

## VOTING | Adair County Clerk gives information on how to vote in local elections.

"People have this privilege and opportunity to vote, and they should be taking advantage of that," Williams said.

If a Kirksville citizen or Truman student is registered to vote in Adair County and unsure of what precinct to go to on Nov. 8, they can visit [adaircountymissouri.com](http://adaircountymissouri.com). On the website, you can find your precinct and look at a sample ballot.

To find your precinct you will go to the website, select the elections tab at the top, select the voter outreach link, and type in your address. A new page will open to tell you where you need to go to vote and what ballot style you will be using.

Voters can look at sample ballots at the Adair County website under the elections tab. There are three sample ballots, and the ballot voters will be filling out is dependent upon which precinct they live in.

The ballots will list information about everything that will be voted on Nov. 8. By looking at the sample ballots, voters can see who is running for what positions. Polls open at 6 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. Nov. 8.

# Election night watch party to be hosted in SUB

BY KIRA HINTZ  
Staff Writer

The Center For Student Involvement will be hosting an Election Returns watch party for students at 8 p.m., Nov. 8 in the Student Union Building Hub.

Junior and CSI worker Emma Franke, worker for Center for Student Involvement, said Previous watch parties have taken place such as the watch party hosted in the SUB during 2012 by the Office of Citizenship and Community Standards. Franke said CSI will provide free food and drinks.

Franke said the CSI received several reservation requests for different election viewing parties from different groups but decided it would be more beneficial for all students if a large space, like the Sub Hub, could be available for anyone who wanted to watch the results come in.

Franke said the event will be simple and students will also be expected to maintain a respectful attitude during the event but will not be censored or stopped from expressing their opinions, Franke said.

"Taking part in the political process is important," Franke said.

"It's great that Truman students will be able to do so with a shared sense of community, no matter what our individual political beliefs are."

Freshman Emily Garth said she has been keeping up with the election through the internet and watching debates. Garth said she plans to either go to the Hub to watch the election or to watch at home with friends.

"I'm excited about getting to vote," Garth said. "I've personally been a little disillusioned about the two choices. I was not particularly crazy about either of them, but there are still good things about both candidates, and I'm excited to be able to support."

Garth said students and people in general need to understand how important their vote is.

"If you don't vote, it might not make a big difference," Garth said. "If you not voting gives your friend a license to not vote, gives their friend the idea that maybe they shouldn't vote, and hundreds and thousands of people stay home because they're disillusioned, because they don't think their vote matters, well then, that's enough to sway an election."

Additionally, sophomore Noah Krueger said he plans

to tune in when he can to see the election results on election night and has watched the previous presidential debates in his room with his roommate.

Krueger said he has been following the election by reading articles online and watching the debates.

"I'm excited to get a voice in the election," Krueger said. "I think that's because I've never participated in previous presidential elections, but I think this one has a bit of a different spin on it than elections in the past have. It's exciting to get to play a role in that even if the conditions may feel less than ideal for me."

Krueger said other political viewing options could be implemented in the future to help students get more involved in politics.

"Perhaps political panels or open discussion meetings could be a useful thing for people to share their voice with others in non-judgmental settings," Krueger said. "If people are judging you, you're welcoming them to debate rather than welcoming them to judge you. Welcome them to share their conflicting opinions with you."

## SIDEWALK | Kirksville applies for grant to build new sidewalk

"It can take you close to a year before you're even to the point that you're ready to start construction, so it could be two years before the project is actually completed," Halstead said. "It takes time to go through all the hoops you have to go through."

Halstead said \$200,000 is a rough estimate of the total cost of the project, but said the actual cost is hard to determine right now because there are many possible variables, such as new signaling and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Assistant City Manager Ashley Young said the new sidewalks fit into a revised trail map, put together by various city commissions and designed to increase the city's interconnectivity. Young said this section of St. is very well-traveled and the safety of pedestrians is a concern.

"There are quite a few folks who are walking north on Baltimore St. for goods and services," Young said. "They're walking on this section of Baltimore St. for their jobs, many of them, and obviously, it's safer if they're able to do that on the sidewalk."

