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APRIL/MAY 2017



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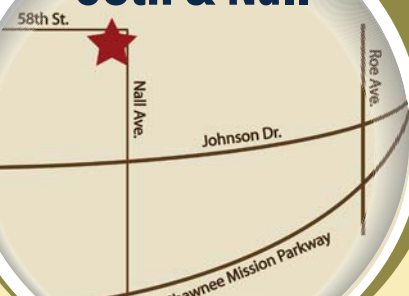
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Have you bought a prom dress lately? Be prepared! One hundred and ninety-nine dollars, \$299, \$349 for a simple dress that comes with so many decisions. Long or short dress? Lace dress, tulle dress or satin dress? Black dress, red dress or white? After four hours, my granddaughter and I were back home in Mission with the perfect navy dress for only \$69.99. It was good to be back in **Mission**. It's certainly an exercise for the young!

Reflecting back some 30 years, preparing for prom was much easier with sons. We simply purchased a new suit and got out of the store as fast as we could. Thinking about my own prom some 65 years ago, I wonder how many of you remember purchasing sewing patterns from pictures in the Kansas City Star? I would check the paper every day to find just the right pattern, order it and go to our local fabric shop for just the right material, all probably costing less than \$10. We had a wonderful evening for a lot less. Times have certainly changed!

We didn't have the slogan "Shop Local" in the '40s, '50s or '60s — it was a given. We all supported the mom and pop shops. **Mission** has many unique places to shop, so as we start thinking ahead to graduations, weddings, Mother's Day and Father's Day — Think **Mission**!

You can do more than buy gifts in **Mission**. Restore an heirloom picture of your grandmother at Yellow Lab. Visit Lee Lynch for a much-needed new lamp, end table or mattress. Order business cards for your graduate's new venture. On top of that there are pedicures or gift cards for mom, tools for the newlyweds, yard art, Hartman's chili seasoning, a place for your reception, a new hairstyle, an aromatic candle from Sweet Annie's or a new outfit from Mission Fresh Fashion. I could go on and on. So, to borrow a phrase — "**Why live, shop or work any place else?**" **Mission** is the place to be!

Now that you have shopped, please sit back and enjoy reading the article about **Mission's** Highlands School. Remember your elementary school? Once again we see that times have certainly changed. And for Alzheimer's patients, times are changing according to the University of Kansas Medical Center and their acclaimed Alzheimer's Disease Center. Please help us help them by volunteering to participate in one of their many clinical studies. By volunteering, we can all help make a difference!

ENJOY! SHOP LOCAL! SHOP **MISSION**!

Suzie Gibbs



ON THE COVER:

Operating partner Barry Wiser and general manager Greg Otey welcome Mission residents, sports fans and everyone to The Bar in Mission.
Photo by Scott Fishman

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Mission

Your Hometown

MARCH 2017

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The Bar, *a neighborhood bar and grill*

that's also a good neighbor

BY KRIS BAKER • PHOTOS BY SCOTT FISHMAN

Eric Hosmer steps into the batter box. A fastball comes flying in straight over the plate. The sound of the bat cracking off the ball can be heard at every table filled with fans in Royals' blue. The ball goes sailing out of Kauffman Stadium. A two-run home run gives a big win to Kansas City.

The Bar in Mission erupts in cheers. Looking on, Barry Wiser smiles. This is exactly the kind of atmosphere he wants. Wiser is the operating partner at The Bar, which he and his team created to be a destination for Mission sports fans to come together, watch the big game, enjoy some food and drinks and have a good time.

"A good time is what we are all about," Wiser said. "We are an open concept in dining, so it's a sports bar, but we also have great food and a great patio to hang out on."

The Bar offers food and drink specials daily, happy hour from 2 to 6 p.m. weekdays and a reverse happy hour from 9 p.m. to close. The restaurant features an outdoor patio which is a popular spot when the weather is nice; inside are 18 TVs including one in every booth to allow fans to watch whatever game they would like. The Bar has 18 beer taps, a wide variety of craft beers, a full bar and a menu that includes salads, wraps,



*"Mission has a very big, fun
atmosphere for a city its size."*

-Barry Wiser



burgers and entrees. Patrons will find selections like a Thai chili chicken wrap, buffalo burger, jalapeno onion-string burger, French dip and sides that include white cheddar macaroni and cheese, Boulevard beer-battered onion rings and edamame.

"We sell a lot of food, its 50-50 between food and drink sales," Wisner revealed. "We have a couple of chefs on staff; head chef Josh Santee does a terrific job and has a lot of experience."

Greg Otey has been the general manager of The Bar since their highly-anticipated debut in December of 2014.

"When people think about a sports bar, we want them to think about The Bar in Mission, that's the goal," Otey said. "We opened big and we have just kept trying to build on that."

Chris Sawyer has been a patron at The Bar for a couple of years.

"It's the perfect place to come with a group and watch the games, one of the best in town," Sawyer offered. "With all the TVs, there is not a bad seat."

Wisner said that The Bar is a neighborhood bar and grill focusing on the neighborhood aspect. They have a lot of customers who live within walking distance and like to just drop in, sometimes while walking their dogs."

"It's important to know that we are a neighbor as well as a bar," Wisner explained. "There is a lot of unity in the city and the staff has been great to work with. Mission has a very big, fun atmosphere for a city its size. We want the city to know that we are here to support this community and help with all its activities."

That has included The Bar hosting a beer tent at the Mission Farmer's Market and participating in the Mission Handlebars Happy Hour and Bike Drive event where patrons rode their bikes to The Bar.

The Bar seats 150 people inside and 70 on a patio facing Johnson Drive. The building at 6101 Johnson Drive has been there for over 70 years, first operating as a filling station known as Mission Tire and Service Center. Part of that history is still evident. During the redesign Wisner decided to keep two of the service center's garage doors that lead to the patio and are kept open when the weather is nice. During the summer months, their patio hosts live music acts.

