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APRIL / MAY 2015

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Mission: a place of home and family

Growing up in a big, older house in Kansas City, Kansas, you might say that I was fortunate to have the experience of living in a multi-generational home. When my father went into the service, mother, my sister and I moved in with grandmother; my uncle went to war and my aunt and cousin



moved in with grandmother; a great aunt was too old to stay alone, so we welcomed her; and another aunt joined us after her divorce — not all at the same time, but over a period of years. Oh, the lessons I learned from my relatives!

Grandmother taught me the joy of cooking. Aunt Marty taught me to play jacks, board games and how to stand on my head (very important and fun). My cousins and I would stay up after bedtime to figure out what mischief we could get into the next day! Those days were priceless.

I applaud Kevin and Suzie Legg (see story on Page 14). They not only made the decision to stay in Mission, which meant adding on to their home to accommo-

date their growing family, they also moved Kevin's parents into a house across the street from them and are looking to bring Suzie's parents to Mission as well. This is a win-win situation for everyone! Think of the relationships these families are forging! To have your grandmother walk to Rushton and walk you home after school — what precious memories! Even though my sons live in Oklahoma and Kentucky, when we all get together I treasure our time together — especially catching up with our grandchildren and enjoying our great-grandson.

On another note, I received a phone call from a Mission resident asking that we do a story on Salsa Grill, stating that she would eat dinner there every night if her husband would let her. We hope this story will whet your appetite for Mexican salsa!

It's that time of year to be amazed by the lovely yards in the area. I haven't given up on my yard, but the Simpsons' yard is so beautiful; it just pops! It's filled with bright colors and lots of flowering beds for them to enjoy during the summer.

Home and family — so important to me and others who establish roots in Mission — are at the heart of what makes this community great.

Enjoy!

Suzie Gibbs
Councilmember, Ward IV

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ON THE COVER:

JON LOMSHEK, CO-OWNER OF SALSA GRILL.
PHOTO BY KRISTIN MCCOPPIN/POND PHOTOGRAPHY

Mission

Your Hometown

APRIL / MAY 2015

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THURSDAY
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TO SUNDAY
MAY 10TH

SAVE THE DATE!

MISSION'S ANNUAL CARNIVAL



LOCATION:

Parking lot north of the
Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center
(off of Beverly/Johnson Drive)

DATES/TIMES:

Thursday, May 7, 6 to 10 p.m.
(\$22 wristbands)

Friday, May 8, 6 to 11 p.m.
(\$22 wristbands from 6 to 10 p.m.)

Saturday, May 9, Carnival opens at noon
(\$22 wristbands from 6 to
10 p.m. — not before)

Sunday, May 10, noon to 4 p.m.
(\$22 wristbands) — Ferris wheel
closes at 3 p.m.





Prasanth Reddy, MD

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A Loyal Following

With its neighborhood bar and grill feel, Salsa Grill has become a popular place to grab some Mexican food

BY HEATHER SWAN • PHOTOS BY KRISTIN MCCOPPIN / POND PHOTOGRAPHY

Unlike many college freshmen, Jon Lomshek knew exactly what he wanted to major in and do for a living.

The plan for Lomshek, who earned his bachelor's degree in hotel and restaurant management from Kansas State University, was always to own a restaurant someday. What that restaurant would be exactly wasn't quite as clear. But, now, many in the area know what Salsa Grill — Lomshek's 13-year-old restaurant — is all about. They come for the good food and service, relaxed atmosphere and, of course, the salsa.

"We wanted to have a great salsa," he said. "In Italian, barbecue or any kind of food, if the sauce isn't good, the rest doesn't matter much."

The early days of Salsa Grill

When Salsa Grill, 6508 Martway, first opened in 2001 (two weeks after 9/11) it was a medium- to upper-scale Mexican restaurant. Employees wore collared shirts and khaki pants, the tables were adorned with cloth napkins, and the restaurant had a more formal feel.

After a year or so, that formula was not working.

"It was rough," Lomshek said. "We didn't hit the sales we were hoping for. We had to re-invent ourselves after two years.

"We tried to be way too formal in the early days. We have definitely made it more casual."

Salsa Grill has down-scaled its formality and become more fun and colorful ambiance-wise. And the employees have traded in their collared shirts and khaki pants for jeans and T-shirts. However, Salsa Grill has purposely avoided being the "stereotypical" Mexican restaurant.

"It still has the feel of a neighborhood bar and grill even though we serve Mexican food," he said. "Mission has become a restaurant mecca and every year there becomes more competition. Every year there's pressure to re-invent yourself."

Salsa and more

Once Lomshek decided to open a Mexican restaurant, salsa (as the restaurant's name would indicate) was always part of the game plan.

"I want people to say that it's the best salsa they ever had," he said. "We pride ourselves on our salsa."

Part of the restaurant's evolution has been the addition of a third salsa. Salsa Grill started with two: mild and hot. About five years ago, a medium salsa was added and is now the most popular.

The menu is also a blend of original and newer offerings. Salsa Grill added steak tacos about five years ago.

"They are probably our most popular, especially at lunch," he said.

Other favorites are the Monterrey Enchiladas (spicy shredded chicken wrapped in corn tortillas and smothered in the Monterrey cream cheese sauce) and an original from Day 1, the Salsa Grill Burrito (a large flour tortilla filled with refried beans, ground beef and pork, then smothered with chili con queso).

"With Mexican food, you have to be creative because you have eight or 10 ingredients you present in 50 or 60 ways," Lomshek said.

And sometimes it's tricky to get customers to try new things.

"So many of our customers have been coming here for years," he said. "When their feet hit the parking lot they know what they are going to get."

