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Dr. Erin O'Laughlin practices the full scope of Family Medicine. She enjoys patients of all ages, with specific skills in Women's health. She graduated from the UMKC Family and Community Medicine program located at Truman Lakewood, in Kansas City. She graduated from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences in 2011 with her DO degree. Dr. O'Laughlin was born and raised in the Kansas City area, then attended Indiana University where she received her B.S. in Psychology and was an All-American in Swimming. She is available to take new patients, newborn to the elderly, and she is committed to promoting better health through wellness.



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Mission:



a city of many surprises

Over the last five years, I have had the privilege of interviewing the people/businesses we have written about in the Mission Magazine. When you sit in their business or living room and hear their stories, it makes you realize what a great community we live in — Mission!

How many times have I driven by Southwest Jewels over the last eight years and never noticed dozens of African violets growing in their front window? As a child, our dining room window seat was full of beautiful purple and white plants — African violets that my grandmother carefully watered once a week and that bloomed their heads off for her! Going through stores I would spot a plant, purchase it, bring it home and carefully water it — only to have it wilt and die on me. Talking with Steve and Brent I have a renewed faith in my ability to grow African violets.

Taking my grandchildren to McDonald's was always a treat when they were small — however, little did I realize the hard work and determination that lay behind Cassandra Savage's desire to own a

McDonald's and her success story in owning five McDonald's. What child wouldn't have loved to have a McDonald's in the family!

Drive by the Yoga Fix anytime during the day and watch the ladies (and gentlemen) with their yoga mats happily going into or coming out of an invigorating workout. Kudos to Mary for having the foresight to bring Yoga Fix to Mission so we can all stay fit!

In this issue you will also learn about your City Council representatives and mayor! What fun is that! Or the dedication of Dr. Hollyman (99 and still going strong). We strive to bring you the latest news about Mission and the wonderful people who are behind the front doors of our many businesses; Mission — the place to live, work, shop and eat! You can't get much better than that!

Enjoy!

Suzie Gibbs

City Council member, Ward IV

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ON THE COVER:

INSTRUCTOR MARIS AYLWARD AT YOGA FIX STUDIO.
PHOTO BY KRISTIN MCCOPPIN/POND PHOTOGRAPHY

Mission

Your Hometown

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2015

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Michael Huges, MD

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For more information about what makes the Shawnee Mission Cancer Center so different and so special, visit ShawneeMission.org/CancerCenter.





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YOGA FIX

Hottest place in town for yoga

Mission studio is a destination for people wanting to take hot-style and other yoga classes

BY HEATHER SWAN • PHOTOS BY KRISTIN MCCOPPIN/POND PHOTOGRAPHY

What's the hottest spot in Mission?

If you are looking at this from a sheer temperature perspective (and who isn't looking for a little warmth at the end of February), it might just be the heated classroom at Yoga Fix Studio, 6124 Johnson Drive.

People from around the Kansas City area regularly come to Mission to take hot-style and warm flow yoga classes in Yoga Fix's heated room — kept at 107 to 109 degrees during hot classes and 90 to 95 degrees during warm classes

— and its other yoga classes taught in the non-heated room.

While Yoga Fix is relatively new to Mission (it opened here just under two years ago), the studio was founded in 2000 under its original husband-and-wife owners in Kansas City, Mo. It's known as the original hot yoga studio in the Kansas City area.

"I give them credit for starting hot yoga in Kansas City," said Mary Horvatin, who bought the business in 2008 and moved it to its current Johnson Drive location in 2013. (The former Kinko's and Easy Living Store was completely gutted down to its cinder block walls as part of its transformation into a yoga studio.)

For those not familiar with "hot yoga," the workout challenges people's mind and body with cardio, aerobic and strength training. Yoga Fix touts its benefits, like reducing stress, sharpening mental focus, increasing flexibility and building muscle tone.

Yoga Fix is currently one of three hot yoga studios in the Kansas City area, but it offers a complete heated and non-heated schedule (most studios have one or the other) seven days a week. Classes range from 60 to 90 minutes.

Continued on Page 8



Right: Instructor Maris Aylward works with Charlotte Cline-Smith at Yoga Fix Studio.

Left: Mary Horvatin bought Yoga Fix Studio in 2008 and moved it to 6124 Johnson Drive in 2013.

K STUDIO:



Continued from Page 6

"We are very good with new people," Horvatin said. "We try to make it non-intimidating. For a lot of people, it's intimidating to walk through the door."

"...We are a very user-friendly studio. People come in here and feel welcomed."

YOGA AS A FORM OF EXERCISE

If you are looking to fulfill some New Year's resolutions and/or make some lifestyle changes, yoga could be for you.

Horvatin herself took up yoga originally to support a friend who had gone through Bikram yoga training.

"I was not an athletic person, but I really enjoyed it," she said.

Yoga Fix students are men and women; teens up to 60- and 70-year-olds; beginners to students who have taken more than 1,500 Yoga Fix classes; and students from Kansas City, Kan., to Independence, Mo.

There is no chanting and students don't just sit around and breathe; it's a complete workout for the mind, body and spirit and a huge stress reliever.

"Yoga is more than just doing a posture," Horvatin said. "It's a therapy."

"...It's a workout, but it's more about lifestyle and how we move in the world. It has a mind-body connection unlike other types of exercise."

The owner tells success stories about some of her clients: A rugby player credits yoga for enabling him to keep playing the sport. And a woman who had nerve damage in her peripheral nervous system is greatly improved thanks to yoga (to the point where her doctor noticed and asked what she was doing).

"That's what makes doing this worth it," Horvatin said.

Yoga Fix offers more than 30 classes a week during the morning, midday and after work. The studio was even open on Thanksgiving.

"We had a ton of people show up for that," she said. "I had ladies say they had the turkey in the oven."

"WE ARE VERY GOOD WITH NEW PEOPLE. WE TRY TO MAKE IT NON-INTIMIDATING. FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE, IT'S INTIMIDATING TO WALK THROUGH THE DOOR."

**MARY HORVATIN,
OWNER OF YOGA FIX STUDIO**

YOGA AS A BUSINESS

Horvatin, who worked in the marketing industry for 15 years, started out as a student at Yoga Fix under the previous owners. She also cleaned the studio on the side.

The former owner said: "Why are you mopping my floors? You should be doing my marketing."

Horvatin helped Yoga Fix with its marketing and then came the call asking if she wanted to buy the business.

When she took over in 2008, the studio had 10,000 students in its database. There are almost 22,000 students in its database now, and the studio adds 100 to 200 new students a month. Yoga Fix's busiest time of the year is November through March.

"I think I have one of the best staffs around," Horvatin said. "I love what I do."

And the studio has a very loyal client following.

