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Happy Anniversary — Mission Magazine

Ten years ago this February, the Mission Magazine was launched, a magazine developed to introduce our residents to the great businesses and people who reside in our community! We are proud to say, 10 years later, we have accomplished our goal. A heartfelt thank you to the staff, our Mission Magazine Committee, the businesses who have supported us by purchasing ads and you, the readers, who have kept us on our toes. We succeeded!

The joy of being on the Magazine Committee is I get to go into businesses and residents' homes where we can sit down with them, listen to their stories, while hearing how much they love the City of Mission.

Ten years ago, we wrote about Rachel Finn, owner/baker of Chacko's Bakery, and Carina White, a fifth-grade Rushton Elementary student who not only wrote a book, but published it as well. We decided to catch up with them 10 years later to see where their occupations have taken them today. You will love reading how a fifth-grader has gone to college, graduated and is in fact working in design (Page 20) and how Rachel has taken her knowledge of cooking to a new level at Children's Mercy Hospital (Page 21).

Along with these two remarkable ladies, we will introduce you to Mr. Mission — Brian Sisney. A stalwart in the Mission area, Brian has many stories to tell, but the one that caught my eye is his pay-forward gift. Brian and Linda

Sisney, thinking the construction happening on Johnson Drive might have slowed down business, purchased ads in Mission Magazine for all their tenants as a Christmas gift. Talking with Rachel, she related the story from 2010 when she was featured on the cover of our first magazine, she had so many customers come in who didn't know about Chacko's, increasing her business so dramatically, that she offered to pay it forward and pay for an ad in the next issue for another small business! How many of us pay forward?

Since we are into a new year, I decided I would also pay it forward. On a rainy, snowy day as I was walking into the grocery store, a young lady came to me and offered her arm, telling me to hang on because the entrance was dangerous. What a great gesture! So, while in line, behind me was a lady with three small children with not many groceries and another lady with just an aluminum pan, so guess what I did? I let them all go in front of me. I hope it made their day, as it made mine.

As you go about your day, think of what you can do to pay it forward, as it always comes back to you. These are all special people who made others feel special!

We hope our Mission Magazine makes you know how much we appreciate all of you who have helped us along the way. You have let us know how much you have loved our Magazine and we love you for telling us.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, MISSION MAGAZINE!
Enjoy!



On the cover:

MISSION RESIDENT CHAELA GILMAN (BLUE DRESS) STANDS FRONT AND CENTER WITH ACCOMPLISHED DANCERS REPRESENTING O'RIADA MANNING ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE. MEET THEM ALL ON PAGE 8.
PHOTO BY DAVID FUGAZZOTTO



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Mission

Your Hometown

FEBRUARY 2019

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Published by MetroMedia, Inc.
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Additional copies of Mission: Your Hometown magazine are available at participating advertisers. You can also view it on the city's website, www.missionks.org. To advertise in Mission Magazine, contact Angie Riffel at 913-951-8446 or ariffel@metromediapublishers.com.

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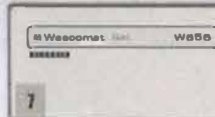
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Oh mAnning

Irish dance comes alive at
bustling Mission academy

By Steve Hale



Every now and then, when cool evening weather is suited to the opening of windows, the joyful sound of Ireland can be heard along a swath of Johnson Drive. Eclipsing the happy melody of a traditional Irish jig is the distinctive, up-tempo click of scores of heels and toes tapping across a hardwood dance floor. Even when out of sight, passersby tuned to the sound can't help but marvel at the skill, enthusiasm and athleticism conveyed by its source.

But of course! Irish dance class is in session.

Mission is not likely to ever be confused with Dublin, but in the realm of Irish dance in the Kansas/Missouri area, 6001 Johnson Drive is very much the center of the universe.

This is the home of the O' Riada Manning Academy of Irish Dance (OM), a family-oriented studio dedicated to producing well-rounded performers and competitors of both traditional and modern Irish dance techniques. With an enrollment of



nearly 200 dancers ages 3 and up representing beginners to world-class competitors, OM's Mission studio is a weekly destination point for dancers and family members from across the KC metro.

At the heart of OM is the brother/sister team of Joseph Manning and Grace Manning, both who grew up in nearby Wyandotte County. Joseph, 34, is the owner and lead teacher at OM. An accomplished Irish dancer and competitor who at one time held the number-one ranking in the world in his age group, Joseph is a certified teacher and has gained designation as a judge of the all-important Irish dance competitions. He is the only Irish dance judge in Kansas City and often travels in that capacity to national and international organized dance competitions.

Grace, 27, is the "Oz behind the curtain" at OM. She handles the administrative side of the business, which is no small task considering the number of dancers and the complex scheduling and coordination of classes, performances and competitions.