The backbone of the recipes

Jon Lomshek has known his wife Jamie and her family since he was in elementary school. Jamie's mom, Pat Forge, was a longtime Spanish teacher at his high school, Maur Hill Prep in Atchison, Kansas. The cafeteria at the school was run by Catholic sisters from Mexico. Being the Spanish teacher, Forge would help them with their English. In exchange, the sisters taught Forge how to cook Mexican food.

Those recipes are the backbone for the food served at Salsa Grill, which is co-owned by Jon and



Jamie Lomshek and their business partner, Larry Wagner. Kitchen Manager Eduardo Godoy has collaborated with the Lomsheks to perfect the recipes over the years.

Loyal customers and employees

Salsa Grill has a very loyal following. Several customers have been coming to the restaurant for years if not over a decade. (See Page 10 about the water aerobics class that goes to Salsa Grill for Margarita Mondays.) It's a place where customers and employees — many of whom have worked there for more than five years and a couple for the duration — often know each other's names.

People flock to Salsa Grill for the daily specials, especially Taco Tuesday, which includes specials on tacos and domestic longneck bottles of beer. To give you an idea of its popularity, Taco Tuesdays are often busier than Friday nights.

"What I loved about Mission and still love about Mission are the independent businesses and the relationship they have with the community," Lomshek said.

And he is thankful to his regulars who have been so faithful and the new customers who continue to try it out.

For example, Nicki Hodges has taken her sons — Mak Booher, 21, and Tate Hodges, 8 — to Salsa Grill at least once a week since moving to Mission about a year ago. Nicki works nearby at Entercom and sometimes eats there for lunch as well.

Her family likes the food, environment and the fact that it's always quick.

Below Left: Salsa Grill prides itself on its salsas, which include the mild, medium (the newest and most popular) and hot (by request).

Below Right: Nicki Hodges, right, likes to eat at Salsa Grill at least once a week. Here she is pictured with her sons, from left, Tate Hodges and Mak Booher.

"We're always in a hurry," she said. "This is the only place we don't have to be in a hurry together."

For more information about Salsa Grill, call 913-362-4921 or visit www.salsagrillks.com.

Cinco de Mayo at Salsa Grill

Salsa Grill is usually not open on Sundays. But, for the third year in a row, the restaurant will be open the Sunday before Cinco de Mayo. (That is May 3 this year). Food and drink specials will be offered, and customers can bring their receipts from April to be entered into drawings that day. Salsa Grill will also be open on its busiest day of the year, Cinco de Mayo (May 5).



Water aerobics and then ... *Salsa Grill?*

Class from the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center makes Margarita Mondays a monthly event

BY HEATHER SWAN • PHOTOS BY KRISTIN MCCOPPIN / POND PHOTOGRAPHY

The idea was proposed in a hot tub at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center. The evening water aerobics class had just wrapped up, and some of the participants were soaking in the hot tub. Willie McCallum and Tonya Navarrette were talking about going to Salsa Grill for the margarita special on that Monday night and invited others to go with them.

That was five years ago.

Since then, the evening water aerobics class has made it a ritual to go to Salsa Grill on the last Monday of every month. After they exercise at the Community Center from 5:35 to 6:30 p.m., they head down Martway to the Mexican restaurant.

"It's a fun way to get together," said Janet Moore, membership coordinator at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center and a participant in the class. "It's a social group."

The ladies — anywhere from 10 to 20 — go to Salsa Grill for the tasty food and fellowship. They talk about "anything and everything." Popular topics include their kids, grandchildren, vacations and "crazy relatives."

"What's said in Vegas stays in Vegas," said Jean Humphrey, from Overland Park.

Humphrey switched to the morning water aerobics class about four years ago but still comes to the Margarita Monday nights at Salsa Grill.

"They are a lot of fun," Humphrey said. "We accept each other for who we are. We just have a good time."

"These are my buddies."

Sherry Breiten, a Prairie Village resident, said one of the nice things about this group is that it includes people of all ages, ranging from the instructor in her 20s to class participants in their 80s.

They celebrate birthdays and share their treats with their server.

"We have a lot of fun with the waiters and waitresses," Breiten said.

"When you come in here, they treat you very nice," added Pam Denny, of Mission.

Some of the women knew each other before water aerobics/Margarita Mondays. But many have become friends because of it.

Grace Andrews, also a Mission resident, has been taking the evening water aerobics class two nights a week for 10 years.

She said she now does things with some of the other ladies outside of class and Margarita Mondays, like go to lunch and the movies.

"It's a good way to meet people and make new friends," she said.

Friendship is at the heart of what the Margarita Monday group is all about.

Janet Kurtz, of Roeland Park, goes to Margarita Mondays almost every month for the trio of good conversation, friends and food.

And they have been there for each other through illnesses and death.

The group can get a little "loud and obnoxious" at Salsa Grill sometimes — but it's not margarita-related.

"Very few people drink margaritas," Janet Moore said. "We go for the social part of it and the good food."

Below Right: The Margarita Monday ladies include, from left, Linda Talavera, Jean Humphrey, Dolores Miller and Pam Denny.

Below Left: The evening water aerobics class at the Sylvester Powell Jr. Community Center has made it a ritual to go to Salsa Grill on the last Monday of every month after they exercise.



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Mission Bulletin Board

WAY TO GO, SM NORTH!

The Shawnee Mission North High School boys basketball team recently made its first appearance in the State Final Four since 1999 and finished fourth. Thanks for the amazing season that energized the school and our community!

Give a special thanks to our Public Works employees

Thanks to all the great Mission Public Works employees who plow snow, repair our streets, maintain our parks, close streets during emergencies and so much more year-round. National Public Works Week for 2015 is May 17 through 23, so be sure to wave at their truck as they drive by or give them a hearty "thank you." We

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REPORTING OUR THANKS

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CONGRATULATIONS



Casey Brothers Sinclair Inc., 5710 Johnson Drive, recently celebrated its 56th anniversary of serving the automotive needs of Mission area residents. Here's to another 56 years!

