

Mission

Your Hometown

APRIL / MAY 2013

Mission Family Festival

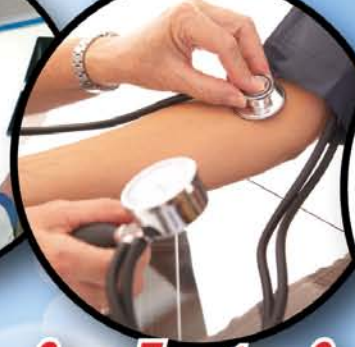
Kick off your summer at this fun family event

A city attorney with many interests

David Martin splits his time between city and farm life

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Spring is in the air so *let's get hoppin'*

Frogs, chickens, playing in a band or traveling the world! What do these have in common? You will find all these topics covered (and more) in this issue of Mission: Your Hometown magazine!

Why frogs? We are asking you to find your favorite frog — whether it is from a pond or a pet store — and bring him/her to our Mission Family Festival on May 11. Along with hunting for coins, riding the Ferris wheel or eating a hot dog, you will have an audience as you urge your little darling to jump the farthest during the festival's frog-jumping contest! Playing with frogs was never my favorite entertainment as a child — I leaned toward the more mundane pastimes such as “punch the icebox” or red rover, red rover, may I come over, or making hot pad holders to sell to the neighbors.

And now to chickens ... never in my wildest dreams could I ever imagine our City Attorney raising chickens. I love eating them, but I don't think I could watch those chicks grow up and then look at them on my dinner table!

That's not all that will surprise you about David Martin. I really didn't picture him as a drummer, either, but I bet beating on the drums and playing in a band are a great way for him to release all his work-related tension! Personally, I floated toward the orchestra instruments — playing violin, viola and piano in school. Since I love music, my sister and I would grab the Hit Parade as soon as it hit the newsstands and sing along to the Hit Parade on the radio — hoping someday to be a renowned singer — of which you can see I am not! But what fun!

I also love to travel. At last count, there are 12 states I have not driven through, but I still have time! Now I know when I need assistance making traveling arrangements, I can head over to Acendas travel right here in Mission.

I also know that sending your “young adult” off to live halfway around the world is scary. My oldest son was an AFS student his junior summer in Johannesburg, South Africa. His experience was very rewarding and was an incredible way for him to learn the lifestyles of another continent. In this issue we'll introduce you to a foreign exchange student who is learning our way of life while attending Shawnee Mission North and living with a Mission family.

Spring is still my favorite time of the year. I look forward to a beautiful array of colors, kids playing outdoors, birds singing and deciding where we would like to explore. As you read our newest issue, I hope you are having a nice tall glass of lemonade or iced tea and plotting your summer. And don't forget to mark May 11 on your calendar. You will love watching those cute little frogs! Enjoy!

Suzie Gibbs

*Mission Convention and Visitors Bureau Chair
Councilmember, Ward IV*



Contents

- 11** Acendas assists families and companies with travel plans
- 28** Longtime Mission city attorney has a wide variety of interests
- 32** Foreign exchange student from Slovakia has called Mission home this school year
- 36** Public Works keeps city clean and safe snow or shine
- 6** Mission Family Festival
- 14** Community Bulletin Board

ON THE COVER:

Cynthia Riggins, director of vacation travel at Acendas. PHOTO BY KEVIN BLAYNEY

Mission

Your Hometown

APRIL / MAY 2013

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Mission Family Fest

Mark your calendars for May 9-12!

Mother's Day weekend is the perfect time to celebrate families, so bring your loved ones to the Mission Family Festival and be sure to check out all the fun, food and entertainment this weekend has to offer.

There will be something for everyone at the 2013 Mission Family Festival: a carnival, parade, full slate of entertainment, tasty food and more.

The carnival will open on Thursday, May 9, in the parking lot directly north of the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center at 5900 Beverly (between Johnson Drive and Martway). Carnival wrist bands for \$20 are available from 6 to 10 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday (May 9, 10 and 11).



Also on Saturday, enjoy all the pancakes you can eat for \$5 per person from 7 to 11 a.m. during the Rotary Club's pancake breakfast.

Everyone loves a parade, so grab your family, co-workers and neighbors and join the city for the Mayor's Community Parade at 11 a.m. Saturday. The parade will travel east to west on Johnson Drive. Want to participate in the parade or showcase your

business by being in the parade? Do you have an antique car or truck you would like to show off? Visit www.missionCVB.org or call Christy at 913-722-8210.

Hungry for lunch? On Saturday, Mission Hy-Vee will be selling hot dogs for \$2, hamburgers for \$3 and drinks for \$1.



Festival Weekend!




Then spend the rest of the afternoon in Beverly Park (between Johnson Drive and Martway) while enjoying a wide variety of entertainment.

The Mission Family Festival offers exciting activities for children of all ages. Whether it's a relay race, a coin hunt or a frog-jumping contest (bring your own frog), plan to spend the afternoon at the festival and recapture your sense of fun and adventure. For details on any of the children's events, visit the MCVB website. All children's activities are free for participants.

Do you have an apple pie recipe that everyone raves about? Are you an artist with a pie crust? Plan to showcase your talents

during the Mission Family Festival's first Apple Pie Contest. Entries will be judged on taste, appearance and overall impression. See if you can't go home with the blue ribbon. Contest rules can be found on the MCVB website.

The schedule also includes "Touch a Truck" (a 1938 John Deere tractor, DUI trailer, D.A.R.E. car, fire engine/ladder truck and a KCP&L bucket truck, just to name a few); performances by Funky Mama and Janie Next Door; activities for kids brought to you by Lowe's; and a Kansas Gas Service coin hunt.