Irish dance? Arguably the easiest way to describe this dance form is with a single word: "Riverdance." When that form of Irish stepdance burst onto Broadway and into the

public consciousness in the mid 1990s, what had previously been predominantly an Irish culture-only art form became a worldwide sensation and resulted in an enrollment surge in Irish dance schools.

Joseph attributes the continued popularity of Irish dance to a variety of factors. Prior to the Riverdance and "Lord of the Dance" stage phenomenon, the dance form was typically taken up by kids of Irish heritage whose parents dutifully enrolled them in class. Now, he said, the appeal of Irish dance is multifaceted, starting with people's fascination with the dance itself. Once the hook is set, love of the dance and the inherent camaraderie of team dance kicks in. According to Joseph, of the kids enrolled at OM, seven out of 10 stick with it until they go to high school.

"There's a lot going for Irish dance that make it a much more rounded art form," Joseph explained. "We have a hard shoe element, like tap, which originated from Irish dance. And then we have a light shoe element more like ballet. You have both sides all in one form."

The Mannings agree another appeal is the family aspect of Irish dance during practice, at various performances across Kansas City and at organized competitions that for many participants becomes the focus of their Irish dance involvement. Joseph said parents also express appreciation for the dance form's more modest, traditional dancewear rather than tight-fitting, shape-revealing outfits. The vast majority of participants are girls. OM

has nine boys among its rank of students, a number higher than most other studios.

If Irish dancing looks fun and easy, at least the fun part is accurate. The training and rigor required to do the dance is difficult to master and is physically challenging. (Consider performing Irish dance along an entire parade route.) Characterized by keeping a rigid upper body and intricate footwork, the dance is, per Joseph, "arch- and calf-based."

"I'm telling you straight up, these kids are athletes," Joseph emphasized. "We have kids going to personal trainers and to the gym to work on their fitness to help them reach the top level. At the same time, for those who just want to do the social, fun element, it's not that demanding. Seems you always have some sore weeks when just getting started, but the body quickly picks up."

Committing to Irish dance requires an investment of time and, depending on the degree of involvement, money. OM conducts evening classes every weekday with the exception of Fridays and afternoon classes on Saturday and Sunday. Dancers attend weekly in at least one of seven performance-based class levels that last from one to two hours. Also offered are classes for toddlers (ages 3-4), adults and those interested in traditional "ceili" dance.

Cost of OM classes ranges from \$30 to \$65 per month depending on the level. The all important "click shoes" are in the \$100 a pair range for starters and go up from there. There's also expense associated with the OM uniform dance outfits worn at performances. The most significant investment is with the competition-level performers, where the girls' jeweled, custom-fitted dancing costumes can easily cost \$1,000 and often more. The clip-on curled wigs worn by some of the young ladies are as much as \$120. On top of that, there are travel expenses to attend



Joseph and Grace Manning, the brother/sister team behind O'Rieda Manning Academy of Irish Dance.

competitions across the United States and, in the case of those who qualify, to international competitions in Ireland and other cross-the-pond destinations.

The weeks leading up to and through St. Patrick's Day is the busy time for community performances by O'Riada Manning dancers. The OM troupe is a staple in the annual Brookside Annual St. Patrick's Warm-Up Parade and is heavily booked with other St. Patrick's events and parades. The Academy's website – omirishdance.com – announces performances for the coming week and also includes a long-range activity calendar. As noted by Joseph, "We do a ton of performances throughout the year."

The Irish dance competition circuit begins in earnest once St. Patrick's events subside. These competitions as held across the country are divided by age level and



expertise. As dancers advance in the competitions, they earn the right to get a solo dress or outfit of their own design or color, a noteworthy symbol of accomplishment.

"Competitions can be very tense because at a lot of levels you have to win at competition in order to move up," Joseph explained. "A lot of these girls want that solo dress, but they have to reach a certain level of competition to earn it. Or, if they want to make the championships and go to the majors, they hit that competition phase where it seems they've got to win everything. They're constantly feising (a feis, pronounced "fesh" is the Irish term for organized competition) all around the world trying to get that one fortunate good day."

Joseph has owned O'Riada Manning Academy of Irish Dance for eight years, having purchased the business from the matriarch of Irish dance in Kansas City, Christine O'Riada. Christine, who returned to her native Ireland after the sale, has since passed away. The Mannings opted to lead with the O'Riada name on the business

because of Christine's influence as Joseph's

teacher and her impact on growing the dance form in this area. OM has been located in Mission for five years.

Joseph considers himself fortunate to have attained the level of teacher and judge. His involvement with the art form is akin to an "addiction."

