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April/May 2019

Happy Anniversary!

Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center celebrates its 20^{th} year serving the community

Father-daughter racing team bonds over competition at the track

TurnStyles Thrift gives back to the community





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INTRODUCING Sylvester Powell, Jr.

I was a City Councilmember when Sylvester Powell, Jr. was Mayor. But if you haven't lived in Mission for at least two decades, you may be wondering who the heck he is, and why Mission named the Community Center after him. That's why we turned this space over to his daughters, Janet Simonsen of Overland Park and Dianne Oliver, who lives in Nashville, Tennessee, so they can tell you a little about this great man and the legacy he left for our city.

—Suzie Gibbs

Chair of the Mission Magazine Committee

ylvester Powell, Jr., the son of Italian immigrants and one of 10 children, was born and raised in Springfield, Ohio. He met and married our mom, a farm girl from northeast Kansas, while serving in the U.S. Army in World War II. After the war, he earned his law degree from the University of Kansas City Law School and became one of the best trial lawyers in Kansas City.

In 1953, two years after moving to Mission, he was elected to the Mission City Council, and in 1955 he was elected Mayor, serving in that capacity for 10 years. After a 12-year hiatus, he was elected again in 1977 and remained in office until his death in 2002.

Dad was a man of passion and



conviction. There was a right way, a wrong way and "Syl's way." He loved Mission and its

residents and dedicated much of his life to making it a great place to live.

He had a reputation for being tight with the city's money but felt that it was his responsibility to make the most of the residents' tax dollars. At one point under his leadership, Mission had the largest surplus of any city in Kansas. He invested in services like free trash pickup for all residents and worked to keep things such as pool fees affordable for all Mission families.

He also wanted the city to be a community where people came together. In 1996, the Olympic Torch was set to travel down Shawnee Mission Parkway. Our dad thought the torch should run down Johnson Drive because parking would be easier, and more people could see it. But the Olympic committee turned down his idea. So, he said, "Well, you can change your plan now or you can change it when the torch gets here because I will block off Shawnee Mission Parkway and make you go down Johnson Drive." The committee changed the plan and the torch went down Johnson Drive in front of hundreds of cheering residents.

When he wanted something, he got it done, and the Community Center was one of those things he wanted for the people of Mission. When he wasn't being Mayor or practicing law, he was a dedicated family man. He treated us and our brother. Stephen, like we were the center of his universe, adored and was adored by his five grandchildren and was happily married to our mom for 58 years. We miss him every day.

Dianne Oliver & Janet Simonsen

On the cover:

THE SYLVESTER POWELL, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER CELEBRATES ITS 20th year serving the Mission community. The building first OPENED ITS DOORS MAY 15, 1999.

Contents

- Ad Astra Market specializes in fresh food 6 and one-of-a-kind flowers
- 8 Father-daughter racing team bonds over competition at the track
- 16 New store in Mission gives back to the community
- 19 City Newsletter
- 24 In its 20th year, Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center is where you belong
- 28 **Bulletin Board**
- **32** Mission man returns park to its natural beauty while honoring legacy of Lewis and Clark

Mission

APRIL/MAY 2019

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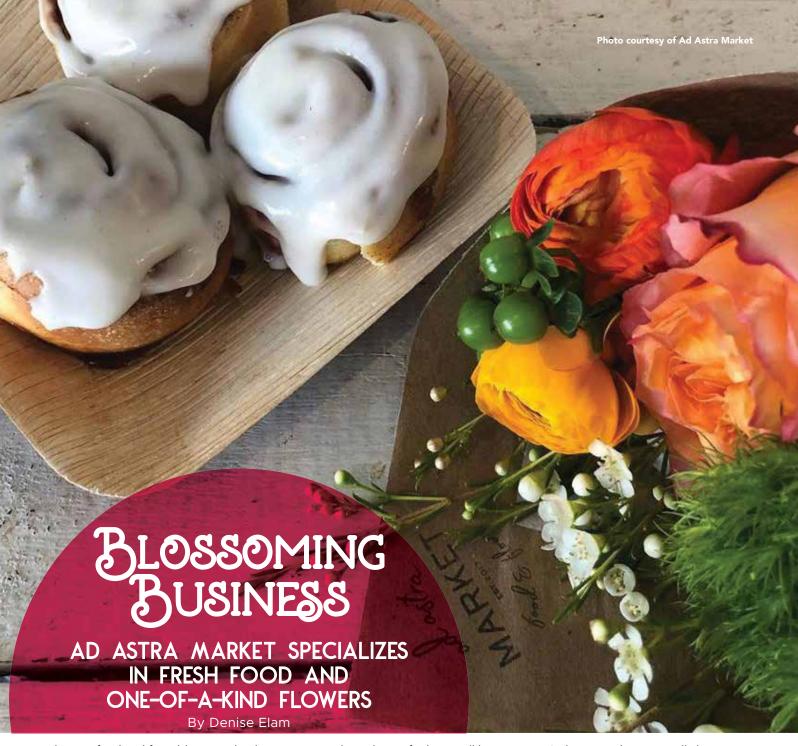
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lowers, food and friendship are what keep Janie Weeks and Sydney Gasper of Ad Astra Market going during the intense workweeks and holiday seasons. The pair have been best friends since they were 15 years old. After raising their kids and spending countless hours together, Janie, the chef, and Sydney, the florist, decided to combine their passions into a business.

"We knew we worked well together, and so having your best friend as your business partner, it just makes it easy," Janie explained.

Both have extensive backgrounds in the fields they love. Sydney started working in a flower shop when she was just 16 years old, and Janie worked as the executive chef at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City for six years. They decided to open their business in Mission, right on Johnson Drive, for a fresh start in a community with a "small hometown feel" that's old-fashioned but vibrant at the same time.

"It feels more like an old-fashioned main street to us, with lots

of other small businesses," Sydney noted. "It's not all chains and big stores. We really liked that feel; it's got a real sense of community over here for sure."

Ad Astra Market opened in 2017, and the business has been blooming ever since. The owners are truly a team: Sydney handpicks the flowers and Janie customizes the menus. The two love to work with nearby businesses, selling their local artwork, drinks, candles and clothing. Ad Astra Market is open Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The selection of food and flowers is always changing. Sydney loves to offer fresh, new, cool and funky flowers, so customers have plenty of options. Sydney also sells low-maintenance house plants like succulents and cacti.

