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2010 was a great year for the City of Mission and 2011 is going to be even better as we celebrate Mission’s 60th Anniversary! And with any celebration, we need your help! Have you lived in Mission for 60 years or more? Will you celebrate your 60th birthday in 2011 or have you been in business in Mission for 60 years?

We are planning a wonderful 60th birthday party May 6th & May 7th starting with a jazz fest on Friday night and the traditional Mayor’s parade on Saturday. Do you have a ‘50s car you would like to display or a fancy truck/vehicle for our “Touch a Truck” display? And for just $100, you can be the proud sponsor/owner of a “60th anniversary banner” which will be hung during 2011 and become yours at year end.

The Mission Convention and Visitors Bureau is looking forward to not only the Spirit of Mission Days/60th Anniversary celebration, but also Arts & Eats, our infamous BBQ contest, Holiday Lights and Festive Sights and the Mission Art Show. As you know, each of these events is a big undertaking by our committee, so if you would like to help us in any way, please give Suzie a call, (913) 671-8564 or e-mail her at sgibbs@missionks.org.

In this, our first of five issues for 2011, we congratulate All Weather Windows on its 25th anniversary in Mission, see how television has affected local BBQ restaurants Johnny’s Hickory House BBQ and RJ’s Bob-Be-Que Shack, learn about Shawnee Mission North’s award-winning drama department and drool over Colleen Tropitto’s cheesecake. Beginning with this issue you will also find the City of Mission’s newsletter.

I am very proud of the City of Mission and what we are accomplishing. Not only were the events well attended, but many of you contributed your time, money and talents to help make our 2010 Holiday Adoption program special for 32 families. Thanks to our many volunteers, including Cynthia Hinman shown in the photo above, for helping to make 2010 such a great year. With your continued commitment, 2011 will be “magical!”

Suzie Gibbs
Mission Convention and Visitors Bureau Chair
Councilmember, Ward IV

Gather your family and hop on down to Andersen Park for Mission’s annual Bunny Eggstravaganza! This exciting holiday event will be held from 10 a.m. until noon on Saturday, April 23, at Andersen Park, 6090 Woodson. Admission is free.

The Bunny Eggstravaganza features a traditional egg hunt, clowns, balloon artists and a visit from two special bunnies! Don’t forget your camera (for priceless photo opportunities) and a pail to hold your eggs, candy and prizes.

The egg hunt times are:
- 8 months to 3 years old – 10:30 a.m.
- 4 to 6 years old – 10:50 a.m.
- 7 to 9 years old – 11:10 a.m.
- 10 and older – 11:30 a.m.

Activities and special visitors will include a Mission Police Department car and motorcycle, a fire engine from Consolidated Fire District 2 of Northeast Johnson County, and Up, Up & Away balloon artists.

Spring into spring and join in the fun at the Bunny Eggstravaganza!
hen someone in your family needs medical attention, waiting for an appointment is not always an option. That’s why Shawnee Mission Medical Center offers two convenient walk-in clinics that provide the expert health care you deserve.

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Driving down Johnson Drive it’s hard to miss the big yellow awning gracing the showroom of the All Weather Windows, Doors & Siding Inc. The awning draws your attention to the showroom, located at 5410 Johnson Drive, just like new doors and windows would draw attention to your home.

Many know it simply as All Weather Windows or AWWD. Whatever you choose to call it, the company, founded in 1986, is celebrating its 25th anniversary and 25 years in Mission this year.

Founded in 1986 by George Long, whose widow still lives in Mission, AWWD has been owned by Kim Blake and Oanh Blake since 1996.

As a satisfied customer of AWWD, Kim Blake decided to purchase the business, which at the time was located about three blocks west of its current location. Today AWWD provides full-service window and door replacement as well as home energy audits and blown-in cellulose insulation.

“We can handle the smallest project of a single window replacement all the way up to a whole house or even new construction,” he said. “We have served over 38,000 customers throughout the greater Kansas City area and all of our services come with our industry leading project and installation warranty.”

AWWD specializes in replacing both windows and doors including entry/patio doors, wood/vinyl replacement windows, vinyl/steel lap and batten board siding and storm windows/doors. The business co-brands itself with Andersen Windows and Doors and is the only Andersen Windows & Doors “Circle of Excellence” showroom in the metro area.

Blake, who serves as company president, said AWWD has replaced windows in houses that were as new as 5 years old and all the way up to 100-year-old homes.

“I’d say our target home is probably 30 to 40 years old where people want to upgrade to more energy-efficient or maintenance-free products.”

Blake said while AWWD has added services over the last 10 years, the company hasn’t forgotten its roots.

“We have a full-service, in-shop repair department that can make or repair almost any glass or screen. We also have a Repair & Handyman Service division that is capable of in-field work such as fogged or broken glass, wood rot repairs and emergency door break-in service.”

AWARD-WINNING SERVICE

Blake is proud to point out that AWWD has been named to the 2010 Top 500 list of remodeling firms by Qualified Remodeler Magazine. The annual listing
recognizes remodeling firms for six criteria of success: annual sales volume for the previous year, total number of years in business, association membership, certified employees on staff, industry awards and community service.