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Your neighbors are talking! Join in! Add your voice to important community topics on a new online conversation tool at missionks.mindmixer.com.

Log in, add your comments and work together for a better Mission!



Mission Mayor Steve Schowengerdt, left, and Mission Tree Board Chairperson Karin Capron, right, recently presented Quina Youngblood, a fifth-grader at Rushton Elementary School, with an award for her winning entry in the 2015 Mission Arbor Day Poster Competition. The poster theme this year was "Trees are Terrific in Kansas Cities and Towns."

GET READY, BARGAIN HUNTERS!

Mission's City-Wide Garage Sale
April 30 through May 3
See Page 3 of the city's newsletter
for more details.



UPCOMING

Mission City Council Meetings

7 p.m. on May 20 &
June 17 at City Hall

MISSION ARTWALK

New Street! New Day!
New Hours!
Johnson Drive,
11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
June 13 and July 11

Mission businesses are showing off the new and improved Johnson Drive with the 2015 edition of the Mission ArtWalk. Artists' registrations are now being accepted for the June 13 and July 11 events. The public is invited to join us for entertainment, food and a festive atmosphere. For more information, visit www.missionartwalk.com or contact Jannell Lukens, 913-387-7405, or Kellie Overock, 913-626-0390.

Happy Birthday, Gertrude Stern!



Mission resident Gertrude Stern recently celebrated her 105th birthday with the help of Mission Mayor Steve Schowengerdt, left, and Police Chief Ben Hadley, right, who presented her with a cake and flowers.

ART walk

Two families, one Outlook

The Legg family figures out how to stay in Mission and bring three generations closer

BY HEATHER SWAN • PHOTOS BY KRISTIN MCCOPPIN / POND PHOTOGRAPHY

When you find out that Suzie Legg lives across the street from her in-laws, you might wonder if it's anything like an episode of "Everybody Loves Raymond." (It's not, by the way.)

The real story here, however, is how Suzie and her husband Kevin bought their starter home in Mission, loved the neighborhood so much they wanted to stay, and renovated their home to the point where they can raise their family. And then, several years later, they bought the house across the street, so Kevin's parents could live nearby.

This is the story of one family, two houses and one close-knit street.

LEGG HOUSE NO. 1

Many young Mission families find themselves in the Leggs' situation: They move to the city for various reasons, but they soon outgrow their home. And then what do you do?

"When we moved here, we came because of the location," Suzie said.

Kevin works in construction; Suzie is the elementary curriculum coordinator for the Kansas City Kansas

School District. Mission is a good middle ground.

"I can be anywhere in the metropolitan area in about 30 minutes," Kevin said.

When they moved into their home on Outlook in 1997, the house was pretty much in its original state. It was built in 1950 and looked like the home directly to its north. It was a 1 ½-story with an upstairs that could be used as a bedroom if you could navigate the slanted ceiling without bonking your head. There were two bedrooms and one bath on the main floor and a half bath in the basement. The house's galley-style kitchen still had its original Sears and Montgomery Ward appliances and metal cabinets and there was no shower in any of the bathrooms.

"Our original plan was fix it up, sell it, make some money and move south like everyone else," Kevin said.

But they had the extra benefit of their lot backing onto Waterworks Park, and they liked their street and neighbors. (They know just about everyone from 51st to 53rd streets.) In short, it was a situation they didn't want to leave. And then came the dilemma that many young couples face.

"If we have kids, we have to have a bigger house," Suzie said.



Kevin and Suzie Legg, back row from right, bought the home across the street from their house for Kevin's parents, Connie and Kline, who moved to Mission from Great Bend, Kansas. Also pictured are Kevin and Suzie's daughters, front row from right, Peyton, 4, and Taylor, 7.



Right: When Kevin and Suzie Legg moved into their home on Outlook in 1997, it was a 1 ½-story with two bedrooms and one bath on the main floor.

Above: After their renovations, the Leggs' house is now a 3,500-square-foot, five-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home with a "farmhouse-style" covered porch on the front.



The Leggs didn't have any kids at the time. (They now have two daughters: Taylor, 7, and Peyton, 4.)

To solve this problem, the couple decided to add 12 feet onto the back of their house to accommodate a more modern eat-in kitchen with a center island. On the main level, they also added a bedroom and Jack-and-Jill bathroom that connected with one of the existing bedrooms. In addition, they expanded and renovated the second level

to create an office/library, master suite with a laundry area in the walk-in master closet, and fifth bedroom (currently being used as a playroom).

Besides the room additions, they updated the home's electrical system and plumbing, added insulation and constructed their dream "farmhouse-style" covered porch onto the front of their house that is 6 feet wide and 36 feet long.

Their little house is now a 3,500-square-foot, five-bedroom,

Continued on Page 16

Continued from Page 15

3 ½-bath home with a finished basement that has a family room, bar, half bath and the home's original laundry room.

"We made this house what we needed it to be," Suzie said. "...If you like it well enough, you will find a way to stay.

"...People have chosen to stay here (in Mission) and have done things to make it livable and work for them."

Kevin said the City of Mission is very cooperative in letting homeowners do the work as long as they get the proper permits.

"The city was flexible and let me design it myself," he said. "I didn't have to hire an architect. I just had to have the plans approved by the city and have the construction done to code."

"We created the house we wanted for a fraction of the cost (of a new home)," he added.

LEGG HOUSE NO. 2

Suzie and Kevin bought the two-bedroom, one-bath house across the street from theirs in October 2013.