Flower arrangements vary in size and price, but Sydney can do them all, including arrangements for weddings, funerals, parties and corporate events. Her flowers make perfect Mother's Day gifts. People can even bring in their own vase and she will



arrange flowers in it for no extra charge.

"You can just come in and get one stem of something or I can put together an arrangement for you," Sydney explained. "It just depends on what you're looking for."

Ad Astra Market sells flowers with a European flair: Arrangements are wrapped in brown paper and tied together with a ribbon. People come in all times of day to create custom, by-the-stem arrangements for last-minute birthday gifts and anniversary presents. Some stop by just to have beautiful, fresh flowers in their homes.

"I can customize anything. The great thing is that I go shopping so many times during the week," Sydney emphasized. "If there's anything specific you need, I can always grab it or look for it or a certain flower or certain color. I have a great relationship with the wholesalers and get some beautiful fresh products."

Food specials change weekly, though Ad Astra Market always offers at least four different types of sandwiches made fresh each day. The Italian Turkey, made with flavorful turkey, lemon artichoke spread and cucumbers alongside mixed greens is one of Janie's best recipes that pairs well with a bag of chips.

Protein balls and baked goods such as chocolate pretzel cookies and warm pastries frequent the menu, along with some gluten-free and vegan items for those with dietary restrictions. Grab-and-go packs with vegetables, cheese and nuts are available for people who want a quick bite to eat.

Janie, who has 20 years of experience in catering, customizes her catering menu depending on her clients' needs, catering corporate events, breakfasts, lunches and private parties. Buffet-style spreads and boxed lunches are available for corporate clients, featuring tasty ham, turkey or veggie

sandwiches with chips.

"Her brunch menu is out of this world," Sydney chuckled.

The upcoming summer menu will feature fresh salads, citrus pound cake, lemon blueberry hand pies, lemon bars and lime melt-a-way cookies.

While the two have their own separate passions, their creativity and expertise shine

when they work together on events and private parties. Ad Astra Market hosts flower arrangement classes along with themed parties for holidays such as Mother's Day and Valentine's Day.

"We knew we worked well

together, and so having

your best friend as your

business partner, it just

unakes it easy."

- JANIE WEEKS

A class for flower arrangement typically consists of eight to 10 people, with Sydney teaching flower arrangement while Janie serves food. Classes start at \$45 per person plus the cost of food (depending on the event's menu).

"I say, 'You can go over and select what stems you want to use.' I instruct you on the care and how to cut them."

The storefront can be rented to host events such as engagement parties, birthday parties and corporate meetings.

"We had an office group come in for their holiday party ... (and) it was really fun," Sydney remembered.

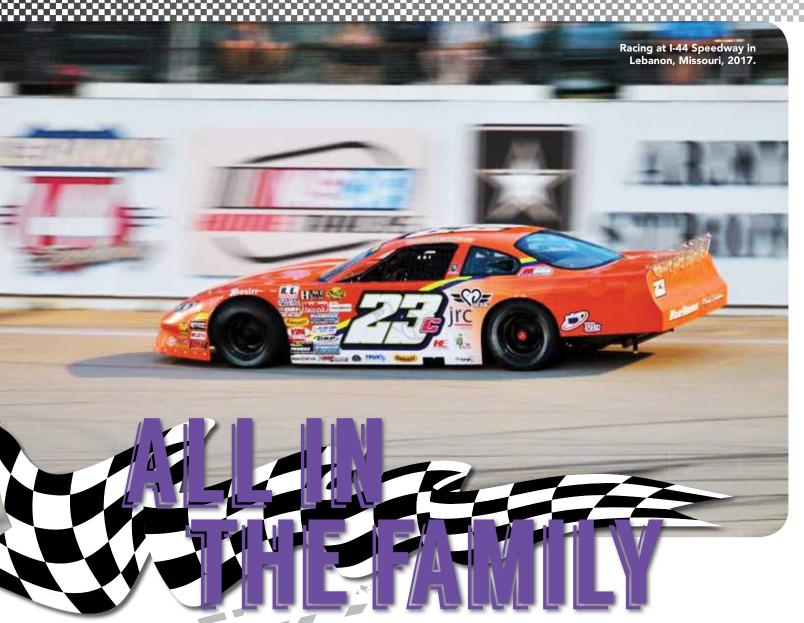
All orders for catering, flowers or events can be made online, adastramarket.com, on the phone, 913-232-2397, or in person at 5811 Johnson Drive. Delivery is available.

Looking back on two years of business, Janie and Sydney recall the grand opening party back in July 2017 with sparkles in their eyes. Their fondest memory of Mission is one of a community coming together to support their new business.

"It was so much fun," Sydney smiled. "I couldn't believe how many people from the community came out. People we hadn't seen forever were there, while other business owners came just to introduce themselves, asking if we had questions or needed anything. They are like our biggest fans. They come in all the time. They support us."

With the continued support from the community and the love these women have for what they do, Ad Astra Market will continue to blossom in Mission.





Father-daughter racing team bonds over competition at the track

By Barbara Bayer

ace car drivers tend to have catchy nicknames. We've heard Dale "The Intimidator" Earnhardt Sr., Jeff "Rainbow Warrior" Gordon and Richard "The King" Petty. Now we've got Mandy "The Cool" Chick.

Not familiar with Mandy Chick yet? Mandy is the 17-year-old daughter of Jennifer and Steve Chick, Jr. She's the third generation of Chicks to race, following in the footsteps of her father and grandfather, Steve Chick, Sr. Grandpa was a firefighter and then a dispatcher in Johnson County stationed in Mission for much of that time. Dad, who has been a firefighter for 16 years, is now the deputy chief for Johnson County Consolidated Fire District No. 2, which serves the City of Mission.

Around racing all her life, Mandy was tiny when the Chicks owned a NASCAR truck team. By the time she was 6, Mandy was competing herself, racing "little cars built for kids called quarter midgets." After her first experience in the midgets, she asked, "Where's mine?"

Before she could legally drive a car on the streets, Mandy made the transition to full-size race cars. At just 14 years old she was recognized as the NASCAR Missouri State Rookie of the Year and now competes in the JEGS CRA All-Stars Touring Series.

