

KPD starts bike safety campaign

BY CHELSIE YOKUM
Staff Reporter

The Kirksville Police Department is starting a long-term community bicycle and vehicle safety awareness and acceptance program.

The program began last spring when Kevin Keith, the Missouri Department of Transportation director, came to Kirksville to speak about transportation. This presentation stemmed from complaints reported by cyclists and motorists, according to the program's press release.

The project will begin by addressing the issue of cyclists riding on the sidewalks in the downtown area, which is a violation of Chapter 15, Article III of the Kirksville, Missouri Code of Ordinances. Signs will be displayed and sidewalks will be painted to inform cyclists of the law.

Once that is completed, KPD will begin an education campaign.

"Bicyclists aren't really an issue, but the safety of them is an issue, and it's something that the police department is concerned with," Nick Panos, KPD bicycle community project coordinator, said. "It doesn't seem like enough of that information is getting out there to them to where they can ride safe."

The campaign will include distributing a brochure to community members, Panos said. The brochure will feature safety tips for cyclists and motorists to make them aware of the rules regarding bicyclists.

In addition to the issue with cyclists riding on sidewalks downtown, and the education campaign, plans will be developed to solve the problem of aggressive drivers. The campaign will also address concerns about bicyclists at night without lights, bike registration, drivers who fail to yield to cyclists and cyclists who do not obey the rules of the road, according to the press report.

Panos has been collaborating with other people throughout the community about the project, such as Rachel Ruhlen, community bicyclist advocate.

Ruhlen said she was contacted by Police Chief Jim Hughes after he was told by city manager Mari Macomber that he needed to address the downtown sidewalk issue.

"Really the only thing he knew to do was to put up signs downtown saying, 'no bicycles,'" Ruhlen said.

She said she was concerned that this was a purely negative approach to the situation, instead of encouraging people to ride on the street. Ruhlen said she began researching the approaches other cities had taken to address these issues.

She said she became interested in bike safety when her family became a one-car family and she began riding a bike. Ruhlen said drivers would often yell at her to get off the road and she said she was uncertain where she should ride.

To learn the rules of biking safety, she said she took a Traffic Skills 101 class and during 2009 received a certi-



Anna Grace/Index

Freshman Isaac Pearlstone unlocks his bike outside McClain Hall. Pearlstone said he tries to be conscious of bike safety laws while riding throughout Kirksville.

fication to teach the class from the American League of Bicyclists.

"The reason people are yelling at you is because they just don't know," Ruhlen said. "They're frustrated because you're slowing them down a tiny little bit ... they just don't know that it's okay for bicycles to be there."

This is where the safety tip brochures will come in handy for driver, Panos said. He said the biggest issue with bicyclists isn't that they ride in the roads, but that there isn't enough information available to the public for everyone to understand the laws and how to keep bicyclists safe.

Ruhlen said she would like to work with Truman students to help student cyclists learn road rules and to keep them safe.

The brochure, or a modified version of it, might be placed in freshman materials as a part of the education campaign, Ruhlen said.

Freshman Laura Chamberlain rides her bike to class daily. She said she is aware of most of the rules regarding bicycle safety, although she does not always follow them.

"[I know the rules] from word on the street pretty much," Chamberlain said. "I do not have reflectors. That is a main thing for riding on the sidewalks. But I don't really ride my bike at night."

Chamberlain says she thinks student bicyclists would benefit from education programs because students would then understand the tickets they receive.

Students organize disabilities support group

BY KENNY WARNER
Staff Reporter

A new departmental group at Truman State aims to help students understand what it means to have disabilities.

Founded by senior Sierra Gregg and sponsored by Disability Services, the Students with Disabilities Group is looking to change the lives of new members through support.

Gregg said she began the group because of a similarly supportive experience working with an organization sponsored by the Delta Gamma Center for Children with Visual Impairment in St. Louis, which provided support for students. She said she found the ability to talk and connect with other people facing challenges similar to hers to be a positive experience.

"I thought that Truman could use a group similar to that, so that all of the students who

get services through the Disability Services Office, and other students that haven't signed up for services could get together and share experiences and help each other out," she said.

Brenda Higgins, Student Health Center director, said other groups are available at various times through the office, but they are facilitated by a professional rather than student-led like the Students with Disabilities Group. She said she feels that such groups are important because there are so few resources available throughout Kirksville compared to larger communities, and students with disabilities might have limited access or ability to get off campus even if there were resources available.

The office already provides help with services including Braille translation of course

materials, testing accommodations and counseling referrals, Higgins said.

Gregg said she hopes the group will be able to encourage members to be more open about their disabilities.

She said there are a variety of obstacles disabled students must overcome including seeing the board, concentrating and writing notes fast enough. One problem which affects nearly all students with disabilities are the time constraints a disability creates, Gregg said.

Vicky Wehner, Disability Services Coordinator, said she has had an active role in creating the group. She said she hopes the group will raise awareness about students with disabilities, and allow those with disabilities to

have a support system at Truman.

"There is a way for them to come in and be able to vent, and be able to work with someone else who maybe has figured out a better way of doing things that they haven't thought of yet," Wehner said, "This gives them an ability to network."

She said each disability presents its own challenges, and the group will allow students to talk to someone who understands those challenges.

"We have students out there with chronic health issues that may not know how to talk to others about that and have someone else who understands what they're going through," Wehner said.