The last day for the carnival is Sunday, May 12, from noon to 4 p.m. 

Schedule of events

THURSDAY, MAY 9

Carnival
6 to 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 10

Carnival
6 to 11 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 11

Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast
7 to 11 a.m.

Mayor's Community Parade
11 a.m.

Carnival
11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Touch a Truck
Noon to 2:30 p.m.

Funky Mama
12:30 to 1:15 p.m.

Janie Next Door
1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Lowe's activities for kids
12:30 to 2 p.m.

Kansas Gas Service coin hunt
2:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 12

Carnival
Noon to 4 p.m.

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arrived

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May 11: Sku Bobby Carter, 8-11 \$5 cover
May 17: Loaded Goat, \$3 cover
May 25: Billy Ebling & the Not Too Late to Dinner Band, \$3 cover

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Mission travel agency offers a world of options

Since 1998, Acendas has called Mission home and has helped companies and families make travel arrangements

BY HEATHER SWAN • PHOTOS BY KEVIN BLAYNEY

In a world where you can go online, buy airline tickets and book your own hotel room, why would you ever need to use a travel agency? Although that may be the perception, a Mission travel agency is thriving in the old J.C. Penney store on Johnson Drive.

“This isn’t your grandparents’ travel agency,” said Gary Davis, co-president of Acendas. “We are the new breed.”

Continued on page 12



Online booking of vacations has plateaued and the pendulum is swinging back to travelers using agencies, like Acendas, to make their vacation plans. Pictured are Kimberly Shannon, left, a consultant for vacation travel at Acendas, with Tracy Pyka.



Acendas, a full-service travel agency at 5331 Johnson Drive, is one of Mission's biggest employers and is expecting to bring in \$200 million in revenue this year. Pictured are, from left, Gary Davis and Brent Blake, co-presidents of Acendas.

Continued from page 11

A BRIGHT SPOT IN THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY

When you walk or drive by Acendas, you may not even know it's there ... or what it is.

A full-service travel agency in a strip center at 5331 Johnson Drive, Acendas is one of Mission's biggest employers (with 117 employees), and it's expecting to bring in \$200 million in revenue this year. And, unlike others in the industry, Acendas' business has increased by 10 to 12 percent during 13 of the past 15 years.

The reason Acendas has succeeded where mom-and-pop travel agencies have failed is by focusing on the three distinct aspects of the travel field: vacations, meetings and incentives, and corporate travel.

The company works with Fortune 100 companies like Wells Fargo, Xerox and InBev in addition to local companies and organizations like ScriptPro in Mission and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (headquartered in Lawrence, Kan.) to book corporate travel, meetings and incentives.

Acendas has also developed the components of a flourishing 21st-century travel agency that can help families make travel arrangements as well: providing a full range of services and offering real value and a wealth of knowledge to its cli-

ents. The company processes 2,000 airline tickets a day and works with approximately 480 airlines and 53 cruise lines.

Acendas is not new to the Kansas City area, but it does have a relatively new name. The company was founded as All About Travel in 1982 and moved its headquarters from downtown Kansas City, Mo., to Mission in November 1998 to offer a more central location for its current and prospective employees living around the Kansas City metropolitan area.

"We have absolutely loved Mission, Kan.," said Brent Blake, who is co-president of Acendas along with Gary Davis. "I have enjoyed working here."

Over time, and because of mergers and acquisitions, the travel agency found itself with 12 different brand names across the country, so the company changed its name to Acendas on Jan. 1, 2012.

ASSISTING WITH VACATION TRAVEL, TOO

"Do you do your own taxes?" Blake asks.

Many people try to prepare their own tax returns until they run into a problem and need the knowledge and expertise of a professional. And, with a professional's help, they can save time and money.

The same is true in the travel industry.

Davis said Acendas receives seven to 10 calls each day from vacation travelers who booked online, didn't get what they were expecting or ran into a problem, and now want the travel agency's help.

Possibly because of the problems people have experienced

on their previous vacations, online booking of vacations has plateaued and the pendulum is swinging back to travelers using agencies.

Cynthia Riggins, director of vacation travel at Acendas, agrees.

"People are seeing the light and coming back in droves, actually," she said. "...Vacation travel is a growing segment of our business."

Is your family thinking about taking an ocean cruise in the Caribbean or a river cruise through Europe? Are you ready to pack your bags and take off for an all-inclusive resort? Are you looking for an escorted tour that fits all your travel needs? If so, Acendas can help create your dream vacation with a variety of choices.

"We often ask, 'What would put this vacation over the top for you?'" Riggins said. "We want to make sure we make your vacation memorable in a great way."

She encourages people to research vacations on the Internet ... and then come to Acendas so their professionals can help distill all that information.

Riggins said that most of the time there's no extra fee to use Acendas' services.

"Once we get to know a customer, we can frame the right vacation for them," she said. "...Everybody who works here has a passion for travel."

Travel agencies like Acendas can also offer vacation travelers peace of mind. Should the unexpected occur, Acendas' travel

professionals are just a phone call away to get the vacation back on track.

In addition, Acendas' People Tracker software is able to keep track of everyone who has purchased airline tickets through the agency and can contact them in case of a weather event. For example, when Superstorm Sandy was approaching the East Coast last fall, Acendas was able to proactively contact all its clients who were about to be affected.

"People are surprised at how high-tech we are," Blake said.

FULL CIRCLE BACK TO MISSION

For Riggins, the director of vacation travel, her career has come full circle.

She began working at The Travel House (formerly located at 5914 Johnson Drive in Mission) as part of a work-study program when she was 16 years old and a student at Shawnee Mission North High School.