"I've just always had a passion for racing, and I love it more and more every day," Mandy emphasized. "When you love something so much, it's hard to put into words why. I love our family effort. I love bonding with my parents and my grandpa on the weekends that we're working together because it's a family sport. I love the friendships that I gain from the racing. We travel a lot, so I have a lot of friends out of town."

Mandy added she loves the competition on the track.

"I'm a naturally competitive person and I love the speed of the race car. It's hard for me to put into words."

Mandy's racing career began in Topeka, Kansas, which is less than an hour's drive from her home in De Soto, Kansas. Now she races all over the country.

"One year from February to November we counted I was in 19 different states and several states multiple times," Mandy



recalled.

How fast does she go? Speeds differ depending on the track, she said, but her top speed these days is generally in the mid-130s.

While racing is Mandy's passion, it's also a job. As her dad explained, Mandy now competes in races in which the winners get paid.

"We're not racing for \$100 or \$200 on a dirt track on Saturday night," Steve noted. "Some of the races that Mandy will run this year pay upwards of \$20,000 to win. Out of 40 or 50 cars in a race, only one person is going to win."

Every member of the Chick household plays a role in Mandy's racing business. Besides driving and the preparations associated with that, Mandy, who is the team's CEO, handles publicity, social media and even some mechanical work. Dad deals with most of the mechanics, along with assorted other crew members including Grandpa. Mom, who owns her own accounting firm, controls the finances.

The cars Mandy drives cost upward of \$65,000 to \$75,000. Because they do much of the work themselves, Mandy's cars don't cost that much, Steve pointed out.

"On a public-servant salary, I can't buy \$75,000 race cars," he said.

Mandy also has sponsors who pay to be a part of the Chick team, and she mentions them when she is promoting herself.

"She is known by several of those big, national companies as one of their most powerful social media marketers," Steve added.

On top of racing, Mandy is a straight-A high school student. Traveling to races posed an attendance challenge for her, so this year, as a junior, she enrolled in the Kansas Online Learning Program, which the family believes is working out well.

"She can take her computer in the transporter when we're on the road, do homework and get credit for that time in school," Steve explained.

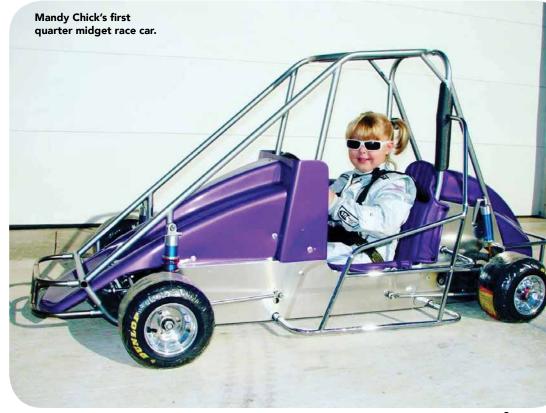
Mandy's schedule is packed tight. She starts early, usually before 8 a.m., and does schoolwork until early afternoon. After school, it's time to work out because "racing is so physically demanding." Then she'll move on to race training — which she often does via a racing simulator — or working on the car in the race shop. In fact, it's not uncommon for her to do all of that in one day.

Her age is not the only unique thing about her racing career. According to Mandy, there aren't many female drivers "let alone having a team with a daughter and a father."

While a high school student, Mandy has developed "Race to Stop Bullying," a bullying prevention program established more than four years ago in direct response to bullying she endured when she was in fourth grade.

"I speak on several different topics including kindness, acceptance, inclusion and self-confidence," noted Mandy, who speaks mainly to elementary students. "I tell my story of racing and I try to help students







understand that if they are being bullied, they are not alone. They can always reach out to a parent or a teacher or someone like that."

Self-confidence is something Mandy's father thinks she's more than qualified to address.

"At 12 years old she was racing full-size V8 stock cars against grown men and women, primarily grown men," Steve said. "You have to have self-confidence in order to do that. You just would not be able to survive if you didn't."

Despite all her travels and her full schedule — the racing season typically runs March through October — Mandy manages to have a somewhat normal teen social life. She attends youth group at Westside Family Church and has friends her age at the race track.

"I'm also friends with the people I race against, even though many of those are grown men," she added.

Mandy is on track to graduate in December of this year. She is working toward breaking into the NASCAR world, earning a slot in the NASCAR Monster Energy Cup Series, and planning to go to college as well

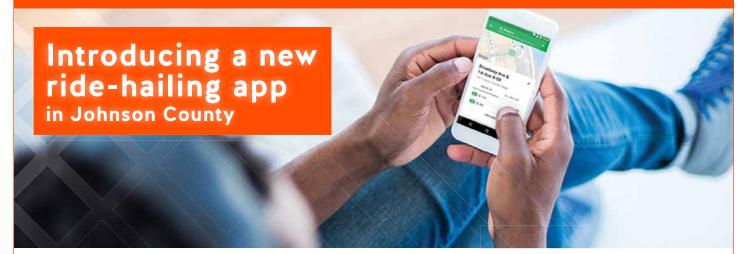
"I want to go to college for a mechanical engineering degree because mechanical engineering fits closely with the racing and it's a good backup to have," she said.

As for the nickname Mandy "The Cool" Chick, Mandy said it wasn't pinned on her by family.

"An announcer at the track gave it to me." To learn more about Mandy "The Cool" Chick, visit mandychick.com.



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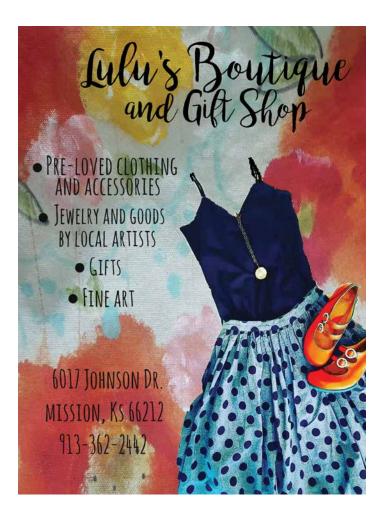
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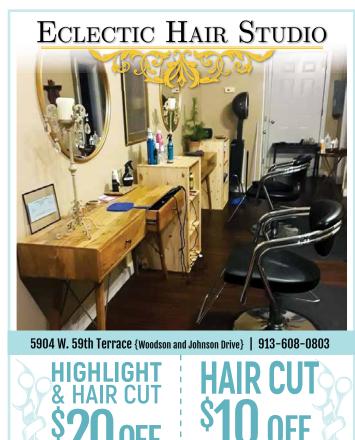
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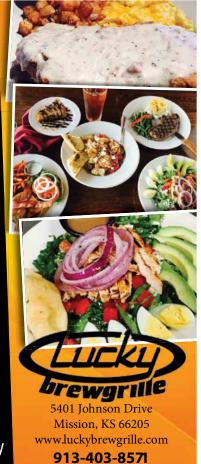
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tag into a red hoodie. On the sales floor, a mother and son duo check each row to make sure clothes are put away in their designated sections.