"There's a hot yoga studio closer to my house, but I'd rather come here," said Elizabeth Toohill, a student at Yoga Fix for 11 years. "...I've made a lot of friends."

Amy Sterns has been a student at Yoga Fix for almost 12 years.

"I love the variety of the staff, the facility, which is immaculate, and that it really is hot yoga," she said. "...It is consistent in delivering what I expect from a yoga studio and yoga."

For Horvatin, the owner, Yoga Fix is a business like any other. But there's good karma; her clients want to spread good energy; and she tries to provide a nurturing environment, she said.

For new students who want to try out Yoga Fix, the studio has a New Member Special that includes 30 days of unlimited yoga for \$30.

"I look at a yoga studio like a coffee shop or your therapist," Horvatin said. "You have to find the one that matches you."

For more information about Yoga Fix Studio, call 913-384-3200 or visit www.YogaFixKC.com.

Maris Aylward, front row, teaches a yoga class to, back row from left, Charlotte Cline-Smith, Audrey Horowitz and Joann Fierst.





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Mission Bulletin Board

BUNNY EGGSTRAVAGANZA

at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center (north side)
Saturday, April 4 • 10 a.m.

Free Admission

Bring your family, camera and Easter basket for Mission's annual Bunny Eggstravaganza! This event features egg hunts for all ages, clowns, balloon artists and a visit from two very special bunnies. The egg hunt times are:



- 10 and older
Egg Olympics: 10:15 a.m.
- 8 months to 1 ½ years
(with parent): 10:30 a.m.
- 1 ½ to 3 years: 10:50 a.m.
- 4 to 6 years: 11:10 a.m.
- 7 to 9 years: 11:30 a.m.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EMERALD ASH BORER

April 22, 7 p.m.

Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center
6200 Martway

**Presentation by Dennis Patton,
K-State Research and Extension
Hosted by the
City of Mission Tree Board**

Admission: free
Learn where the emerald ash borer came from and what type of damage these little green bugs can cause to ash trees.



**Mission Police
Department's 2015
Citizens Police Academy
Thursday evenings from
April 2 through June 4**

See Page N2 of the city's
newsletter for more details.



Wanted: Knitting Yarn

The Mission Convention and Visitors Bureau is accepting donations of knitting yarn. We have a volunteer who will knit scarves for the homeless or for the city's holiday family adoptions. Drop off your yarn at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center, attention: Kathy Lockard.



Rushton PTA's 17th Annual Auction

Silent and live auction with a "Hawaiian Luau" theme
benefiting the Rushton Elementary School PTA

March 7 | Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m.
Tickets: \$20 at the door

Contact Cassandra Alejandre at rushtonauction@live.com for more information.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The City of Mission is looking to appoint a representative to the Shawnee Indian Mission Foundation's Board of Directors. The interested candidate should have an interest in local history, fulfill volunteer activities as a Board Member at the Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site, be an advocate for the Foundation and serve as a liaison to the Mayor and City Council. The commitment is for a three-year term. Interested parties should provide a letter of interest to Mission Mayor Steve Schowengerdt.

MEETING NOTICE

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

March 18 and April 15

Pool passes go on sale

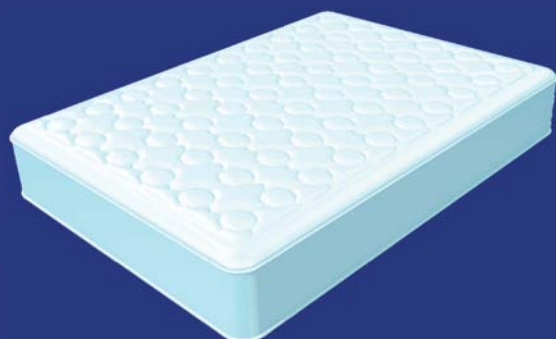
SOON!

Mission Family Aquatic Center season passes go on sale Saturday, April 18. All individuals purchasing a pass on this day between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. will be eligible to get their season pass for FREE. A drawing will be held at 1 p.m. to determine the lucky winner!



WANT TO RECYCLE YOUR MATTRESS?

Avenue of Life, a faith-based organization working with the homeless, is collecting mattresses for recycling. Did you know that 93 percent of a used mattress is recyclable, and there are end markets that have been developed for the recycled materials?



Avenue of Life will pick up mattresses for a \$10 fee or you can deliver your mattress to their facility, 5117 E. 31st St., Kansas City, Mo., and pay \$5. This program keeps old mattresses out of the landfill and gives them new life as a variety of useful products.

For more information,
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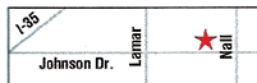
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"We help people accomplish their goals. To know I had a part in that, that's where the fulfillment comes for me."

Cassandra Savage, co-owner of the Mission McDonald's

THEY'RE LOVIN' IT!

Cassandra and Ken Savage, owners of five area McDonald's, started their family-owned and community-minded business with their Mission restaurant

BY HEATHER SWAN • PHOTOS BY KRISTIN MCCOPPIN/POND PHOTOGRAPHY

Once upon a time, Cassandra Savage was a high school science teacher. Fast forward a few decades and you can still find Cassandra teaching ... but her "classroom" now is not in a school. Her teaching and training are done under the golden arches of five Kansas City area McDonald's restaurants, including the one in Mission.

In addition to the restaurant at 6767 Johnson Drive, Cassandra and her husband, Ken, own McDonald's in Merriam, Overland Park and two in Kansas City, Kan. (Their newest McDonald's opened on Sept. 16, 2014, at 8915 Johnson Drive, next to the new IKEA in Merriam.)

Although the restaurant chain is a major corporation,

most McDonald's restaurants are independently owned and operated by local businessmen and women; Cassandra is the licensed franchisee of these five restaurants.

"I feel I've done something very worthwhile," she said. "I have had the opportunity to teach and build relationships with every employee we have." *Continued on Page 16*

Cassandra Savage is the licensed franchisee of five area McDonald's restaurants, including the one in Mission.





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Continued from Page 14

Cassandra, born and raised in Chicago, graduated with bachelor's and master's degrees in education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and taught for seven years. She and Ken knew of each other at college but became reacquainted when they both worked for IBM.

They always knew they wanted to venture out and acquire their own business someday, but they were looking for an opportunity the whole family could be a part of in hopes of providing their children with an option to become the next generation of business owners. The Savages, who then lived in St. Louis, researched different franchise options for 1 ½ years before deciding on McDonald's. Women have held top leadership positions within the company, and the number of female franchisees is small but growing, Cassandra said. She was also impressed by McDonald's long history of success, and their commitment to education, training, and research and development.

To become a franchisee, she had to learn all aspects of the business. For a time, she worked at IBM on weekdays and at McDonald's on nights and weekends. She attended McDonald's Hamburger University in Oak Brook, Ill. And in 2001, they got the call: "We have a restaurant for you in Kansas."