They had had several conversations with Kevin's parents — Kline and Connie Legg — about moving from Great Bend, Kansas, to Kansas City.

"We had wanted to move for a long time since our kids live in the Kansas City area," Connie said. "...Kevin found us a house across the street so it was now or never."

Kevin's parents don't miss anything about Great Bend, where they lived for about 40 years. Everything they need is nearby, and the quality of health care is better here.

"Kevin is close by in case we have an emergency,"

Connie added.

Also, they had become acquainted with Mission when they visited Kevin and his family. They already knew people at their church, First Baptist of Mission, before moving.

Kevin and other family members prepared the house for his parents by renovating the kitchen and bathroom, installing new carpet and painting.

Connie picks up her granddaughter Taylor, a first-grader at Rushton Elementary School, on school days and watches her until Kevin gets off work.

"They help us out tremendously," said Suzie of her in-laws.

The arrangement allows the grandparents to see their son and granddaughters almost every day instead of just three or four times a year. Kevin sees his sisters and brother more as well. (Two of his siblings live in the Kansas City area and another sister lives in Topeka, Kansas.)

"We see family a lot more because they (his parents) are here," Kevin said. "It's a reason for them to come."

Meanwhile, Suzie's parents still live 250 miles away in Great Bend, Kansas. Kevin and Suzie are hoping with a little (or a lot) of convincing — and the right housing opportunity in their neighborhood — that Suzie's parents might move here someday, too.

"It's nice to have family close," she said.

Below Left: Kevin and Suzie Legg added 12 feet onto the back of their house to accommodate an eat-in kitchen with a center island.

Below Right: Taylor, left, and Peyton Legg like to perform on the built-in "stage" located in a bedroom that is currently being used as a playroom.



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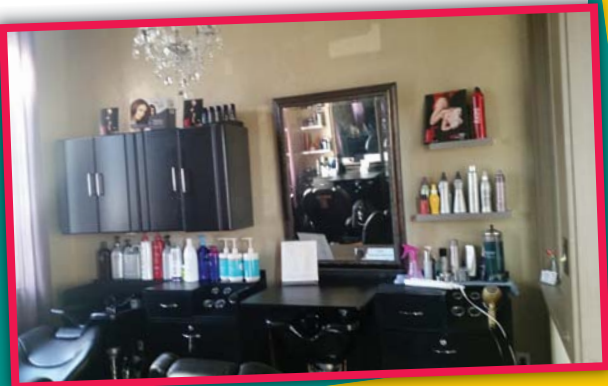
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CITY OF MISSION

Newsletter

APRIL / MAY 2015
VOLUME 10, ISSUE 4
WWW.MISSIONKS.ORG

MISSION'S 2014 YEAR-END REPORT AVAILABLE

The City recently published its Year-End Report for 2014. The report documents how your elected leaders and local government have been working to serve Mission residents. 2014 saw the completion of bold steps forward that will excite residents, businesses, and visitors for years to come. Highlights of Mission's accomplishments include:

* Construction of the new Mission Family Aquatic Center

* Mission's lowest crime rate in five years following a 21% decline compared to 2013

* A total of \$17 million in combined public and private reinvestment in Mission's commercial and residential real estate:

- Continued construction of the Mission Crossing development at Broadmoor & Martway

- New construction of the Cornerstone Commons project at Johnson Drive & Barkley
- Renovation of multiple buildings along Johnson Drive

* Reconstruction of downtown Johnson Drive, including new underground utilities and stormwater infrastructure, pedestrian improvements, and complete road reconstruction

* New online tools for citizens, including:

- A new city website (www.missionks.org)
- YourGOV - a new tool for reporting Public Works related issues via a smart phone or tablet (<http://yourgov.cartograph.com>)
- MindMixer - a new citizen participation tool that utilizes social media to develop connections and conversations on specific issues (<http://missionks.mindmixer.com>)

The complete 2014 Annual Report is available online at www.missionks.org

Your elected officials and city staff are committed to making our community a better place to work, live, and recreate. This year, we are reviewing and updating our Comprehensive Plan and creating a Parks Master Plan. Both documents will guide the City's work, and shape the character of our community for years to come. For more information on these efforts, and other City activities, please visit our website.



2016 BUDGET PROCESS UNDERWAY

City Council has begun developing the city's 2016 Budget. A city budget is not just an accounting document – it is a management and planning tool that helps to determine which objectives have the highest priority, will meet the greatest needs, and produce the greatest positive impact in the community. Each year the City Council, with the assistance of City staff, works to prepare a budget that is:

- a statement of priorities reflecting the vision of the community
- a spending guide reflecting the City's priorities
- a policy document allocating funds to specific services and programs
- a communication device to share these choices with residents
- an outline of anticipated revenues to support City services

Council will be addressing specific areas of the 2016 Budget at a variety of meetings over the coming months. The 2016 Budget Calendar lists anticipated budget discussions, which will be held at committee meetings, worksessions, and legislative meetings. All meetings are open to the public and will be held at Mission City Hall, 6090 Woodson.

2016 Budget Calendar

- **April 29th, 6:00 p.m.** Community Investment Program (CIP) - Stormwater/Parks
- **May 6, 6:30 p.m.** Community Investment Program (CIP) - Streets
- **June 3rd, 6:30 p.m.** General Fund Budget / Supplemental Requests
- **June 10th, 6:30 p.m.** Continued General Fund Budget / Supplemental Requests (tentative)
- **June 24th, 6:00 p.m.** Combined CIP Review (tentative)
- **July 1st, 6:30 p.m.** Refine Proposed 2016 Budget and Budget Resolution
- **July 15th, 7:00 p.m.** Community Dialogue on Proposed 2016 Budget
- **July 29th, 6:00 p.m.** Formal Public Hearing on 2016 Budget
- **Aug 5th, 6:30 p.m.** Final Review of 2016 Budget
- **Aug. 19th, 7:00 p.m.** City Council Adoption of 2016 Budget

Dear Friends and Neighbors,
I want to begin by welcoming Councilmember Jason Vaughn. Following Steven Lucas' resignation to relocate to St. Louis, we requested applications from interested citizens to fill this vacant position. It was my pleasure to recommend Jason to our Council for appointment – he will be a great asset to our Governing Body and an excellent representative of Ward I.