This is a normal day for TurnStyles Thrift in Mission, a ministry of Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas (CCNEK). The thrift store located at 5304 Martway St. is dedicated to providing high-quality clothing, accessories and home décor items to men, women and children in the community at an affordable price. Jeans cost \$4.99 to \$5.99 and sweaters \$4.49, while most dresses are \$6.49. Some new-with-tags clothes and name brands might cost more depending on their condition, but

with weekly half-off sales, the average cost of items

is \$3. Volunteers put out more than 600 new pieces

he shop is teaming with volunteers. One empties a large white bag onto a table and begins to sort through the various shirts and sweaters that continue to pour out. Another, a

sweet-faced grandmother, hangs clothes on plastic hangers while her granddaughter inserts a sales

TurnStyles Thrift, a name created by a staff member who put together the words "turn," as in reuse, and "style," as in clothing, opened in October 2018.

each day.

Kristin Filardo, associate director of the store in Mission, greets each volunteer with a smile as they enter. "You're here!" she exclaims. Kristin, who earned a master's degree in social work, brought what she had learned from her studies into the retail environment by ensuring that shoppers feel dignified and respected the second they enter the shop.

"Whether you're shopping on a budget or simply someone who seeks trendy or vintage items, we strive to make it a positive experience. Our clothing and accessories are carefully sorted and nicely displayed, just as you would find in a retail store," Kristin emphasized. "That's something that we're really passionate about here at TurnStyles."

While there are two other TurnStyles Thrift locations, both in Overland Park, the store on Martway offers a much different selection.

"Our other stores have furniture and a big housewares section, but we wanted our Mission store to have more of a boutique feel," Director of Marketing for CCNEK Carol Cowdrey noted.

One hundred percent of proceeds raised at TurnStyles Thrift locations go directly back to







CCNEK, which serves 21 counties in Kansas. Kristin believes this is what sets them apart from other thrift stores in the area.

"I think a thrift shopper in this area could see the benefit of shopping at TurnStyles because their purchases impact those who rely on Catholic Charities' crucial programs and services," Kristin emphasized.

Families needing clothing, food or additional help are advised to reach out to an Emergency Assistance Center with

CCNEK. At one of the four assistance centers in the metro area, families can talk with staff to assess their needs while being directed to food pantries and introduced to clothing vouchers. Cowdrey compared the clothing voucher with a gift card which can be used to make purchases at TurnStyles Thrift locations. This also helps elevate people while they elevate themselves out of poverty.

"It's a really dignified way," Carol pointed out. "Instead of us just giving you clothing items, now you're able to shop and purchase what you need for you and your family."

One does not have to be Catholic to shop or receive assistance from Catholic Charities, Kristin said.

"Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas supports people of all religions. We don't even ask your religion when you sign up to volunteer or to receive items from our food pantries. ... We use Catholic teachings to guide our mission, but you don't have to be Catholic to benefit."

Donations to the store are accepted several different ways. A covered donation bin rests across the street in the former Mission Bowl parking lot. People can drop off gently used clothing, shoes, housewares, antiques, books and linens at any

"Whether you're shopping on a budget or simply someone who seeks trendy or vintage items, we strive to make it a positive experience. Our clothing and accessories are carefully sorted and nicely displayed, just as you would find in a retail store. That's something that we're really passionate about here at TurnStyles."

- Kristin Filardo

time. In-store donations are accepted Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The shop also happily accepts canned and packaged food items. Donations are accepted by attendants at a donation bay near the entrance to the store. Simply ring a bell and a volunteer will meet you. TurnStyles Thrift will also come to pick up large donation items or bags of clothing that individuals can't handle themselves for a suggested donation of \$20.

> The shop is assisted by approximately 30 volunteers each week. Students, families and many others donate their time by cashiering, sorting, tagging and maintaining an organized storefront.

> > Kristin believes volunteering should be enjoyable while having a social aspect to it, so she likes to assign volunteers roles they enjoy. Take Mission resident Nora Moore, for example. Nora used to own a repurposed furniture store in Wisconsin. Loving to stage items, she now performs that job for TurnStyles Thrift several times a week.

"This is my sanity and place to meet people," Moore laughed. "I really like what I'm doing. ... It's a way to get out of the house since moving to Mission and meet people my age."

Nora's son, Stuart, also volunteers by unloading large donation items on the pickup

"It's a really good outlet for Stuart," Moore smiled. "He's got some light disabilities and Stuart, like me, hasn't met a lot of people, so I think he really enjoys going with TurnStyles to pick up donations and unload the truck because he gets to meet vounger people."

Those interested in volunteering can stop by the shop at 11 a.m. or 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 11 a.m. on Saturday. A quick orientation is usually all it takes to start volunteering.

Volunteer interest forms are available online (https:// catholiccharitiesks.org/ turnstyles/volunteer/).

The shop is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. For more information about volunteering, call 913-433-2680. To schedule a pickup of large donated items, call 913-909-2735.









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CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS Third Wednesday every month, 7 p.m.

COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS Fourth Wednesday every month, 7 p.m.

All meetings are open to the public.

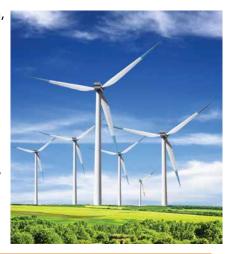
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KCPL RENEWABLES DIRECT

Adopting sustainable practices throughout Mission benefits all. The City Council recently approved a contract with KCPL to participate in their newly launched Renewables Direct Program, which allows commercial and industrial customers to offset a portion of their energy usage through a renewable resource—wind. After evaluating the City's current usage, Council approved participation in the program for 10 years at the 800 kW capacity level.