It was the Mission McDonald's.

"We came here and met everyone, and the rest is history," Cassandra said.

The Mission McDonald's is a local gathering spot for everyone from students to retirees. The owners strive to be a good community partner.

"It's a great place to work, and we give back to the community," she said of programs like Ronald McDonald House and McTeacher's Nights (where a percentage of a certain night's sales are donated to a designated school). "...I want people to know we serve good food, want to be a good neighbor and always give back to the community."

Cassandra likes the pace their business has grown.

In between buying the Mission location in 2001 and open-

ing the one in Merriam last fall, the Savages purchased the McDonald's at 4101 Kansas Ave. in Kansas City, Kan., in 2003; the restaurant by the Johnson County Central Resource Library at 9717 W. 87th St. in 2010; and the location at 7530 State Ave. in Kansas City, Kan., (by Kansas City Kansas Community College) in 2012.

"It was a good, steady pace," she said, of owning five restaurants in 13 years.

With five restaurants, the Savages currently have about 250 employees. And, over the years, students have paid for college, teenagers have bought cars and moms have been able to go back to school because of their jobs at their McDonald's.

"We help people accomplish their goals," Cassandra said. "To know I had a part in that, that's where the fulfillment comes for me.

"...We help them, and they've helped us also."

And their goal of making McDonald's a family business has been fulfilled.

Ken joined Cassandra in working for McDonald's full time when he retired from IBM after 32 years. Their youngest daughter, Brianna, was 7 when they bought the Mission McDonald's and is currently a junior at Kansas State University. Brianna has filled in at some of her family's restaurants as well as worked at her neighborhood McDonald's under other owner-operators.

Cassandra is also a mother of two older children and a grandmother of four.

"We wanted to do this for the future, for our children," she said.

And Cassandra doesn't have any regrets.

"I'm having a ball," she said. "This is something I've always wanted to do."

For more information about the Mission McDonald's, call 913-681-1418 or visit www.mckansas.com/1385.

Below: The Mission McDonald's, 6767 Johnson Drive, is the only McDonald's in the Kansas City area with the nostalgic 1955 look and "rock 'n' roll" theme.





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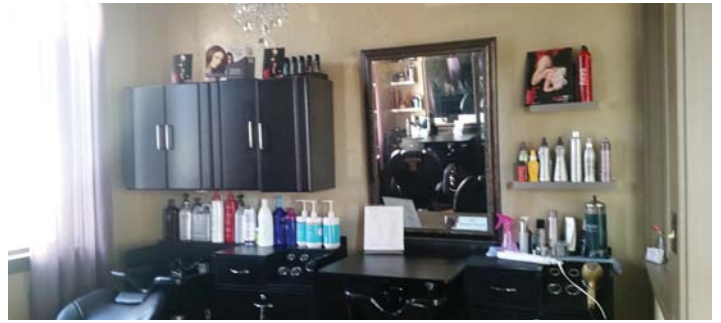
PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM

5408 W. 58TH TERRACE, MISSION, KS 66205

Mission's New Beauty Care & Salon Services Hub

Beauty Hub
BEYOND SKIN & BODY CARE

913-432-3700



Womens & Men's Walk Ins Available!

20% OFF ANY HAIR SERVICE OR HAIR PRODUCT

Mission Magazine. Valid with this coupon. Not valid with any other offer or for gift certificates. One coupon per customer. Offer expires 4/25/15.

BOGO 1/2 PRICE
ON SHAMPOOS & CONDITIONERS

Mission Magazine. Valid with this coupon. Not valid with any other offer or for gift certificates. One coupon per customer. Offer expires 4/25/15.

- Full Service Salon including Hair Cuts, Color, Makeovers and Makeup for all Occasions
- Blow Outs/Styling/Updos for Any Occasion
- Relaxers/Hair Smoothing
- Facial Waxing
- Gift Cards Available
- Hair Extension
- Highlight

5106 Johnson Drive Mission, Kansas 66205 | www.beautyhubinc.com | 913-432-3700

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HEALING HAIRCARE

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PROFESSIONAL SKIN CARE

it's a **10**

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BEAUTY AND INNOVATION IN BALANCE

KENRA
CLASSIC. QUALITY. HAIRCARE

MOROCCANOIL

IMAGE
SKINCARE

DevaCurl **AMERICAN CREW**
Many more top salon brands available

NAIL Perfection & Spa

- Day Spa Packages
- Sanitized Equipment
- Manicure & Pedicure
- 22 Pipeless Spa Pedicure Chairs with Shiatsu Massage
- Massage
- All Body Treatments
- All Skin Treatments
- All Body Waxing
- Acrylic Nails
- Family Bonding

**PARTY OF 10
OR MORE GET
SPECIAL PRICE**

FEATURING: GEL POLISH!!!
NO DRY TIME, NO DENTS, NO SMUDGING, LASTS 2-3 WEEKS WITH NO CHIPPING!

913.722.0799



5110 Johnson Drive • Mission, KS
(across from Mission Bank)

nailperfection-spa.com

Men & Women

Walk ins Always Welcome!

Gift Cards Available!

"Best Nail Salon!"

Featured in the Pitch Magazine
Tired of getting manicures and pedicures by the glow of tacky neon signs? For just a few dollars more than the average strip-mall cuticle sweatshop charges, pamper your hands and feet at Nail Perfection & Spa. The cozy, earth-toned environment triggers immediate relaxation, and the friendly and skillful staff have your beauty in mind, not just your tip. Aside from nail services and hand and foot care, this business offers spa services - such as massage therapy, skin treatments and hair removal - and is accommodating to a group, even the occasional rowdy bridal party.

10% OFF

Any Single Service of \$21.00 or more

NAIL Perfection & Spa

Valid with this coupon. Not Valid with backfills, gift certificates, combo packages and other offers. Mission Magazine. Expires 4/25/15

TRY OUR LUNCH AND DINNER SPECIAL

BUY ONE ENTREE GET ONE HALF OFF FOR LUNCH OR DINNER*
VALID FOR MONDAY THRU WEDNESDAY



Try our new LUNCH MENU!

Lunch: Mon-Sat 11am-2:30pm

Dinner: Mon-Thurs 5pm-9pm • Fri & Sat 5pm-10pm
Closed Sundays

6504 Martway Street, Mission, KS

913-384-2800

*For Dine in Only. Limit one coupon per table. Not good with other offers. Exp. 04/25/15.



Buy a large sandwich and get
a **FREE** medium fry and drink
(\$1 Menu and More Excluded)

Expires 04/25/15

McDonald's Locations!