Young said the master plan has multiple goals to improve Kirksville as a community. Better interconnectivity, more economic development, higher property values, more recreational opportunities to improve public health and beautification are all potential benefits the community

could reap from the plan. Young also said he would like to see the city apply for more state grants to work on other parts of the plan, including additional bike lanes, sidewalks on Washington St. and expanding the Forest Lake Area Trail System (FLATS) trail system.

While the construction will be handled by a contractor, city engineer Len P. Kollars and the Department of Public Works will be responsible for preparing the plans and specifications and writing up the contract documents. Kollars said the construction will not affect traffic on Baltimore, thanks to ample space on the east side of the road. The preliminary schematic the public works department drew featured three feet of green space between the end of the curb and the sidewalk. Kollars said, this project will require extra signalization for pedestrians at the multiple intersections the sidewalks would cross. He said that one variable in cost is whether the current traffic lights can have pedestrian heads added onto them, or if some of the older equipment must be replaced. Either way, the intersections will be fitted with signal-controlled crosswalks.

Even though there is no guarantee the grant application will be accepted, Kollars said he is optimistic because MODOT owns and is ultimately responsible for Baltimore because of its highway designation as Business 63.

"They would benefit as much as anyone," Kollars said. "If we look for that grant application, it'll probably be approved."



Photo by Rachel Fechter/TMN

Kirksville applied for a grant to build a sidewalk along N. Baltimore St. This sidewalk is part of Kirksville's master plan to build more hike-bike trails.

# Bear Creek bushes raise concerns

Following efforts to prepare campus for Homecoming two weeks ago, plants along the bank of Bear Creek, normally part of a no-mow zone were cut down. University officials plan to replace the plants with new trees.

BY SPENCER FOUST  
Staff Writer

An environmental conflict is unfolding in Red Barn Park after city-paid mowers devastated the bushes that ran beside Bear Creek in preparation for Homecoming.

Dave Rector, Vice president of Administration, finance, and planning said alumni's complaints that the bushes were an eyesore led to them getting mowed. Rector said in addition, students have reported fears of people potentially lurking in the bushes late at night while students cross the bridge to Barnett Hall.

These bushes had been declared a "no-mow zone" by former Truman State University President Troy Paino for the last two years, which left some students shocked to see the bushes destroyed. The mowing left topsoil exposed, which threatens the integrity of the roots holding the Bear Creek bank in place.

When asked to discuss interim University President Sue Thomas' choice not to uphold the no-mow policy, Rector wanted to make it clear this was just a mistake in a larger plan for Bear Creek and not intentional.

Rector said in 2014, the biology fraternity Tri-Beta planted small, low-cost saplings in the area the bush line covered to alleviate the threatened stability

of Bear Creek behind Centennial Hall. Rector said it was for the safety of the saplings that the area was classified as a no-mow zone.

In the section across from Barnett Hall, Bear Creek's bushes grow far too quickly for a one foot tall sapling to get any light. So with these bushes growing higher and complaints rising, administration gave the approval for the bushes to be shortened to a foot tall. A city-provided mower was sent to cut the area a week before Homecoming, but Rector said he noticed the instructions for the bushes were ignored.

Rector said new trees, specially recommended by the Missouri Department of Conservation, will be purchased from an organization called "Tree Campus USA," which is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation. Rector said these trees were specifically chosen to fit right in with Bear Creek's soil and climate.

"We've been in contact with the forester with the state conservation office here in Kirksville, and she really recommended cutting it and putting in some decent-sized trees — you know, ones that are about four to six feet tall. We're hoping to get them planted this fall," Rector said.

Biology professor Ben Wodika said the movement for Bear Creek sustainability has always been an uphill battle.

"From a legal standpoint, it's nothing more than a drainage ditch," Wodika said. "There's so much more we'd like to be able to do for it as citizens and students, but that's one of the big hurdles that's in the way."

Rector said Red Barn Park can also expect a new pavilion, which is currently funded by the parents council. Rector said the shelter house-style building is intended to be built opposite of Red Barn, near Stadium Dr. and the parking lot nearest the track entrance.

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