Since opening, The Bar has added a banquet area to rent out for private events. They have hosted bachelor and bachelorette parties, birthday parties, even wedding receptions, which can all be fully catered.

Debbie Hoyer-Laduke has lived in Mission for 10 years and has become a regular at The Bar.

"The food is great, at a great price," Hoyer-Laduke said. "I like everyone here, everyone is very nice. I think it has been a great addition to Mission."

Wisner and his group, who also own Bar West near Renner Road and I-435 in Shawnee, looked for ways to make this location stand out among all the other bars in northeast Johnson County.

"We couldn't decide on a name," Wisner laughed. "So, we thought The Bar would be easy to remember."



Bartender Zach Roede, patron Barbara Bayer and operating partner Barry Wisner gather around the fire pit on the patio of The Bar to enjoy a beverage and the fresh spring air.

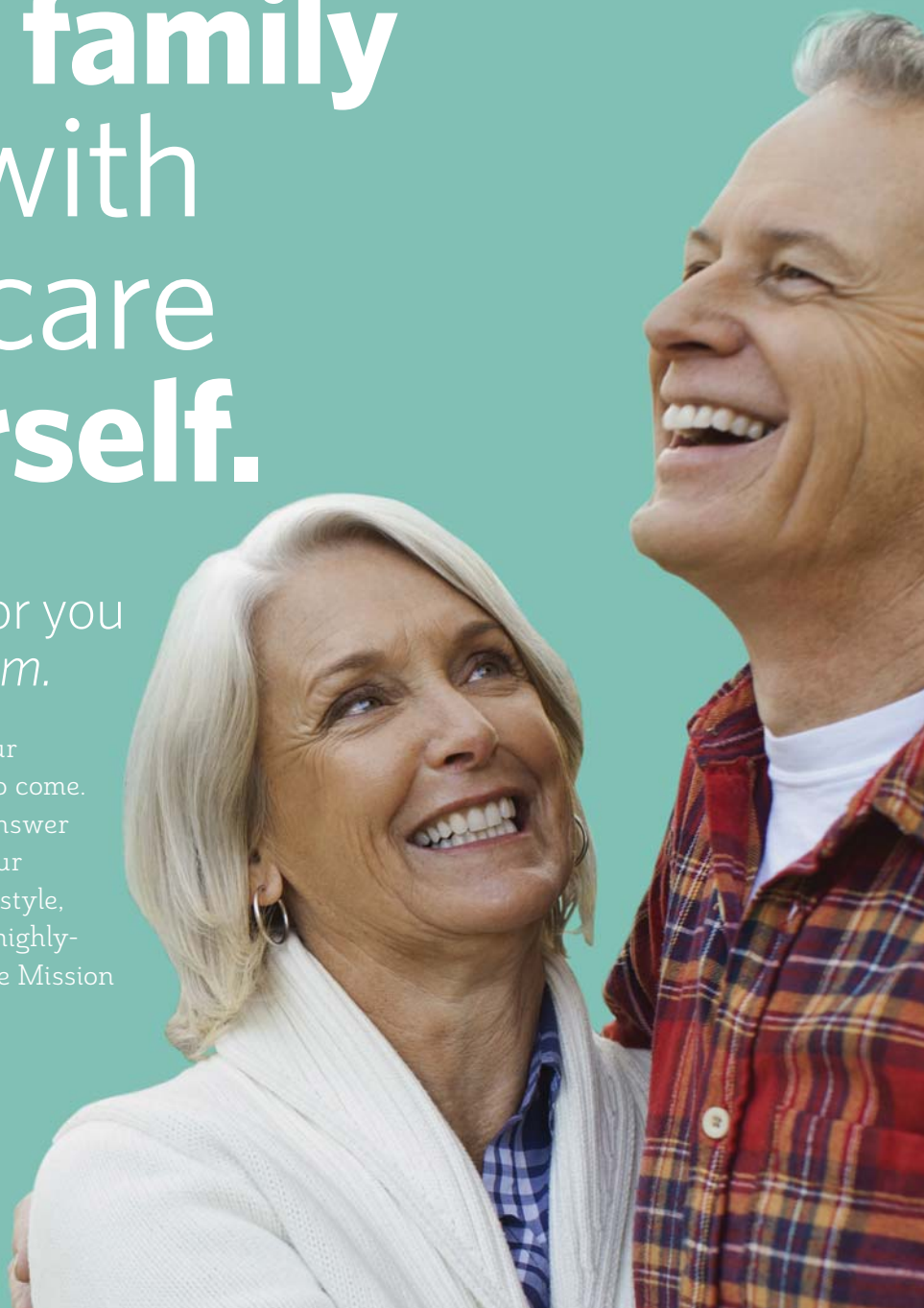
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The yellow awning of Yellow Lab Imaging stands as a landmark on Johnson Drive.



PICTURE PERFECT

*Yellow Lab
Imaging
transforms photos
into works of art*

BY KRIS BAKER
PHOTOS COURTESY OF JASON DOMINGUES



Rob Mitchell of Yellow Lab Imaging restored this damaged photo to look like the original.

Lines run down the woman's face. A big chunk is missing from the bottom left corner of the picture. This wrinkled, torn photo had been kept in a man's wallet for 40 years. It was one of the most damaged photos Rob Mitchell had ever seen.

The woman looked at Mitchell, owner of Yellow Lab Imaging, and said, "Can you fix this for me?"

Mitchell ran his fingers over the old photo, feeling the cracks and creases. The portrait of the young woman was incomplete, aged and a total mess.

"Sure," Mitchell answered. "We will get to work on it."

Mitchell got to work digitally making layers and layers of the

photo, smoothing out the lines and recreating the missing pieces. The black-and-white photo began to come together again. When all the damage was repaired and the missing piece replaced, Mitchell looked at it again. It still wasn't quite right.