6767 Johnson Drive in Mission
&
8915 Johnson Drive in Merriam

Diamond Finish Car Wash

5960 Barkley St. Mission, KS 66202

913-236-6886

HOURS: Mon-Sat 8-7 • Sun 8-5

www.diamondfinishwash.com

EXTERIOR ONLY SPECIAL

\$5 Reg. \$7

Basic Exterior Wash includes: Towel dry and door jams wiped down. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 04/25/15.

DIAMOND 1 PROFESSIONAL DETAIL

25% OFF

Complete interior shampoo, all floor mats, carpeting, upholstered seats, or clean & conditions leather seats. All interior vinyl is cleaned & conditioned. See cashier for more details. Over-sized charge may apply. Not valid with any other offers. Exp. 04/25/15.

HAND WAX

\$10 OFF Reg. \$49.95

Includes a hand wax. Additional Charge for larger vehicles. Over-sized charge may apply. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 04/25/15.

FULL SERVICE SPECIAL

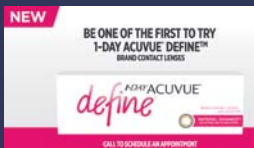
50% OFF

Superior Diamond Wash

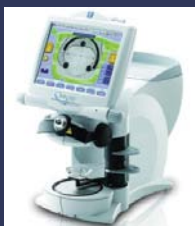
Includes basic full service wash, plus wheel cleaner, white wall scrub, underbody wash, clearcoat protectant, triple clearcoat polish, tire dressing & machine mat cleaning. Additional charge for larger vehicles. Over-sized charge may apply. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 04/25/15.

MISSION EYECARE

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



As the only practice in the greater Kansas City metro area with this new lens, we are proudly testing it for J&J. It's a color "enhancing" 1-day disposable contact lens and is incredibly comfortable.



We also just added our own IN-HOUSE FINISHING LAB! So we are now grinding our own lenses on site! Much quicker turn-around time, and higher quality since we don't have to use a third party lab much anymore.

The Kate Spade frame line (dress glasses & sunglasses) is the newest addition to our optical department!



Look what's NEW at your neighborhood eye practice!

Mention this ad for **20% off Eye Exam**

(Cannot be combined with insurance.)

Most insurance plans accepted

facebook.com/MissionEyeCareKC

6120 Johnson Dr. - Mission, KS 66202 - (913) 262-EYES (3937)
www.MissionEyeCare.com - MissionEyeCareKC@att.net



10% off
wine & spirits



Some restrictions. Does not apply to the sale of any beer. Exp. 04/25/15.

6840 Johnson Drive • 913-262-9898

GRAND LIQUOR

5431 Johnson Dr • Mission, KS 66205
913.432.4055

TUESDAY SPECIAL
13% OFF Wine/Champagne

EVERYDAY
15% OFF Mix & Match Wine Cases



GRAND LIQUOR

10% OFF
Wine Purchase

Not valid with pints or half pints.
Not valid with any other offer. Excludes malt beverages or coolers.
Expires 04/25/15.

GRAND LIQUOR

10% OFF
Spirit Purchase

Not valid with pints, half pints and half gallons.
Not valid with any other offer. Excludes malt beverages or coolers.
Expires 04/25/15.

SPECIAL ORDERS WELCOME!
Come See Us For All Your Adult Beverage Needs!



CITY OF MISSION

Newsletter

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2015
VOLUME 10, ISSUE 4
WWW.MISSIONKS.ORG



PLANNING THE FUTURE TOGETHER



What are your hopes for Mission? What would you change? What is important to preserve? Two ambitious projects are currently underway: updating the Comprehensive Plan and developing a Parks Master Plan. These guiding documents help direct Mission's progress into the future.

Comprehensive Plan

- Captures a community's shared goals for the city
- Guides growth and development
- Lays a plan for revitalization of business districts and neighborhoods
- Presents recommendations for action

Parks Master Plan

- Analyzes how well current park resources match community needs
- Develops priorities for park and recreation facility maintenance

- and improvement
- Connects recommendations to funding strategies

Stay In Touch

To be sure our decisions represent the values and vision of the community as a whole, we need to hear from you! The best way to share your feedback is to attend a public meeting, meet your neighbors and engage in the discussion. You may also participate remotely through online conversations (Mindmixer) on the City's website, or other social media.

Sign up for e-notifications on www.missionks.org so you won't miss a thing! You can follow the projects that most interest you and be alerted whenever new content is added.

Contact Mission City Hall with questions at 913-676-8350.

HELP YOUR PET BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR TOO!



Purrs and wags, not yips and howls - Pet owners must ensure that their animals do not disturb neighbors by barking, howling or making other loud or frequent noises between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Safety first, leash at all times - All animals are required to be properly leashed and controlled.

Pick up, clean up - Owners must pick-up and dispose of pet waste; this includes cats who may not be allowed to roam freely.

Ship shape and up to date - All pets must have current rabies vaccinations. Pet owners are encouraged to enter their pet(s) into the City's database at www.missionks.org - this will assist Animal Control Officers in safely returning lost pets to their homes.

Questions or concerns? Contact City Hall at 913-676-8350.



LIFE SAVING AWARD

Chief Hadley presents Angel Torres-Molina with the City of Mission's Life Saving Award for his heroic efforts in rescuing Cassandra Ballard from her overturned car in Turkey Creek following a rollover accident.



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW MISSION?

**How many City
parks are in Mission?**

**How many gas
stations are in Mission?**

(Answers on page N3)

Dear Friends and Neighbors,
Two very important projects for our City were completed in 2014 – our Mission Family Aquatic Center and the Johnson Drive Rehabilitation Project.

It is wonderful to see the immediate benefits both bring to our community and the impact they have on our day-to-day lives. With the completion of our outdoor pool



renovation, we saw annual memberships increase to 1,000; a 350% increase from the previous year. Best of all, the new aquatic center was enjoyed by residents and visitors from its opening in May until we closed down the sprayground in September!

The construction on Johnson Drive impacted each of us during the past year, but I hope you will agree that this project truly enhances our downtown district in many ways. Our final item of the project is the installation of decorative streetlights. We have encountered some delays in delivery, but are working closely with the contractor to ensure that our lighting selection is effective, efficient, and attractive. Despite the orange cones, we also welcomed several new businesses along the corridor. I encourage you to take advantage of warmer temperatures heading our way to walk from shop to shop on Johnson Drive (both the new and well established ones), exploring what each has to offer. To keep the positive momentum of

our street improvements going, I have appointed the Downtown District Task Force that is focused on marketing and economic development for our community. Updates on their work and recommendations will be available on our website (www.missionks.org) and in future newsletters. We are also exploring the possibility of a farmers market on Johnson Drive this summer. Our plans are just taking shape so stay tuned for updates!

