

# City reviews water policy

BY JOHN MOENSTER  
Assistant News Editor

The city ordinance addressing water and sewer rates has sprung a few leaks during the past 18 years.

A year ago, City Council first discussed water and sewer rates and made a decision to evaluate these rates each year. This evaluation is to determine whether the rates are sufficient to cover operation and capital needs. At the Sept. 8 City Council study session, the ordinance went under review, and several revisions were proposed.

City Manager Mari Macomber said the issues being revised aren't solely financial. Rather, they address problems with water delivery and customer service. Macomber said that in terms of cost, the fees associated with the ordinance were established in 1990, and some now are being raised to compensate for inflation.

"The fee increases also relate to very specific services, not to the delivery of water to your home," Macomber said. "Whatever you're paying for your water service as a regular customer has already been established."

For example, Macomber said the revision addresses fees associated with services such as connecting to the city's water main. The revision proposes that the current fee of \$50 be raised to \$100.

Macomber said new services also have been added to the ordinance for convenience purposes, such as an annual service continuation fee. This \$100 nonrefundable fee would cover a service offered to real estate agents, homeowners and landlords. It would allow water service to continue in homes after the previous tenants had moved out as long as the agent or owner took over the bill once service began again.

"That then would eliminate [owners] having to come in, show proof of identification, sign up for water service ... and in some cases make an appointment to have the water turned on," Macomber said. "...It's a convenience fee."

City Finance Director Laura Guy said the revisions to the ordinance updated the text and clarified terms and conditions in addition to updating service fees. Guy said the city is tightening up the organization with applications for water service as well. She said that if there is no application for service on file with the city from a homeowner for a specific address, the water will not be turned on. Guy also said there will be a fee imposed on anyone responsible for turning water on without filling out an application first.

She said the city currently has a problem with unbilled water.

"The utilities billing coordinator at one time went back and looked at all the unbilled water over a three to four month period," Guy said. "For that time period it equates to about \$5,000 to \$10,000 over the course of a year."

A new fee that has been included in the revision is a delinquent turn-on fee for residents who have had their water shut off. Guy said this is to encourage people to pay their bills on time, reducing shutoffs and use of the door hanger system. The door hanger system always has been used as a courtesy to inform residents that their water bill is overdue and will be shut off if the bill is not paid. Guy said residents will have to pay a \$20 door hanger fee in addition to their overdue bill for service to continue. Guy said revisions to the ordinance also will encourage renters to pay their water bills on time by giving the landlord joint responsibility.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

This water tower off Jefferson St. provides water to much of downtown Kirksville. Future major projects for the city include investigating a third water source.

bility.

Senior Liz Morrey lives off campus and currently pays her own water bill with her roommates. Morrey said she thinks it's good a thing that the city is looking at the ordinance after 18 years.

"I think it's good to look at it because there may be some positive changes made," Morrey said. "However, if it ends up costing me more, I

won't be so glad."

Guy said the wording of the revisions to the ordinance currently are being reviewed by an attorney and will then go in front of the City Council.

Macomber also said the city has future plans for another water source in Kirksville. Macomber said meetings with the public, the City Council and the zoning and planning commission made this a

point of interest for the future. Macomber said that based on studies, Kirksville has enough water for the next 50 years, and the third water source would not only be for drinking water but also possibly a recreational facility.

"It's a concept only in a document," Macomber said. "If we're going to do something, we'll need to start looking at it maybe in the next five years."

## Crime News

### Local businesses cited for distribution to minors

The Missouri Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Control cited three Adair County residents and two Schuyler County residents for selling alcohol to an undercover minor during a routine compliance check Sept. 3, according to a press release from Sept. 16.

Break Time (located on highway 11) employee Ashley Cook, 20, and La Pachanga employee Alejandro Macedo, 20, both received citations.

Pablo Vega, a waiter at La Pachanga, said employees are required to ask for identification from everyone, even customers who are visibly in their 30s or 40s. Vega said Macedo was fired after receiving his citation and that employees now are being urged to card everyone.

"The owner has been telling us to ask for IDs because he may lose his liquor license," Vega said.

Reporting by John Moenster

# Heavy rain prompts weather awareness

BY AMANDA GOESER  
Staff Reporter

Nearly 11 inches of rainfall in the first 15 days of September have created problems for students and area residents.

As of Sept. 15, 10.94 inches of rainfall have been recorded for the city of Kirksville. The average for this point during the month of September is 2.01 inches.

It's been no secret to students who have walked to class, clad in galoshes and holding an umbrella, that Kirksville has gotten a lot of rainfall in the past weeks. But for students who weathered the summer in Kirksville, substantial rain is no stranger.

