



Grace Stojeba/Index

Behind Walmart and its neighboring businesses, just before a block of residential homes, lies a field covered with trash. Truman Spanish professor Juan Carlos Valencia said that at first glance, the trash on this field looks like it could be birds, but instead it's the litter from these businesses' customers.

## Residents tire of trash

Neighbors behind Walmart shopping center blame the companies for litter

BY ASHLEY JOST  
Assistant News Editor  
index.newseditor@gmail.com

North New Street residents find themselves picking up trash in their yards daily. They assume it belongs to nearby businesses, and they aren't happy about it.

One block east of North New Street, the backs of local businesses face a field that lies before the next block of residential homes. Much like these residents' yards, this field is littered with

shopping bags, fliers and trash bags.

Truman Spanish professor Juan Carlos Valencia said that when he and his wife moved to North New Street during 2000, they immediately noticed how frequently trash blew into their yard.

"I work hard and have a lot of pride in my property, so I take care of it," Valencia said. "But it gets really old to pick up the trash after a while because someone else is careless."

Brad Selby, Kirksville's codes and planning director, said while the City has had to ask Walmart to cleanup around its property, the company takes care of its trash and its own designated area.

"I don't see it as being a specific problem for Walmart or the other business, but rather the wind mixed with

the trash from customers as they load their cars," Selby said.

Valencia said that while he's never complained to any of the companies or the City, he's often frustrated by the constant amount of random trash that makes its way around and inside his backyard.

"If trash makes its way to those residents' property, it becomes their problem," Selby said. "But I really don't think that there's anything more that businesses like Walmart can do. They keep good control of their trash."

A Walmart manager said the business has been reassured multiple times from the City's codes department that they aren't responsible for the trash, but rather it being the fault of their customers.

## Students have free tax options

Local business and student groups provide free tax opportunities for students

BY GRACE FREEMAN  
Staff Reporter

Students have a couple options to have their taxes done free this tax season.

Kirksville's H&R Block on Baltimore Street offers free simple tax returns through April 17 and Beta Alpha Psi, an international scholastic and professional fraternity for students interested in a financial information profession, offers free services through March.

Students need to bring three items when getting their tax returns at H&R Block. These include W-2 forms which show how much students made throughout the year and the amount of federal taxes that were taken out of the paychecks, their 1098-T, or their tuition statement that says how much the student paid into their education, and any information about interests or

dividends that students have earned, which would be documentation that the bank would send to the student if it applies.

H&R Block decided to extend its free tax services through the entire tax season rather than just the month of February to give people more time to take advantage of the service, said Jane Uihorn, H&R Block Store Owner.

An individual's income has to be less than \$50,000 and can have interest and dividends less than \$1,500 to qualify for free tax service. This is the first year H&R Block is offering free tax returns for the whole tax season.

H&R Block also is offering a Refund Anticipation Check free until Feb. 4.

"They save \$34.95 by doing that," Uihorn said. "They get the 1040EZ free if they qualify for having their information put in on the 1040EZ, but if they fill out a state they have to put on a state return."

Beta Alpha Psi has offered free tax services during tax season for the past 11 years, said Lucas Dille, BAP's vice president of Volunteer Income Tax Service.

These services are offered Saturdays through March, starting Feb. 11 from 8 a.m. until about 3 p.m. in the 1400 wing of Violette Hall.

"It's beneficial to the community because a lot of the people who come to get their returns prepared need the money they get from their refunds, and it's also a great hands-on experience for the students who prepare it," Dille said.

The 60 Beta Alpha Psi members are all required to participate in the VITA program, giving them experience they wouldn't get in the classroom. This year, Students in Free Enterprise is participating by training some of the BAP members about how to carry out these tax services.

BAP had about 300 clients last year, 96 of which were students. Appointments are not necessary, and all students need is their Social Security card or a copy of it and any tax documents they have.

"VITA is easy for students to do and then also it's a win-win situation for the students who need it to be prepared and us," Dille said.

## Students propose new art fraternity

BY HUONG TRAN  
Staff Reporter

Fine art students at Truman might become a little more brotherly if the Center for Student Involvement approves a charter for a professional art fraternity at the University.

A small group of art students had the idea to create the fraternity last semester and started working on the process a week after Winter Break, freshman Kyle Pappalardo said.

"It's really just about us all coming together and raising money and raising awareness for the fine arts department," Pappalardo said. "We really want to get the word out there and help people understand why it is so important for the fine arts to continue to be a part of the University."

The new fraternity would be Chapter Four of the International Honorary Art Fraternity Kappa Pi, she said.

The group is trying to come up with some activities for the fraternity rush event once it is approved, such as painting a large banner on a building wall. They also are thinking about having a gallery or art sales to get their name out there, she said.

"We're thinking about doing just really fun art activities," Pappalardo said. "It's not all about impressing people or raising money – it's about the art."

Junior Andrea Linskey said they are planning to help paint the walls of a coffee shop in La Plata, she said.

Linskey said being a part of the national Kappa Pi would bring them art opportunities and connections with artists outside Kirksville. They also could submit their artwork to the national organization's publications, she said.

There will be a hearing session in February at which the prospective organization will meet with the New Organization Hearing panel to gather further information about the potential group, said Matt Kennedy, program advisor for Service and Leadership.

He said there's no guarantee the submitted proposal for a Kappa Pi fraternity will be approved.

"Once we do the hearings, that's really where we find out how to proceed from there and where our interaction with the group comes into focus the most," Kennedy said.

Kennedy said the Center for Student Involvement has to check with the national organization to know the requirements for the group.

The fact that this fraternity would be nationally affiliated makes it unique among the other organizations that apply for charters through the CSI.

Kennedy said if a group has the green light to continue after the hearing session, there will be a provisional charter phase in which they have a lot of the same rights as the regular charter groups. They will work together, and after a semester, there will be a chance for the group and the CSI office to re-evaluate to ensure everyone still is working like they are supposed to, Kennedy said.

After this phase, the group can move into the real charter where they continue like any other organization, he said.

Pappalardo said at this point, they have completed the petition and all the paper work has been submitted to the University. The petition needs 35 signatures, but 52 students already have shown interest in joining.

Pappalardo said they have informational meetings at 4 p.m. every Sunday in Ophelia Parrish. They also have a Facebook group to spread the word, she said.

Pappalardo said they are preparing for the hearing and trying to convince the panel this is something important and valuable for the University.

Linksey said there is a \$50 chartering fee that is paid in advance by one group member. Other members will have to pay \$25 for the first semester as a joining fee and \$5 every semester after that to maintain a fraternity budget, she said.



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