

City applies for waste grant

BY ELIZABETH KOCH
Staff Reporter

The Kirksville City Council approved the submission of a grant application at the council meeting on Feb. 1 for a Household Hazardous Waste facility in Kirksville through the Northeast Missouri Solid Waste Management District and Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

The facility would accept traditional HHW products such as aerosols, batteries and paint, according to the executive summary in the grant application.

If the funds are awarded to Adair County, the grant money would be used for the HHW facility, set up, installation and the training and collection cost for one year of service, according to the executive summary.

The project would cost approximately \$30,000 with the grant paying for about 75 percent of the cost, while the other 25 percent will have to be picked up by the city, Cherie Bryant, assistant to the city manager, wrote in an e-mail to the Index that the City of Kirksville will not be notified until May or June if it receives the grant, she wrote.

"The City of Kirksville is interested in providing a Household Hazardous Waste facility for citizens to safely dispose of chemicals that would otherwise be dumped in the local landfill or water and wastewater stream," according to

the executive summary.

The goals of the HHW project include making citizens aware of HHW and how to dispose of it, along with active community participation and educational programs given by members and organizations of the community, according to the executive summary.

The HHW facility would be located at the Public Works Complex at 2001 N. Osteopathy St. Kirksville and Adair County residents may use the center at no cost by appointment only every second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

In 2009, Bryant and City Planner Mari Macomber visited the HHW facility in Mexico, Mo., to see their HHW program and to determine if something similar would succeed in Kirksville for the city and Adair County, Bryant said in an e-mail.

"So, we left Mexico feeling very confident that we could implement something like that here," Bryant said. "The city of Mexico received a grant through their Solid Waste Management District to purchase a HHW facility and help start the program — therefore, we thought we should do the same."

Kirksville's grant application was based off previous grant applications through other Missouri cities like Branson, Joplin and Columbia, Bryant said.

Sue Morton, solid waste coordinator for the NEMO Solid Waste

Management Region-C, said she isn't aware of any HHW facilities in the six counties that NEMO Solid Waste Management Region-C covers.

"You want to give your citizens some place to go with those things [HHW]," Morton said. "You don't want them just dumping them out into the environment. ... Keep them out of landfills."

Money for grants is generated from landfills, which is then distributed to the different districts throughout the state, she said. These sub-grants are given to the solid waste districts from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Grants are usually awarded once a year, with four being awarded this year from region C, she said.

"They're grants that promote recycling, to reduce the amount of things that go into landfills," Morton said.

Many entities besides cities or counties can apply for these grants, such as schools, she said. The bio-diesel project at Truman received funding through a grant last year.

The board from the NEMO Solid Waste Management Region-C hasn't looked at the grant applications yet, Morton said.

After the HHW is collected in the facilities, it is transported to other recycling facilities throughout the state and then those facilities contract with a hauler to have the HHW taken away, she said.

Tim Baker, physical plant assistant director and safety manager, said the grant would not affect Truman because the hazardous waste is disposed of through Clean Harbors, a separate state approved contractor, once a year.

The waste is sorted and pre-



Brian O'Shaughnessy/ Index
Kirksville applied for a grant for a Household Hazardous Waste facility.

processed on campus before the pick-up, Baker said. Homeland Security made some recent changes, causing some waste to be pre-diluted that previously didn't have to be, he said.

Truman is considered a small quantity generator because of the small amount of hazardous waste accumulated, he said.

"Clean Harbors always tells us [the physical plant] that we have one of the cleanest, neatest and best organized waste processing facilities that they see anywhere," Baker said.

Hazardous waste on campus comes from toxic chemicals used

in chemistry experiments and printing services because of the ink's contents, he said.

"Usually it's classified as hazardous because of the low flash point," Baker said. "In other words, the flash point is less than 140 degrees [Fahrenheit]. ... We don't very often have that, or if we do, it's a small amount."

Most of the campus waste is universal, which means it's not non-hazardous, but is not classified as hazardous either, which includes items like fluorescent light bulbs, he said. But the universal waste is handled in the same way as hazardous waste.

Freedom Writers come to Truman

BY BAILLIE JAMES
Staff Reporter

The movie "Freedom Writers" will come alive in Kirksville next week. Two students from Room 203 that inspired the film will speak at Truman on Monday night.

Erin Gruwell began teaching an English class at an at-risk high school in Long Beach, Calif., in 1994 and led the group to graduate from high school and pursue higher education. Their stories inspired teachers everywhere after "The Freedom Writers Diary" was published in 1999. Two of Gruwell's students, Tony Becerra and Calvin Vanderhoff, will discuss their triumphs against gang violence, English as a second language, unstable home lives and other struggles at 7 p.m. Monday in Baldwin Auditorium.

"We're just punk kids from the hood who made it out," Becerra said. "We're not rich. We're not famous. ... I don't think we're anything special. We're just people who wanted to change."