"I don't give up, I'm really stubborn," Mitchell explained. "At first it looked like it couldn't be done, but we kept working. I know how important people's photos are to them. Obviously, he carried it around all those years, so it meant a lot to him. We wanted to make the photo the best it could possibly be."

With the eye of a photographer, Mitchell made the finishing touches. The photo could have been taken that day, it looked brand new.

"She loved it," Mitchell said of his customer's reaction. "There is a personal aspect to every photo that is brought in, and we use a more personal approach that separates us from the chain stores. We talk to our customers to find out what they are really looking for. I offer my advice and expertise; customer service is a high priority."

Restoring family photos is just another day on the job at Yellow Lab Imaging. Yellow Lab is an independent lab for professional grade photographic printing. They offer several mounting and finishing options to showcase their customers' images. Yellow Lab Imaging prints photos on professional grade Fuji lustre paper, some of the best paper in the industry. They also produce photos on canvas and even metal. Orders can be placed online at yellowlabimaging.com.

Originally founded as Evolution Photo Graphics by the Niezer family more than 15 years ago, the focus was on the professional photography market in Kansas City. The Niezer family eventually shortened the name to EPG Imaging, and then sold the company to Tricia O'Conner of Snap Photography in 2012. O'Conner rebranded the business as Yellow Lab Photo Boutique and moved the business to Mission. Looking to concentrate more on her photography business, O'Conner sold Yellow Lab Photo Boutique to Rob and Brenda Mitchell in 2014.

Yellow Lab Imaging is not named after a dog as is sometimes asked, though there is a picture of a yellow Labrador on the wall. Instead Mitchell got the name from combining the previous two names of the business, Yellow Lab Photo Boutique and EPG Imaging. The fact yellow is his favorite color aided in the decision.

Photography has always been close to Mitchell's heart, having been in the photo and printing industry all his life. When

he worked for a civilian company, contracted by the Department of Defense Dependent Schools in Europe, he traveled around Italy, Belgium and Germany shooting portraits. When the opportunity arose to purchase the business in Mission, the fit was picture perfect.

"We looked at the Crossroads, we looked at downtown Overland Park and other places, but Mission had everything we wanted," Mitchell said. "Mission is a small town with a big town feel, you feel like you are part of the community, the people are nice and everyone respects each other."

*"Mission is a small town
with a big town feel."*

-Rob Mitchell

Today prints of all styles and sizes hang on the walls inside the building with the bright yellow awning at 5812 Johnson Drive. Visitors to Yellow Lab can get a feel of how their images will look mounted on the wall, as well as how much it will cost based on what materials and size they want.

"People always ask 'how big can I go' and we will take a look at their images and discuss their options," Mitchell said as he refers to the photos on his wall. "Having the examples on the wall really helps them visualize how their photos can look."

Family photos can be some of the most treasured pieces of art in a home. Whether a picture of a family trip to Yellowstone or a daughter's wedding album, Mitchell believes the photos should receive the same quality and care as an Ansel Adams or Annie Liebovitz work.

"We are really focused on outstanding quality and giving people something they are proud to hang prominently in their house," Mitchell said. "These are people's memories we are dealing with, and we respect those memories."



Rob Mitchell works on restoring photos at Yellow Lab Imaging.

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Mission Bulletin Board

HELP US TO BETTER SERVE YOU



The Consolidated Fire District No. 2 Critical Information Program gives residents within the fire district the opportunity to provide emergency responders with information that could be critical in the event of an emergency. Critical information might include building access, a person's medical needs or equipment, mobility limitations, communication issues, or safety hazards. With access to critical information, emergency responders are better prepared and able to provide the best service possible in any given situation. For more information and to fill out the program's form go to <http://www.cfd2.org/programs/critical-information-program/>.

Congratulations

Congratulation to Shawnee Mission North's NJROTC program for winning the National Championship in Armed Regulation Drill at the NJROTC national championship competition. This is the 32nd national title the program has won in 12 years. With lots of youth on the team North looks to continue its winning ways.

Did you know that?

Originally called Mission Hill Acres in 1926, this suburb was subdivided into 245 lots and offered by the Breyfogel family for sale. By 1935 there were five businesses; a drug store, restaurant, hardware and dry goods store, a barber shop, and a cleaning and pressing establishment. Postal authorities recommended in 1938 that the name of Mission Hill Acres be shortened to Mission.

Citizenship & Reflections Winners

On behalf of the Kansas PTA Board of Managers, Highlands Elementary Principal Lea Ann Combs officially announced their 2016-2017 Kansas PTA Citizenship & Reflections winners. Congratulations to Joe Toma and Lola Gravatt for winning at the state level of the PTA's Citizenship and Reflections contests!! Joe has received the Award of Excellence for his Citizenship Essay and Lola has received the Award of Merit for her video entry in the Reflections competition. This is very exciting news for Highlands! The winners will be honored at the State PTA convention in April.

Pictured here are Principal Combs and Lola.





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Three bicycles are now on display at the south entrance of the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center. Each of the vintage bikes — a tandem bike, a 1950s bicycle and a three-wheel bicycle — offers a unique design. A silent auction is being held now for the bicycles, with the proceeds to be used for the City of Mission Holiday Adoption Program. Bidding closes at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 5.



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Shop Local

Locally owned businesses play important role in Mission economy

BY KRIS BAKER • PHOTOS BY KRIS BAKER

Bob Hartman repairs lawnmowers and more at Hartman Hardware.



In the land of business, bigger is often thought to be better. Small, locally owned businesses are sometimes overlooked. Across the metro, from the Country Club Plaza to Prairie Village, small businesses are disappearing and are being replaced with big national chain stores. Our story in Mission is different.

Small businesses are a thriving, vital part of the shopping experience in Mission. The concentration of locally owned businesses is part of the appeal of shopping in Mission.