My thanks to all of you that have, and continue to participate in our ongoing visioning processes. Knowing the vision of our residents for our commercial areas and establishing a “master plan” for our many parks are two of our most important projects. Two citizen surveys will help to define our focus as we continue to work on updating our Comprehensive Plan and developing our Parks Master Plan. Stay tuned for information on our next public forums - we need your input. A calendar of all meetings is available on our website at missionks.org.

One of the most important issues City Council is currently addressing is redistricting. Please take a few moments to read the article on page 3 of this newsletter for details on the proposed changes to ward boundaries for residents in Wards 1 and 2. If you are unsure of which ward you live in, a map is included. It is important that our wards have balanced population numbers and, after several attempts to find the best solution, the 2015 Redistricting Committee is recommending a realignment of the boundaries of Wards 1 and 2. If you have questions or concerns regarding this change, please contact your Councilmember. The second of two public hearings on redistricting will be held at the May 20th City Council Meeting, and I encourage you to attend this meeting to share your views with Council.

In my last letter, I mentioned that we are working on a Farmers Market in Downtown Mission this summer. We are excited to announce that our Mission Farm & Flower Market will kick-off June 6th at the city-owned property west of Capitol Federal between Reeds and Maple Streets. There will be a variety

of vendors, food and music every Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. through the month of September. Check out our website and Facebook page for details. If anyone is interested in becoming a

vendor, please call Emily Randel at City Hall. We believe the Mission Farm & Flower Market will be a fun and healthy tradition in Mission for years to come!

Our Mission merchants are also working together in planning our 2015 ArtWalks, which are scheduled for Saturdays (June 13th and July 11th) from 11:00 a.m. – 5 p.m. This year artists, musicians and performers will be located along the Johnson Drive corridor. This will give shoppers, a great opportunity not only to shop for one-of-a-kind artwork, but also patronize our many local businesses.

I want to give special recognition to one of Mission's oldest businesses. On March 21st, Casey Brothers Sinclair celebrated “56 years of service in Mission.” Since 1959, Casey Brothers Sinclair has been actively involved in and generously supporting our community. Congratulations on more than a half century of success, an accomplishment we can all applaud!

Several weeks ago we were all shocked and saddened by the devastating fire at Mission Bowl. I hope you will join in our support of the O'Donnell family as they work to rebuild this wonderful business and landmark in our city.

Finally, a few dates to mark on your calendar with summer just around the corner - Saturday, May 23rd is opening day for the Mission Family Aquatic Center, the “Backyard Campout” is scheduled for Friday night, June 26th, and our annual Mission Family Summer Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 11th at Broadmoor Park. These are all great opportunities to spend time with family and friends in Mission!

Sincerely,



Steve Schowengerdt
Mayor



CITY OF MISSION SWIM CLUB

The 2015 Mission Marlins summer swim season begins June 1st! If you are interested in becoming a Marlin, please contact Suzanne Sawalich at ssawalich@kc.rr.com or Bea Ayala at beaayala@sbcglobal.net. Additional information on the 2015 season is available on the City of Mission Swim Club website at www.cmscmarlins.com.

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MISSION WELCOMES COUNCILMEMBER JASON VAUGHN

Councilmember Jason Vaughn was appointed to the Mission City Council in February of 2015, filling a Ward I vacancy. Professionally, Councilmember Vaughn is a Global Relationship Executive at DST Systems. He graduated from UMKC with a Philosophy degree and obtained an MBA from Baker University. Councilmember Vaughn currently serves on the Downtown District Task Force, focused on finding ways to encourage greater economic growth in Mission's core.



Mayor Steve Schowengerdt introduces Mission's newest councilmember, Jason Vaughn, at the February 18th City Council Meeting.

Personally, Councilmember Vaughn enjoys volunteering at events that benefit The Humane Society of Greater Kansas City (www.hsgkc.org). Additionally, in his spare time he enjoys playing tennis, traveling, sampling interesting foods and learning anything new. Councilmember Vaughn has lived in Mission for eight years. He may be contacted at jvaughn@missionks.org or 816-839-3585.