“We are pleased to be in the top one-half percent of remodeling companies in the country for the past 11 consecutive years,” Blake said.

AWWD is also a recipient of a REMY (Remodeler of the Year) award presented by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. The award honors contractors for their craftsmanship, professionalism and commitment to excellence in remodeling.

“We take a project, normally a whole house upgrade of windows, doors and siding and we send it in and the project itself is graded on a point system. We’ve been a recipient of the REMY award for a number of years,” said Blake, who as the magazine was preparing for press was “eagerly awaiting news on the 2010 award.”

AWWD has also been recognized as a Small Business of the Year by the Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce in 2004, was a top 100 National Replacement Contractor in 2006 and a Small Business Monthly 25 Under 25 in 2007. The award is presented to 25 local businesses with fewer than 25 employees. Recipients are judged on the company’s ability to overcome obstacles and adversity, community involvement, defining characteristics and company vision.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

A common denominator among many of the awards AWWD has received over the years is community involvement. A Rotarian, Blake said he has partnered with Shawnee Mission Rotary to replace windows in Boys and Girls Clubs in both Kansas and Missouri. The company also sponsors a variety of ball teams.

On its own, in 2010, the company provided and installed insulation for three families who desperately needed help updating and winterizing their homes. Blake sought recommendations from the Kansas City, Kansas, Rotary Club, looked at the homes and selected the three houses he felt had the greatest need.

“We blew about a foot of insulation in each of their attics,” he said.

LOOKING AHEAD

Last year was a good one for AWWD, in part because a tax incentive encouraged people to make energy-efficient improvements to their homes.

But he said the company wouldn’t be such a success without its dedicated employees.

“Many of our employees have 10 years or more tenure with us,” he said.

He believes AWWD has survived the recent economic downturn.

“We’ve come out stronger on the other end and we’re looking to grow our business now that the worst has passed,” he said. “Today, we do monthly what the company did annually when we bought it. We’ve literally 10-folded the size of the company, and I didn’t know that we would do that kind of volume. We’ve been fortunate and we’ve worked really hard.”
TRUESOURCE Building Supply would like to congratulate Kim and his employees on 25 years in business! We look forward to working with you for the next 25+ years to come.

Kim Blake, owner of All Weather Window and Door, has been a customer of Andersen for 25 years.

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Kim prides himself on making sure their displays are current, as well as having staff trained on all products they feature.

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Johnny White knows first-hand the fun of visiting restaurants that have been featured on Food Network’s “Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives.”

He and his wife Linda stopped to visit restaurants from that show when they drove to South Carolina to visit one of their daughters. Johnny chatted with the people at those restaurants about the phenomenon of the show and enjoyed the fare of these small-town eateries.

White became a member of the “Triple D” fraternity himself when his restaurant, Johnny’s Bar-B-Q, was featured on the show last summer. Re-runs of that episode have aired since then.

Business increases every time the show airs, and Johnny’s has seen more people buying T-shirts, hats and barbecue sauce. White was forewarned by the show that people would want these souvenirs.

Although Johnny’s Bar-B-Q has been a fixture in Mission since 1983 at 5959 Broadmoor St., the show even convinced some residents of Mission and other neighboring cities to eat at Johnny’s for the first time, White said.

White enjoyed talking with host Guy Fieri off-camera about the business aspect of running a restaurant. (Fieri is a chef and restaurant owner himself.)

And Fieri was as fun as he seems when the camera was rolling but very business-like off-camera, he said.

“He was a lot of fun to work with,” White said. “It was awesome to see how it (the show) is really put together.”

White describes his food as traditional Kansas City barbecue that is cooked over an open, hand-built hickory pit. He got his start in the barbecue business at age 14 at Rosedale Barbeque.

“We’re a little local restaurant that takes pride in what we do,” he said. “We have our niche and make a lot of people happy.

“...We do barbecue; we don’t do foo-foo. We do what we know.”

Visitors to Johnny’s will notice that it’s a family business. Long-time employees include Johnny’s sister and brother-in-law, Terri and Mike Brouhard; his brother, Brian White; and his niece, Shannon Hammer.

Johnny’s nephew, Mike Brouhard Jr., works at the Olathe location along with Johnny’s son, Eric White, who runs that restaurant at 1375 W. Highway 56. The Olathe Johnny’s also reaped positive effects from the show.

“I feel blessed by what happened,” White said, of the opportunity for Johnny’s to be on “Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives.”

For more information about Johnny’s in Mission, call (913) 432-0777 or visit www.johnnysbbqkc.com. The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner and offers carry-out and catering.
Are you a fan of home-style cooking and local eateries? “Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives,” a popular show on Food Network, takes viewers across the United States in search of these types of establishments and tempts their taste buds with comfort cuisine. Just as popular as the show itself is its host, Guy Fieri, with his red Chevy Camaro convertible and his descriptions of visiting “Flavor Town.” Guy and the crew from “Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives” came to two Mission restaurants last year as part of an episode featuring four Kansas City-area barbecue restaurants. Although the show aired last July, Johnny’s Barbecue and RJs Bob-Be-Que Shack are still feeling the effects of this publicity, namely from people who have seen the show and make a special trip from around the country (or even around the world) to dine there. Here we feature these two restaurants, which have become tourist destinations thanks to a little good fortune and “Triple D.”