Ensuring our community vision is current is a top priority. This year we will be undertaking two very important planning projects for Mission – the Comprehensive Plan/Community Vision update and a Parks Master Plan. Your input is important, so please check our website for information on public meetings scheduled over the next six months. We will also be conducting two surveys to collect additional information from residents not only on what they would like to see in Mission, but also how well we are currently delivering city services. ETC Institute, a firm that has assisted us with previous surveys, will distribute and analyze our surveys again this year. Not every resident will receive one in the mail but, if you do, please take the time to complete and return the survey. For those who prefer to get involved through social media, watch for MindMixer throughout this process, a way to encourage on-line dialogues on these initiatives and to gather additional public input. Please be sure to read the article on page 1 of this newsletter for additional details on these planning projects, and contact your councilmember or city staff if you have questions on how

to participate.

As you read through this newsletter, you will see that we have included a wide variety of information including upcoming ward meetings, helpful community numbers, and neighborhood services programs that are available. Please keep these handy for the upcoming year or visit our website at www.missionks.org for all the current news in Mission.

Since becoming Mayor nearly a year ago, I have had the opportunity to work with many in our community who generously donate their time and talents to ensure Mission remains a great city to not only live and work in, but also to visit. Our City Council, board, commission, and task force members all give countless hours, working on solutions to the many issues and initiatives facing Mission and Northeast Johnson County. Please join me in thanking all who serve in these official roles, as well as the many who simply make time to volunteer at a festival or come to a City Council meeting to share their concerns and ideas. With our focus on visioning and planning during 2015, I hope you will join us in shaping the future of Mission by participating in a meeting, completing a survey, or joining in on social media – and thank you in advance for sharing your ideas!

Sincerely,

Steve Schowengerdt
Mayor

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

Apply now for Mission's 2015 Citizens Police Academy, scheduled for Thursday evenings, April 2nd - June 4th. This ten-week program, exposes participants to:

- *Criminal Investigations*
- *DUI and Traffic Enforcement*
- *Interview and Interrogation Techniques*
- *Firearms*

The academy will also include behind the scenes tours of the Johnson County Adult Detention Center, Emergency Communica-

tions Center, and Criminalistics Laboratory. After graduation, future opportunities to assist the Department through the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPs) Program will be available.

Academy size is limited to 20 participants. There is no cost to participate, but applicants must reside or work in Mission, be at least 18 years of age, and pass a background check. Applications are available by contacting Sgt. Rob Meyers at 913-676-8333 or information@missionks.org.



Pete Martin was recognized at a recent City Council Meeting when he was officially promoted to the rank of Sergeant by Police Chief Ben Hadley.

2015 BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT GRANT (BIG) PROGRAM IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The City of Mission's application cycle for the 2015 Business Improvement Grant (BIG) opened on February 1st.

The goal of BIG is to support local businesses through funding for exterior building repairs or improvements for

qualified energy efficiency projects. The program provides a 50% reimbursement of eligible expenses to applicants up to \$10,000 per project or \$2,000 per sign. The program also covers 75% (up to \$3,000) of the cost of the installation of plug-in electric vehicle (EV) charging

stations.

Since its start in 2004, the Mission BIG has awarded over \$345,000 to benefit more than 85 local businesses, leveraging over \$1,046,000 in total investment in the community. Applications are accepted on a first come, first served basis. All pro-

jects must be complete by November 1, 2015.

Information about the program and an application form are available on City's website at www.missionks.org. Contact Danielle Murray at dmurray@missionks.org or 913-676-8363 for more information.

Neighborhood Services - Supporting our Residents

Mission's Neighborhood Services Department offers a variety of programs to assist qualifying residents.

Community Rebate Program

Mission's Community Rebate Program helps income-eligible homeowners, by refunding:

- 50% of the Mission Solid Waste Utility fee
- 75% of Mission property taxes (excluding special assessments)
- 100% of utility franchise fees

Applications are due by April 6, 2015 and applicants must be Mission residents, current on the payment of property taxes, and meet established income guidelines.

Mission Possible

The Mission Possible Program assists with minor exterior home maintenance, tree trimming, driveway repair, and certain accessibility projects. Applicants who are elderly, disabled, low-income, and/or involved in resolving an active code case will receive

first priority, but any resident may apply.

A Brush with Kindness

This program is a joint effort between the City and Habitat for Humanity. It is designed to help residents with a variety of home repairs assisted by Habitat for Humanity volunteers. Unlike other residential assistance programs, this program does not have specific income guidelines. Each application is reviewed and evaluated individually. Applications must be submitted by May 4, 2015.

Community Garden

Mission's Community Garden is getting ready for the 2015 growing season. Reserve your plot today! Community Garden plots are free and available on a first-come, first-served basis to Mission residents.

Johnson County Stormwater Best Management Practices

For the second year, Mission is participating in the Johnson County Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP)

Program. Reimbursement is available for up to 50% of eligible expenses for the proper installation of projects such as rain barrels, rain gardens, native tree planting, and native planting of a stream buffer/swale. Funding for this program is limited, so you are encouraged to apply early.

Trash Stickers

Residents may purchase Deffenbaugh trash stickers for excess trash or yard waste items for \$1.50 at City Hall, the Community Center, or from Deffenbaugh directly. A complete list of the City's solid waste guidelines is available at deffenbaughinc.com

For more information on any of these issues, or for questions on how we can help you maintain the value and appearance of your home, contact: Nilo Fanska, Neighborhood Services Officer, at 913-676-8358 or nfanska@missionks.org

Ward Meetings Scheduled

All ward meetings are held at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center, 6200 Martway, at 7:00 p.m.



Ward II

Amy Miller
Arcie Rothrock

Thursday, April 30th
Thursday, July 30th
Thursday, October 29th

Ward III

Jennifer Cowdry
Debbie Kring

Thursday, April 16th
Thursday, July 16th
Thursday, October 15th

Do you have a tidbit of information that would make a fun trivia question? If so, please let us know at www.missionks.org/enotifications

Answers:

7 Parks - Victor Andersen, Beverly, Broadmoor, Mohawk, Pearl Harbor, Streamway, Waterworks.

5 Gas Stations - Conoco (formerly Valero), BP, QuikTrip, Hy-Vee, and Casey Brothers Sinclair



HELPFUL INFORMATION

Helpful Community Phone Numbers:

Area Utilities

Deffenbaugh Disposal (Residential).....	913-631-3300
Deffenbaugh Disposal (Commercial).....	913-631-2407
Electricity	816-471-5275
Gas.....	800-794-4780
Water	913-895-1800
JoCo Wastewater.....	913-432-3820

Public Health/Safety

Johnson County Offices - Mission.....	913-826-1800
Fire District	913-432-1105
Olathe Court House	913-782-5000
JoCo Dept. of Health and Environment.....	913-826-1200
Sheriff Dispatch.....	913-782-0720

Transportation

Johnson County Transit (The JO).....	913-782-2210
Kansas City Area Transportation Authority...	816-221-0660

Local Business Information

NE Johnson Co. Chamber of Commerce.....	913-262-2141
---	--------------

Other Useful Numbers

Animal Control Main Line	913-676-8345
Animal Control After Hours.....	913-782-0720
Lost Pet Center.....	913-831-7387
Vehicle Tags	913-826-1800
Driver's License.....	913-432-2266
Marriage License	913-715-3428
Election Office	913-782-3441
Hazardous Waste.....	913-715-6900
KS Vital Statistics.....	785-296-1400
Post Office	913-831-5304

Deffenbaugh Holiday Schedule

New Year's Day	Labor Day
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Thanksgiving Day
Memorial Day	Christmas Day
Fourth of July	

When your service day falls on or after a weekday holiday listed above, your pickup will be delayed one day for that week only. When the holiday falls on a weekend, there will be no service delay.