Yet schools throughout America, Canada, Mexico and Argentina think differently as they vie to get one of the original 150 Freedom Writers to visit. Becerra and Vanderhoff travel once or twice a month to present at schools, juvenile halls and conferences.

Becerra said the Freedom Writers offer their life stories as examples. They try to show students that no matter where a person comes from, he or she can get an educa-

tion, even when faced with the judgments of outsiders. When not traveling, Becerra works in Los Angeles teaching first generation Americans and migrant children how to read and write, especially poetry.

Ryle Hall director Liz Raine serves on the Residence Life Diversity Committee and said students who attend this event should come away with a greater understanding of tolerance. She said she wants students to realize that although all of the Freedom Writers were "at-risk" students, one person managed to change their lives.

Danielle Noring, community coordinator for Missouri Hall, said the Diversity Committee has been working to bring the Freedom Writers to Truman since a student adviser suggested the idea in October. Multiple organizations, such as the Center for Student Involvement, National Education Association, New Student Programs and Student Senate, collaborated to make this event financially possible. Noring considers this presentation a great opportunity for Truman students, especially for the education department.

To prep students for this presentation, "Freedom Writers," starring Hilary Swank, will play at 6 p.m. Saturday in Kirk Gym and 9 p.m. Saturday in the Student Union Building Hub. A question and answer session will occur after the presentation Monday, followed by a book signing. Both "The Freedom Writers Diary" and "Teaching Hope: Stories from the Freedom Writer Teachers" can be purchased at the presentation.

"We're just punk kids from the hood who made it out."

Tony Becerra
Freedom Writer

Students visit Capitol

Students ask legislators to continue funding

BY DAN WARNER
Staff reporter

Truman students traveled to Jefferson City on Tuesday to talk with Missouri legislators about the importance of funding for higher education.

Thirty-nine students talked with members of the Missouri House of Representatives and the Missouri Senate one-on-one and in groups throughout the morning. Student Senate organized the annual trip and sent from inside and outside of Student Senate.

Joey Shelton, chairman of external affairs, said the goals of the trip were to thank the legislature for funding and continuing to fund Truman, to offer students an opportunity to learn how the legislature works and to give students a sense of ownership during the budget crisis.

Shelton said students connected well with lawmakers, and the event went smoothly. He said Truman students have an advantage over other students in regards to communicating with the legislature because of Truman's strong internship program with the Capitol.

"Because of the internship program, I think that [legislators] were much more likely to listen to us and care about what we had to say," Shelton said.

Lizz Esfeld, Student Senate's vision document chair, said that past trips to the Capitol have sometimes focused on particular pieces of upcoming legislation.

Shelton said they decided against discussing particular legislation because partisan politics get in the way. Shelton said individual students could not represent the view of the entire University, so discussing individual bills was less productive than discussing general funding.

State Rep. Rebecca McClanahan, D-Kirksville, met with students and discussed legislation that had been debated in the House on Tuesday morning. The topic was a bill aimed toward the Access Missouri Scholarship, which awarded money to 1,168 Truman students the last school year, according to the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

The scholarship is described as need-based, but the state currently requires students using it to maintain a 2.5 or higher GPA. McClanahan said the current bill suggests lowering the required GPA to 2.0 through the first 60 credit hours taken.

McClanahan said she supports a position closer to the original draft of the bill, which would have removed the minimum GPA requirement. She said she supports providing the scholarship to students who are progressing and in good academic standing with the University, therefore allowing individual universities to determine if students are meeting academic requirements.

McClanahan said the 2.5 GPA requirement appears to be arbitrary and does not fit a need-based scholarship. She said she will consider the possibility of proposing an amendment to the bill that would eliminate the GPA requirement.

McClanahan said budget problems, like the ones Missouri lawmakers are facing with state revenue reduced by more than \$800 million, make legislation more difficult, but also give legislators the opportunity to make positive changes.

She said that even with the difficulties presented in the current budget, it is possible that the budget for 2012 will be even more restrictive, but lawmakers will meet the challenge head-on.

"When times are tough, you find the political will to make the necessary changes," McClanahan said.



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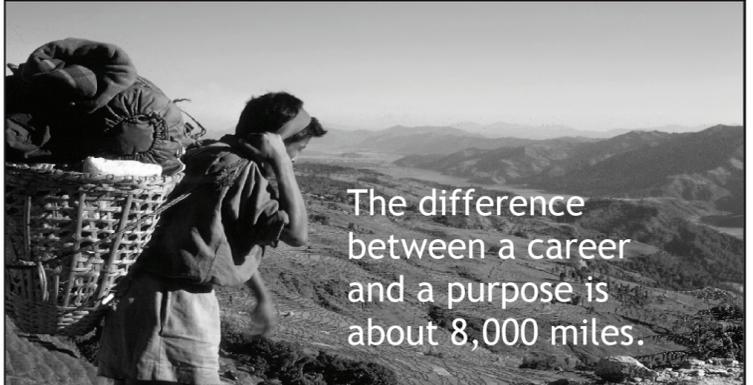
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