"This is something I've wanted to do my entire life," Joseph admitted. "Irish dance gets inside of you and you can't get away. It's fun teaching the kids, seeing many of them start as young as 5 and make it all the way through high school and college and continue to dance. I enjoy seeing them love this as much as I do."

Joseph Manning puts his experience to use when teaching Irish dance.



COVER INTRODUCTIONS

There's a lot to take in with the colorful cover of this edition of Mission Magazine. Let it be known more is shown than meets the eye.

The pictured troupe of dancers from the O'Riada Manning Academy of Irish Dance recently gathered at the studio on Johnson Drive for this pose. Each earned the right to don their vibrant and ornate solo dance outfits by winning in certified Irish dance competition. There's a literal cost associated with achieving those high marks. The young ladies' custom dresses are made and fitted in Ireland. Each costs in the neighborhood of \$2,000.

The Irish dancers are, from left:

- Alannah Lohfeld, 12, Lawrence, West Middle School. Alannah may have a leg up on her peers as her family recently moved to the area from Ireland.
- Christopher Woglom, 10, Mission Hills, Pembroke Hill School. Christopher has qualified for and is now preparing to attend the All-Ireland Dancing Championships 2019 in Killarney.
- Chaela Gilman, 16, Mission, St. James Academy High School.
- Philip Andrews, 14, Lenexa (home school).
- Josephine Cotton, 17, Mission Hills, Shawnee Mission East.



Photo by David Fugazzotto



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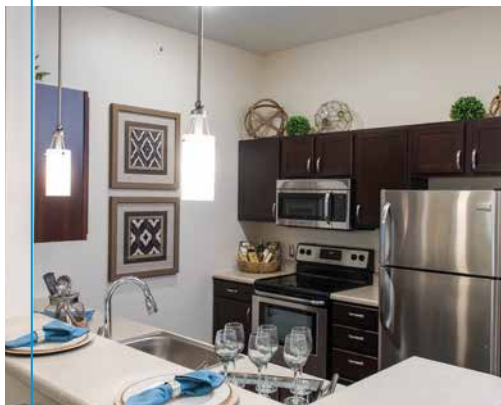
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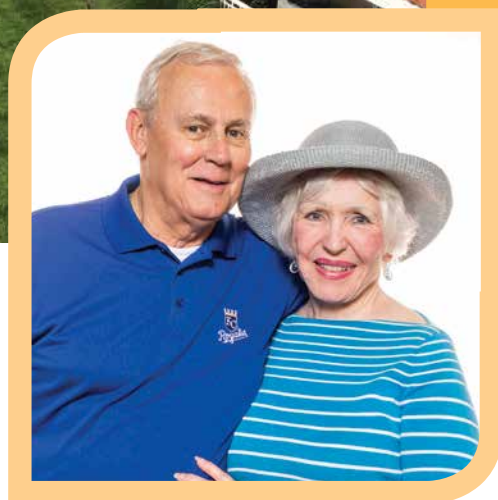


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Derek Garcia believes in giving back to Mission.



'Give, Love, Serve'

Chiropractor invests time into his adopted community

By Steve Hale

through the Chamber ultimately resulted in his providing free blood pressure screenings.

The fresh-faced, personable young man seated against the far wall of the sitting room in the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center has a somewhat unexpected title. Dr. Derek Garcia is not your stereotypical "doctor."

Give the recently christened Doctor of Chiropractic his due. Having established an office in Mission just short of a year ago, Dr. Garcia has attracted a growing clientele by combining his holistic approach to chiropractic care with an unabashed willingness to integrate with the community. Case in point is Dr. Garcia's every-third-Wednesday visit to the Community Center to give free blood pressure screenings, posture checks and general counsel to health-related inquiries.

"One of the tenets I learned was 'give, love, serve out of your abundance without expectation of anything in return,'" explained Dr. Garcia. "That's the motto we should live by as chiropractors and so I've tried to embody that."

Since establishing his practice, The Chiropractic Connection Center at 5930 Roe Ave., Dr. Garcia has maintained that credo. In addition to his visits to the Community Center, he conducted a fundraiser to benefit Highlands and Ruston elementary schools. Dr. Garcia waived original exam fees for patients who donated \$25 toward the purchase of school supplies. He also devotes time as an assistant coach for a couple of area youth soccer teams.

The young, extroverted chiropractor certainly jumped right in to all things Mission. He's visited neighboring businesses to introduce himself and, having personally seen the vibrancy of the Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce, has become a member of the organization. His overtures to the Community Center staff to offer services and personal connections made

Mission and you almost forget you're in a giant metropolitan area, sorta like a small town within a city. The old-school main drag reminds me of the small towns I grew up in."