After working there for four years, her career took her to a San Francisco travel agency for 10 years and to a wholesale tour company in Kansas City, Mo., for 25 years.

When she took the job at Acendas in 2007, she returned to Mission — and just two blocks from where she started working.

"I've enjoyed being back here," Riggins said.

For more information about Acendas or to book your next dream vacation, call 913-671-7700 or visit www.acendas.com. **M**

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Mission Bulletin Board



Barn Kids presenting 'Winnie the Pooh' this summer

Students in grades three to seven are invited this summer to participate in Barn Kids, sponsored by The Barn Players in Mission.

Barn Kids is a three-week program introducing children to the performing arts. Their day runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and includes practical theatrical terminology, theater etiquette and musical performance. It culminates in a three-night performance of an age-appropriate musical, "Disney's Winnie the Pooh, Kids," directed by Jason Coats.

There are two sessions:

- * Session 1 runs May 30 through June 18 with performances at 7:30 p.m. on June 18, 19 and 20.
- * Session 2 runs July 2 through 23 with performances at 7:30 p.m. on July 23, 24 and 25.

Enrollment is now under way online at www.thebarnplayers.org. The \$200 tuition also includes a commemorative photo CD, opening night flowers, a personalized good luck ad in the program and a family pack of tickets.

The shows are open to the general public. Tickets are \$5 at the door. For more information, go to www.thebarnplayers.org.

MEETING NOTICE

Mission City Council Meetings:
7 p.m. at City Hall

May 15, 2013
June 19, 2013



First Friday at Countryside Christian Church

The community is invited to a Family Fun Night featuring Bunco at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 3 and June 7, at Countryside Christian Church, 6101 Nall Ave. Dinner is just \$2 each (no more than \$10 per family). These evenings feature great prizes plus lots of fun. Everyone is welcome.

FIND MISSION MAGAZINE ONLINE

Mission: Your Hometown magazine can be viewed online. Visit the city's website, www.missionks.org,

or the Mission Convention and Visitors Bureau website, www.missioncvb.org.

Here you can find the current issue of the magazine and print off any coupons you want to use at area merchants.



Mission Bulletin Board



SAVE THE DATE!

The Arts & Eats Festival and Battle of the Brisket State Championship are set for Sept. 13 and 14, and it's not too early for artists and barbecue teams to sign up. Visit www.missioncvb.org for more information.

In addition to adult artists, the Arts & Eats Festival is looking for youth artists to participate in 2013. For details, call Kathy Lockard at 913-722-8206.

Barbecue applications can also be found on the MCVB website or call Christy Humerickhouse at 913-722-8210.

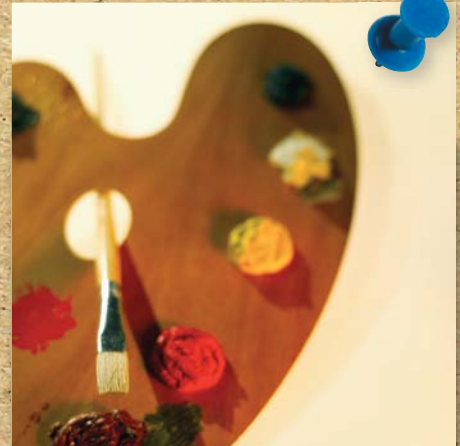


Congratulations to two Mission businesses

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce has announced that two Mission businesses are candidates for the 27th annual Small Business Celebration, presented by the Kauffman Foundation and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City.

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Mission ArtWalk
Johnson Drive &
Dearborn
(5 to 9 p.m.)
June 14 & July 12

Artists from the Kansas City area will showcase their talents in a variety of art media during Mission ArtWalk events this summer. Sponsored by Mission businesses, these events will include a DJ, food, drinks and entertainment.

There's still time for interested artists to register. Visit www.missionartwalk.com for more information.



REMEMBER THE
MISSION FAMILY
FESTIVAL MAY 9-12

Find bargains galore over Mother's Day weekend!

Bargain shoppers, get ready! Mother's Day weekend will be a great time to find some deals in Mission.

The City-Wide Garage Sale will be May 9, 10 and 11. A listing of all sales will be available on the city's website, and at Mission City Hall and the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center.

Also, following the parade on May 11, shoppers will be able to browse the sidewalk sales of some Mission merchants. Look for signs and sidewalk displays.



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CITY OF MISSION

Newsletter

APRIL / MAY 2013
VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2
WWW.MISSIONKS.ORG

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Our Mission Magazine is reaching you just in time to remind you of our upcoming spring events. The Mission Family Festival is just a few days away. Again this year, the carnival will be in full swing from Thursday, May 9th through Sunday, May 12th. Our Mayor's Parade and Festival are scheduled for Saturday, May 11th. A Rotary pancake breakfast starts the day at 7:00 a.m. followed by our parade on Johnson Drive at 11:00 a.m. and festival on Beverly immediately following. This year, in addition to our traditional events like the Touch a Truck and Coin Hunt for Kids, we will have a frog jumping contest and pie contest!

May 25th is opening day for our Municipal Outdoor Pool! This is a unique year for our pool — we will be enjoying summer swim activities in our current pool while finalizing plans for a new aquatics facility. On March 19th we held our first public input session on our new facility, and those attending saw the initial pool plans. Replacement plans for the competition pool were fairly set, but attendees had the opportunity to weigh-in on a variety of possible amenities for the “leisure pool” and the “spray ground” that could remain open separate from the pool during warm weather bursts in the off-sea-



son. On April 4th, during our second public presentation, updated plans were unveiled and met with great enthusiasm from those attending. This was also an opportunity for additional public input. Our next steps include Council approval of a final aquatics facility design, and steps to authorize funding of the construction through our Parks

& Recreation Sales Tax. This has been an exciting process and we anticipate breaking ground on our new facility as soon as the current swim season is over.