Local business owners are happy to share their experiences of running a company in town. Mission Magazine took a trip around town to see what local business is all about. Here's just a snippet of what we learned.

HARTMAN HARDWARE

Stepping into Hartman Hardware, 5800 Johnson Drive, is like stepping into an old-fashioned hardware store where people can gather and shoot the breeze, as well as get answers to their home improvement questions. Owner Bob Hartman said this reflects who they are and how they run a business.

"We don't have a lot of bells and whistles, we are a basic hardware store," Hartman said. "Bring in your lawnmower or snow blower and we will fix it."

A common refrain around town is take your lawnmower or key to Hartman.

"We can make a copy of a key in 30 seconds and they always work because we do it the old-fashioned way," Hartman said.

Hartman Hardware handles lawn mower blade sharpening, glass cutting, key making, lamp repair and more. For a full list of services, visit hartmanhardware.com.

"We offer different services than the big stores," Hartman explained. "If you don't know what you need we can help you find it. You don't have to buy a whole package of nuts or bolts, you can buy them individually."

Hartman Hardware is a family business with deep roots in the area. In fact, Hartman's first job was sorting those nuts and bolts in the family hardware store. Hartman could have settled in at a different Hartman location but this one appealed to him.

"I didn't have to drive as far," he joked. "Though, I have always loved Mission. Small shops are going strong. The city has everything you could want."

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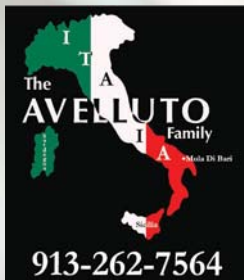
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MOSS PRINTING

Jose Ramirez is one of the biggest advocates for Mission in the area.

"I like people," Ramirez exclaimed. "Mission has the nicest, warmest, friendliest people who take care of one another. It's very easy to do business here."

Ramirez has operated Moss Printing at 5406 Johnson Drive since 2010. Moss Printing provides quality printing services for a variety of jobs including business cards, brochures, promotional items, wedding invitations and more. Moss has graphic designers on staff to assist customers who want eye-catching, hip designs. Ramirez said Moss Printing can do a job as small as one black-and-white copy or print thousands of books.

"Moss Printing is about fast, affordable service from people who want the customer to have a positive experience," Ramirez said.

Moss Printing was recognized in 2012 by the Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce as its Small Business of the Year and the organization named Ramirez Volunteer of the Year in 2014.

Print jobs can easily be handled online by visiting mossprinting.com. That's just one reason that after one job, customers keep coming back. Another is that his customers prefer a hometown business over a national chain.

"People keep coming back to our businesses because we are easy to work with and they trust our work."



Jose Ramirez provides high-quality printing at Moss Printing.



Lee Lynch in his showroom filled with furniture at Discount Sales Outlet.

"Mission has the nicest, warmest, friendliest people who take care of one another. It's very easy to do business here."

-Jose Ramirez

DISCOUNT SALES OUTLET

Lee Lynch bought Discount Sales Outlet at 5930 Broadmoor in 1994 with the intention of liquidating the merchandise and then moving on. However, a delivery of mattresses changed all that.

"I didn't think the mattresses would sell, so I agreed to start with 10," Lynch said. "They all sold right away, so I got another shipment. I had room to store a lot so I bought them in bulk and got a

good deal. They continued to sell well. Pretty soon I was selling 300 a month."

The 11,000-square-foot showroom is packed with a wide variety of mattress sets, from Sealy to Simmons, with over 40 different sets on display by seven different manufactures. As the business expanded, he started selling more furniture including chairs, sofas, tables and lamps.

Lynch believes there are many benefits to staying close to home and shopping local.

"You save a lot money shopping here. When you go to a big store like Nebraska Furniture Mart, they have a lot of overhead, and you end up paying for it. We don't have that," Lynch explained. "We have American-made products that meet our standards and we stand by them all."

Quality customer service is another focus for Lynch, one that he said is common with Mission businesses, as is comradery between business owners.

"Your customers are my customers, that's our philosophy," Lynch said. "There is a lot of cooperation that goes on between businesses in Mission."

Lynch says he is rebranding his store as DSO Mattresses this summer.

"I am from here and I have made an investment here," Lynch said. "I believe in business in Mission and its future."




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Jason R. Pingel, O.D. - Doctor of Optometry



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or Burrito Plate Wednesday \$6.25



CITY OF MISSION

Newsletter

MAY 2017
VOLUME 12, ISSUE 2
WWW.MISSIONKS.ORG

MARKET SEASON IS HERE

The Mission Farm and Flower Market is back! Now with an extended season, the market will be open May-October to bring you the freshest fruits and vegetables of three seasons. Fresh produce will be available each week along with baked goods, meats, eggs, jams, jellies, ready to eat foods, and live music.

Mission Farm and Flower Market

Saturdays, May-October

8am-1pm

5613 Johnson Drive - Just west of Nall

This year the market is adding an art and craft tent, sponsored by ScriptPro. If you sell handmade art or craft items and would like to reserve a date, please contact Emily Randel at market@missionks.org or 913-676-8368.

Market Day sponsorships are also still available. Businesses may host demonstrations, giveaways, and have high-quality interaction face-to-face with some of the most engaged customers in the city. If you would like to sponsor a day at the market, please contact us to reserve your date.

JOHNSON COUNTY VOTE MEANS NEW SALES TAX RATE IN MISSION

Effective April 1, 2017, the sales tax rate in Mission increased by ¼ cent due to the recent voter approval to fund a new Johnson County Courthouse and coroner's facility. The new combined rate is 9.6%.

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For more information, or to become a vendor, visit missionks.org/market

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It's springtime in Mission and there are plenty of exciting things happening throughout the City. I know you will join me in congratulating Highlands Elementary on celebrating their 65th anniversary. Highlands' facility is top-rate, with a faculty and staff who go above and beyond to provide an outstanding education to students in our area. By taking an active interest in our students and local schools, we set the example for future residents and community leaders.