Dr. Garcia hails from towns near the south and north boundaries of Wichita. He claims Derby, Kansas, as his hometown and is a graduate of Derby High School. But he's also very familiar with Newton, Kansas, where he spent time with his father.

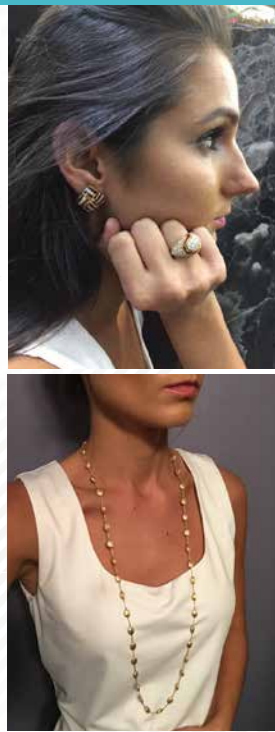
After high school, Dr. Garcia said, he "bounded around" several community colleges playing soccer before settling in at Rockford, Illinois, University to play soccer and get his undergraduate degree. He then attended and graduated from Cleveland University – Kansas City chiropractic school. Perhaps not surprisingly, one of his favorite experiences while studying at Cleveland University was an extended mission trip to Haiti and the Dominican Republic, coordinated through the chiropractic school.

Dr. Garcia's amiable personality is a natural fit in the friendly, inviting confines of the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center. He said most of those who take advantage of his free blood pressure screenings are typically seniors who take blood pressure medications. The screenings give them an opportunity to "have a checkup between checkups" and to discuss general health issues.

"Chiropractic is a holistic thing," explained Dr. Garcia, even while acknowledging the critical nature of chiropractors' attention to spine alignment. "If we can better relate to our internal and external environment through proper communication, we have a lot better overall health."

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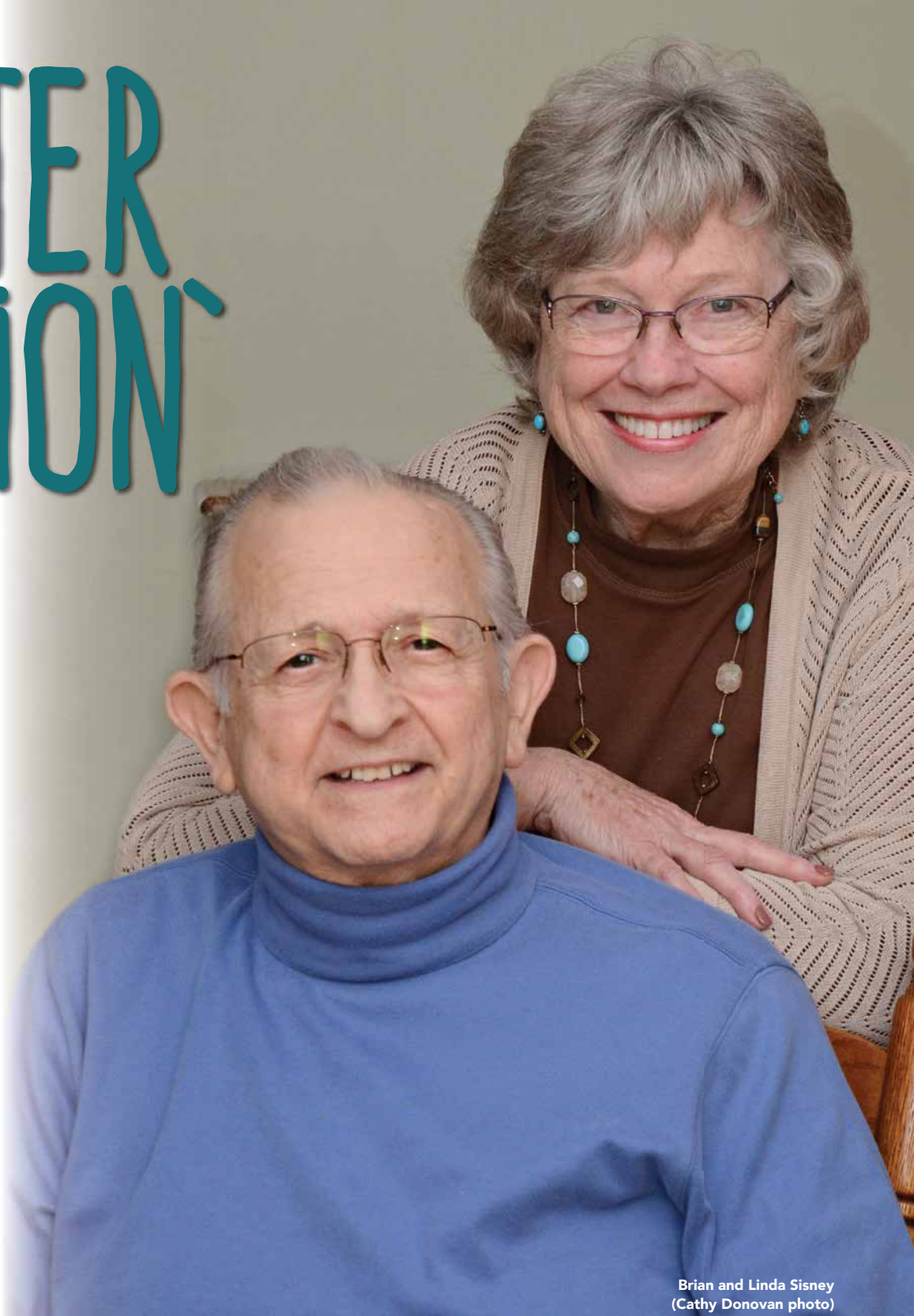
Longtime community advocate Brian Sisney influenced growth