RJs Bob-Be-Que Shack features barbecue – and more – with a twist on the traditional

By Heather Swan • Photo by Ben McCall

Doing things a little different is the name of the game at RJs Bob-Be-Que Shack. So it comes as little surprise to learn that RJs owner, Bob Palmgren, didn’t take the traditional path to owning a barbecue restaurant.

Palmgren is a French-trained chef and certified executive chef who enjoyed barbecue as a hobby while, at the same time, specializing in fine dining at restaurants, hotels, clubs and a casino.

Feeling a little bored (“How many soufflés can you make?”), Palmgren saw the “For Sale” sign on the former Anderson Rentals building on the northeast corner of Johnson Drive and Lamar and took the leap to barbecue restaurant owner.

Palmgren opened RJs Bob-Be-Que Shack, 5835 Lamar Ave., on Halloween 2003. RJ is Palmgren’s son; Bob-Be-Que is his barbecue team name.

Besides the traditional slab of ribs and smoked chicken, RJs strives to offer a different twist to barbecue. Palmgren spent 10 years tweaking and perfecting his barbecue rub (a combination of 50 ingredients), with assistance from his friend Eric Case at The Herb Company.

RJs also serves out-of-the-ordinary barbecue, such as the Butt Burger (ground pork butt covered in RJs rub and smoked) and Jalapeno Sausage.

“We couldn’t sell a Jalapeno Sausage to save our soul,” Palmgren said.

That all changed when Guy Fieri, host of “Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives,” featured the Jalapeno Sausage on his show.

Instead of the traditional casing, the Jalapeno Sausage is put into a cornhusk (like a tamale). The result is that the smoke permeates the cornhusk but the sausage remains moist. The smoking of the jalapeños mellows out the heat but retains the flavor of the peppers. For presentation (here’s where Palmgren’s French training in the art of plating comes in), hot sauce and Dijon mustard are artfully drizzled on the plate.

“That’s how TV affects you,” Palmgren said, of the Jalapeno Sausage’s new-found success. “It’s unbelievable.”

When Food Network originally called, Palmgren thought one of his friends was playing a trick on him.

But RJs success since the show aired is no joke.

RJs had to double its staff for a few months after the show’s first airing in July, and a guestbook proves that people are coming from all over to check out RJs.

“We had people fly in from Texas just to eat dinner here,” he said. “…It’s amazing how that show can affect someone’s business. And it couldn’t have come at a better time with the economy.”

In addition to the barbecue, RJs also features “Angie’s Soups and Salads” (named for his daughter), fresh fish, country breakfast “like grandma used to make” on the weekends, live music, catering, carry-out, and special events like beer and wine pairings and a New Year’s Eve party this year with a Food Network theme.

“That’s what sets ourselves apart from everyone else,” Palmgren said. “We are doing things others aren’t.”

For more information, call (913) 262-7300 or visit rjsbbq.com.
Shawnee Mission North is a shining star in the theater universe

By Ruth Baum Bigus • Photos provided by P-Tn / Eric Berndt®

Shawnee Mission North High School is rich with history. The brick complex, which stretches along Johnson Drive, was the first high school in what was to become the Shawnee Mission School District — one of the top-ranked academic systems in the United States.

History is still being made at North — this time through its burgeoning theater program. The national publication Stage Directions Magazine named North’s theater program one of the top five programs in the nation, and No. 1 in the Midwest. The department has three full-time instructors who share both teaching and directing responsibilities, produces at least 12 productions each school year and offers scores of classes in everything from Introduction to Drama and Stagecraft to Advanced Repertory Theatre. More than 350 North students are involved in the program.

“At North, everybody’s involved,” said Maureen Davis, the head theater teacher at the school for the past 26 years. “We don’t have just drama kids...There’s an atmosphere of acceptance.”

No one knows that better than Ben Bartlett. A 1998 North graduate, Bartlett has been teaching beside his former instructor — Davis — for the last five years. As a student, Bartlett was captain of the football team and active in the theater department.

“The theater program was so welcoming,” Bartlett recalled. “You weren’t pigeon-holed into any one particular area. Being involved allowed me the freedom to experiment and I liked that.”

When Bartlett returned to the school as a teacher, he found the same welcoming environment.

“Kids here are more willing to take a risk,” said Bartlett who is directing this semester’s production of the musical “Hairspray.”

“It’s my privilege to have the contact with the number of kids we have and it creates opportunities for them... They go beyond our expectations.”

Those opportunities include the chance to not
only perform in plays and musicals but to write, direct and produce them as well. The two repertory theater groups do outreach activities with the North’s feeder elementary and middle schools.

“This really helps with our program and it’s a great way for our high schoolers to take on the role of teacher,” Bartlett said.

The department has also brought in students from the school’s development center to work together and give them the experience of theater.

Bartlett said parent support for the program is “great.”

The goal of North’s program is not to create tomorrow’s theater stars, although a number have gone on to pursue the stage as a career (see sidebar). It’s simpler than that.