The City Council recently announced the addition of youth members to both the Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission and the Sustainability Commission. This is a great opportunity for area high school students to participate in local government. They will be able to have an impact working on issues facing Mission, and moving ideas and recommendations forward to the City Council. If you know a high school student interested in participating, please have them contact Emily Randel at erandel@missionks.org or 913-676-8368 for information on the application process. Students will begin serving in the fall when the school year begins.

The third season for the Mission Farm & Flower Market begins in just a few days. Last year's food truck kick-off party was such a success, we're doing it again! With twice as many food trucks participating this year, please bring your families, friends, and neighbors from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. on May 2 for some amazing food! Then come back for the market's official opening on Saturday, May 6. This year, the market season was extended through October and a craft tent has been added. When visiting the market, please take some time to walk Johnson Drive and "shop local" to support our hometown businesses.

In less than a month, the Mission Family Aquatic Center will be open for the summer. Stop by the Community Center now to purchase

your pass for the 2017 season. I encourage you to mark your calendar for all of the upcoming family events in Mission.

Many of you know that taking steps to improve safety for pedestrians and drivers on Johnson Drive is a high priority for me. I have been suggesting that the City Council take action to reinstall a traffic signal at the intersection of Johnson Drive and Woodson to help address safety concerns. They want to get more public input on this issue, so now is a great time to contact your Councilmember to share your thoughts on this matter.

We are just starting the 2018 budget process, which sets our priorities and expenditures for the coming year. We continue to focus on providing high quality city services, public safety, and maintaining our infrastructure. I always welcome and encourage residents to attend budget worksessions (meeting dates included in this newsletter) to learn more about the process and the challenges the City faces. If you can't make a budget meeting, your ideas and opinions can still be shared by phone or e-mail with me and your councilmembers.

It continues to be an honor to serve you as Mayor, and I hope you will take time in the upcoming months to get involved.



Sincerely,

*Steve Schowengardt
Mayor*

PROVIDE INPUT FOR THE 2018 BUDGET

The 2018 budget development process is underway. The Mayor and City Council welcome citizen input and feedback. A calendar of meeting dates is included below, and all meetings are at Mission City Hall and open to the public. A Community Dialogue on the Budget will be held on July 26.

2018 Budget Calendar

April 26, 6:00 p.m. Goals and Objectives/5-Year Forecast

May 3, 6:30 p.m. Audit / Review Budget Priorities / Additional Forecast Information

May 24, 6:00 p.m. Capital Improvement Program (CIP) – Stormwater/Parks/Streets

June 7, 6:30 p.m. Review General Fund Budget and Supplemental Requests

June 28, 6:00 p.m. Continued budget review (If necessary)

July 5, 6:30 p.m. Refine Proposed 2018 Budget and Budget Resolution

July 26, 6:00 p.m. Community Dialogue on 2018 Budget

August 2, 6:30 p.m. Public Hearing/Final Review of 2018 Budget

Updates or changes to the schedule will be posted online at www.missionks.org. Please contact Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Brian Scott with questions: bscott@missionks.org or 913-676-8353.

SAVE THE DATE!

Market Kick-off Party – *May 2*

City-wide Garage Sale – *May 4, 5, 6*

Mission Farm & Flower Market Opening Day – *May 6*

Mission Family Aquatic Center Opening – *May 27*

Backyard Campout – *June 23*

Mission Summer Family Picnic – *July 8*



DO I NEED A PERMIT FOR THIS?

Many residents have questions about when a building permit is required for updates or changes to their property. The simple answer is if you are adding, removing or changing electrical, mechanical, plumbing or structural elements of the property – YES, you need a permit! Exceptions to this requirement may include: minor non-structural exterior repairs, windows, siding, sheds under 200 sq. ft., most interior finish work like cabinets, carpet and painting. Regardless of whether work is done by the homeowner or a Johnson County

licensed contractor, a permit is required. Inspectors will review the work being performed to make sure it complies with the City's Building Codes. The permit remains open until the work passes a final inspection.

Permit applications, a list of the adopted codes, guidelines and a fee estimate calculator are available on the city's website at www.missionks.org. For assistance in determining if a permit is required, please feel to contact the Community Development Department at 913-676-8360.

DON'T FORGET MAINTENANCE ISSUES IN THE BACKYARD

Spring and summer are good times to think about fixing up the old shed or repairing those broken boards on the fence.

Sheds, along with carports and detached garages, should be maintained no differently than the exterior of your home. Rust, peeling, chipping, and missing paint should be repainted, along with repairs to damaged doors, roofs, and windows.

Fences must also be kept in good condition. Posts, pickets, chainlink, and gates should be free of damage and replaced as needed. Any peeling or chipping paint should also be touched up.

These types of repairs are eligible for assistance through the Mission Possible Program. For questions or more information, please contact Neighborhood Services at 913-676-8360



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 our windows to enjoy the spring weather. Remember to be a good neighbor by:

- Not allowing your dog to bark, howl, or make other loud and frequent noises which might disturb neighbors.
- Keeping animals properly leashed and controlled, and picking up and disposing of pet waste (this includes cats).
- Requiring any contractors making exterior improvements to your home (such as concrete work, exterior carpentry, masonry, plumbing, painting or electrical) to follow “work hours as outlined in the City’s Code: Monday – Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.;

Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and prohibited on Sundays. Repair work performed on an emergency basis is allowed outside of these hours.

- Observing Mission’s “quiet hours” which 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. Think about your neighbors before getting an early start on mowing the lawn!
- Maintaining grass at a height not greater than 8 inches and trimming trees and shrubs that hang over sidewalks and streets.

If you have questions about any of these regulations, please contact City Hall at 913-676-8350.