Although the intersection of Martway and Woodson is closed as the Martway Street Rehabilitation Project begins construction, you may have noticed our new Jo Transit Shelters in front of the Community Center and near the Mission Crossing development. They look fabulous! Work on the Transit Center (old Cap Fed site) will be completed in May and a ribbon cutting for this facility has been scheduled for May 31st. The Transit Center will be transforming over the coming weeks as it is painted and landscaping installed. This new route through Mission will greatly enhance transportation options not only for our residents, but for those who work in and visit Mission.

With construction on Martway, our Rock Creek Trail has been re-routed to

61st Street so that those who enjoy our trail will still be able to do so this summer. Detour signs have been installed along this portion of the trail. Additionally, our sidewalk on 61st Street has been updated to include ADA-compliant ramps at the intersections, and some new panels have been installed in the sidewalk to remove any trip hazards.

At our April City Council Meeting, I was honored to be able to present a proclamation celebrating our local volunteers. Residents from across our city generously give of their time and expertise to serve on the many boards and commissions that focus on specific services and policies in our community. We recently welcomed several new faces to our boards and commissions, joining the ranks of our many long-serving members. We also have residents who volunteer through our outreach programs. During our recent snowstorms, our “Snow Angels” came to the rescue of their neighbors as they helped to shovel out sidewalks and clear driveways for those needing assistance. Each and every volunteer is truly an invaluable member of our “Mission Family” and I thank each of you for your commitment to Mission!

Sincerely,

Laura L. McConwell

Laura L. McConwell
Mayor

Mission Transit Center and The JO Connex Opening June 3rd

Mission's new Transit Center at 5251 Johnson Drive will open on Monday, June 3rd and replace the current 6000 Lamar site as The JO's primary transfer location. A ribbon-cutting to officially open the Mission Transit Center is scheduled for Friday, May 31st at 8:30 a.m.

The Mission Transit Center will serve The JO Connex, which is an enhanced

route from the Rosana Square Park & Ride (119th & Metcalf) to 51st & Troost near the UMKC Campus. This new service will be faster with more streamlined routing, limited stops and traffic signal priority, and utilize new Bus Rapid Transit-style buses. Mission's Transit Center will also facilitate transfers to and from other routes of The JO bus service.

The new transit center, along with several new transit stations on Martway, will include amenities to improve service such as benches, shelters, route information kiosks, and real-time electronic signage to display the estimated time of arrival of each bus. Information on The JO Connex route, as well as all JO routes, is available at www.thejo.com.



City of Mission Updates Building Codes

Earlier this spring the City of Mission updated its building codes to the newest version of the International Code Council I-Codes and the National Fire Protection Association Electrical Code. The City currently enforces the following:

- 2012 International Building Code
- 2012 International Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings
- 2012 International Fuel Gas Code
- 2012 International Plumbing Code
- 2012 International Mechanical Code
- 2012 International Existing Building Code
- 2012 International Property Maintenance Code
- 2012 International Fire Code
- 2012 International Energy Conservation Code
- 2011 National Electric Code

A building permit is required for most renovation or construction work in the City of Mission. This includes alterations to the elec-

trical, plumbing, or mechanical systems of a building or structure. Exceptions to this requirement may include minor non-structural exterior repairs, interior finish work, and flat work such as sidewalks and driveways.

Beginning in 2008, the City entered into a partnership with Johnson County, Kansas for the performance of building plan review and building inspection services. However, all building permit applications, requests for inspections, and questions should be directed to the City of Mission Community Development Department at City Hall.

The City of Mission also requires all contractors doing work in the City to be licensed with the Johnson County Contractor Licensing program. Licenses will be verified at the time of permit application.

For assistance in determining if a permit is required or to inquire about a permit, please contact the Community Development Department at 913-676-8360. Permit applications are available to download from the city's website at www.missionks.org.

What I need to know. When I need to know it.

Johnson County recently launched a new mass communication system that sends alerts about impending emergencies and severe weather. This service is free and you can sign up to receive your alerts via phone, text, or e-mail. Anyone who lives, works, or plays in Johnson County is encouraged to go to www.NotifyJoCo.org to set up their free NotifyJoCo account and personalize their contact preferences. You will be able to identify multiple locations that you want to receive emergency messages about, and can receive these notifications on

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multiple devices (for example, receive both a text message and an e-mail). This system is especially important now during our severe weather season!

If you do not have Internet access, please call 913-826-5555 to register your information. All information provided will be kept confidential and only used to contact citizens about emergencies and topics in which they have expressed interest. Additionally, only authorized county and city officials will send messages.



Nominate a 'Championship Tree'

What makes a tree a "championship" tree? Is it the size, the shape, the location? Maybe it is the reason it was planted, or what it has been through and survived. You may consider it a champion just by the pleasure it brings as its beauty changes over the seasons. Remember, any tree is eligible as long as it is in Mission — your yard, a neighbor's, or even in a City park!

The City of Mission Tree Board invites you to tell us about your Mission Championship Tree! Applications are available at City Hall or on the City's website at www.missionks.org. Submissions should include a picture of the nominated tree, along with information on why the tree is special. The winner will be posted on the City's website and recognized by Council at an upcoming meeting. The deadline to submit your nomination is July 1st. For further information, contact Christy Humerickhouse at chumerickhouse@missionks.org or 913-722-8210.

