

Wal-Mart pulls local papers

New corporate policy removes local publications from entryway

BY AMANDA GOESER
Staff Reporter

For Truman students, Wal-Mart is more than a local super center — it is a destination.

Within the next few weeks, Kirksville residents and students entering Wal-Mart might notice something different. Because of corporate policy, the indoor entryway of the Kirksville Wal-Mart will no longer house Index newspapers or the other local publications.

The Index currently is working with Wal-Mart managers to ensure that students and area residents still can pick up the paper at the store.

After years of newspapers being housed in the entryway, Wal-Mart is looking to move the papers outdoors, store manager Doug Nichting said.

“Corporately, this is something that has been going on for the past

year, that they have wanted to narrow down what we have in our vestibules, or entryways,” Nichting said. “So it makes the store accessible and more eye-appealing.”

This is not the first time changes to the shopping center entryways have been made. Wal-Mart has moved the photo lab drop boxes out of the entryway to open up the space.

“We have done the same with our vending machines,” he said. “We have fewer and are trying to have a better selection rather than having too many games that restrict customer traffic flow.”

Along with Index racks in the Wal-Mart entryways were racks for NEMO Trader, Midwest Country News, Show Me Trader and Show Me Move.com, which all have been removed from the entryways. Nichting said he foresees residents reacting to the movement of the traders.

“I think it may [have an effect on residents] to some extent,” Nichting said. “I know [moving] the Trader itself will have a negative

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Doug Nichting
Store Manager



Krista Goodman/Index
A customer walks by a group of empty newspaper racks in one of Wal-Mart's entryways. Wal-Mart will no longer be carrying the Index or any other local publication due to a corporate policy.

impact on customers who come in specifically for it and maybe the Truman Index, but there aren't customers that say, ‘Where is the

Index?’ on weeks when [the Index doesn't] print,” he said.

Junior Jackie McAndrew said that she reads the Index online.

“It's pretty much the easier way,” McAndrew said. “I have a lot of classes out in Barnett and I don't see them sitting out too much.”

Property owners might have say in historical value

BY SARAH SCOTT
Staff Reporter

The Historic Preservation Commission is drafting an ordinance that will have the power to determine whether property owners decide if their holdings become historical landmarks.

Brad Selby, Kirksville's codes and planning director, said the Commission will discuss a tentative city ordinance that would identify properties that have historical meaning to the city or county and then work on preserving them.

“A landmark is a historic structure, a historic site,” Selby said. “It could be a cemetery, it could be a house, it could be a barn, it could be a ... who knows what.”

Selby said part of the decision the Commission will make is the way properties are nominated to become historic landmarks.

He said the state-suggested way to nominate properties is for a city councilmember, the Historic Preservation Commission or the landowner to nominate the property. Selby said that after the nomination, three public hearings take place in which the landowner can make his or her wishes known. He said one hearing would be in front of the Historic Preservation Commission, one in front of Kirksville's Planning and Zoning committee and one in front of the City Council.

“If any one of those bodies decides during a vote that this property does not meet the criteria or the standards to be a historic property, then the ball stops right there,” Selby said.

The alternative way a property can be nominated is to give the power to nominate solely to the landowner, Selby said. He said if a property received the nomination, it still would go through the three hearings.

Selby said the Historic Preservation Commission will decide a method for property consideration during its meeting Oct. 1, which then will be recommended to the Planning and Zoning Committee. He said Planning and Zoning will have a public hearing and then make a recommendation to the City Council. He said the City Council then will have a public hearing and make a final decision.

There also could be tax benefits or monetary assistance with upkeep, Selby said. He said the ordinance requires the property owner to perform maintenance on the site.

Ken Shook, chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission, said the Commission will monitor historic buildings in Kirksville. He said that if an owner wanted to modify a historic building, he or she would be required to come before the Commission to receive a certificate of appropriateness.

He said the ordinance is only in its first stages.

Shook said that in order to get the ordinance started, the Commission needs to do an inventory of all the buildings in Kirksville to determine what might be historical.

Bob Giovannini owns the Grim Building located in downtown Kirksville, which is on the National Historic Registry.

Giovannini said the owner of a building on the Historic Registry is free to do what he or she wants with the property if he or she is not attempting to participate in the Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program. He said those who try to participate in the program have several requirements to maintain the historical integrity of the property.

He said he currently is trying to qualify for those tax credits, so he has had to update electrical and plumbing facilities in the Grim Building, as well as perform cosmetic upkeep in the common areas.

Some changes the tax credit program discourages are installing new windows, refinishing woodwork, changing the façade of the building and leaving exposed brick.

“If any one of those bodies decides during a vote that this property does not meet the criteria or the standards to be a historic property, then the ball stops right there.”

Brad Selby
Codes and Planning Director

Red Barn Arts and Crafts Festival



Mayank Dhungana/Index
Shoppers peruse a display table of ornaments at the Red Barn Arts & Crafts Festival on Saturday. This festival happens annually on the square and it features various artists and merchants who make the trip to sell their crafts.

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