Through the Renewables Direct program, Mission is playing a role in the generation of clean energy at a cost effective rate. In addition to this program, energy audits of City facilities will be considered later this year. We hope to not only be able to use the most sustainable energy resources possible, but also to reduce our usage where possible. You too can do your part by remembering to switch to LED lighting, unplug your devices when fully charged, wash your clothes in cold water, change your air filters regularly, and control your thermostat settings.





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THE MAYOR'S CORNER

Q: I see signs around town recognizing Mission as a "Tree City USA," what does that mean?

A: Mission was recently recognized for our eighteenth consecutive year as a "Tree City." Tree City USA is a national program, sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation and administered by the Kansas Forest Service, that recognizes cities who have organized community forestry programs. Each year the City has to meet established program standards that demonstrate a commitment to maintenance and development of our urban forest, especially public trees.

The Tree City USA flag and signs along public highways help to tell visitors our community cares about the environment. This edition of the newsletter has information on a number of activities supported by or promoting our investment in trees. There are lots of reasons to become (and stay) a Tree City, but my top five include:

Mayor Appletoft's Top 5 Reasons to be a Tree City:

- 1. Trees touch the lives of people within the community who benefit daily from cleaner air, shadier streets, and the aesthetic beauty that healthy, well-managed urban forests provide.
- 2. Builds cooperation between the public and private sectors to effectively manage urban forests.
- 3. Serves as a blueprint for planting and maintaining a community's trees.
- 4. Helps present the kind of image that most citizens want to have for the place they live or conduct business.
- 5. Provides a way to reach lots of people with information about tree care.

I'm proud to celebrate 18 years of caring for our urban forest, joining the more than 100 cities across the state of Kansas who share this honor.



If you have a question you'd like the Mayor to respond to, please forward your name, contact information and question to City Clerk Martha Sumrall at msumrall@missionks.org or by calling 913-676-8350.

STREET REPAIR: COMING SOON TO BROADMOOR

The City Council is considering construction options for a full street reconstruction of Broadmoor Street between Martway and Johnson Drive. This project is scheduled for 2019 and will be completed before the end of the year. In addition to full-depth street reconstruction, new curb and traffic striping, the project will include new sidewalks, streetlights, some landscaping, stormwater upgrades, new paving and a new traffic signal at the Johnson Drive / Broadmoor intersection. Utility upgrades and relocations are already underway. Project updates, including traffic detour information, will be available at missionks. org. Businesses in the area will remain open during construction.



ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS



Mayor Ron Appletoft, Councilmember Ken Davis, members of Mission's Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission, and representatives from Rushton Elementary School celebrated the winners of the Annual Arbor Day Poster Contest hosted for all 5th Grade students. First Place winner Isabella Weding will be recognized at the May 15 City Council Meeting.

POTHOLE REPAIRS UNDERWAY



It has been a long winter and the snow and ice took its toll on our City's streets. Public Works crews are working to repair our streets this spring. Please be aware of crews working in the streets throughout the City and be prepared for some road closures as we ensure repairs are made safely and effectively.

If you spot a pothole or other public infrastructure maintenance issue, let us know. You can report issues such as potholes, broken playground equipment, streetlight outages, debris or illegal dumping, or damaged street signs on Mission's website at missionks.org — click on "How Do I?" and select "Report a Concern" or by calling the Public Works Department at 913-676-8375.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS HANDLE ANIMAL CONTROL COMPLAINTS AND MORE

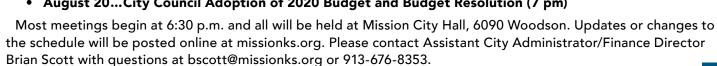
Community Service Officers Wayne Brinkley and Brooke Hagerman not only respond to animal control calls for service in Mission, they also provide these services to the cities of Fairway, Mission Woods, Roeland Park, Westwood and Westwood Hills. Look for the new animal control truck in neighborhoods throughout Mission and Northeast Johnson County. Residents with animal control concerns should call 913-676-8345. If an emergency, always dial 9-1-1. You may also see CSO Brinkley and CSO Hagerman providing assistance in Mission with traffic control, parking enforcement, and walk in reports and fingerprinting at City Hall.

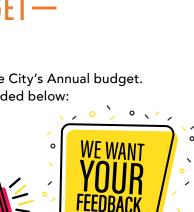


COUNCIL BEGINS WORK ON 2020 BUDGET— PROVIDE YOUR INPUT

The Mayor and Council welcome citizen input and feedback during development of the City's Annual budget. The 2020 Budget process begins in May, and a tentative listing of meeting dates is included below:

- May 12020 Budget Revenues and Financial Forecast
- June 5Review of General Fund Budget and Supplemental Requests
- June 12...... Capital Improvement Program—Stormwater / Parks / Streets
- July 3......Recommended 2020 Budget and Budget Resolution
- July 17......Community Dialogue on 2020 Budget (7 pm)
- August 7 Public Hearing on 2020 Budget
- August 20...City Council Adoption of 2020 Budget and Budget Resolution (7 pm)





YOU CAN HELP IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN OUR AREA

Would you like to install a rain barrel or rain garden on your property this year? Want to plant a tree? The City of Mission, in partnership with Johnson County, is once again offering Mission property owners grants to install rain barrels, rain gardens, stream buffers and native trees to help control stormwater runoff. Unmanaged stormwater to our streams and creeks causes water pollution, stream bank erosion and downstream flooding. Projects funded by this grant are designed to capture, filter, or slow down the flow of rainwater. Grants will reimburse 50 percent of the cost of installation or planting of these projects. For additional details and applications, please contact Neighborhood Services at 913-676-8360.

PROJECT TYPE

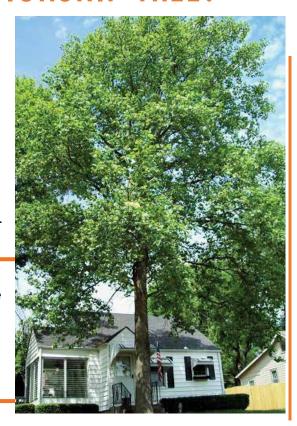
Native planting stream buffer/swale

Rain barrel \$75.00 per barrel, up to two \$150.00 per tree, up to two Native tree planting Rain garden \$1,000

DO YOU HAVE A CHAMPIONSHIP TREE?