Be a Good Neighbor

Warmer weather brings us all out into the neighborhood — working in our yards, walking our dogs, tackling home repair projects, or even just opening up windows to enjoy the spring weather. Please remember to be a good neighbor.

Pet owners must ensure that their dog does not disturb neighbors by barking, howling or making other loud and frequent noises which might disturb the peace of any neighbor between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

All animals are required to be properly leashed and controlled, and owners must pick up and dispose of pet waste; this includes cats who may not be allowed to roam freely.

Although the City no longer requires pet licenses, all pets are required to have current rabies vaccinations. Pet owners are encouraged to enter their pet(s) into the City's database at www.missionks.org — this will assist Animal Control Officers in safely returning lost pets to their homes.

If you have hired a contractor to

complete exterior improvements to your home (such as concrete work, exterior carpentry, masonry, plumbing, painting or electrical) please be aware of “work hours” as outlined in the City's Code: Monday to Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Work is prohibited on Sundays.

Remember to consider your neighbors when deciding to get an early morning start on mowing the lawn or planning an evening get together. “Quiet hours” in Mission are Sunday night through Friday morning between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.; Friday night between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., and Saturday night between 11:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.

Grass should be maintained at a height not greater than 8 inches, and residents should ensure that trees and shrubs overhanging sidewalks and streets are trimmed for pedestrians.

If you have questions or concerns about any of these regulations, please contact the Neighborhood Services Staff at 913-676-8350.



GARAGE SALE

**CITY WIDE
GARAGE SALE
MAY 9TH - 11TH**

The annual City-Wide Garage Sale will be held May 9th to 11th. This is a great opportunity to make a little extra cash as you take on spring cleaning — turning your trash to someone else's treasure! To register your sale, call City Hall at 913-676-8350 or e-mail msumrall@missionks.org. Be sure to provide us with a few of your “top picks” to include on our flyer listing of all garage sales. A listing of all sales will be available on our website, at City Hall and the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center.

City of Mission's Capital Project Construction Office — Coming Soon!

Several critical capital projects are slated for construction over the next 18 months and the City will soon open the doors to our “Capital Project Construction Office” in downtown Mission. This office will serve as a headquarters for managing these projects.

The office space, located at 5903 Johnson Drive (immediately west of Lamar's Donuts), will provide city staff, design engineers, contractors, and inspectors with a location for design work, utility coordination, and construction progress meetings. More importantly, this office will support community outreach efforts by providing a space for business owners and residents to go to for information regarding our capi-

tal projects. We will have regular, posted hours for the construction office when business owners, residents, or any other project stakeholder can come by to discuss projects with City staff.

Construction on the Martway Rehabilitation Project (Broadmoor to Woodson) has already started and will last through the fall of 2013. This summer, utility relocation work will start on the Johnson Drive Rehabilitation Project (Lamar to Nall), with full construction to take place in 2014. Additionally, as the new Municipal Outdoor Pool Project moves forward, information on this project will also be available through the construction office.

Spring and Summer Safety Tips

Spring is in the air! Soon our thoughts of daylight savings time, snow drifts, and heavy jackets will fade away to thoughts of summer vacations, open windows, and children on bikes. The Mission Police Department joins you in promoting a safe community with some spring-time safety tips:

VACATION COMMUNICATION

Be sure to consider your home's security as you plan for vacation. Avoid discussing your travel plans on public forums such as Facebook. Too many people share this personal information on various Internet forums, failing to understand the dangers associated with such seemingly harmless communication. Tell your Facebook friends you "had" a great time ... once you've returned home!

VACATION PLANNING

You've heard it before — stop the mail, stop the newspaper, arrange for someone to

mow your grass, install timers for the lights, make the house look lived in. All of these gentle reminders are worthy of your time and attention. Please make sure your neighbors are aware of your plans so they can call the police should something appear out of sorts.

BICYCLE SAFETY

Whether you are the bicyclist or the motorist, please pay particular attention to the roadway! Bicyclists need to abide by the same traffic laws as motorists. They also need to watch out for debris in the roadway. Motorists must be mindful of bicyclists and walkers/joggers alike. When walking, running or biking please consider wearing light or bright colored clothing — anything you can do to make yourself more visible to motorists.

Spring is a wonderful time of year — let's all enjoy it together. Think safety and, as always, contact the Mission Police Department should you have concerns.

The Mission Marlins Practice Begins June 3rd!

The City of Mission Swim Team (CMSC) is a great opportunity for kids to participate in a summer of fun, fellowship, and encouragement while gaining new skills. Swim team is for all ages up to 18, but you must be able to swim the length of the pool unassisted to participate. The Marlins Swim Team welcomes swimmers of all abilities and strives to develop each individual's physical and mental well-being in a structured environment. For further information contact Suzanne Sawalich (ssawalich@kc.rr.com) or Bea Ayala (beaayala@sbcglobal.net).



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1st Wednesday every month, 6:30 p.m.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2nd Wednesday every month, 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

3rd Wednesday every month, 7:00 p.m.

COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS

4th Wednesday every month, 7:00 p.m.

All meetings are open to the public. For meeting locations please check the website at www.missionks.org.