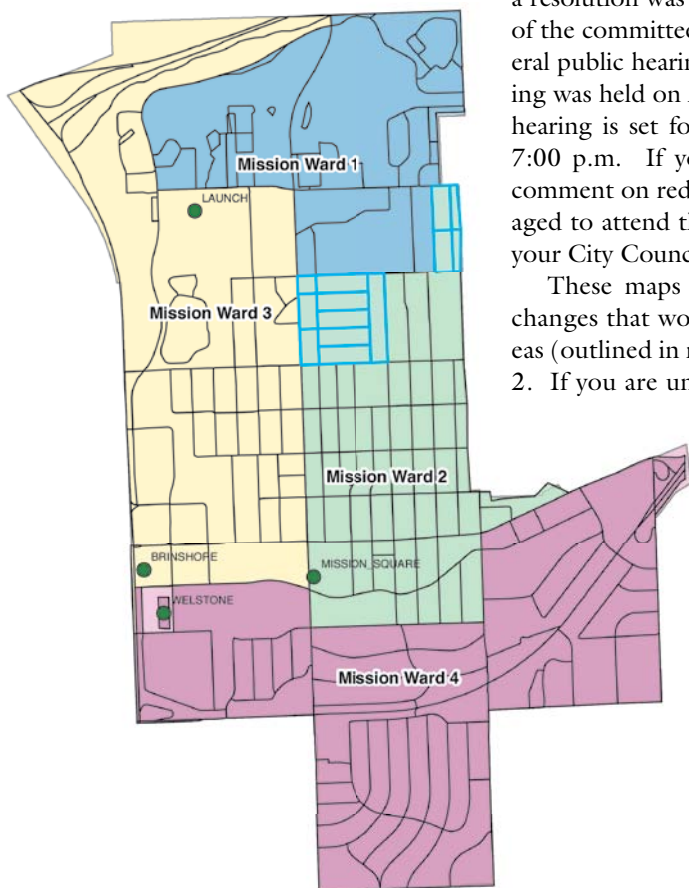
CHANGES TO WARDS 1 AND 2 RECOMMENDED IN REDISTRICTING PROCESS

"Redistricting" has become a familiar term to Mission residents over the past two years. It is important that all four of Mission's wards have resident populations that are substantially equal. Updating and adjusting our current ward boundaries to achieve this goal is not an easy task and sev-

eral committees have worked diligently to find the best solution to this issue. Early this year, the 2015 Redistricting Committee met and unanimously recommended boundary changes to both Ward 1 and Ward 2. These recommended changes were presented to Council in March, and a resolution was passed to accept the work of the committee and set the dates for several public hearings. The first public hearing was held on April 15th and the second hearing is set for May 20th at City Hall, 7:00 p.m. If you would like to provide comment on redistricting, you are encouraged to attend this meeting, or to contact your City Councilmember.

These maps detail the recommended changes that would move two distinct areas (outlined in red) from Ward 1 to Ward 2. If you are unsure which ward you live

in, please call the City Clerk at 913-676-8355 or visit the Johnson County Election Office website at www.jocoelection.org and select "voter lookup."



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THE CITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE!

This year's annual City-wide Garage Sale is scheduled for Thursday, April 30th through Sunday, May 3rd. It is easy to register your sale by emailing the City Clerk at msumrall@missionks.org or calling 913-676-8350. Be sure to provide us with your address, the

days you will be participating, as well as a few of your "top picks" to include on our flyer of sales in Mission. This year's sale also coordinates with city-wide sales in Roeland Park and Westwood so we anticipate lots of shoppers!

Help Name Mission's Newest Park

Would you like to win an annual family membership to the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center? The City of Mission will begin construction on its newest park in late summer of this year and we need your help in selecting a name. The park will be located in the Mission Crossing development at the southwest corner of Broadmoor and Martway Streets. The person that submits the name that is confirmed and officially assigned by the City Council will win the membership.

Mission's City Council Policy outlines priorities for the naming of new parks.

1. Neighborhood, boundary roads, or common usage identification;
2. A natural or geographic feature;
3. Significant historical events or cultural attributes;
4. A historical figure;
5. A name chosen by an

individual (living or deceased) who has made a significant land and/or monetary contribution to the park system;

6. An individual who has contributed outstanding civic service to the City or has been instrumental in acquiring or developing parks properties, and who has been deceased for a period of at least one year;

7. Organizations having contributed to and influenced the betterment of the City.

Please submit your recommended name, along with a statement of why you picked the name, to Christy Humerickhouse at chumerickhouse@missionks.org no later than July 1, 2015.



EMERALD ASH BORER IN MISSION

All ash trees native to Kansas are susceptible to infestation by the emerald ash borer, which has been confirmed in several trees in Mission. Trees become infested when adult beetles lay eggs on the bark and then hatch into larvae that bore into the tree. These damaging pests tunnel between the bark and wood, disrupting water and nutrient movement, eventually killing the tree. The emerald ash borer appears to prefer trees that are under stress, but is also capable of killing perfectly healthy trees.

If you suspect emerald ash borer on your property please call the Kansas Department of Agriculture at 785-564-6698 or email your name, address, phone number and pictures of the suspect tree to ppwc@kda.ks.gov.



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6090 Woodson Road, Mission, Kansas 66202

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1st Wednesday every month, 6:30 p.m.
(overflow business considered on the second Wednesday of the month as necessary, 6:30 p.m.)

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

COUNCIL WORKSESSIONS

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

All meetings are open to the public.

GOVERNING BODY

Mayor Steve Schowengerdt.....913-481-3235
City Hall Office.....913-676-8350

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD I

Pat Quinn.....913-207-3106
Jason Vaughn.....816-839-3585

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD II

Amy Miller.....913-677-0169
Arcie Rothrock.....913-568-2872

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD III

Jennifer Cowdry.....913-257-5788
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HORIZONS

A SHAWNEE MISSION HIGH SCHOOL

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Horizons High School students volunteer at Mission businesses as part of the school's Community Service program

BY HEATHER SWAN • PHOTOS BY KRISTIN MCCOPPIN / POND PHOTOGRAPHY

Makynze Steele sacks groceries and pulls products forward on shelves at the Mission Hy-Vee. Robert Edson helps with tasks like collating and binding at Moss Printing.

Makynze and Robert are just two of the Horizons High School students who are currently participating in the school's Community Service program.

The program — also known as Pathways to Success — matches students with businesses, where they volunteer for two hours each school day for 18 weeks. Besides getting job experience, the students earn one hour of elective credit toward graduation. Most of the businesses participating in this program are in Mission because the students are required to walk to their jobs.

Horizons, located at Johnson Drive and Lamar, is an alternative high school program in the Shawnee Mission School District that provides credit recovery opportunities and a program for teen parents. All students who attend Horizons are behind in the credits needed for graduation and/or are teen parents. The school's focus is on helping students acquire the necessary credits to earn their diploma, as well as to assist them in planning for their career and/or further

education upon completing high school.