“We want to make them confident on their feet, to think outside of the box — all skills that will help them in life,” Bartlett said.

“We want them to appreciate theater and the arts and to become the best communicators they can be,” Davis added.

Senior Ross Perryman has been involved in North’s theater program his entire four years of high school.

“I was encouraged to try out,” he said.

“It was a lot of fun.”

Perryman ventured into the technical side of theater which he continues to do. He said that the drama community at SMN “is very tight” and he’s made a lot of friends he may not have been able to make in another type of activity at the school.

While Perryman doesn’t plan on making the theater his career, “it’s something I see doing in college.”

Inspiring kids to spread their wings is what the North program is all about. Davis has been at it for a quarter of a century. What keeps her going?

“I just like it — I like the challenge and the creative thing,” she said. “You get to be around all this high school energy. You get back so much more than you ever give.”

Shawnee Mission North’s theater program has had a number of graduates go on to professional careers in the arts. Listed below are the names of a few of those professionals that teacher Maureen Davis shared with Mission: Your Hometown magazine.

• Michael McShane – film actor; appeared in British version of the television show, “Who’s Line is it Anyway?”
• Shawn Bowers – working in Improv in Chicago
• Emily Tamblyn – appeared with Second City comedy troupe in Chicago
• Darren Bousman – directed the movie “Saw II” and others
• Blair Butler – television writer in Los Angeles
• Xavier Rice – actor working in New York City
• Megan Birdsall – Kansas City area Jazz singer, recorded several CDs

In addition to producing performers, several other high school theater teachers in the metro area are former North students (besides Bartlett) including Robin Murphy (Olathe Northwest), Eddie Shafer (Olathe East) and David Hastig (Olathe South). At least two theater teachers in the Shawnee Mission School District did their student teaching at North, Davis said.
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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Recently, I had the opportunity to speak at the Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce Annual State of the Cities Luncheon where mayors from our area provided an update on their city. Below are my remarks, which I wanted to share with all the residents of Mission. I hope that you too see a bright future for Mission and are optimistic about all that 2011 has to hold.

“I think the one word you hear from all of us is OPTIMISM. Whatever difficulties we have faced or will face, we all collectively see a better Northeast Johnson County in our future. If you wonder why I am so optimistic, consider a pencil...

“The average pencil is seven inches long, with just a half-inch eraser - in case you thought optimism was dead.”

We are all writing our communities’ futures, and there is much more to be written than erased. So, the question is, “What future are we going to write?”

Today I want to share with you the idea of a brighter future.

In Mission, through our various planning activities and community engagement processes, we have written our ideas down and we are beginning to execute on those ideas. From Mission Square to Mission Crossing to the Development of the Gateway, all of these areas have been planned, and we have staked our City to a new future. What these plans show is that we will be increasing our population, diversifying our real estate, and putting transit options at the center of what we do. In 10 years our community will look different than 10 years ago. We will have new roads, and our old roads will get a much-needed tune-up and be rejuvenated. Our community will be healthier with more sidewalks, more trails, and more walkers. We will connect our housing with our businesses with our retail with our services - the idea of a walkable community sits just on our horizon. This issue of a more connected City of Mission does not stop at our borders. We have worked with Overland Park, Merriam, Prairie Village, and Roeland Park to make sure our pedestrian connections connect with theirs, and this network of biking and walking options fans out and connects the entire region.

Our collective communities are aging and greening at the same time. How do we as cities plan services for communities that are stuck in the middle of this demographic barbell? It’s going to be a challenge.

On one end of this barbell we have an aging population that has been dubbed by the press as a ‘demographic tsunami.’ That tsunami isn’t simply affecting Mission, it is affecting everyone. As we grow older as a community, we have to invest in transit options. Mobility, especially for our senior population, is key to our future successes. We must give seniors transportation options. With transit options we can increase the quality of life for all our residents, and cut the need for having multiple cars with ever growing costs. For our senior population, I think it is critical that we start developing a transit option. In addition to a more robust transit system, we need to invest in different forms of housing and work to bring jobs to our city. In fact, the newest Gateway project plan becomes our community’s ‘Job Center’ when completed.

So here is a quick take on 2010, and my reason for optimism as we head into 2011:

• In 2010 we issued 251 building permits compared to 164 building permits in 2009.
• We approved the Mission Square Project plan that will be opened this spring.
• We approved the $25 million Mission Crossing Project that will break ground this spring.
• We approved the development agreement and saw the construction of the new Capitol Federal Building and Capitol Federal Plaza at the corner of Johnson Drive and Nall.
• We approved an Interlocal Agreement with Johnson County and Overland Park for the Construction of a Transit Center at the old Capitol Federal Building.

I have just a few additional thoughts. The very foundations of our budgets have been shaken at the State and local levels. What we pay for, and how we pay for it, is going to have to change. The State’s budget impacts all local government budgets (city, school districts, and counties). Transfers in State monies are going to dwindle, and in some cases, be eliminated all together. Local government will have to get leaner and school districts will have to increase property taxes - they have no choice when State funding is cut dramatically. We need to look at new transparent forms of revenues and fees, and we should not back down from proposing them or considering them. Our world has changed and we have the chance to write our future. Will we pick up the pencil?