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Laura L. McConwell913-722-2670
City Hall Office913-676-8355

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD I

Lawrence Andre913-638-9000
Pat Quinn913-927-8511

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD II

Amy Miller913-677-0169
Will Vandenberg913-424-4357

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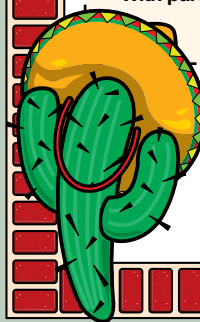
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Attorney on weekdays, *farm life on weekends*

David Martin, Mission's city attorney, enjoys a variety of pursuits

BY HEATHER SWAN • PHOTOS BY KEVIN BLAYNEY

If you have attended a Mission City Council meeting anytime in the last 35 years, you have probably seen David Martin there. As Mission's city attorney, Martin is a regular at Mission City Council and other city committee meetings. And, if you've had the pleasure of visiting Mission Municipal Court, you may have seen him there, too, as the city's senior prosecutor.

But Mission city attorney is only one of the roles Martin has taken on in his life. You could also add Mission native, husband, father, family law attorney, organic chicken farmer, drummer, farm owner and former furniture salesman to that list.

"I always have a project," Martin said.

GROWING UP IN MISSION

Before Martin wore so many hats, he was a boy living in Mission. A major event in Martin's life was when the Mission Pool was built just a few houses down from his home on 61st Street. It was 1956, Martin was in second grade, and his mother, Hulda, was a strong advocate for building the municipal pool. The Mission Pool became a favorite spot for him in the summertime ... swimming on the swim team until high school and working as a lifeguard. Martin came back to lifeguard one more summer at the Mission Pool after he graduated with his undergraduate degree from the University of Kansas in 1971.

Another one of his favorite childhood memories is playing drums with his band at the time, The Image, at Mission's first street dance (and several subsequent street dances) in the Mission City Hall parking lot. (His mom made him take drum lessons at The Toon Shop.) Martin and Don Gill, one of the other original members of The Image, still play together in a band called Deftonz and perform together every once in awhile.

SECOND-GENERATION CITY ATTORNEY

Staying active in the community he grew up in is important to Martin. His father, Keith, was the first Mission city

attorney, serving in that position from 1951 to 1964. There have been a few Mission city attorneys with a last name other than Martin but for only about 14 years of the city's history. David Martin took the job in 1977 and has held it ever since.

"I relish my relationship with the city and how much it has meant to my family to be a part of the city," said Martin, 63. "I think it's important for people in local government to have a relationship with their community. It's been very special for me."

During the past 35 years, he's only worked with two Mission mayors — Sylvester Powell, Jr. and Laura McConwell.

"And I can't tell you how many City Council members," Martin said. "...Both Syl and Laura have had strong family ties with Mission. Laura has done a great job moving Mission into the 21st century."

MEETING RENEE

David Martin met Renee, his wife of almost 36 years, at a courthouse in Kansas City, Mo. It was the summer after David's second year of law school at Washburn University. They were both there to watch Sylvester Powell, Jr. give closing arguments in a court case. Mayor Powell, an attorney by profession, was well-known for being one of the best trial lawyers in Kansas City at the time and for never losing a case. Powell and Keith Martin, David's father, were good friends, while Renee was Powell's secretary at the law firm of Heilbron & Powell. Renee and David met during a court recess, and they will be celebrating their 36th wedding anniversary this August.

The Martins live in Overland Park but spend a lot of time on their farm on Hillsdale Lake in Miami County, Kan. David has planted 1,500 trees (more than 1,000 of them walnut trees) on their farm and has started the spring ritual of raising organic chickens.

"There is always something for this guy," Renee Martin said.

THE FARM ON HILLSDALE LAKE

Endoch Martin, David's great-grandfather, bought a piece

Continued on page 30



David Martin took the job as Mission's city attorney in 1977 and has held it ever since, a total of 35 years.

Besides being Mission's city attorney, David Martin also plays drums in a local band called Deftonz.



Continued from page 28

of property in Miami County in 1879. The Martin family has added to that farm over the years, and David (the fourth-generation) became the proud owner of the entire family farm on Jan. 11, 2011. It now is comprised of 600 acres and a "gorgeous pond."

Besides planting trees there, David also became interested in healthy food and harvesting his own broiler chickens after reading Michael Pollan's "The Omnivore's Dilemma" and meeting alternative farmer Joel Salatin, who was mentioned in that book.

Starting with 40 their first year, David and Renee purchased 180 day-old chicks last spring and harvested about 160 of them after 8 ½ weeks. (The other 20 were lost to raccoons and "other natural happenings.")

The Martins go to the post office to pick up the chicks, which are sent to them in cardboard crates; David goes down to the farm every day during the harvest season (approximately April 15 to June 15) to water and feed organic grain to the chickens. These chickens have to be butchered after 8 ½ weeks because their organs can't keep up with their growth, the Martins said.

After David, Renee and their crew butcher, process and freeze the birds whole, the family eats them and shares them with their children, Russ, 32, and Carley, 28.

"They are delicious eating," David said. "You appreciate healthy food."

DAVID'S OTHER PURSUITS

Martin joined the law firm now known as Payne & Jones in 1976 after graduating from law school. He specializes in family law (working primarily as a divorce attorney) for Payne & Jones in addition to his job as Mission city attorney. As part of his city attorney responsibilities, Martin assists with all the general legal needs of the city, drafts ordinances and answers city officials' questions relating to municipal law.

Martin's relationship with the City of Mission has been constant for almost his whole life. The only exception is when he traveled around during the early 1970s trying out another profession: selling furniture for Levitz.

"I was a pretty good salesman," he said.

M

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This school year, Gergely Zatko caught a very large catfish at Perry Lake.



Gergely Zatko was also on the Shawnee Mission North swim team. He is on the far right, and Collin Braden (from his host family) is on the far left.

From Slovakia to Mission *and now back home again*

The Bradens have hosted Gergely Zatko, a Hungarian foreign exchange student from Slovakia, this school year

BY HEATHER SWAN

When Gergely Zatko returns to Slovakia in May, he will make the trip with a collection of fishing lures, a pin in his wrist and a load of memories from his 10 months living in Mission.