"I like all the people when they come through the lines," said Makynze, who is volunteering at Hy-Vee. "They are really nice."

Senior Casey Hardiman volunteered at Empire Pets Boutique last semester.

"I liked the people and the experience I got," he said. "I liked the animals and working with them."

"I wouldn't trade it (that experience) for any other class."

Continued on Page 28

Horizons High School recently sponsored a career fair that gave students a chance to speak with military recruiters, colleges and employers. Pictured here are U.S. Marines Staff Sgt. Guidry, left, with Debeion Cutchlow, a student at Horizons.





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Plato's Closet has had two volunteers from Horizons through the Community Service program.

"We try to mentor them while they are with us, teaching them retail merchandising basics," said John Nichols, owner of the Mission Plato's Closet. "These kids really need the opportunity and, more importantly, a feeling of accomplishment and self-confidence. Business owners need to look past the stereotyping of Horizons and give these kids a real chance. They are respectful and just need someone to give them a chance and encouragement."

The school's Community Service business partners include Empire Pets Boutique, Moss Printing, Mission Pet Mart, Plato's Closet, Advance Auto Parts, Mission Hy-Vee, Kansas City Performance Diesel, Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City and Mack True Value Hardware. Horizons' job shadowing partners are Barbers IV, Signature Funerals, Mission Animal Clinic, Cigi's Makeup Studio, and Cakes and Confections by Shelly.

Molli Anderson, principal at Horizons High School, said the students treat their volunteer appointments "like a real job."

"Our ultimate goal is to provide students real-life work experience so they have credible references (when applying for jobs)," said Anderson, adding that the opportunity might give them a better idea of what they want to do for a career.

And, occasionally, students will be offered a paying job at the business where they have been volunteering.

"I tell the students that is the ultimate praise," said Laurie Hoffman, Community Service coordinator at Horizons.

Hoffman works to match the students with local businesses and then follows up to make sure everything is going well. The program usually has six to eight students each semester.

"Overwhelmingly, the response we get in so many words (from business owners) is that our kids are a lot better than they thought they would be," she said.

Aaron Barnett, associate principal at Horizons, said the school is looking for a wider variety of businesses where students can volunteer, and employers should look at this as an opportunity to "pay it forward."

"We want them to understand they are helping a student out," he said.

Meanwhile, students learn job-specific skills, time management (during their walk to and from their jobs) and how to communicate effectively. Besides references, these volunteer opportunities also give them skills they can list on a resume.

"We try to give our kids a spark of a light at the end of the tunnel, and this is a way to do it," Barnett said.

Moss Printing participates in the Community Service program each semester as a business partner.

"I think Horizons had a great idea in exposing students to real-life situations in the business world," said Jose Ramirez,

owner of Moss Printing.

While volunteering at his business, the students take on tasks like filing, collating, binding and inputting data into mailing lists. They learn to answer the phone politely and assist customers and are expected to dress appropriately.

Ramirez talks to them about what they want to do after they graduate from high school and what it will take to make that happen.

"I think the more the business community invests in these



kids, we will plant seeds," he said. "...I enjoy mentoring and teaching them and showing them things they can share with their peers.

"It's an investment. You can't save them all, but you can save one at a time, right?"

In addition, Horizons recently sponsored its first career fair, giving students and vendors a chance to talk face-to-face about career and educational opportunities. About 60 students and 15 different vendors participated.

Vendors attending the career fair were representatives from Johnson County Community College (admissions/financial aid, hospitality management, cosmetology, nursing and health information technology); military recruiters (Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines); Workforce Partnership; Fort Scott Community College (motorcycle technician, diesel technician, commercial truck driver training and construction trades); Mitsu Sato Hair Academy; Centriq Training; KCTV5 News; and Pittsburg State University (automotive technology).

"It was a great opportunity for students to interview and interact with people," said Barnett, the associate principal at Horizons.

The school is always looking for more businesses to participate in the Community Service program. For more information, call Laurie Hoffman at 913-993-9500.

Above: Robert Edson, left, volunteers at Moss Printing through Horizons High School's Community Service program. He is pictured here with Jose Ramirez, right, owner of Moss Printing.



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A supporter of *women in the arts*

At 93, Mission resident Jean Rau keeps active in the community and with the Greater Kansas City Area Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts

BY HEATHER SWAN • PHOTO BY KRISTIN MCCOPPIN / POND PHOTOGRAPHY

Look around Jean Rau's home and you will notice the artwork she has collected over the years: Winston Churchill and his wife over the sofa, the Frenchman reading a newspaper in the corner of her living room and a painting by her grandmother (circa the 1890s) that graces her dining room, to name a few.

For Rau, a longtime Mission resident, art has been an acquired taste that has grown over the years. She didn't have a lot of free time to appreciate art while she was raising four children and moving every year or two around the world with her husband, a Navy pilot.

But now the 93-year-old self-proclaimed news junkie enjoys playing bridge, walking at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center (she says she tells people she walks 1 ½ miles every day but it's really only four or five days a week), and viewing art around Kansas City and wherever she travels.

Passionate about finding opportunities to promote women in the arts, Rau is a founding member of the Greater Kansas City Area Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts. The group is comprised of about 100 members, including businesswomen, doctors, museum docents, artists, housewives and "people like me trying to stay involved and in touch," Rau said.

The group visits and views women's artwork in the area. For seven years, Rau and her bridge friend Darlene McCluskey organized those tours. These field trips took them all over Kansas City and outlying areas to view close to 70 private collections, artists' studios and public galleries.