Lastly, a quote to remember from a Kansan. ‘Neither a wise man nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him.’ (Dwight D. Eisenhower).

Laura McConnell
**SPJCC’s Biggest Weight Loss Challenge**

On May 9, 2010, one hundred fifty individuals began the SPJCC’s Biggest Weight Loss Challenge with an overall goal of all participants combined weight loss to total 2,011 pounds by January 2011. The staff’s and team captains’ goal was that each of these individuals would learn techniques and develop habits that would help them be healthier and live healthier lives.

Participants were divided into six teams; blue, red, green, grey, purple, and yellow, and each team was lead by a team captain/personal trainer. The participants on the team that lost the most weight throughout the program were awarded a one month membership to the community center, and the participants with the first, second and third greatest percentage of total weight lost were awarded cash prizes.

On the second Sunday of each month, May through December, participants were required to attend a special fitness information session designed to help them develop better habits and to keep them on track with the program. And, weigh-ins were held on the first and third Monday’s of each month.

On Sunday, January 9, 2011, fifty-six individuals completed the program with a combined total weight loss of 2,140 pounds. First place finisher was Cindy Haskell with a total percentage weight loss of 38 (102.6 pounds), second place was Mary DeRuyter with a total percentage weight loss of 35.93 (104.2 pounds), and third place was Pam Morris with a total percentage weight loss of 28.6 (71.2 pounds).

Most inches lost female was Vicki Wells with 40.75 and male was Marc Hansen with 20.5. The group as a whole lost a total of 555.75 inches. The blue team took home the team award with a total of 467 pounds lost.

---

**Snow Removal on Mission Streets**

Winter is here, and with it, snowy roads. The City has established a street clearing priority system based on traffic volume, topography and facilities serviced. High volume streets including, but not limited to, Lamar, Nall, and Johnson Drive are first priority. Residential streets on steep hills, such as 51st Street east of Lamar and streets north of 51st are also in this category along with streets serving fire and police facilities, schools, and medical facilities.

Second priority includes, but is not limited to, commercial streets north and south of Johnson Drive and relatively high traffic streets in residential areas. Examples of residential streets are Riggs, Walmer, Beverly, Outlook, 58th, 60th, Juniper, 63rd, Terrace. All other streets are third priority.

The Public Works Department strives to have all streets plowed within 24 hours of a snow event. On some second and third priority streets, this may mean a single pass down the center, but the road will be passable. Residents can help in this process by not parking on the streets when snowfall of four or more inches is expected. Also, please remember it is the responsibility of the property owner to clear sidewalks. Anyone using a contractor to clear drives or parking lots should be aware that tickets can be issued for pushing snow into City streets.

For more information on the City’s snow removal program, please contact the Public Works Department at (913) 676-8375.
Mission’s Championship Tree is a True Survivor

By Maril Crabtree, Mission Tree Board

What makes a tree a “championship” tree? Is it the size, the shape? The reason it was planted? What it has been through and survived? Or maybe it’s the fact that you receive great pleasure as you gaze at it, or it gives your kids their own sanctuary in a tree house.

Last spring the City of Mission Tree Board invited Mission residents to submit nominations for a “Championship Tree.” The Tree Board is pleased to announce its first winner: a large (and long-lived) Burr Oak tree in the back yard of Dan and Linda McBroom.

The circumference of the tree trunk measures 12 feet around with a canopy that measures 90’ x 60’ and is an estimated 70 feet tall. Approximately 146 years old, the tree pre-dates the McBroom’s home (built in 1937) and even pre-dates the City of Mission. But the miracle of this tree lies in its unique story of surviving not one, but two lightning strikes!

About ten years ago, the McBrooms heard “a loud crack and flash of light that shook our home, made us jump from our chairs, blew out all of our electronics and blasted pieces of bark in every direction.” The McBrooms contacted the K-State Research and Extension Office, who advised them to give the tree a year to see if it survived. It did.

Then, at the height of the early fall storms last year, the mighty Burr Oak was again struck by lightning. Linda McBroom says the flash “lit up the entire sky” and shook houses, caused damage to cars, broke windows and scattered “huge pieces of our oak tree.”

The McBrooms contacted a dozen tree companies who advised them to cut the oak down. Instead the McBrooms worked with a certified arborist who removed the damaged limbs and gave it deep-root fertilization, advising them to let the tree heal naturally. “He added that this tree is irreplaceable and deserves a chance to survive,” Linda McBroom stated.

“We are so happy and so are all of our neighbors who share the shade from this big tree,” McBroom reports. And, the Tree Board thinks it’s only fitting that Mission’s first Championship Tree is, like the City of Mission itself, a survivor of some tough times.

Chief Wilson Retires

After a law enforcement career spanning more than 35 years, including the last eight as Mission’s Chief of Police, Chief Randal Wilson announced his retirement in January. Chief Wilson spent 25 years with the Wichita Police Department, took his first “retirement” job as the Chief in the City of Maize, Kansas and came to Mission in 2003. According to Chief Wilson, “I have been able to realize many of my professional goals and personal dreams, thanks to the organizations with which I have worked. But, as I approach my sixth decade, and recently find myself immersed in the role of being a dad to two very young sons, it was not difficult to see that my life path has definitely taken a very different direction! I have been blessed with an opportunity that I never thought would come my way again, and it made my decision to retire one of the simplest I have ever had.”