Gergely (which sounds like Gairrr-gay) Zatko has been living with Stuart and Ann Braden's family in Mission since arriving here as a foreign exchange student in August.

This 18-year-old likes to fish, participate in sports (he's been on Shawnee Mission North High School's soccer and swim teams this year) and eat dinner with his host family. In fact, a recent conversation with Gergely kept going back to food...

HIS YEAR AS AN AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

Although he'll have two more years of high school when he returns to Slovakia, Gergely will go through graduation festivities with the other North seniors in May. They don't have anything like American high school graduation ceremonies at his Hungarian school. (Gergely is Hungarian but lives just over the border in Slovakia.)

But that's just one of the many differences between his school life here and at home. His Hungarian school only has 100 students. And the kids stay put during the day, while the teachers move from class to class.

Shawnee Mission North is a little different, to say the least.

"It's cool," he said. "I like it."

Gergely is taking Spanish 1 this year (he can already speak Slovakian, German, Hungarian and English), and his favorite class at North is college-prep math.

Gergely, who is a foreign exchange student through American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS), wanted to improve his English and experience being an exchange student.

"I had friends that had been exchange students, and one of them had actually been an exchange student in Wichita, (Kan.)," he said.

His biggest mishap of the school year was when he went up for a dunk in gym class. Gergely's hand slipped on the basketball rim, he tried to brace his fall and he broke the scaphoid bone in his wrist, which required surgery and a pin on Nov. 9, 2012. (Ann Braden received a text from Gergely that said he was fine but he "fell off the ring.")

Otherwise, his year was pretty typical for an American high school senior. He played soccer in the fall, was on North's swim team last winter and is a manager for the girls soccer team this spring. (And, by the way, the Fazoli's bread sticks were really good at the swim team dinners.)

Continued on page 34



Gergely Zatko, a Hungarian foreign exchange student from Slovakia, has been living with Stuart and Ann Braden's family in Mission since arriving here in August. He is a student at Shawnee Mission North High School.
PHOTO BY BEN MCCALL

DINNERTIME WITH THE BRADENS

Eating dinner with the Bradens — Stuart, Ann and their son, Collin (also a senior at North) — is one of Gergely's favorite things to do. They usually eat out on Friday nights.

"We try to go different places," Ann said.

Gergely likes pizza, but he doesn't like ice cream and Chinese food. Some of his favorite restaurants have been Em Chamas (a Brazilian steakhouse) and Chipotle.

But his absolute favorite food here has been doughnuts — and especially Lamar's doughnuts. He can put away a dozen of them in two sittings if you give him the chance.

Gergely also likes to go grocery shopping (and push the cart) and shop at Target.

Entertaining foreign exchange students is not new for the Bradens. Gergely is their third foreign exchange student. Cindy from Germany lived with them five years ago before the Bradens' daughter, Lizzy, moved away to college. And, last year, the Bradens hosted Oliver from Germany.

"Cindy and Oliver still keep in touch," Stuart said.

The addition of Gergely this year has meant that the Bradens have two high school seniors (who are like brothers) in the house.

"It's kind of crazy," Stuart said.

But having foreign exchange students is an educational experience, too.

"We learn things all the time, and it keeps us active," Ann said.

Gergely and Ann have done a little Hungarian cooking together. (He brought Hungarian paprika with him from home.)

One of the things they've made is Layered Potatoes (recipe below). And, just so you know, "real" Hungarian goulash has meat (like pork or venison), tomatoes, potatoes, paprika and no noodles.

YOU CAN CALL HIM 'CATFISH'

There's a picture floating around of Gergely lakeside holding a giant fish. He caught the catfish (about a 14- or 15-pounder)

while fishing with his "soccer mates" at Perry Lake.

Jim Ricker, soccer coach at North, saw the photo and gave Gergely the nickname of "Catfish."

"Overall — for me, him and the whole team — it was a very positive experience (having Gergely on the varsity squad)," Ricker said. "He's a very nice gentleman, very polite.

"...The kids at school really took to him because he's not arrogant."

While Gergely was a skilled forward on the soccer team, one of his favorite hobbies is fishing.

When he goes home, Gergely is taking a reel and more than 50 lures with him. He bought a reel off Amazon.com because it's cheaper to ship it here than to Slovakia.

He can buy fishing lures in Slovakia, but they are really expensive (about \$17 U.S. each compared to \$4 or \$5 here on sale).

GOING HOME

When Gergely leaves Mission, he will be returning to his home in the village of Dolinka, Slovakia (population 400), about 45 minutes north of Budapest, Hungary.

"Everybody knows everyone," he said.

In his village, they grow corn, wheat, tomatoes, potatoes, paprika and beans. His parents own a pub that serves traditional Slovakian food, and his grandparents have a small winery that supplies red and white wine to the pub and family.

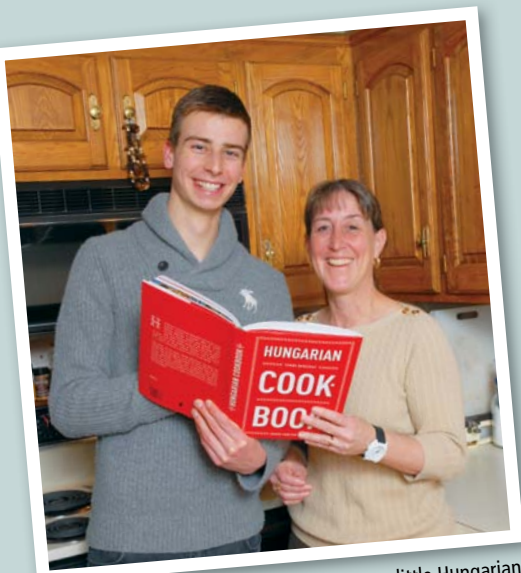
He missed harvest at home in September and eating his family's traditional Christmas lunch of baked carp, tomatoes and apples. His family, who regularly Skypes with Gergely, sent him a box of cookies, sausage, candy and chocolate for Christmas.

