitioner, and T. J. Leesch, a cardiovascular technician who previously worked with Duval in Tampa, Fla., to provide stenting in the expansion of the heart and vascular center.

She said they would work together with existing staff and as a team to provide more and better services.

"A program such as this is dependent on the right physician with the appropriate training," Brayton said.

The hospital still will not be able to provide open-heart surgery, and patients still will have to be sent to Columbia if they need

this surgery, Brayton said. Hospital officials hope to provide surgery as a next step in two to three years, she said.

Brayton said it is presently required that patients be sent by helicopter to Columbia for treatment because the hospital only can see if something is blocking an artery through diagnoses, but doctors cannot do anything inside the heart to take away the blockage of the affected artery or keep the artery open because doctors lack equipment and the doctors trained to do so.

"That is our hope, that we will provide cardiac services in the community that previously patients have been leaving the community to receive," Brayton said.

Gerber said transporting patients by helicopter to Columbia alone doubles a patient's risk of dying in the next year after a heart attack.

"Time is important," Gerber said. "Seconds and minutes matter."

Brayton said the helicopter ride to Columbia is 40 minutes long.

Gerber said if stenting is not done within 30 minutes, the chances of a patient dying in the next year doubles from 3.2 percent to 6.4

percent. He said the rate again doubles after 90 minutes.

"You don't want to have a heart attack in Kirksville," Gerber said.

State Farm Insurance agent Robert Day said the cost would not affect those with insurance, either. He said it would not make a difference in premiums because health insurance is spread out among too many people.

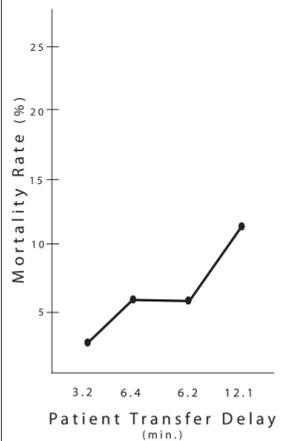
Day said he suffered a heart attack the Fourth of July weekend in 2002. He said an ambulance took him to Columbia to be treated. He said his diagnosis came as a surprise to him.

"I had no idea I had heart disease," Day said. "I mean, I exercised, I didn't smoke, I wasn't overweight ..."

In 2003, 69 people died of heart disease out of the estimated population of 24,790 in Adair County, and the death rate was 268.5 out of every 100,000 people, according to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' Web site.

Adair County's death rate was higher than St. Louis County's death rate of 254.5 and Kansas City's death rate of 228.8, according to the Web site.

## Mortality after heart attack and patient transfer delay



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