City of Mission Holiday Office Closures in 2015

New Year's Day	Thursday, January 1
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 19
Memorial Day	Monday, May 25
Fourth of July	Friday, July 3
Labor Day	Monday, September 7
Veterans Day	Wednesday, November 11
Thanksgiving Day.....	Thursday, November 26
Thanksgiving Day After.....	Friday, November 27
Christmas Eve	Thursday, December 24
Christmas Day.....	Friday, December 25



MISSION CITY HALL

6090 Woodson Road, Mission, Kansas 66202

Open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

COUNCIL WORKSESSIONS

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

All meetings are open to the public.

GOVERNING BODY

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

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD I

Pat Quinn.....	913-207-3106
Vacant.....	

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD II

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

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD III

Jennifer Cowdry.....	913-257-5788
Debbie Kring	913-722-6901

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD IV

Suzanne Gibbs.....	913-671-8564
David Shepard	913-671-8521



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EMPLOYEE OWNED

Shop your local Mission Hy-Vee!

- Open 24 hours, 7 days a week • In-Store Bakery
- Catering for all your needs • Pharmacy
- Beautiful Floral Department • Caribou Coffee
- Sushi made fresh daily • Health Market
- Hundreds of Fuel Saver Items



Coming Soon...

NEW AGE SERVICE CASES
in your Mission Hy-Vee



**MEAT & PRODUCE
DEPARTMENTS.**

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LaMar's
Donuts



*Simply a better
Donut.*

www.lamars.com

Good only at these locations:

3395 Main St
Kansas City, MO 64111
(816) 561-7176
(816) 561-7177 fax

5910 Johnson Dr
Mission, KS 66202
(913) 362-7700

705 SE Melody Ln
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
(816) 524-5515
(816) 524-7504 fax

3801 S M 291 Hwy
Lee's Summit, MO 64082
(913) 537-9851

LaMar's
Simply a better donut.

**BUY A SMALL COFFEE &
GET 2 DONUTS FREE**

Good at participating locations only. Must have coupon at time of purchase. Expires 04/25/15. A donut is anything with a whole. Specialities not included.



LaMar's
Simply a better donut.

**BUY ONE DOZEN DONUTS
GET 6 DONUTS FREE**

Good at participating locations only. Must have coupon at time of purchase. Expires 04/25/15. A donut is anything with a whole. Specialities not included.

©2015 Lamar's Donuts Inc.

THINGS YOU

Blowing out the candles on your birthday cake. Hearing the crunch of fall leaves under your feet. Enjoying an ice cream cone on a hot summer day. What's one thing you will never outgrow? We asked this question to Mission City Council members and Mayor Steve Schowengerdt, and here's what they said.

I GREW UP
WATCHING CLASSIC
WESTERN
TV SHOWS AND MOVIES.
I LOVED THEM THEN AND
I STILL DO. "I'LL BE
YOUR HUCKLEBERRY.

PAT QUINN, WARD 1



MY LOVE FOR THE COLOR
HOT PINK,

ALONG WITH ANYTHING
Sparkly,
of course.

AND TAKING EVERY AND
ANY OPPORTUNITY POSSIBLE
TO CELEBRATE. I LOVE
CELEBRATING EVERYTHING.

ARCIE ROTHROCK, WARD 2

READING!

I STAY UP INTO THE NIGHT TO
FIND OUT WHAT
HAPPENS NEXT;
I CAN'T GO TO
BED UNTIL
I FIND OUT.

JENNIFER COWDRY,
WARD 3



cake!

I LOVE CAKE
AND THE MORE
FROSTING THE

better!

AMY MILLER, WARD 2

NEVER OUTGROW



I HAVE AN AVID CHILDHOOD
MEMORY OF CHASING

TENNIS BALLS

FOR MY DAD AT THE PLAZA
TENNIS COURTS ON SUNDAY
AFTERNOONS! HE WAS A
TREMENDOUS TENNIS PLAYER
AND A GREAT DAD — AND
EVERY TIME I GO NEAR THE
PLAZA, THOSE MEMORIES
STAND OUT FOR ME!

DEBBIE KRING, WARD 3

ENTERTAINING —

AS A CHILD I HAD DOLL PARTIES, SNOW BALL PARTIES,
SLEIGH RIDING PARTIES, SOCK HOPS, ETC., AND I
AM STILL HAVING PARTIES/
ENTERTAINING (AND LOVING
IT) IN MY GOLDEN YEARS!

SUZIE GIBBS, WARD 4



Traveling

WITH KARLA AND THE
KIDS, AS THERE IS
SOMETHING SPECIAL
ABOUT A TRIP THAT
BINDS US TOGETHER
WHILE WE ARE
"MAKING MEMORIES.

DAVE SHEPARD, WARD 4



I'LL NEVER OUTGROW
WATCHING
**JOHN WAYNE
MOVIES;**

OR FOR THAT MATTER—
WESTERNS,
IN GENERAL!

WHEN I WAS LITTLE,
MY GUN, HOLSTER AND
COWBOY HAT WERE
NEVER VERY FAR AWAY.

MAYOR STEVE
SCHOWENGERDT



MISSION

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The City will adopt a revised Comprehensive Plan and a Parks Master Plan in 2015.

These planning documents will guide the City Council's decision making in areas including housing, transportation, economic development, parks and natural areas.



Upcoming

Public Meeting Dates:

Comprehensive Plan

April 8, 2015

July 14, 2015

Parks Master Plan

June 18, 2015

September 9, 2015



Share your ideas online, too!

Join the online conversation at

missionks.mindmixer.com

Log on, post comments to a rotating list of topics, share ideas with your neighbors.

Check into www.missionks.org for updated meeting dates, times and locations.