Gergely is not exactly sure what his future holds right now ... maybe he will go into the military, get an office job or return to the United States.

"The language and things I have learned here will help me have more opportunities in the future," he said.

What will Gergely miss the most about Mission?

"I'm going to miss this family," he said, of the Bradens. **M**



Gergely Zatkó and Ann Braden have done a little Hungarian cooking together at the Bradens' home. PHOTO BY BEN McCALL

Layered Potatoes

Ingredients:

10 eggs

About 3 pounds (1.5 kg) potatoes

About 1 pound (500 g) hot smoked sausage

About 2 1/2 cups (600 ml) sour cream or crème fraîche

Salt and black pepper, to taste

Boil the eggs in a pot of salted water, and cook the potatoes in a separate pot of salted water. Drain the potatoes, peel while still warm, and let them cool. Drain the eggs, peel and slice them. Dip the sausage into hot water and remove its skin. Slice it thinly and fry it in a pan.

Preheat oven to 350 F. In a baking dish, make a layer of potatoes and eggs, add salt and add a layer of sausage. Drizzle it with the fat remaining in the pan after the sausage, and spread one-third of the sour cream/crème fraîche over it. Add another layer of eggs and the rest of the potatoes. Add some salt (not much, as the sausage is salty already), pepper and spread the rest of the sour cream/crème fraîche over the top. Bake for 40 minutes. Serves 6.

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Spreaders are removed and installed with a five-ton overhead crane at the Mission Public Works facility at 4775 Lamar. Pictured here are Kenny York, assistant superintendent, left, and John Belger, superintendent, for the Mission Public Works department. PHOTO BY KEVIN BLAYNEY

The snow is gone, but the **Mission Public Works' job** *is never done*

BY HEATHER SWAN

Winter is behind us, but we all remember how great it was to look outside and see snow ... and a Mission Public Works snowplow removing it from our streets.

Mission residents are proud (not to mention relieved and grateful) to have well-plowed streets in the wintertime. And, while snowstorms are when the Mission Public Works department is most visible because the snow affects people's travel, safety and livelihood, these employees take pride in their work and their department year-round.

Kenny York, assistant superintendent for Mission Public Works, recalls how much things have changed since he started working for the city in December 1979 when he was 21 years old.

The old Mission Public Works facility used to take on water, so employees would have to wet vacuum and squeegee the

floor after heavy rains. They would also put street signs on the floors of some of their vehicles to cover up the holes in the floorboards.

Today, the Mission Public Works department operates out of a \$4.8 million facility that replaced the former headquarters at 4775 Lamar in 2007 and its equipment is on a replacement schedule.

"The difference between the two shops is night and day," said York, a Mission resident who just finished his 34th winter of plowing snow off the city's streets. "Everything is so different: the equipment and the shop."

At the old building salt was stored in a shed. The salt would spill out the front and had to be covered with tarps weighted with tires and cinder blocks. Salt is now stored in salt domes and put away with a conveyor system. This makes storage much

safer and cuts down on waste caused by the elements.

At the previous facility, staff would have to use a loader and chains to remove and install spreaders in trucks for snow removal. This practice was time-consuming and unsafe. Today, spreaders are removed and installed with a five-ton overhead crane. This can be done by one staff member in a safe manner.

York also recalled, when the snow would get deep years ago, crews would use a motor grader to remove it from hills and intersections. In order to start the grader, York would stand on the back of the machine spraying ether into the intake while it was being towed up Lamar in order to jump start it. Today, all the equipment is stored inside and maintained properly. The equipment is much more dependable and safe to operate.

When the new Public Works facility was built, John Belger worked for the contractor that installed the stormwater and sanitary sewers for that building. Belger is now the superintendent for Mission Public Works.

"We appreciate city staff and the governing body providing us with a state-of-the-art maintenance facility and updated equipment," he said.

Since Belger started in his current role in July 2010, the department has gone back to doing more core public works functions and infrastructure work, like street maintenance, asphalt repair, crack sealing, and curb and gutter repair. The depart-

ment's responsibilities also include the maintenance of parks, streets, stormwater drains and trails, tree trimming, facility maintenance, leaf and snow removal, closing streets during emergencies and whatever else needs to be done.

"We are here to help," Belger said. "That's what we do."

While larger cities have specific crews that handle asphalt and stormwater work, for example, Mission Public Works employees have to learn and know how to do it all.

Mission's department is comprised of nine field staff, an administrative assistant and a capital project coordinator.

More important than everything, however, is safety.

"Everyone has families to go home to," Belger said. "You can replace equipment, and you can fix things. But you can't replace people."

"...We spend more time with each other than with our families."

York added: "This is our second family. We are like brothers."

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Thanks to the Mission Public Works staff for a job well done: John Belger, Kenny York, Brent Morton, Jim Bradley, Glenn Oxley, Jay Webb, Gerald Huston, Willie Gomes, Trey Whitaker, Justin Pregont (capital project coordinator) and Carol Smith (administrative assistant).

M



Do you remember this week in February? The Mission Public Works crew has the challenge of removing snow from the city's 110 lane miles of streets.

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