

CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL

GLEN MORITZ,
AGE 61

Grew up in Kirksville and has been living in Kirksville for the past year

Works as a contractor

If elected, will:

- combat the area's drug problem
- bring new ideas to City Council
- make necessary improvements to water treatment plant
- open a dog park
- improve some of the roads
- clean up the downtown area
- plan more community events

BRANDON ATHON,
AGE 26

Kirksville resident for five years

Works at Farmland Foods

If elected, will:

- bring more manufacturing jobs to Kirksville
- make sure the city remains financially responsible
- support water treatment plant updates
- make sure retail jobs are available for Truman State students
- make sure the downtown area stays clean and safe

RANDALL BACON,
AGE 39

Kirksville resident for 10 years

Works as a counselor at Preferred Family Health Care

If elected, will:

- create jobs by finding new ways to entice new businesses and factories to come to Kirksville
- make sure there are retail jobs available in Kirksville for Truman State students
- make sure the opinions of Truman students are represented by the City Council

RICHARD GREEN,
AGE 40

Kirksville resident for 13 years

Owens a bike repair shop

If elected, will:

- work with the other council members to come up with ideas to make it easier for businesses to get started in Kirksville
- improve roads near Truman's campus

RICHARD DETWEILER,
AGE 58

Has lived in Kirksville all his life

Current mayor of Kirksville

If elected, will:

- make sure the necessary updates are made to the water treatment plants
- improve Kirksville for Truman State students

Voters face water bond ballot issue

BY BETHANY BOYLE
Staff Reporter

At the polls next week, Kirksville area voters will see a water bond measure to finance improvements for local waste water treatment.

Director of Public Works John Buckwalter said the decision reached by citizens April 2 will determine whether the City will allocate a revenue bond to pay for the overhaul of the Kirksville Wastewater Treatment Plant. He said the outcome of the vote will not affect plans for renovation because the upgrade must take place for the plant to comply with new pollution regulations set by the state of Missouri.

"We have to make these required improvements in order to meet our new permit requirements," Buckwalter said. "We're going to have to do this. The question is, how do we pay for it?"

Buckwalter said two advantages of a revenue bond is a lower interest rate than if the money were acquired from another source and access to Missouri's revolving loan fund. He said this approach will enable the city to pay off the loan after about 20 years.

"If we don't have the bond issue then we'll have to basically go out on the open market to borrow money," Buckwalter said.

He said borrowing from other sources will cost the city and local residents more long term.

He said it likely would mean a higher interest rate and greater increases in sewage utility bills for the Kirksville area. Buckwalter said if the water bond measure is not passed, it might take longer to pay off the debt from the renovations, eliminating the ability to use those resources to address other local needs and projects.

Buckwalter said the revenue to pay back the loan will come from the utility costs paid by local residents. The City will be able to collect the whole amount by raising sewage bills by about 10 percent each year for five years, which will take place whether or not the water bond is passed.

"Today if you use 5,000 gallons of water, your sewer bill is \$29.04," Buckwalter said. "We're going to increase that rate progressively so that by 2019, your sewer bill will be \$51.52."

City Council member Rodger Edge said he supports the water bond measure. He said as the repairs will take place regardless of the outcome next Tuesday, he hopes citizens will see the advantages of voting yes on the water bond.

"It's going to happen either way," Edge said. "It's going to need to be paid for."

Water meter update placed on hold

BY DANIELLE WALDRON
Staff Reporter

Kirksville's water meter replacement project temporarily is on hold until Springbrook, the electronic billing software provider, develops the software for the City's new water meters.

The water meters in town are being replaced so they can be read more efficiently with handheld devices and computer software rather than taking manual readings, said Brad Selby, Kirksville Codes and Planning Director.

Selby said Schneider Electric, the project contractor, is working with the City and Springbrook to make sure the software provided by Springbrook properly downloads meter information and generates water bills with minimal intervention. He said every city collects different information for billing, so each city has specific software. Springbrook still is trying to develop the software for Kirksville, Selby said.

"It should have been done on the first of March," Selby said. "We heard back from them this week."

After the software is developed and successfully tested, he said the new meters will be ready for installation and will replace all the meters in Kirksville. The change-out will take about four to five months and Selby said he anticipates the project to be done around Sept. 1 instead of the original date during July.

The City already uses Springbrook for billing in other departments such as Finance and Codes and Planning, Selby said.

Springbrook provides accounting software for small and local governments across the nation, said Springbrook Director of Marketing Bert Lowry. He said the company provides packages to its clients, some of which are made specially to meet the needs of the City and its utilities, payroll and accounting.

"What we do is we come in and work with the city and their utility vendor," Lowry said. "We help identify the needs, answer any questions and work to provide a solution within the budget that meets every need."

Lowry said many cities have opted to use the remote reads for water meters because it is cost efficient and reduces human error that can occur when meters are read manually.

Springbrook has a package with Kirksville, Lowry said, which provides all of the necessary software for internal billing and account management. This unified system, enterprise resource planning, helps the company work more efficiently with its client.

Kirksville City Manager Mari



Calli Lowry/Index
Custodian John Lorey adjusts the water meter March 19 in the basement of Kirksville City Hall. New water meters are being installed that can be read more efficiently.

Macomber said the new meter readers will be more accurate and more efficient because they are radio-read, and people will not have to read them.

"We are getting reads directly from the source and not something secondary," Macomber said. "They will reduce human error and eliminate the remote reader which was just an extra component that has caused problems in the past. We are behind on the technology that is available."

Any resident who is a Kirksville water customer will have the new water meters with the new technology, Macomber said.

Once all of the meters are replaced, she said the City will take competitive bids from companies to salvage the old meters for refurbishment or scrap metal.