During the Chief’s retirement reception, Mayor Laura McConnell thanked Randy for his contributions to the organization. “Under Chief Wilson’s leadership, the Mission Police Department has experienced increased community involvement and hard-won reductions in traffic accidents and crime rates, and is well-positioned to serve our residents in the years to come,” commented Mayor McConnell. “We appreciate Randy’s commitment to professionalism and his service to Mission for the past eight years. The City is actively involved in recruiting a new Chief of Police and the Mayor expects to appoint Chief Wilson’s replacement in early April.

Interested in a more Efficient Shower Head?

If you answered “yes,” please contact the City. We are giving away coupons for a pre-selected low-flow shower head available at a local hardware store. The program is a recommendation of Mission’s Sustainability Commission whose goal is to get 500 of these low-flow shower heads into the community. We have 100 coupons which will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. You will be required to show proof of residency to receive your coupon. Limit one per household. For more information please contact Neighborhood Services at (913) 676-8390.
On-Line Pet Registration Coming Soon

As a dog or cat owner in Mission, there’s one thing you can cross off of your annual “to-do” list for 2011. In an effort to realize additional administrative efficiencies, the City Council voted last fall to eliminate the City licensing requirement for cats and dogs. Your pet will still be required to maintain current rabies vaccination, they just don’t need a City tag.

One of the benefits of the City licensing program was that the information collected allowed Animal Control officers to reconnect lost/stray pets with their owners before taking them to a shelter. The City has established a voluntary, online registration system which will allow pet owners to log-in and register information on their pet(s) to assist in maintaining this important benefit. Pet owners should update their information annually.

The City licensing requirements were the only provisions of the City’s animal ordinances which were amended. Limitations on the number of pets per household, regulations regarding dangerous animals, and nuisances created by animals are still regulated under the current code provisions. For questions or more information, please contact City Hall at (913) 676-8350.

A Brush With Kindness

Brush with Kindness is a brand new program for 2011. The City has formed a partnership with Habitat for Humanity to help residents in need with a variety of household repairs. With this unique partnership new supplies will be purchased for the projects and community volunteers will help to complete the work. There are no specific income requirements for this program; each application will be considered based on the current household need. For an application or questions call Angel at (913) 676-8390. All applications must be submitted by May 1, 2011 for consideration.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special</th>
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<tr>
<td>Synthetic Blended or High Mileage Oil Change</td>
<td>$5 OFF</td>
<td>Conventional Oil Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full Synthetic Oil Change</td>
<td>$9 OFF</td>
<td>No appointment Necessary. Midwest Lube &amp; Auto Center 913-722-4220 • Not valid with other offers. Expires 5/1/11. Must present coupons at time of service. Expires 5/1/11.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIL CHANGE &amp; TIRE ROTATION</td>
<td>$39.95</td>
<td>Excludes diesel &amp; other select vehicles. Up to 5 qts of conventional oil. Synthetic oils are extra. Not valid with other offers. Expires 5/1/11.</td>
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So much to do, so much to see in Mission!

Mission is a very active community and, because our magazine’s photographers can’t possibly be everywhere, we need your help. In future editions of Mission: Your Hometown magazine, we will include a feature we’re calling Snapshots and we want your photos to fill that page.

Digital technology makes it easy, so, please, e-mail us photos of your school activity, church celebration or Scout event, for example, and we’ll publish the best ones in each issue. All we ask is that the photos be high quality, sharply focused and that you include identifying information for everyone shown.

Send those e-mails to our main address: missionmagazine@missionks.org and we’ll reply when we receive them. Here’s a hint: The fewer lineups and the more candid shots you send, the better. Thanks in advance for doing your part to make Mission: Your Hometown magazine even better!

Send us your snapshots

Toasting marshmallows for S’mores by the fire is one of the attractions of Holiday Lights and Festive Sights. Photo by Ben McCall.

3 Pigs A Packin’ was one of the many groups competing in the Battle of the Brisket State Championship.

The carnival is always popular with kids at Spirit of Mission Days. Photo by Alex Bonham-Carter.

The Thanks for Seniors luncheon attracts a large crowd every year including Elbert and Mary Minor. Photo by Barbara Bayer.

The Thanks for Seniors luncheon attracts a large crowd every year including Elbert and Mary Minor. Photo by Barbara Bayer.
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Colleen Troppito treats her neighbors with delectable baked goods

By Heather Swan

Colleen Troppito doesn’t have to look very far for some willing taste testers for her delicious, made-from-scratch desserts. First, there is her husband Charlie. Next in line for taste-testing honors are her Mission neighbors in the Morrison Ridge community.

Colleen Troppito is known in her neighborhood for her wide variety of tasty baked goods, but her favorite to make is cheesecake.

“It’s fun to make because it’s very versatile,” she said. “It’s a fun product to make and seems universally liked.”

And, boy, are they liked. Troppito starts by thinking of fla-
vors that sound good together. She then enjoys the accomplishment of taking that idea, going into her kitchen, and making it work.