By Steve Hale

The luster of once being generally known as "Mr. Mission" has faded a bit, but just the thought of being so deeply connected to the city is cause for Brian Sisney, 78, to smile. Mission, after all, has a special place in the heart of a man who invested decades of time and energy pushing the city to take advantage of its resources, location and collective energy.

Newer residents and business owners are perhaps not as likely to recognize Sisney's name even though he is still very much connected with Mission in the capacity of owning and managing a commercial building on Johnson Drive. Longtime residents know the name well. For nearly 40 years leading up to his retirement in 2002, Brian was the go-to guy when it came to civic involvement and business engagement in this neck of the woods. "Mr. Mission" was unabashedly on a mission as a proactive advocate for northeast Johnson County in general and the city of Mission in particular.

"My thinking gets back to my mom and dad," Brian admitted.



Brian and Linda Sisney
(Cathy Donovan photo)

"Their phrase was 'Leave it better than you find it.' That's always been my motto."

Evidence of Brian's adherence to that philosophy can be found today in ways both tangible and intangible. The trees and landscaping that now soften the appearance of Johnson Drive were very much influenced by Brian in the 1980s thanks to collaboration with the city and the Mission Redevelopment Corp., a quasi chamber of commerce group organized by Brian. He was instrumental in bringing life back to the once-shuttered Dickenson Theater by recruiting the Fine Arts Theater from

Fairway when that group was losing its building. Award winning Horizon High School, the first purpose-built alternative school in Kansas at the southwest corner of Lamar and Johnson Drive, was established in no small part due to Brian's input during his 10-year stint as a member of the Shawnee Mission School District Board of Education.

Beyond Brian's visible contributions to Mission, the man played a lead role during the 1980s and into the 1990s of re-instilling a sense of pride and engagement within the Mission business community and beyond. Brian was seemingly involved in just about everything associated with Mission, from being president of the Mission Chamber of Commerce in its early years, to leading various business breakfast clubs and building up a local Boy Scout troop. He was extremely active in the Jaycees (Junior Chamber of Commerce) which for several decades had multiple active chapters in Johnson County and across Kansas. He credits his time as a member of the Old Mission Jaycees for providing him a wealth of relationships with entrepreneurial movers and shakers intent on building up Johnson County in a progressive, community-centric manner.

In his capacity as one of the few commercial Realtors working to attract businesses to Mission as real estate interests gained momentum in other parts of Johnson County, Brian marshalled the local business community to become more engaged in advancing their home territory. He had the ability, as one local business leader told him, "to get people to do things and not pay them anything."

"I really didn't look at any of this as a challenge," Brian observed. "Things just happened. I had a lot of friends and knew where I could push buttons so they would work with me. It wasn't as hard as it looked. And there was a lot of just plain luck."

Brian's initial connection to Mission was a bit circumstantial even though he and Linda Sisney, his wife of 58 years, were familiar with the area having grown up in nearby Wyandotte County and being graduates of Wyandotte High School. In 1965, having graduated from Kansas City, Kansas, Community College and attending the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Brian hung his hat with Clifford Brisbois Gallery of Homes, a progressive and burgeoning residential real estate firm located at 5406 Johnson Drive, the building now occupied by Moss Printing.

Because Brian "wanted to know my kids' names," he shifted focus from the around-the-clock demands of selling residential real estate to the more stable routine working commercial real estate. Within a couple years, he and a partner, Charlie Bale, took up office space and assumed responsibility for leasing what was then known as the Thompson Building, 5845 Horton, just north of Johnson Drive. Brian's commercial real estate career in Mission was underway.