Nomination forms are available at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center or online at missionks.org. Submit your nomination by November 15. For further information, contact Kathy Lockard, **Recreation Supervisor** at 913-722-8206 or klockard@missionks.org.

The 2018 Championship Tree is a Tulip Poplar that has added beauty and shade to 6022 Nall for nearly 28 years.



PROJECT REIMBURSEMENT CAP

\$1,000



MEMORIAL FLAGS RETURNING TO JOHNSON DRIVE

When you see the American flags flying over Johnson Drive this Memorial Day, take a minute to remember what they represent. Residents and friends of Mission have contributed to the City's Memorial Flag Fund to support the purchase and replacement of the flags. The donations have been made in the name of veterans or current service members.

The list of honorees is posted on missionks.org. To sponsor a flag contact Emily Randel at 913-676-8368/erandel@missionks.org.

TAKING STOCK OF MISSION'S HISTORICAL MARKERS

Mission is full of history. At the crossroads of covered wagon trails and in the midst of what was once acres of farm land, it is important to consider what came before us. Some of Mission's history is in our stories and memories, but some of it is more clearly marked. Do you know of a historic marker in Mission? The City is interested in cataloging all markers within the city limits. If you live, work, or pass near a

contact Brian Scott, bscott@ missionks.org or 913-676-8353.

marker of some kind, please



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In its 20th year, Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center is where you belong



hen she was just 4 years old, Zoe Kohoutek stepped into the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center for the first time. She fondly remembers being cared for in the day care room while her parents exercised, then splashing around in the pool for hours.

The Community Center felt like home, so she kept coming back.

Zoe attended Mission Summer Camp hosted at the Community Center and was a member of the Mission Marlins Swim Club from age 9 to 16. When she turned 16, she started working for the City of Mission as a lifeguard at the same pool she once dog paddled her way across as a young swimmer.

"The Community Center is a place to be known," Zoe smiled. "It feels like a second family. You know everyone and everyone knows you."

Nestled in the center of Mission's 2.5-square-mile boundaries, the Community Center might appropriately be described as the "heart" of the City. The Community Center, which celebrates its 20th anniversary in May, pulses with activity seven days a week, 360 days a year.

Creating a place where Mission's residents could come together for special celebrations and events was a longtime dream of Mayor Sylvester Powell, Jr., who worked tirelessly to secure the location and funding to build the multipurpose community center which bears his name. Janet Simonsen, Mayor Powell's daughter and a member of the Community Center, said her father was very honored when he

learned it would be named after him.

"He wasn't trying to build a monument to himself when he was pushing to get it built,"she emphasized. "He wanted it for the people of Mission because he always felt the City should do things for the residents."

The Community Center, with its impressive Mission-style architecture, first opened its doors on May 15, 1999. The response was so positive that plans for an expansion started almost immediately. The building's 27,000-square-foot addition, which included a second basketball court and conference center facilities, opened in 2004. With 78,000 square feet and a variety of amenities, the Community Center is a place that includes "something for everyone," as evidenced by the thousands of members and guests who have graced the halls during the past 20 years.

The Community Center was one of the first to include indoor aquatic facilities in Johnson County. While other neighboring cities have built or are building their own facilities, Mission's Community Center continues to be a draw in the region. Why?

Because it's never lost sight of Mayor Powell's vision, keeping an emphasis on the most important word in its name — COMMUNITY. The

> are many. Perhaps most important is the sense of family and camaraderie that develops

> > among patrons, staff and visitors. Willie Oldberg, who turns 93 in

May, holds the honor of being the Center's oldest member. Willie and his wife signed their original membership form on Dec. 3, 1998, and

Willie frequents

the Center three to five times a week.

"Sylvester Powell came to my house to ask me if I would support him if he decided to build a community center. I said, 'You bet — I will be the first in line,' " Willie recalled. "I purchased a membership before it opened. I think my original number was 86. In my opinion, I think this place is keeping me alive."

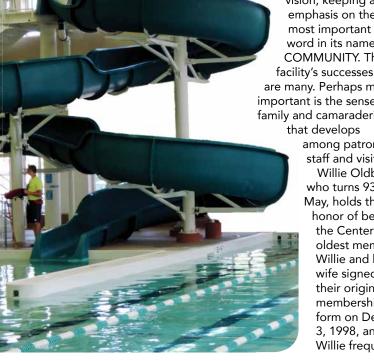
For those looking to meet their fitness goals, the Center offers more than 50 pieces of cardio equipment, weight-training equipment, gymnasiums and an indoor walking track. Fitness classes for youth, adults and seniors are an important part of the Community Center's programming. With a lineup of offerings that rotates every four months, members and guests are guaranteed to find something that piques their interests.

Phyllis Peterson, an instructor since the doors opened in 1999, said belonging to the Community Center was a way of life.

"I love working out, I love teaching and I love meeting new people," Phyllis said. "There are always opportunities to do and try new things — like pickleball. I've loved meeting all the people who have come and gone throughout the years. The friendliness of the staff and clients here, plus the knowledge of the trainers and instructors, gives people the ability to get involved in different activities both physical and social.

The indoor pool remains a hub of activity throughout the year, offering youth and adult swim lessons, water aerobics and a lazy river perfect for seniors or those rehabbing from injury. The pool area also boasts a steam room, sauna, whirlpool and family changing rooms.

The idea of finding a place to belong, to be known and appreciated, has been a cornerstone of the Community Center's success for the past 20 years. Today, many of those relationships are built through programs and services that weren't even dreamt of back in 1999. Mayor Powell might not have been









able to imagine the building hosting 180 children for the summer camp program each year, or the halls filled with music and families on Sundays as churchgoers worship each week. He would especially enjoy the relationship forged with the American Stroke Foundation (ASF). The ASF partners with the Community Center for wellness programs offered to stroke survivors and uses classrooms for

programming and communication classes, the exercise equipment for cardiovascular and strength training and the pool for aquatic classes.

Jane Savidge, executive director of ASF, praised the Center's benefits.

"The staff exceeds our expectations — from the friendly folks at the front desk, personal trainers, managers and those that keep the facility sparkling clean. The Community Center is truly a jewel in northeast Johnson County."