Some of her cheesecake creations include Chocolate Peanut Butter, Apple Streusel, Almond Joy (her favorite), Cranberry Orange (a popular choice around the winter holidays) and Chocolate Chip.

For her Cranberry/Orange Cheesecake, Troppito puts orange peel and cinnamon in the crust. The Chocolate Chip Cheesecake has a brownie crust.

She also has created savory cheesecakes with fresh herbs and seafood that can be served as an appetizer with crackers and cocktail rye bread. The Seafood Cheesecake has shrimp, crab, herbs and hot sauce (depending on the desire for heat) in a buttered crust.

“I didn’t start out as a fan of baking,” Troppito said. She started cooking about 20 years ago by making Italian food and perfecting her own sauce. She enjoys Italian food and, coincidentally, married Charlie, who is Italian.

Troppito has fond memories of the New York-style cheesecake she grew up with in her native Long Island. That’s what started her interest in creating cheesecake recipes.

“I like dry, dense cheesecake,” she said. “I’ve had to evolve to other people’s tastes.”

Troppito believes in using the freshest ingredients and even grows her own herbs out on her deck.

“For me, everything is made from scratch — from the crust, to the cake, to the topping,” she said.

She also counts on the constructive feedback she receives from her husband and taste-testing neighbors, including Deborah Rushing, Dave and Joy Parish, and Delores DeMoss.

“Our little community is pretty much like family,” said Troppito, who has lived in this neighborhood for 15 years. “Whatever project we have going on, everyone supports each other in our endeavors. My endeavor is cheesecake.”

Rushing, her next-door neighbor, describes Troppito’s desserts as “heavenly.”

“She is an excellent, excellent baker,” Rushing said.

She and the other neighbors have the privilege of trying Troppito’s newest treats, but there are other benefits of living next door to Colleen, too, Rushing said.

“She and Charlie are good friends as well as neighbors,” she said.

Baking started as a hobby for Troppito, but she would like to make it a career. She currently is taking orders for her cheesecakes and other baked goods. And she is striving to own her own business. Troppito knows it will happen — she’s just not sure when and where right now.

“It’s what I enjoy,” she said of baking. “It’s what I’ve been told I excel at.”

For more information or a menu, send an e-mail to colleen-troppito@hotmail.com.

---

**Apple Streusel Cheesecake**

**FOR CRUST:**
- 2 1/2 c. sugar cookies
- 2 T. sugar
- 2 t. cinnamon
- 3 T. butter, melted

**FOR FILLING:**
- 4 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, at room temperature
- 6 eggs
- 1/2 c. heavy cream
- 1/3 c. flour
- 1 T. vanilla
- 1 can apple pie filling
- 1 c. sugar

**FOR TOPPING:**
- mix in a small bowl until crumbles form:
  - 1 c. flour
  - 1/3 c. brown sugar
  - 1 t. cinnamon
  - 6 T butter, soft

Pulse cookies, sugar and cinnamon in food processor. Add to melted butter and mix well. Line a 9-inch greased spring-form pan with cookie mixture. Mix cream cheese and sugar in stand mixer until fluffy (3 to 4 minutes). Add eggs one at a time. Add cream, flour and vanilla, and mix well. Add pie filling. Pour filling over crust. Bake at 325 degrees for 40 minutes. Top with streusel and bake for 30 minutes more. Chill overnight before serving.
Important Dates in Mission

“We’re Talkin’ Tuesday” Networking
MARCH 1, 15; APRIL 5, 19 – 8 A.M.
Mainstreet Credit Union, corner of Martway and Lamar

The Northeast Johnson County Chamber’s “We’re Talkin’ Tuesday” networking group is the place to be on Tuesday mornings. This fun, interactive networking experience is a great place to connect with 50 to 60 people representing businesses in the area. The group meets on the first and third Tuesday of every month. Coffee and light breakfast are provided; don’t forget to bring plenty of business cards! Reservations are not necessary. For more information, contact Lindsey Huckabee at (913) 262-2141.

The Shawnee Mission North Theatre Department presents the high school premiere of “Moo Juice”
MARCH 4 – 7 P.M.
Auditorium at Shawnee Mission North High School, 7401 Johnson Drive

This rock musical was written by Funky Mama (Krista Eyler), who is a 1994 Shawnee Mission North graduate. The musical premiered at Chestnut Community Theatre in Olathe last August to sold-out crowds. The story is set in a preschool and features five preschool sketches. Tickets are $5. For ticket information, call (913) 993-6900.

The Shawnee Mission North Theatre Department presents “Evita”
MARCH 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 & 19 – 7:30 P.M.
MARCH 6, 13 AND 20 – 2 P.M.
6219 Martway

Argentina’s controversial first lady is the subject of this dynamic musical masterpiece. Driven by ambition and blessed with charisma, Eva Peron was a starlet at 22, the president’s mistress at 24, first lady at 27, and dead at 33. “Saint to the working-class, reviled by the aristocracy and mistrusted by the military,” she was destined to leave a fascinating political legacy unique in the 20th century. Told through a compelling score that fuses haunting chorales with exuberant Latin, pop and jazz influences, “Evita” creates an arresting theatrical portrait as complex as the woman herself. For ticket information, call (913) 432-9100 or visit www.thebarnplayers.org.