New Member Offer 30 Days Unlimited Yoga for \$30*

6124 Johnson Drive
(one block east of Lamar)
913-384-3200
www.hotyogakc.com

* Good for Hot and Non-Heated classes. Must purchase before March 31, 2015. Must be a new member. Not valid with any other offers. Non-transferable

Yoga Fix Studio has been serving the Kansas City area for over 15 years. Now with 35 classes per week, heated and non-heated, from early mornings to evenings and weekends we have the most complete schedule at one low price.

That's a lot of Yoga for an Itty Bitty Price! Start today!

TWISTED (SISTERS) COFFEE SHOP





Mission: Forward Special

**ENJOY 1/2 OFF
ANY SPECIALTY DRINK**

Offer good with this coupon only. Expires 4/25/15.

**Support
Local**

Hours:
M-F 6am-2pm
Sat 7am-11am

Free 12oz. Coffee Mondays
Steel Cut Oatmeal ★ Biscuits and Gravy
Hot, Iced and Frozen Drinks

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Chamber of Commerce New Business
of the Year Award Winner

5606 B Johnson Dr. • Mission, KS • 913-671-8290

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS 11AM TO 2PM



Prices Subject to Change!

MONDAY (11AM-9PM)

Reg. One Meat Sandwich + Fries, Drink • **\$7.89** plus tax

TUESDAY & SATURDAY (AFTER 4PM)

Baby Back Ribs + Choice of Two Sides • **\$20.99** plus tax

WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY (ALL DAY)

Full Slab Ribs • **\$15.99** plus tax

THURSDAY (AFTER 4PM)

1/2 Rack Baby Backs + Choice of One Reg. Side
\$10.75 plus tax

FRIDAY (AFTER 4PM)

1/2 Slab & 1/2 Chicken Served with Lg. Fries & Choice
of One Pint Size BBQ Beans, Slaw or Potato Salad
\$19.49 plus tax

MISSION: 5959 BROADMOOR • MISSION, KS 66202 • 913.432.0777

OLATHE: 1375 W. HIGHWAY 56 • OLATHE, KS 66061 • 913.768.0777

johnnysbbqkc.com • info@johnnysbbq.com



DOUBLE CHEESEBURGER

It takes two to
make a thing go right.



6751 Johnson Dr. • Mission, KS
913-677-6312

Runza® is a registered trademark of Runza® Restaurants.

\$1 OFF ANY COMBO MEAL

Please present this coupon before ordering. Valid at Mission Runza® Restaurant location. One coupon per person or car per visit. Limit one \$1 off any Combo Meal per coupon. Substitutions and additions extra. Not valid with any other coupon or special discount. **Expires May 15, 2015.**

ORIGINAL RUNZA® SANDWICH OR 1/4 LB. HAMBURGER

\$1.99

Please present this coupon before ordering. Valid at Mission Runza® Restaurant location. One coupon per person or car per visit. Limit one \$1.99 Original Runza® Sandwich or 1/4 lb. Hamburger per coupon. Substitutions and additions extra. Not valid with any other coupon or special discount. **Expires May 15, 2015.**

DINNER FOR TWO

\$9.99

Please present this coupon before ordering. Valid at Mission Runza® Restaurant location. One coupon per person or car per visit. Limit one \$9.99 Dinner For Two per coupon. Substitutions, additions and upsizing extra. Not valid with any other coupon or special discount. **Expires May 15, 2015.**

\$1 OFF ANY COMBO MEAL

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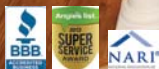
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Perfect Timing

As Johnson Drive construction comes to an end, new clock and Rotary Plaza honor longtime Rotarians and Mission business owners

BY HEATHER SWAN

When you drive or walk down Johnson Drive, you may notice the new clock at Woodson Road and wonder where it came from. And, if you've seen the Rotary International logo on the clock's face, you might be curious about what Rotary is and does.

Well, that's exactly what Dr. John Hollyman had in mind when he proposed his idea for the clock to the Rotary Club of Shawnee Mission several years ago.

"I thought it would evoke interest in people seeing the clock and asking what is Rotary," said Hollyman, who joined the local Rotary club on Feb. 6, 1957, and had perfect attendance at its meetings until October 2014.

Rotary International — founded in Chicago in 1905 — is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide, who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

The Rotary Club of Shawnee Mission (formerly the Mission Rotary Club) was founded in 1946 and currently

meets at noon every Wednesday at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center. Its local community service projects include helping Habitat for Humanity, giving dictionaries to third-graders, volunteering at Head Start of Shawnee Mission and bell ringing for the Salvation Army. Members also help out internationally, such as donating time and supplies to a nursing school in Guatemala.

Hollyman wants people to know that Rotary is not a religion or political belief; it's a service organization that accepts men and women of all races and religions in hopes of uniting people and helping their local communities and world.

"In days like this, when there is so much trouble in the world, we need something that's good that brings people together," he said.

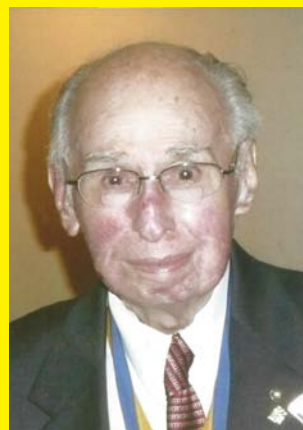
Besides being a loyal Rotarian, Hollyman is a retired dentist whose practice was in Mission for many years. He and his wife, Lynn, also bought their first and only home in the subdivision of Countryside (in what later became the City of Countryside and then the City of Mission) in 1950.

With the re-construction of Johnson Drive and Hollyman's 100th birthday coming up on April 4, the Rotary Club of Shawnee Mission thought it was time to purchase the clock in honor of Hollyman, a past president of the local club and a former district governor.

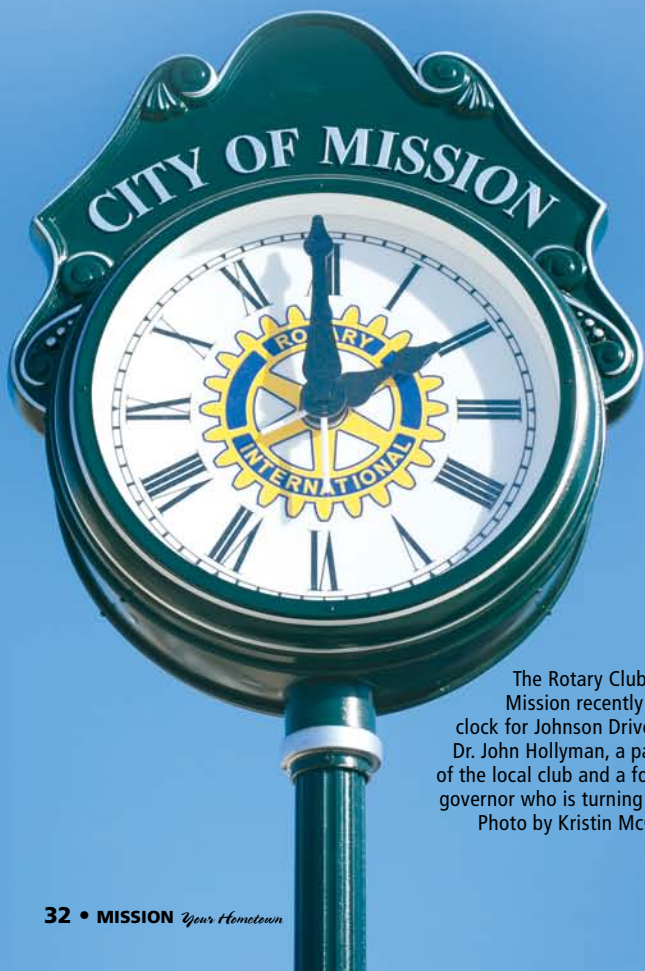
"He's been an integral part of the club for years and years," said Mike Lee, a past president of the local Rotary and chairman of the Mission Planning Commission. "...And this lets people know the club is here and cements the relationship between the city and the club."