It is challenging to capture all the Community Center has to offer. We've not even begun to showcase the building's conference and meeting room facilities, which have hosted countless wedding receptions, baby showers, quinceañeras, birthday parties, neighborhood and community meetings and even memorial services. This is just another reminder that there is something for everyone at Mission's Community Center.

It is this variety, the commitment to stay fresh and explore new trends, that keeps the center alive and growing. If you are a longtime member, like Zoe or Willie, you "get it." If you've never had the occasion to visit the Community Center, consider this an open invitation. We think you'll like what you find. As for Mayor Powell, his



family thinks he

would be very pleased by its success.

To learn more about becoming a member at the Community Center or to arrange a tour of the facility, please call 913-722-8200.



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Mission Bulletin Board

Thank you!

The City of Mission in partnership with St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church's Men in Ministries collected more than 4,000 pairs of socks for Uplift to give to homeless in the area in 2018.

Shank you so much for the AMAZING donation of Socks!

Words Cannot express my gratitude for your support!

Statefully,

Rathy Clean, President





We at the City of Mission THANK YOU for your continued support, patronage and good times over the last two decades.

We look forward to the next 20!

Please join Mission Parks & Recreation Staff for a Reception Saturday, May 11, 2019 from 11am-Noon



Café Concert Series at St. Michael's

You don't want to miss the last two concerts of the new Café

Concert series sponsored by Horizon Arts at

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, 6630 Nall Ave.

Hear "From Fado & Flamenco to our American Songbook & Patsy Cline," featuring Beau Bledsoe, Havila Bruders and Coleen Dieker on Friday, May 17. Cost is \$12 at the door.

Catch "Night of Song," an evening of opera favorites July 12 with David Adams, Sarah Tannehill and friends. Cost is \$15 at the door.

Both concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.

MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

7 P.M. ON MAY 15, JUNE 19 AND JULY 17 AT CITY HALL

Mission Bulletin Board

SALUTING THE MEMORY OF Dorwin F. Lamkin

Dorwin F. Lamkin, a former Mission resident and the last known military Pearl Harbor survivor in the Kansas City metro area, passed away on March 17, 2019. Dorwin, who joined the Navy on his 18th birthday, was a corpsman on the USS Nevada during the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

Dorwin graced the cover of the magazine's November/December 2010 issue and played an instrumental role in establishing Pearl Harbor Park at Martway and Maple, which was dedicated in 2004.



BIKE TO WORK DAY

Thinking it's time to ditch the car and be kinder to the environment? Give it a try during Bike to Work Week May 13–19. Want to try one day at a time? Bike to Work Day is Friday, May 17.

WINE & JAPAS BENEFIT FOR BRAIN HEALTH

Care Haven Homes is hosting their third annual benefit for KU Alzheimer's Disease Center at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center on June 13 from 4 to 6 p.m. Visitors will have the opportunity to drink a glass of wine, enjoy a delicious array of Mediterranean appetizers and mingle with KU ADC staff to learn how they help families manage diagnosis and treatment. Brief presentations on recent research findings will highlight brain healthy choices. While there, bid in a silent auction or enter the raffle. For more information, contact Courtney Goin, community liaison for Care Haven Homes, at 913-643-0111.



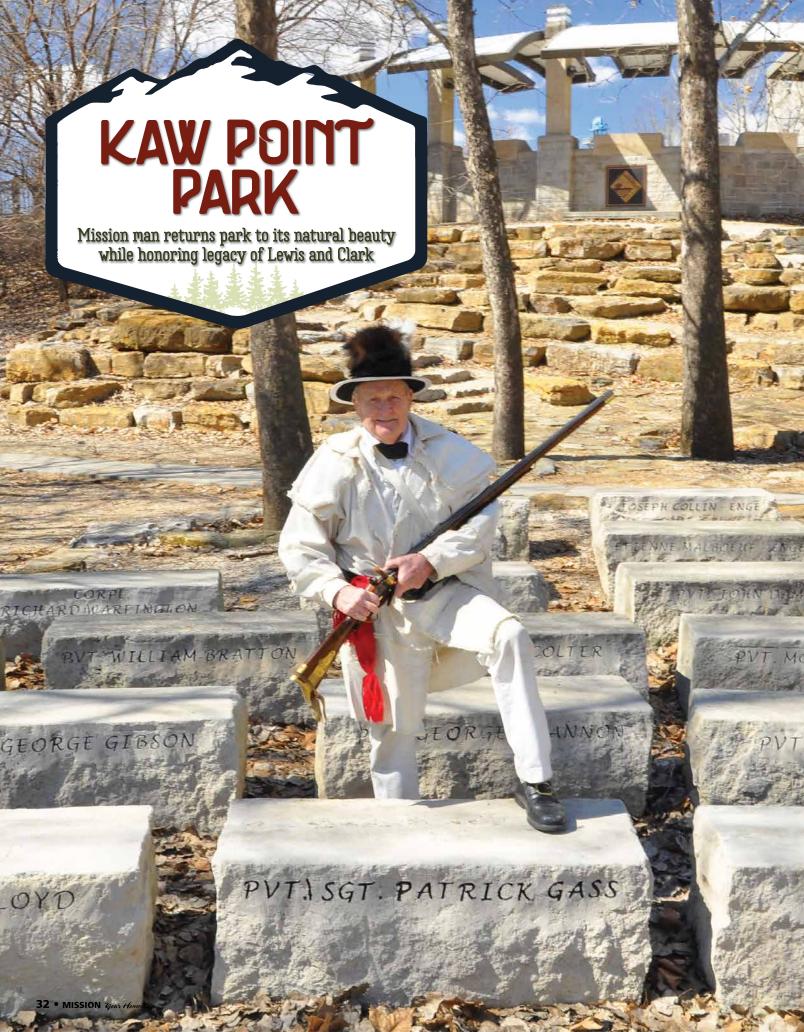














ow do you become an expert on Lewis and Clark? In Mike Calwell's case, it's a combination of his love of water, history and building things. This longtime Mission resident spent a lot of time in his youth near the Kansas River in Kansas City, Kansas (KCK), so it was natural for him to take an interest in the four days the explorers spent in June 1804 at their "Encampment at Kaw's Mouth."

The area is now known as Lewis and Clark Park at Kaw Point, located in Fairfax Industrial District of KCK where the Kansas and Missouri Rivers join. The explorers' true story was so important to Mike that he worked to bring the park back to life — stone by stone.