SUPPORT OUR FLAG DISPLAY ON JOHNSON DRIVE

The City displays American flags along Johnson Drive during the summer for Memorial Day, Flag Day, the Fourth of July, and in the fall in honor of Veteran's Day. In tribute to those who have served or are currently serving our country, you can make a donation to support the flag display.

Donations may be made by check or credit card and may be made in honor or in memory of a veteran or service member, or any person you would like to recognize. Notification of the tribute will be sent to a person of your choice, and your information and honoree will be listed in the Mission Magazine and on the City's website.

For additional information or to make a donation, contact Emily Randel at 913-676-8368 or erandel@missionks.org.

ARBOR DAY POSTER WINNERS



Karin Capron and Jacque Gameson, Parks, Recreation, and Tree Commissioners, and Mayor Schowengerdt honor the 2017 Arbor Day Poster Contest winners at Rushton Elementary. Congratulations to third place winner Karlee Cromley, first place winner Abigail Weding, and second place winner Jacob Uland.

WARD MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Ward II

June 29
September 28
December 29

Ward III

July 20
October 19

All meetings are
at the Sylvester
Powell,
Jr. Community
Center – 7 p.m.



MISSION CITY HALL

6090 Woodson Road, Mission, Kansas 66202

Open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Phone: 913-676-8350 • Fax: 913-722-1415 • www.missionks.org

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

First 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

Third Wednesday every month, 7 p.m.

COUNCIL WORKSESSIONS

Fourth Wednesday every month, 7 p.m.
or as posted

All meetings are open to the public.

GOVERNING BODY

Mayor Steve Schowengerdt913-481-3235
City Hall Office913-676-8350

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD I

Tom Geraghty816-808-8512
Pat Quinn913-207-3106

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD II

Arcie Rothrock913-568-2872
Nick Schlossmacher913-788-6425

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD III

Kristin Inman816-510-7698
Debbie Kring913-722-6901

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD IV

Ron Appletoft913-677-1706
Suzanne Gibbs913-671-8564



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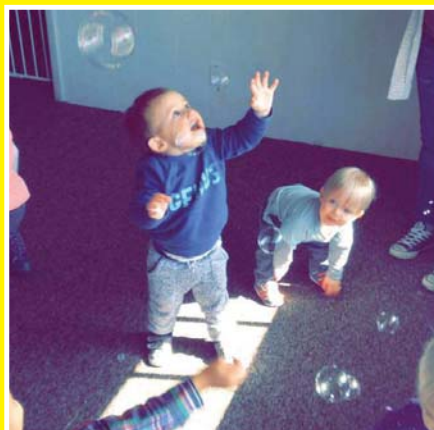


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Highlands Elementary prepares for 65th anniversary

BY KRIS BAKER • PHOTOS BY CATHY DONOVAN

Lea Ann Combs is always on the move. As the principal of Highlands Elementary for the past two years she has made it her goal to give all the time needed to teachers, parents, administrators and students for them to succeed. This means she is usually going from one spot in the school to the next. She usually doesn't see her office until 4 p.m., long after the students have left for the day.

"No two days are the same," Combs said as she walks the halls of Highlands. As a group of students pass her in the hall, Combs greets each one by name. "I like to work the circle drive in the morning so I can say their name as soon as they get out of the car. I love working lunch because that is when you can talk to the kids and really get to know their personalities."

Combs has learned the names and gotten to know 320 students at Highlands this year. That is only a fraction of the number of students who have passed through the halls of Highlands during the past 65 years.

Highlands Elementary will celebrate its 65th anniversary on May 12, first with the Music on the Green student concert for their parents at 2 p.m., a reception begins at 3:15 p.m. followed by an open house from 4 to 6 p.m. All alumni have been invited to attend. A time capsule that was buried in 1997 for the 45th anniversary will be opened. Highlands, located at 6200 Roe, opened in 1952 due to overcrowding at Prairie School. Highlands was later torn down and replaced in 2010 with the modern school.

As you walk through the school with the principal, her enthusiasm for Highlands is evident. During the tour, she stops at

an area with tables, couches and a TV in front of their memory wall.

"This is an active learning area. Last week students were here making model roller coasters," Combs gestures to the area. "All this furniture was donated by the PTA. We don't want to waste any space."

Next stop is at Denise Bohon's kindergarten classroom, where she is reading "Our Tree Named Steve" to a room of captivated kids during snack time. After disposing of their wrappers from snack time, the students move to the carpet for another story.

"Aren't my students so polite," Bohon said aloud so the students could hear.

Bohon has worked as a public educator for over 42 years, 30 of those at Highlands. Her background is in special education. She has taught first and second grade and has been a kindergarten teacher for the last six years.

"It's a privilege to be able to escape to a 5-year-old's world every day," Bohon said. "The kids challenge you, and keep you at the top of your game."

After teaching at Highlands for most of her career, Bohon is excited for the 65th anniversary and credits the school's longevity to one source.

"Highlands has had a successful 65 years because of this neighborhood and the support it gives," Bohon said. "The PTA is very strong. The staff and parents work together to put kids first."

This is a two-story building with Marion Taylor's third-grade class on the second floor. She has taught at Highlands for the last 16 of her 43-year career. This is her last year and as she prepares for retirement she thinks back to the things she will miss most.

"It's a wonderful feeling when you see the light go off in their head," Taylor said. "You can actually see them learning."

Both Bohon and Taylor agree the biggest changes they have seen in their careers is the advances in technology, which provides challenges as well as excitement. However, some things never change.

"Kids are still kids, they still like to tell stories and be heard," Taylor said.

"There is not a member of this staff I would not trust to give my own children a great education," said Principal Combs, referring to the teachers at Highlands. "I could not have come in here last year and been successful without our great staff."

continued on page 32

Denise Bohon reads a book to her kindergarten class. Bohon has taught at Highlands for 30 years.



"Highlands has had a successful 65 years because of this neighborhood and the support it gives."

