



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Students gathered outside of the Library yesterday evening to register to vote. Vote Local encourages students to register in Kirksville even if they live in a different city or out of state.

# Organization pushes voting

BY MARGARET HOOPER  
Staff Reporter

Students often complain that Kirksville's sidewalks are torn-up and its businesses are run-down, but Susan Presley wants to change that.

Presley, president and co-founder of Vote Local, said the group emerged last semester from the desire to see more students voice their opinions on community issues.

"Last semester, 42 students voted locally," Presley said. "That means 99.29 percent of the students did nothing."

Vote Local members distribute voter registration cards, educate students about local issues and candidates and provide rides to polling locations off campus. Presley said the organization is non-partisan and the ultimate goal is to see students vote, not influence their opinions.

Presley said the best method for reaching students has been speaking to classes.

"We have more professors asking for speakers than we have people available to speak," Presley said.

Sophomore Sarah Backhaus is one of Vote Local's speakers. She passes out registration cards in classrooms and encourages students to sign up for Vote Local's e-mail list, which serves as a reminder for upcoming elections and informs students what issues will be on the ballot.

"I like the idea of getting people involved in local elections, to fight the apathy that sets in during the college years," Backhaus said.

The deadline to register to vote for the November election is Oct. 8. Students can pick up registration cards from a Vote Local member, at the box in the Student Senate office or at the county courthouse.

"You're here for four years, and it's a simple address change," Backhaus said.

Maggie Ferrell, Adair County deputy clerk, said that this November, the 1st and 2nd District Commissioner, sheriff, public administrator, assessor and coroner are up for election, as well as the 9th district congressional representative.

Ferrell also said students who are not Missouri residents are able to use their local address in Kirksville to vote in local elections.

"If you are living in Missouri, you are eligible to change your voter registration and vote in Missouri," Ferrell said.

Larry Crump, Vote Local vice president and co-founder, said that last semester, 25 percent of students who voted locally registered through Vote Local. He reiterated, however, that the overall goal is to get students involved in the political process.

"Wherever they have their registration is fine, so long as they vote, that's the important part," Crump said.

## Exercise your voting rights



- Any student who is a U.S. citizen can register to vote using his or her local Truman address.
- Voter registration cards are available at the County Courthouse and in the Student Senate office. They may be returned to those same locations.
- The deadline to register for the November presidential election is Oct. 8.
- Students will receive a card in the mail informing them where their polling location is.
- On Election Day, Nov. 4, Vote Local will provide rides to polling places for those who need transportation.
- Vote local will host an informational meeting on Monday at 5 p.m. in the Bubble. Students can also contact a Vote Local member at [votelocal.truman@gmail.com](mailto:votelocal.truman@gmail.com).

# Town welcomes new students with festivities

BY AMANDA GOESER  
Staff Reporter

Kirksville is pulling out the stops for new students tonight.

Sponsored by the Kirksville Chamber of Commerce's Retail Merchants Committee and the Kirksville Downtown Improvement Committee, Inc., this year's Downtown Student Welcome will be tonight from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Spearheading the event is the Chamber of Commerce's

project manager, Donna Brown, who has been working to spread the word among Truman students. First-year students might remember reading about the Welcome Event in the packet of information from move-in day.

"We look to provide some type of welcome event for all of the area new students," Brown said. "We are trying to target new students, but other students and families are welcome, too."

The welcome will take place on the south side of the courthouse, weather permitting. In case of rain, festivities will be moved indoors to the Kirksville Arts Association building at 117 S. Franklin, near City Hall.

Brown said concessions will be open from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and will offer free food to students with ID. The event also will feature live entertainment and booths for students to meet community

members, she said.

"Businesses, churches and organizations will have welcome tables set up on the courthouse lawn offering coupons, product samples and more," Brown said.

Through the event, the Kirksville Chamber of Commerce is hoping to achieve student involvement in the community, Brown said.

"When Truman students get involved, it really brings together the community and

the University," Brown said.

For students like freshman Lynn Berry who said she would like to volunteer in Kirksville, the Welcome Event might be an opportunity to make contacts.

"My roommates and I are going," Berry said. "I am hoping to find out what's in Kirksville because I am new, and I don't know what's around."

Roberta Santee, president of the Kirksville Downtown

Improvement Committee, said community members also can look forward to the event and connecting with local students.

"[The event is] to give students a little bit of an idea of what's in Kirksville and to welcome them," Santee said. "Students are an important part of our economy, and this is our way of recognizing them and letting them know how much we appreciate them."

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## AIR FESTIVAL



**FRIDAY NIGHT, SEPT. 12**  
**6 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

Hangar picnic and dance  
Hy-Vee hot dogs, brats and hamburgers, live band,  
Ramblin' Fever  
Truman State University Swingers Dance Exhibition



**SATURDAY, SEPT. 13**  
**7 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**SATURDAY AIR FESTIVAL**  
Parking and admission per car  
**\$10 in advance, \$15 at the gate**  
Rain date - Sunday, Sept. 14

7 a.m. to 10 a.m. Pancake breakfast \$5, Pilots eat free  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Car show - NEMO Car Club  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rotary lunch food stand  
Noon - Radio-controlled air show  
1 p.m. Dave Dacy Air Show



Missouri Highway Patrol Convincer  
Static Displays: Apache Helicopter, 1932 Waco,  
C-130 Transport

Tandem skydiving - Craig Shorten 660.216.9764  
Kids Zone: Inflatables, STARLAB Planetarium,  
Helicopter rides (\$35), Frisbee demonstration,  
Wings of Hope



Bring a lawn chair  
No coolers  
NO REFUNDS

Get your ticket at [www.kvairfest.com](http://www.kvairfest.com)  
Sponsored by the City of Kirksville and  
Kirksville Air Association. Proceeds  
go to Habitat for Humanity and for  
improvements at the Rotary Park.

Kirksville Regional Airport is located seven miles  
south of Kirksville on Highway 63.