The area around the clock — now known as Rotary Plaza — honors two former Rotarians and Mission business owners for their contributions to Rotary and Mission: O.M. Ashe, owner of Ashe Men's Wear; and Reuben E. Sell, owner of Sell Electric.

"Hopefully, as things progress with the construction and trees get planted, the plaza will be a congregating point," said Nate Ourada, president of the Rotary Club of Shawnee Mission.



Dr. John Hollyman



The Rotary Club of Shawnee Mission recently purchased a clock for Johnson Drive in honor of Dr. John Hollyman, a past president of the local club and a former district governor who is turning 100 in April.
Photo by Kristin McCoppin/Pond Photography

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African violets at a *Native American shop?*

*About 400 of these plants have found
a home at Southwest Jewels Gallery*

BY HEATHER SWAN • PHOTOS BY JILL CASEY

When you walk into Southwest Jewels Gallery, you expect to see sterling silver and turquoise jewelry. It's also no surprise that the shop would carry Native American products like rugs, pottery, blankets, incense and artifact replicas. But, if you were looking for a unique African violet plant to give as a gift for Mother's Day (or keep for yourself), would you think to shop at Southwest Jewels?

African violets have been a hobby of Steve and Brent Scheuerman, co-owners of Southwest Jewels at 6909 Johnson Drive, for years. If you have shopped there, you may have seen the African violets in the front window or on a rack behind the counter. What changed recently is that Steve and Brent (under the name Christopher Violets) are now licensed by the State of

Kansas to sell African violets at Southwest Jewels. Their next plan is to become licensed to sell and ship their plants to other states.

They currently have 2,000 plants (about 400 plants in their store and 1,600 at home) representing about 1,500 varieties. (There are approximately 24,000 varieties of African violets in the world.)

"Most African violets we have here you can't buy in stores," Brent said.

Generally speaking, the plants range in size from mini to as big as 2 feet in diameter. And while many associate African violets with purple flowers, the blooms can also be pink, red, white, lavender, blue or a mix of multiple colors in a wide array of shapes (single or double, for example). The leaves are also not one-size-fits-all and can be variegated, scalloped or ruffled.

"That's what got me interested ... all the wonderful differences," Steve said. "...I never knew there were so many types and colors."

Many of the African violets in their collection come from Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Germany and England. ("Each country has different styles," Brent said.) To keep track of what their plants are and when they need to be watered and groomed, Steve and Brent have all their pots numbered and they have a written maintenance schedule for each shelf.

And their plants are a wide variety of ages.

"One thing we are striving for are vintage violets," said Steve, who explained that a vintage African violet is a plant that was first hybridized 25 years ago and is registered by the African Violet Society.

Some plants in their collection go back to 1954, but they keep those at home because they are collector's items.

"They will last a long time — many years," Brent said.

African violets have their good days and bad days, said Steve Scheuerman, co-owner of Southwest Jewels Gallery. Blooming plants in a specific variety are not available all the time.

Caring for African violets

Everyone seems to have an African violet story — and how they killed it and don't know how it happened.

"They are the easiest thing to grow, but everyone is afraid of them," Steve said.

Here are some tips on how to care for these "low-maintenance" plants:

- Don't overwater! This is the No. 1 mistake people make, according to Steve and Brent. The worst thing you can do is water your African violet from the top. If water gets on the center crown of the plant, it can drown. Water your African violet from the bottom. Steve and Brent use a wick system, where a wick from the bottom of the pot hangs down into a reservoir of water. They also put plant food in the water.
- Another common mistake people make is planting African violets in too large of a pot. They like to be tight-rooted.
- African violets don't like direct sun. Indirect light is OK; the African violets at Southwest Jewels seem to enjoy the north-facing front window.
- Be careful of the type of soil you use. Steve and Brent use a "soil-less soil" that they make themselves. However, they won't say what's in it because it's a "trade secret."
- Grooming their African violets is part of Steve and Brent's daily routine. "If you want them to bloom, you have to deadhead the flowers," Steve said. "They don't require a lot of maintenance, but they like to be talked to. Some of mine are like pets."
- In addition, the African violets seem to like the Native American background music at the store. "The music playing constantly makes a big difference," he said.
- Don't worry if your plant loses leaves. It's not always a bad thing. "They have to lose leaves sometimes to make them," Steve said.
- Buy African violets from people you know to ensure the plants are free of disease. Thrips, which are insects that feed on plants, can take over and there is nothing you can do about it.

Brent said they will give people advice on how to care for their African violets, but they don't want people bringing their plants to the store (to prevent the spread of disease). If you have a sick African violet, feel free to bring a picture of it to Southwest Jewels for advice.



"Like human beings, they are pretty in their own way and they have bad days," Steve said. "Maybe that's why I like African violets. They are a lot like human beings."

For more information, call Southwest Jewels Gallery at 913-432-8555.





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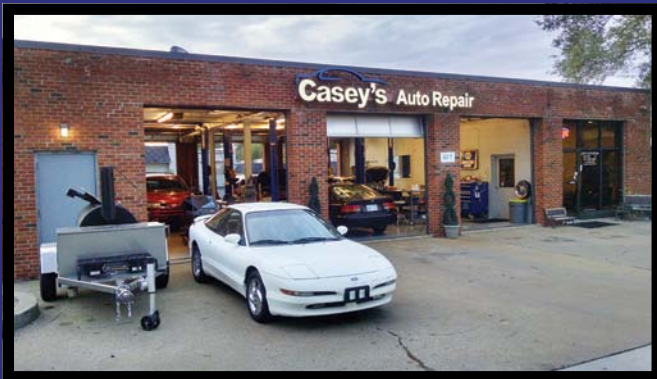


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