Before Mike took an interest in the area in 1998, he said "you could hardly walk through it because of overgrowth and debris" due to flooding and years of neglect. He and many likeminded volunteers pushed to make sure the park was worthy of its heritage.

"It's one of the few green spaces along this urbanized part of the river," explained Mike, noting there's now a plaque at the park designating it as a national historic site.

Then-KCK Mayor Carol Marinovich was instrumental in developing funding and public support to bring the park back to life. The task force, called Friends of Kaw Point Park, eventually became a 501(c)(3), explained Mike, who was elected chairman of its board in 2009.

It took more than 2,000 volunteers and help from the Unified Government's public works department to restore the park to its glory.

"It was an incredibly heroic task to move tons of debris, dead trees, cars, oil drums, metal barges and rock," Mike said. "There seems to be no heart greater than that of a volunteer and they did it all."

According to the National Park Service, today Kaw Point Park is a 10-acre wooded park where visitors will find a kiosk memorial to all native

tribes of the area. A few strides down a hidden stairway there's a 500-seat amphitheater with 51 limestone seating blocks carved with the name of each member of the Corps of Discovery.

Mike vividly described this allnatural amphitheater as offering seating and stage for special performances "with an inspiring view of the great confluence of the Missouri and Kansas Rivers. A special stone honors Sakakawea and is magically hallowed in late afternoon sunlight."

The park, owned by KCK, was dedicated in 2004 just prior to the bicentennial and re-enactment celebration of Lewis and Clark's expedition in June of that year. Mike studied the journals from the expedition and discovered that the explorers stopped here on June 26, 1804, "because the

Kaw River offered somewhat of a calmer harbor than the swifter Missouri." So, they anchored the three boats to the shore and set up camp. This allowed them to do repairs, dry out their supplies, hunt for deer and gather samples of local plants and animals.

"While here, they hiked up the Kaw about eight miles to a freshwater creek that was later named 'Indian Springs' (just west of the I-635 bridge in KCK)," Mike noted. "After four days on land and a court martial, the explorers continued their historic journey up the Missouri. A full accounting of the activities of the men is recorded in the Lewis and Clark Journals, which are currently available online."

Why is the river sometimes called Kaw and other times Kansas? The Kaw River was named by Clark as he charted the map for the man who commissioned the "Corps of Discovery," President Thomas Jefferson.

"The name was later changed to the Kansas River, although the locals call it the Kaw in honor of the native Kansa Indian tribe, what is now known as the Kaw Nation in Oklahoma," Mike noted.

RE-ENACTMENT JOURNEY

Mike's preparations for the bicentennial celebration at the park were just a preview of what he was about to get himself into.

Mike had hastily acquired period clothing to be part of the Kaw Point celebration but was surprised when the Saint Charles Corps of Discovery II group asked him to join them on the trail as a re-enactor playing the role of Sgt. Patrick Gass. This meant traveling with the organization in boats and on horseback as far as the Pacific coast. He first discussed the possibility with his wife, Laura, and she told him, "You better not wait another 200 years!"

Mike had less than a week to gather everything





he needed, including clothes, weapons and eating utensils typical of 1804. Laura, whom Mike proudly described as a "master seamstress," was able to sew his clothing for the adventure. He joined the expedition in Atchison knowing full well that he may be away from home for as much as a year. It turned out that he went on alternate two-week shifts and one for as long as two months.

Recalling the journey and his experience, Mike said he and his character, Sgt. Gass, had several things in common.

"We are both Irish, we both have longevity in our genetic family history — Patrick lived to 99 and my dad was 107," he said. "Gass and I would likely have become friends. I am an explorer at heart and probably would have signed on to the 1803 expedition if I had been there."

Since returning from the journey, Mike is often asked to give presentations about the experience. He calls it "My Travels With Lewis and Clark," giving about 40 a year. During the presentation, Mike wears the authentic replica uniform and demonstrates the hardware that each man carried, including a blank shot from the 1803 rifle.

"I think it is a fascinating story because nobody leaves," he said. "These guys went into an untamed wilderness and traveled 4,000 miles to the west coast and back again, totaling over 8,000 miles with only one fatality and that was a fatal appendicitis."

The presentation begins on a bus from Mission and takes a walking tour of Kaw Point Park and then across the Kaw to Missouri's West Terrace Park "to enjoy the view of the great

bend of the Missouri and the spectacular Corps of Discovery bronze sculpture."

Mike said the number of people who gave Lewis and Clark presentations had diminished since the bicentennial.

"At one time the Discovery Expedition II of St. Charles had more than 500 re-enactors on its roster. I can't begin to guess how many are still out there presenting, but probably less than 50."

MISSION'S JEWIS AND CLARK ADVENTURE

How much do you know about Lewis and Clark?
Would you like to learn more? Preliminary discussions are underway to assemble a group of Mission residents to hear Mike Calwell's presentation this fall — so check out the June/July issue of the Mission magazine for more information.



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Expires 6/28/19.

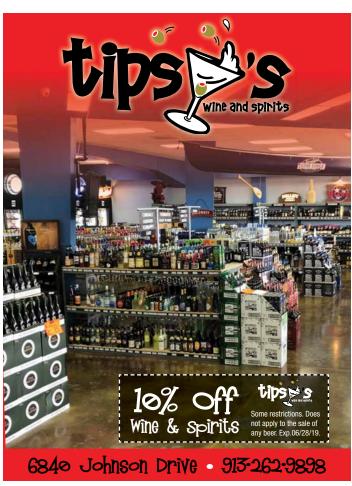


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FREE! Kids to Parks Day Saturday, May 18, 10:00am-12:00pm

We will have lots of fun with nature themed activities including track casting, bird watching, nature walks, scavenger hunts and more! Grab your water bottle and get outside and play! No registration required.

Streamway Park 51st & Foxridge Drive









June 21-22, 2019 at Andersen Park 5:00pm Friday - 8:00am Saturday \$25 for a family of 4; each additional person \$3

Grab Your Tents and Lawn Chairs and ENJOY!

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- Roasted Hot Dog Dinner (Served 6:00-7:00pm)
- Campfire & S'mores
- · Outdoor Cinema (9:10pm)
- Saturday Breakfast





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