The group had its first meeting during the end of October, but concrete dates for future meetings have not yet been set. If you have any questions about the group, contact Gregg at slg5663@truman.edu.

For more information, contact Sierra Gregg at slg5663@truman.edu

INDEX Classifieds

660-785-4319

For Rent

For Rent: Wagner Enterprises rental properties are available for 2013-2014 lease. New units with one to four bedrooms are all within two blocks of campus! Complete with washer/dryer in each, all electric, central heat and air, private parking and maintenance staff. For more information, call 660-341-5538 or visit www.wespaces.net

For Rent: Awesome, restored, 3B, 2BA house one block from TSU. Hardwoods and all new appliances including dishwasher, washer and dryer. Pottery barn paint. Very spacious and modern with central air. Available in June 2013. 319-530-7393

For Rent: Excellent 4-5 Bedroom 3BA house right next to TSU. Modern with central air, stainless steel appliances including washer, dryer, and dishwasher. Hardwoods and nice dining room. 319-530-7393

For Rent: 1-BR, Clean Apartment. Close to TSU with Stove and Refrigerator Included. Off-Street Parking. Water and Trash Paid. Available November 1. \$275/mo. Broker/Owner Call 660-216-1952

For Rent: 3 bedroom house for rent near Truman and A.T. Still. new carpet, laundry, dishwasher, central air, 90+ furnace, plenty of off street parking. Available immediately. \$960.00/month. 970-318-8902 or 815-519-6509

For Rent: Large, one bedroom duplex with loft feel. Very spacious and full of character one block from TSU. KPM 665-6380.

For Rent

For Rent: Northeast Missouri Properties is now renting apartments and houses for the 2013 school year. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 bdr places. Very pet friendly. Most within walking distance to campus. Locally owned and maintained. Places are going fast. Northeastmissouriproperties.com. Call or text us at 660-216-1794

For Rent: 3-BR, 2-Full Bath house, completed 8/2012, walking distance to TSU/KCOM. Available 8/2013. Living Room, Kitchen, Laundry room, All New- Refrigerator, Dishwasher/Disposal, Washer/Dryer, Central Heat A/C, 660.988.5175. jim@kirksvillierental.com. www.kirksvillierental.com

For Rent: 2-BR, 2-Bath house, Living room, eat-in kitchen, totally remodeled, TSU 2 blocks., refrigerator, dishwasher/disposal, stove, new central heat & a/c, roof, siding, insulation, windows. Available 5/2013. 660.988.5175 jim@kirksvillierental.com www.kirksvillierental.com

For Rent: Very nice 3BR houses extremely close to TSU. Nice hardwoods, all appliances including washer, dryer, and dishwasher. Pottery barn looks. 510 S. Halliburton, 709 E. Line, and 912 E. Randolph won't last long. KPM 665-6380

For Rent: Subleser needed. One bedroom apartment starting in December. Pet friendly and clean place. Call Jerry at 660.216.1794.

For Rent: Subleser needed. Two bedroom upstairs apartment. Starts in January. Nice size rooms and near downtown. Call Jerry at 660.216.1794

For Rent

For Rent: Property Concepts LLC is now leasing for May and August of 2013. Studios, 1 bedroom, and 2 bedroom units available. Apartments starting at \$330 with heat, water, trash, electric, free Wi Fi, cable TV included. 2 blocks from campus. On site laundry. 24 hour maintenance. Pet friendly units available. Close to downtown. 660-627-1400. www.kirksvilleapartments.com. Text 660-216-5004.

For Rent: Now Renting - Great 1, 2, 3, and 4 bedroom apartments. "White Apartments" and other close locations. Call 627-2060 to schedule an appointment.

For Rent: Great prices and locations on these 2-3BR houses next to TSU. 909 Sundown, 208 E. Pierce, and 816 S. 6th are very nice and loaded with all appliances including washer, Perfect for 2 or 3 looking to save on nice places. KPM 665-6380.

For Rent: Very nice and spacious 4BR 2BA close to campus. 620 S. Osteopathy has a ton of character with hardwoods throughout, large bedrooms, and big front porch. All appliances including laundry room. \$900. KPM 665-6380.

For Rent: 3-4 Bedroom 10 yards from campus. 601 E. Patterson is spacious and has great character. Washer and dryer. Won't last long at \$900. KPM 665-6380.

For Rent: Multiple high quality 2 and 3 bedroom apartments available for May, June, and August 2013 leases. A quiet and safe environment. CALL ONLY 626-7695.

For Hire

Now Hiring: Maritz Research - Part-time work - Flexible scheduling, Evening shifts (20 - 40 hours weekly) - \$7.50 hr starting wage, employees meeting quality standards could earn up to \$9.75 hr within 90 days. Interviewing each Wednesday, Missouri Job Service (MACC campus/Kirksville) from 1 - 4 pm and each Thursday in our call center from 10 am - 1 pm, 2815 N Baltimore St (Kirksville). Call 660-626-1500 to schedule alternate days and times.

For Sale

A Large Surplus Plant Sale University Greenhouse on Patterson Street Friday the Nov. 16 From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sale open to everyone! Lots of House and Tropical plants including: Orchids, bromeliads, cacti, succulents, palm trees and many other types of healthy houseplants. Most plants are \$5 or less! All funds used for operational costs of the university greenhouse. Sponsored by the TSU Biology Department