The Shawnee Mission North Theatre Department presents “Now for Something Completely Different”
MARCH 9 AND 10 – 7 P.M.
Auditorium at Shawnee Mission North High School, 7401 Johnson Drive

“This Now for Something Completely Different” features selected Monty Python sketches. Tickets are $4. For ticket information, call (913) 993-6900.

Spring Break Camp – “It’s a Safari”
MARCH 14 -18 – 7:30 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M.
Sylvester Powell Jr. Community Center, 6200 Martway

Are you staying in town for Spring Break? Come to Spring Break Camp at Sylvester Powell Jr. Community Center. During this safari, children ages 5 to 12 will explore the continent of Africa and learn about the animals and insects that inhabit their land, along with learning about the cultural customs and geography of Africa. This week will feature trips on Tuesday and Thursday to the indoor pool and a field trip to the Kansas City Zoo. Camp is limited to 40 children. Two snacks a day will be provided. The cost is $119 for residents and members and $129 for others. For more information or to register, call Sarah Sooter, recreation coordinator, at (913) 722-8223 or send e-mail to ssooter@missionks.org.

Mission City Council Meeting
WED., MARCH 16 – 7 P.M.
City Hall

The Barn Players presents “Shout: The Mod Musical”
APRIL 29 AND 30 – 7:30 P.M.
6219 Martway

“Shout” flips through the years like a musical magazine and takes you back to the music, the fashion and the freedom of the ‘60s! This smashing revue tracks five groovy gals as they come of age during those liberating days that made England swing! With its irresistible blend of hip-swiveling hits, eye-popping fashions and psychedelic dances from the ‘60s, this fun-filled musical will make you want to throw your head back and SHOUT! For ticket information, call (913) 432-9100 or visit www.thebarnplayers.org.
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SAVEn THE DATES

Mission residents can look forward to a variety of fun and exciting special events sprinkled throughout the year. You’ll want to circle these dates on your calendar so you won’t miss a single event!

- Bunny Eggstravaganza, April 23 at Andersen Park
- Spirit of Mission Days, May 5, 6, 7 & 8
- Mission Family Picnic, July 9 at Broadmoor Park
- An Evening with the Arts, Sept. 8 at Sylvester Powell Jr. Community Center
- Arts & Eats and Battle of the Brisket, Sept. 16 & 17
- Thanks for Seniors, Nov. 17 at the Sylvester Powell Jr. Community Center
- Holiday Lights & Festive Sights, Dec. 2

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Are you a lulu?

lulu (loo’loo) n
1. A remarkable person or thing.
2. stunner, mantrap, knockout, beauty, peach

6017 Johnson Drive
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Buy • Sell • Trade
Bunny Eggstravaganza

ANDERSEN PARK • 6090 WOODSON, MISSION, KS
SATURDAY, APRIL 23 10:00AM-12 NOON

Bring the family for the annual Bunny Eggstravaganza! This exciting holiday event features a traditional egg hunt, clowns, balloon artists and a visit from two very special bunnies! Bring your camera and a pail to hold all of your candy and prizes.

EGG HUNT TIMES
8 Months – 3 Years 10:30am
4-6 Years 10:50am
7-9 Years 11:10am
10 & Older 11:30am

ACTIVITIES & SPECIAL VISITORS
Mission Police Department Car & Motorcycle
A Fire Engine from Johnson County Fire District #2
Up, Up & Away Balloons

FREE ADMISSION

If inclement weather arises, the Bunny Eggstravaganza will be held at the Sylvester Powell Jr. Community Center @ 6200 Martway. Call the Weather Line @ 913-722-8211.

SPRING BREAK CAMPS

Are you staying in town for Spring Break?
Come to Spring Break Camp at Sylvester Powell Jr. Community Center.

It’s a Safari
March 14-18, 2011
Ages 5-12

During this safari we will explore the continent of Africa & learn about the animals & insects that inhabit their land, along with learning about their cultural customs & geography of Africa. This week will feature trips on Tuesday and Thursday to our indoor pool & a field trip to the Kansas City Zoo. Camp is limited to 40 children. We will provide two snacks/day.

$129 PER CAMPER
($119 PER CAMPER WITH SPJCC MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT)

PARTIES!

INDOOR PLAYGROUND PARTIES
Indoor playground parties are an awesome way to celebrate for ages 6 and younger.

Party Cost:
$200 plus a $25 Security Deposit

INDOOR POOL PARTY
Splash and play in the indoor pool. Indoor pool parties are a "cool" way to celebrate your child's birthday!

Party Cost:
$140 plus a $25 Security Deposit

GYM PARTIES
Basketball & volleyball parties are great activities for ages 5 & older.

Party Cost:
Basketball $120 • Volleyball $140 plus a $25 Security Deposit

MAD SCIENCE PARTY
Mad Science is the perfect party for the curious kid. Enjoy a 30 minute presentation from a local Mad Scientist, an hour of play time in the gym and use of our party room!

Party Cost:
$200 plus a $25 Security Deposit

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