Denise Bohon



Teacher Marion Taylor celebrates her final year of teaching after a career that spanned 43 years.

HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY

Other stops for Combs today include an art class, the science lab and the MakerSpace. In the MakerSpace second-graders Alberta Stinson, Vanessa Blades and James Eckrich build a project on the Lego wall.

"The kids were very hands on in designing the MakerSpace," said Combs as she acknowledges the quote from Mahatma Gandhi that adorns the wall. "Be the change you wish to see in the world." All the quotes on the MakerSpace walls were chosen by students, as were many of the tools found here. Creativity is the focus in the MakerSpace with a green screen, sewing machine, musical instruments and a 3D printer. "The kids love coming here; it's their chance to find what they are really interested in and set them on their path to achieving their goals."

The path for Highland alum Nick Vasos led to him becoming an anchor for Fox 4 News. Vasos hopes to attend the 65th anniversary celebration; graduating from Highlands in 1981 he still has fond memories of the school.

"A wood paddle called 'the swinger' hung above Principal Morris's office.' That was quite a deterrent, but we all loved him; he rode a motorcycle to school," Vasos laughed. "I played my first baseball game on the field there. I rode my bike or skateboard to school every day. It's a great location."

Bikes are still common at Highlands; no students are bused in for daily classes. Instead the circle drive after school is filled with parents lining up for pick up.

"It's important to have all the parents come together," Combs said. "That's what is great about public education, it brings a community together and it exposes you to different kinds of people. That's what it is all about. Shawnee Mission Schools are known to be great schools, so why would you go anywhere else."

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TIMELINE

- 1952 – Highlands Elementary has its first full school year, the first PTA meeting is held in October, 125 people attended and by-laws are drafted and officers elected. Charles F. Malone is the first principal.
- 1953 – Enrollment reaches 539, an art fair, book sale and preschool study group are added to Highlands activities
- 1955 – A traffic light is installed at 62nd and Roe. In May, a simulated evacuation of Highlands is held in case of an atomic bomb attack. Wayne Morris becomes principal.
- 1956 – Student patrol is formed
- 1957 – A helicopter lands on the playground as a surprise for Highland's students and the Kansas traveling Art Exhibit arrived to exhibit artwork by children from all over the state.
- 1960 – After a summer fire that resulted in \$30,000 in damage caused a delay, a new addition to the school with six new classrooms, a teachers' lounge and new storage area opens. Highlands is featured on a program on Danish TV about a "typical American family."
- 1963 – Mrs. Fletcher's ever popular Ping-Pong tournament begins
- 1969 – Highlands is unified into the Shawnee Mission School District
- 1971 – NASA sends moon rocks and other lunar equipment to the school and students are asked to monitor the displays.
- 1972 – In keeping with President Nixon's request to conserve energy, guidelines are sent to classrooms asking to turn down the heat and turn off the lights. Highlands' first spelling bee is held.
- 1974 – J.R. Hamil gives a presentation on his book "Farmland U.S.A." and one of his original watercolor paintings to Highlands.
- 1979 – First ice cream social is held
- 1985 – Sixth-grade teacher Lois Roth is selected to spend one month in China during the summer.
- 1995 – The Highlands website is launched, the first in the Shawnee Mission School District and second in Kansas.
- 1996 – Highlands Cookbook was published raising approximately \$3,000.
- 2001 – Reading week meets its goal of children reading 1,000 books in one month, which awarded the students the pleasure of watching teacher Mrs. Spencer kiss a pig at an assembly, which is covered by a local TV station.
- 2008-10 – Highlands holds classes at a satellite location as a new building is constructed.
- 2010 – Highlands Elementary opens its new technology-friendly building with a new science lab, MakerSpace and learning areas.

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Mission residents find helping hands at the University of Kansas Alzheimer's Disease Center

Dr. Jeff Burns is the co-director of KU ADC.

BY KRIS BAKER • PHOTOS BY SCOTT FISHMAN

When Mission resident Michael Ockleston was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, he turned to wife Janice Jones and said, "I'm in trouble."

"We didn't know what to expect or what would be the next step," Janice revealed. "I just knew we needed to learn more."

For Janice and Michael, and countless other local residents, their path to learning began at the University of Kansas Alzheimer's Disease Center (KU ADC), 4350 Shawnee Mission Parkway, Fairway, Kansas. Researchers at KU ADC work to improve diagnosis, care and educational resources for Alzheimer's disease while trying to find a cause and possible cure. At any one time the KU Alzheimer's Disease Center coordinates at least 25 ongoing studies, involving the newest drugs, lifestyle changes and techniques to battle this disease. It's an effort that needs community participation, particularly from healthy older adults.

"We are going to need 750 adults over the next three years to participate in our studies, and 615 of them need to be over 60 with no memory problems," clarified Carroll Oliver, community engagement coordinator at the KU Alzheimer's Disease Center. "If you look at all the people who have the disease, and then each of them has one to three caregivers, so many in our community are affected by Alzheimer's. So, we are always recruiting across the Kansas City area."

Michael agreed to go through some preliminary tests, including a PET scan, and then entered one of KU ADC's clinical trials.

STRONG AND STEADFAST

For the past year and a half Michael has participated in the STEADFAST clinical trial, which is a national trial to determine if the drug Azeliragon is safe and effective in treating people with Alzheimer's. Azeliragon is designed to reduce the buildup in the brain, a key feature of Alzheimer's. Plaques are made up of a protein called amyloid, which clumps together. The amyloid is associated with the death of nerve cells leading to changes in memory, thinking and behavior. Half of the study participants are taking the drug and half are taking a placebo.

Michael and Janice do not know which option Michael is receiving. They will complete the study in July.

"We come in every 90 days for him to be evaluated and see what the next step is," Janice explained. "Everyone makes sure we are in a safe environment. Coming here has been a very comforting experience."