Helen Fisher, a former Mission resident who is an original

and current board member of the committee, said Jean and Darlene did a wonderful job organizing those outings.

"Jean is a very energetic woman," Fisher said. "I always ask her, 'Jean, what kind of vitamin pills do you take?'"

The most important function of the committee, however, is its sponsorship of biennial Women to Watch art exhibits showcasing the works of local female artists. One piece from that exhibit is then displayed at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C., which can be a game changer for an artist's career.

"These accomplished women deserve to have their work seen by museum curators," Rau said. "It gives them the opportunity to show their work somewhere else besides Kansas City."

"We may have another Georgia O'Keeffe or Frida Kahlo," she added.

It's often challenging for women artists to get their artwork displayed.

According to Arzie Umali, assistant director of the UMKC Women's Center, about 22 percent of the art in Kansas City's museums was created by women compared to 13 percent nationwide.

"Women artists are still very underrepresented, but Kansas City does a better job (compared to nationally and internationally)," Rau said.

For people wanting to become more involved in the Kansas City arts community, she suggests getting involved in groups like the Greater Kansas City Area Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

For more information about this committee, call Pam Damron, membership chair, at 913-998-9349.



Jean Rau, pictured here in her Mission home, has worked to promote women artists through the Greater Kansas City Area Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts.



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A GARDEN OASIS IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN

*Rob and Amanda Simpson have created a colorful
backyard with distinct spaces for gathering*

BY HEATHER SWAN • PHOTOS BY KEVIN BLAYNEY

A few “original” items remain in Rob and Amanda Simpson’s backyard. There’s the tool shed, which looks more like a cute little cottage or playhouse than a protector of the lawn mower. And then there’s a swing that hangs from a tall tree and the hot tub.

From those three things, the Simpsons have created a quiet, private retreat outside their home in the Countryside Homes Association.

“I feel here in Mission, located between Shawnee Mission Parkway and Johnson Drive, it is a bit of an oasis,” Amanda said. “We don’t hear any road noise and it is where our family spends a lot of time. It has been a great space for entertaining as well.”

The Simpsons have lived in their home since 2009, but their first round of landscaping began in spring 2012. From there, it’s been a process of figuring out what works and what doesn’t and phasing things in.

“The hot tub was here, so we worked around the hot tub,” she said. “The shed was here so we wanted to create a

theme on it.”

The Simpsons have taken the different spots in their yard and created distinct areas or “vignettes.”

“We have the hammock area, which Rob loves, the fire pit area, the dining area and then the lounging area by the hot tub (although it serves as a pool in the summertime),” Amanda said.

Around those areas are a wide array of flowers, plants, shrubs and trees. With those that flower, the Simpsons have tried to get the most “bang for their buck” with blooms that are big and bright. There are peonies (like the Eden’s Perfume Peony and the Peony Gay Paree) and Globemaster Allium (purple flowering balls on stalks that bloom for about four weeks and look like something out of a Dr. Seuss book).

Also adding color to the Simpsons’ yard via flowers and/or foliage are the Cherokee Sunset Dogwood, Blue Atlas Cedar, Lythrum Morden’s Gleam (tall spikes of star-shaped, rose-pink flowers), Fine Line Buckthorn (fern-like foliage

Above: The area around the Simpsons’ tool shed has Sunrise Sunset Roses (low in front of the shed), a Green Mountain Sugar Maple (the tree in front of the shed) and the Cherokee Sunset Dogwood (yellow leaves) and Cherokee Chief Pink Dogwood (green leaves).



that turns yellow in the fall), Coral Bells, Citronelle (with lime-yellow foliage), Green Mountain Boxwood (an evergreen shrub with bright green foliage), Quick Fire Hydrangea, Sunrise Sunset Rose, assorted hostas (blue, chartreuse green, variegated white and variegated yellow), Variegated Liriope, Japanese Painted Ferns, Ghost Ferns, Goldmound Spirea, Stonecrop Neon Sedum, Blue Fescue Elijah and assorted annuals.

"I really loved mixing different shades of blues, greens and pinks/purples in the yard," Amanda said. "... It's been fun to design and see it mature."

"I love landscaping. It's the one hobby I make time for. I love to admire other landscapes in Mission and gather ideas to incorporate into our landscaping. The use of rocks/small boulders is next on my list."

Besides being beautiful (Rosehill Gardens did the basic design with some tweaks by the Simpsons), their yard is kid-friendly. They have two children, Clara, 4 ½, and Tommy, 3. Next to the tool shed is a play area for the kids that includes a blue bench from the old Mission Pool.

"It's nice to have some of the old

pool here," she said.

The Simpsons have also tried to keep their landscaping from looking too modern since their home was built in 1940.

All in all, it's a place where family and friends congregate and spend time together. People of all ages (especially adults) like hanging around the old swing; the kids enjoy pushing Rob in

the hammock; and wildlife (hawks, owls and hummingbirds) have discovered the garden, too.

"Rob loves to barbecue and relax in the backyard," Amanda said. "We enjoy having neighbors over, starting a fire in the pit and enjoying the sunset and beautiful evenings in the spring and fall. We couldn't be more happy to put down roots in Mission!"



Above: In the lounging area by the Simpsons' hot tub, you will find a Sweetbay Magnolia Tree, peonies below the tree (Peony Gay Paree and Eden's Perfume Peony), Lamb's Ears, Blue Fescue Elijah, Blue Atlas Cedar (sculptural trees behind each seatback) and Stonecrop Neon Sedum.

Left: The Simpsons have created distinct areas in their yard.

The hammock area includes Globemaster Allium, Coral Bells (Citronelle, Midnight Rose and Tiramisu), Quick Fire Hydrangea (behind the hammock) and the Cherokee Sunset Dogwood.

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