Brian's father got into the mix in 1980. Evert Sisney, a longtime reporter and respected editor with The Kansas City Star/Times, received a hefty payout of stock when ownership

of the newspaper changed hands. Evert purchased a one-story office building at the southwest corner of Johnson Drive and Dearborn Street, which had been built in 1942 and in 1945 became the first location for Mission Bank.

Brian and Linda have managed the Sisney Building since 1980 and ultimately purchased the property from Evert in 1986. The building has had multiple tenants over the years, with the Mitchelson & Mitchelson Law Office having been a tenant since the 1940s. Other current tenants include Mission Tax, Hanson Law Firm, Colour Studio Salon and O'Riada Manning Academy of Irish Dance.

The Sisneys would not be considered typical landlords by today's standards. They consider their tenants to be "family" and coordinate at least two gatherings with the building's occupants and families every year. The Sisneys maintain a tradition of giving Christmas gifts to the building's occupants, including one year when they paid for each business to have its own respective advertisement in an issue of Mission Magazine.

Without question their management of the Sisney Building has been a hands-on, family affair. Growing up, the Sisneys' children, David and Jennifer, both handled their share of cleaning duties at the property because, per Brian, "I wanted them to realize they didn't want to do that kind of work the rest of their lives."

Linda, to the amazement of many, has in recent years taken the lead in cleaning responsibilities for the Sisney Building. That's certainly out of the ordinary for a former teacher and musician who for 20 years sang in the chorus and had roles with the Kansas City Lyric Opera and today also keeps busy as a residential Realtor. Perfectionists, it seems, insist on things being done correctly.

Brian takes much satisfaction in the resurgence of Downtown Mission the past few years. He sees it as verification of what "Mr. Mission" advanced for so many years: The city is perfectly situated for an eclectic mix of businesses that value being in the midst of safe and friendly neighborhoods, are associated with excellent schools and have convenient access to big-city amenities.

"The northeast area is becoming so alive because people are seeing the value of all this area has to offer," Brian explained. "That's how we sold Mission the whole time. People are finally believing it."

"The northeast area is becoming so alive because people are seeing the value of all this area has to offer."

-Brian Sisney



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CITY OF Mission NEWSLETTER



MISSION CITY HALL

6090 Woodson Road, Mission, Kansas 66202

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

P: 913-676-8350 • F: 913-722-1415 • www.missionks.org

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE & FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

First Wednesday every month, 6:30 p.m.

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Third Wednesday every month, 7 p.m.

COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS

Fourth Wednesday every month, 7 p.m.

All meetings are open to the public.

GOVERNING BODY

Mayor Ron Appletoft.....913-676-8351

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD I

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

Hillary Parker Thomas.....913-961-4520

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD II

Arcie Rothrock.....913-568-2872

Nick Schlossmacher.....913-788-6425

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD III

Kristin Inman.....816-510-7698

Debbie Kring.....913-722-6901

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD IV

Ken Davis.....913-669-7095

Sollie Flora.....913-735-4882

MISSION'S COUNCIL APPROVES NON-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE

In December, the City Council passed a City ordinance prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations based on race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, marital status, familial status, or military status. While state and federal law provides protections for many of these classes, the ordinance specifically added "sexual orientation and gender identity" to the other protected classes.

As a community that respects and actively seeks to welcome and support all those who reside, visit, or do business in Mission, our ordinances now offer protections from discrimination for everyone. The ordinance was discussed during a number of Council Committee meetings prior to its final approval at year end. The public comment and discussion throughout the process was overwhelmingly in support of the measure. Similar ordinances were recently adopted in the cities of Prairie Village and Merriam.

A copy of the entire ordinance is available on our website (missionks.org) under "Codes and Ordinances" – click on "New Laws." If you have questions about the ordinance or the protections it affords, please contact City Administrator Laura Smith (lsmith@missionks.org or 913-676-8352).

COMMUNITY CENTER STAFF RECOGNIZED FOR LIFESAVING EFFORTS

On November 13, Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center staff put their many hours of CPR and AED (automated external defibrillator) training to the test, saving the life of a patron. Quick thinking, decisive action, a well trained staff, and the quick response of EMS all helped to bring this critical situation to a happy ending with the patron surviving his medical emergency. Following the incident, Community Center staff conducted a training exercise using this scenario to increase their expertise in CPR and AED use, and to help ensure all are ready to act if the need arises.



Community Center staff members Jelissa Colbert, Nick Shepherd, Luis Benavides, and Jenny Smith were recognized for their lifesaving efforts by Mayor Appletoft and City Administrator Laura Smith at the December 19 City Council Meeting. (Not pictured Aaron Cherry, Erika Zeitz, and Officer Jeremy Assal.)