"Over the summer break, my friends had a big problem with the flood," senior Masa Toguchi said. "Apparently their apartment, which was on the first floor, got flooded. Carpet, beds and mattresses

... they all got drenched."

Toguchi said that because of damage to the circuit board, the refrigerator was ruined but shortly was replaced by the landlord.

Kirksville Police Chief Jim Hughes said the most recent bout of rain was less detrimental to Kirksville than the July floods.

"The rains of last week-end's storm, although problematic, did not cause the significant type of problems as occurred in the July rain-storm," Hughes said.

Derek Deroche, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said there currently are no flash flood warnings for northeastern Missouri.

"Everything around Kirksville is open," Deroche said. "The closest road closures are in Chariton County."

Deroche noted that among the impassable roadways in the area are state Highway 149

west of Novinger and state Route 6.

"The water depth may be much greater than you can tell," he said.

For students who are unsure of what to do during heavy flooding, the National Weather Service has an informational Web site titled "Turn Around, Don't Drown," which can be found at [tadd.weather.gov](http://tadd.weather.gov).

Annually there are more flood-related deaths than any other severe weather-related hazard, according to the Web site.

"The reason that so many people drown during flooding is because few of them realize the incredible power of water," according to the Web site. "A mere six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. It takes only two feet of rushing water to carry away most vehicles. This includes pickups and SUVs."

## NEWS | In Brief

### Macon now a DREAM city

Macon was selected to be one of the 10 new cities throughout the state to be included in Governor Matt Blunt's Downtown Revitalization and Economic Assistance for Missouri Initiative this year. The DREAM Initiative's goal is to renovate, revitalize and improve the image of cities' downtown areas. Macon has applied to be part of the initiative every year since 2006. Kirksville has been part of the initiative since last year.

### Vote to override Blunt's veto fails

On Sept. 10, the motion to override Governor Matt Blunt's veto of Senate Bill 873 failed with a 17-16 vote. SB 873 would have granted the student representative on the University of Missouri-Columbia voting power on the Board of Curators. Many students throughout Missouri supported the override and the corresponding Facebook group had almost 1,000 members. According to Senator Chuck Graham (D-District 19), all of the Democrats supported the override as well as two Republicans. The remaining Republicans backed Governor Blunt's veto.

### Family day Sept. 20

Many activities will take place throughout campus this weekend as part of Truman's annual Family Day. Some of the highlights include sporting events, parent seminars, tours of Pickler Memorial Library and a festival in the Centennial Hall courtyard.

The weekend will conclude with a memory walk to raise money and awareness for Alzheimer's on Sunday afternoon. For a full itinerary of events, check out Truman Today.

### Former Quiet Lounge renamed

The Student Union Building lounge has been renamed "The Hub." Twenty-five submissions were reduced to six by the Student Union Advisory Committee. Students at the open house voted on the top six names Sept. 9. Junior Libby Piel submitted the winning entry. She won a \$50 gift card to Barnes and Noble provided by the Student Union and the Truman State University Bookstore.

### Voter registration hits campus

The Office of Citizenship and Community Standard is leading the effort to register students to vote. Voter registration forms will be handed out Friday Sept. 19 to students in each of the seven residence halls. Students will receive a voter registration card and instructions on where to mail the completed card. Tables with registration cards will be set up outside of dining halls each week until the voter registration deadline Oct. 8.

### Student Senate elections next week

Student Senate elections will take place Sept. 23 and 24. Voting will take place online at [vote.truman.edu](http://vote.truman.edu). Senior Brett Wiley, Senate Vice President, said that about 20 Senate election packets have been checked out. Wiley said that students have until Friday to turn in packets. For more information or questions about the election, e-mail Nadia Mozaffar at [nadia@truman.edu](mailto:nadia@truman.edu).

### Student Senate | In Brief

- Senate passed a motion adjusting state rules in the constitution.
- Senate passed a motion on the safety commission resolution.
- Senate passed a money motion for \$31 for an upcoming alumni banquet.
- Senate passed a money motion for a \$100 refundable deposit for a student senate retreat.
- Senate discussed details about a hunger banquet Nov. 16.
- Senate discussed plans for the Residence Life roundtable.

## DPS | Reports

- 9/15 Report of textbooks stolen from Pershing Building.
- 9/14 Subject was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for Minor in Possession of Intoxicants.
- 9/13 Subject was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for Minor in Possession of Intoxicants by Consumption.
- 9/10 Subject was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for possession of narcotics.
- 9/10 Report of a book bag stolen out of Missouri Hall cafeteria.
- 9/10 Report of a book bag stolen out of Ryle Hall cafeteria.

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