KU's Oliver added, "We have a big family atmosphere. We want to make sure all of our participants' questions are answered and they know they are in good hands."

Michael had lived most of his life in South Africa, outside of Johannesburg. He moved to Mission in 2002 to be closer to his son, who played for the KU Jayhawks rugby club. There was something else that kept him here, local resident and the love of his life Janice, and the two were soon married.

"Coming here has been a very comforting experience."

— Janice Jones

Michael Ockleston has been in the STEADFAST program at the University of Kansas Alzheimer's Disease Center. Michael's wife Janice Jones stays close to his side during all his appointments. 'We are in this together,' she said.



"We have been blessed," Michael offered.

Once STEADFAST is over Michael may qualify for another trial. One thing that won't end though is Michael and Janice's mission to learn more about Alzheimer's.

"I'm not really content to rely on what others have told us, I need to experience it for myself," Janice said. "I want to know everything I can and all that we can do. **Next to God, knowledge is the greatest weapon against the unknown.**"

LEAPS AND BOUNDS

KUADC also has programs and studies to help prevent or delay the symptoms of Alzheimer's. Aileen Tichenor, a Mission resident for almost 21 years, is someone who decided to check out one of those programs, LEAP! (the Lifestyle Enrichment for Alzheimer's Prevention), after she received information about it in the mail.

LEAP! is a six-week workshop series that offers practical information on lifestyle changes that can promote brain health. Topics covered include physical activity and exercise, social and cognitive engagement, nutrition, sleep and stress management.

"One of the big topics was diet, how changing your eating habits can help with so many things," Tichenor remembered. "We try and eat a lot of fruits and vegetables at home; the study reinforced that theory. We exercised, the instructors were entertaining and engaging; there are lot of benefits from the class."

After Tichenor got involved with LEAP! she was introduced to Nicole Romanelli, an exercise research assistant, through the Alzheimer's Prevention Program. Romanelli said that a big part of their work is matching the participant with the right study. There is a recruitment division to help participants find a study which fits them. Participants fill out a survey and based on interest and eligibility they are given to different coordinators like Romanelli.

"Once they are given to us, we go through screening visits to determine eligibility for our exercise study," Romanelli said.

continued on page 36

FUNDRAISER ON JUNE 15

A fundraiser for the University of Kansas Alzheimer's Disease Center will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. on June 15 at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center. A raffle and silent auction will be held; Mediterranean food and wine will be served.

Courtney Goin, community liaison with Care Haven Homes, is organizing the event.

"Sylvester Powell is a great central location, where we can reach out to the community," Goin explained. "We invite everyone to come out."



Study participant Aileen Tichenor (left) sits with Nicole Romanelli, a KU ADC exercise research assistant.

continued from previous page

Tichenor is currently screening for a study called APEX (Alzheimer's Prevention through Exercise). Though she shows no signs of memory loss, Tichenor would still stress the benefits of a visit to KU ADC.

"I am very interested in the outcome of these studies, I think it is very encouraging to see how much work is being done on prevention of Alzheimer's. I would recommend to anyone to come in at least for the introductory class and see what it's all about."

CLINICAL MINDS

LEAP! and APEX are examples of just some of the programs KU ADC has created. Thirteen years ago, Dr. Jeff Burns started the KU ADC; today he serves as co-director with Dr. Russell Swerdlow. Dr. Burns said he has always been interested in the mysteries of the brain.

"When we started, there was not much we could do about it (Alzheimer's)," Dr. Burns revealed. "We have come a long way. We look at the whole body now, and how the body and mind work together."

The KU ADC is one of only 31 Alzheimer's Disease Centers in the country to be nationally designated and funded by the National Institute on Aging. Each center has its own specialized research area, and the KU ADC has received international attention for research on how various lifestyle factors, including fitness and physical activity, affect normal aging and Alzheimer's disease. Much of the work done here investigates how energy production changes with age and with Alzheimer's.

"We have a study we are working on now looking at oxygen consumption and how that affects the brain," Dr. Burns said. "It takes years of hard work to come up with the studies, but the center provides a great location with which to run them."

Dr. Burns said they won the right to have the center over several other medical institutions. He said it is a great credit to the community to have been chosen. The next closest Alzheimer's Disease Center is in St. Louis. Michael, the Alzheimer's patient, and his wife Janice, are glad they do not have to travel so far.

"We are surrounded by some of the greatest researchers in the country," Janice said. "It has been so helpful to have a resource like KU Alzheimer's Disease Center right in our backyard."

PARTICIPANTS ARE NEEDED FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE CENTER STUDIES. TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY:

1

Call 913-588-0555 or send an email to KUAMP@kumc.edu to request a survey.

2

Fill out the survey. This can be done over the phone, online at kualzheimer.org or in person at the center. Staff members will assist with any questions.

3

Arrange a time to come in and meet with representatives at the center and see what study would be the best fit.

*Do you have high blood pressure,
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About the Study

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Please contact us to find out if you qualify for this study.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the rrAD study, please contact:

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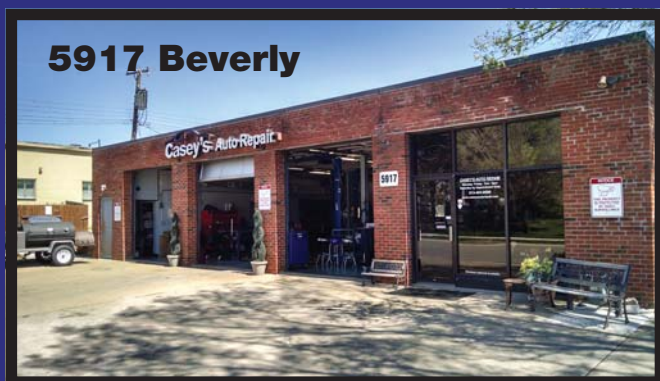
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