THE MAYOR'S CORNER

Q: With new year well underway, what can I expect the City to be working on in 2019?

A: Each year presents a unique set of challenges and opportunities in our community, and 2019 will be no different. Work is underway on a number of significant private redevelopment projects, including The Gateway, Mission Trails two new microbreweries, and the new Tidal Wave auto wash. Project updates are available in the "News and Announcements" section of our website (www.missionks.org).

In addition to development initiatives, the City will begin an update of our Comprehensive Plan in 2019. This is an important document which helps to outline the city's development goals and aspirations around things such as land use, transportation, utilities, parks and recreation and housing. This document is intended to help guide and shape the future of our community. Watch for more information in the coming months as there will be many opportunities for public input and review.

The City will also be conducting the DirectionFinder citizen survey this year. Last updated in 2015, this statistically valid survey helps us to benchmark citizen satisfaction with city services and programs, and can provide important information on citizen priorities and objectives.

The City Council recently held a goal setting retreat and prioritized a number of other programs and objectives for the year ahead which include: a space needs analysis for the police station/city hall, implementation of new municipal court software, a review and update to the residential street maintenance program and implementation of improvements to the outdoor park system identified in 2015 Park Master Plan.

I encourage you to get connected and stay involved. Your voice is important as we work to maintain our small-town character, our goal to deliver high quality services, and our commitment to intentionally building and refining a vision for our future.



Photo provided by
the Shawnee Mission Post

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



2019 ELECTIONS

In 2019, the City of Mission will hold elections for one city

council seat in each ward. Terms are for four years and all municipal elections in Mission are nonpartisan. If you are interested in running for office, please contact the City Clerk for additional information (msumrall@missionks.org or 913-676-8355) or the Johnson County Election Office at 913-715-6800 / www.jocoelection.org.

2019 ELECTION CALENDAR

A listing of important dates for the 2019 election is below.

- **June 3** - Filing and Withdrawal Deadline - 12 noon
- **September 3** - Deadline for questions to be placed on the General Election ballot - 12 noon
- **October 15** - Last day to register to vote
- **October 16** - Advance Voting by Mail Begins
- **October 28** - Advance Voting in Person Begins
- **October 29** - Advance ballot application deadline - 5 p.m.
- **November 5** - General Election - Polls open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.



WANT MORE INFO ABOUT YOUR CITY?

Consider attending an upcoming Ward Meeting to get the latest news from councilmembers and to share your ideas. Dates are listed below—locations vary so please check the City Calendar at missionks.org for specific locations and times.

- **Ward I:**
April 10, July 24, October 30
- **Ward II:**
March 28, June 27, September 26, and December 26
- **Ward III:**
April 18, July 18, and October 17
- **Ward IV:**
May 14, August 13, and November 12

MAKE YOUR INTERNET PURCHASE EXCHANGES IN A SAFE SPOT

The Mission Police Department parking lot at 6090 Woodson Street has been designated as an official Internet Purchase Exchange Location (IPEL). You may use the parking lot as the location for an exchange of goods. The parking area is under video surveillance and provides a safer location for the exchange, and eliminates the need to provide buyers or sellers with a home address.



RIDEKC MICRO TRANSIT

RideKC Micro Transit is a new ride-hailing app in Johnson County. Users pay the \$1.50 fare to hail a van within the service region parameters, including the Mission Transit Center. Rides are available Monday-Friday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. You can hail by app, phone or online. More information is available at ridekc.org or you can download the app (search "microtransit" in the app store on your smartphone).



COMMUNITY REBATE PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO QUALIFYING RESIDENTS

The Community Rebate Program helps alleviate the tax burden on income-qualified Mission residents by returning a portion of collected fees and taxes each year. The program is funded annually by the City Council from the general fund. In 2019, \$20,000 in rebate assistance is available to the community.

Income-qualified residents may apply to receive a full rebate of city telephone (AT&T only, not Uverse), electricity (KCPL), or gas (Kansas Gas) franchise fees for the year, a full rebate of city property taxes, and a partial rebate of solid waste utility fees. Residents must meet income guidelines to qualify. This program is administered on a first-come first-served basis.

Applications are available online at missionks.org or may be picked up at City Hall. **All applications are due to City Hall by April 5, 2019 at 5 p.m.** For additional information, contact Neighborhood Services at 913-676-8360.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MAXIMUM TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME NOT ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME
1	\$28,000
2	\$32,000
3	\$36,000
4	\$40,000
5	\$43,200
6	\$46,500
7	\$49,600
8+	\$52,800

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT GRANT AVAILABLE

The City offers a Mission Business Improvement Grant (B. I. G.) to local businesses to help fund exterior building repairs or improvements and qualified energy efficiency upgrades.

