

## Tobacco Cessation Classes



Program leaders and instructors (from left to right) senior Teresa Nydegger, alumna Brittany Camacho and sophomore Joan Scacciaferro waited Wednesday at Cold Turkey, the free tobacco cessation classes sponsored by the American Lung association. Community members and any Truman student, staff or faculty member are invited to take part in the classes, which is in the Student Union Building, Room 3203 and provides nicotine patches and doctor consultations. No participants showed up for Wednesday night's meeting, cessation leader Nancy Johnson said. When the program started in 2007, an average of 10 people participated in the classes, but attendance has been declining.

Amy Vicars/Index

## K-REDI sets development goals

BY ELIZABETH KOCH  
Staff Reporter

Kirkville Regional Economic Development, Inc., is looking to create job opportunities by starting up new businesses in Kirkville or expanding already existing companies, despite the national economy and lack of vacant space.

Phil Tate, director of job creation, said Kirkville has one of the most extensive economic development programs compared to other cities of the same size. K-REDI successfully has located a new project about every two years since Tate started his position seven years ago.

"I'm always out there trying to generate prospects and leads," Tate said. "There are lots of different ways to do that — through contacts with consultants, I travel to other states, I work trade shows, [K-REDI does] direct mail."

Tate said he uses the unique aspects of the city, such as having two universities and the Northeast Regional Medical Center, to attract new businesses to Kirkville. K-REDI does not work directly with retail businesses, tourism, entrepreneurs or community development, he said.

Tate said that bringing new businesses to Kirkville would pay for the streets or the fire and police departments and add to

Kirkville's overall economy.

"When you bring additional businesses to town, you bring additional wages, and of course, those wages are spent everywhere around town for everything," Tate said.

Tate said that when attracting new businesses, K-REDI puts forward a strong professional organization to show Kirkville's dependability. K-REDI provides resources

for existing companies to help them expand, he said.

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**Phil Tate**

Director for Job Creation for Kirkville Regional Economic Development, Inc.

"Predictions are dangerous, and raising people's expectations is a dangerous thing," Tate said. "I think, economically, Kirkville will continue to do OK. ... I won't predict that we'll be able to attract a new company [in 2010] because you never know about those things."

New businesses prefer to move in to empty buildings instead of buying empty lots because the businesses can open faster, whereas having to construct a new building might stand in the way, he said. Existing buildings also are more reasonably priced,

he said.

Tate said the largest problem K-REDI will face in 2010 is the national economy. Although Kirkville's economy is not prospering, it is suffering less than other communities, he said.

"[The national economy is] a problem that we have no control over whatsoever,"

Tate said. "We may change our strategies, we may change our approaches some, but we can't really do anything."

K-REDI Board President Bill Lymer said the continuing search for companies looking to expand to the Kirkville area along with current Kirkville companies looking to create more jobs is an issue that will be faced in 2010.

"The state and national economy and projected state budget shortfalls and how that affects economic development through the whole state will play into K-REDI," Lymer said.

Lymer said Kirkville has a lower unemployment rate compared to peer city groups and the state and national averages.

In the past, Kirkville had vacant buildings available to new or expanding businesses, but the previous vacant space is running short.

"That's certainly something we're trying to remedy whether it's through a certified site plan or exploring every option we have," Lymer said.

K-REDI isn't looking for any specific type of business to come to Kirkville, he said.

Lymer said a certified site program offered by the state of Missouri would certify a Greenfield site for different types of businesses, eventually leading to construction of a building for a specific company. The funding for the site would come from K-REDI's general fund, and the manufacturer would be chosen with help from the state, he said.

K-REDI Board Member Annette Sweet said economic development organizations



Phil Tate

like K-REDI are important because they provide the mechanisms and funding to bring in experienced people to work for Kirkville.

"The plans we have for 2010 are taking into consideration that it's not likely that there's going to be a lot of businesses, either existing businesses or outside businesses, that would be planning towards expansion or relocation," Sweet said.

Sweet said that depending on the type of new business, it could improve the tax base because taxes would then be paid for property, sales or products, and tax revenue helps the community, she said.

K-REDI is looking for any type of input, and citizens are encouraged to attend the next K-REDI meeting at 4 p.m. March 9 at AmerenUE, Lymer said.

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