Applicants will be reimbursed at one-half (50%) of their approved costs, with the City's share not to exceed \$10,000 per project annually or \$2,000 per sign. The application process is now open. More details are on the City's website. (Search "Grant")

Contact Emily Randel with any questions at erandel@missionks.org or 913-676-8368.

Be the first in Mission to know about any residential waste and recycling services updates!



To receive Holiday Pickup Schedule changes for residential waste and recycling services, or notification of collection delays due to weather, **send an email to wmilmv@wm.com**. Tell us your preferred communication channel and we will notify you via email or an outbound call of any service alerts.

Please include the following information in your email to wmilmv@wm.com:

Name • Address • Preferred method of contact: Email address or Phone number

Hope to connect with you soon! Waste Management

THINK GREEN.®

recycle **more** recycle **better**

Every little bit counts.

YES

These items go in your curbside recycling bin!



Aluminum Cans



Steel (tin) Cans



Aerosol Cans
(empty only, make no "hiss" sound)



Aluminum Foil & Pans



Cardboard



Paperboard



Junk Mail



Office Paper



Magazines & Catalogs



Phone Books



Newspaper



Paper Cartons



Plastic Bottles & Containers (have #1 - #7 inside arrow symbol on container)

- Keep items loose, do not put in bags or boxes.
- Rinse all containers (plastic, metal, etc.).
- Collect metal caps and lids in steel (tin) can and squeeze shut.
- Put caps and lids back on plastic bottles and containers.

- Break down or flatten boxes.
- No liquid.
- No plastic bags or film.
- No food.

NO

These items do NOT go in your curbside recycling bin!



Plastic Bags & Film*



Clothing*



Plastic Tubes



Food



Liquids



Scrap Metal*



Electronics*



Glass*



Frozen Food Containers



**Fast Food & Takeout
Cups & Containers**



Tissue



Paper Tableware
(including coffee cups)



Styrofoam™*



"Tanglers"
(long, stringy items)



Shredded Paper*



Medical & Personal Hygiene



Yard Waste*



Medications & Vials/Bottles*



Pizza Boxes
(recycle clean side only)



Household Hazardous Waste*
(do not recycle empty hazardous waste containers, except empty aerosol cans)

*Other recycling options available, visit RecycleSpot.org

Information verified as of March 2018

Visit **RecycleSpot.org** or call **816-474-TEAM**
Greater Kansas City's one-stop spot for recycling information



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Solid Waste
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Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

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- Happy Hour MONDAY-FRIDAY 3-6pm



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Our Neighborhood Bar!

Creative WITH CHILDREN

Diann Vickers has a knack for lifting spirits, helping kids

By Steve Hale



Story time with "Miss Diann" Vickers.
(Cathy Donovan photo)

to do things I couldn't get them to do."

Diann admits she loves teaching. "Mondays get me going," she confessed. "Kids give me energy."

Not that anyone's ever accused Diann Vickers of lacking energy. After four years manning the front desk at the Community Center, she's well known for her cheerful greetings and helpful demeanor by just about everyone who regularly checks in. Her trademark, brightly colored headbands mesh with her upbeat personality.

"I like to be happy," Diann admitted. "If I'm in a good mood hopefully it will put others in a good mood."

A native of Mission, Diann has enjoyed dancing since age 2 and discovered her talent for choreography and performing even as a student at Rushton Elementary School. She started teaching dance when just 14. While a student at Shawnee Mission North, Diann was a dancer/choreographer at Worlds of Fun and had roles at both the Folly Theater and the Waldo Astoria.

After high school, Diann moved to Texas to attend TCU. While in the Lone Star State she ran a dance studio and worked at a performing arts center where she was involved in performing, dance, choreography, youth theater, musical theater and drama. Diann also held the role of marketing and development director and has "written so many grants I don't want to see one again."

Does Diann think her theatrical background comes into play in her work with the Community Center?

"Of course!" she acknowledged. "I honestly just want people to be happy when they come in the door. I enjoy seeing people smile. When they walk in the door and I smile, maybe they will too."

The preschool stars of the Monday-morning performance at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center turned to face the applause from an appreciative audience of parents, grandparents and siblings. The smiling girls gave ladylike curtsies and the boys' deep bows included the proper flourish.

Someone sure knows how to get these kids to take pride in their accomplishments.

That someone is Diann Vickers, a star in her own right in the eyes of the young kids she teaches in "Rumble Tumble," a structured tumbling class for youngsters. It's hard to tell who's having the most fun, the kids or Diann, as she supervises simple tumbling, balancing and exercise routines.

Diann also captures the undivided attention of preschoolers every Monday during "Story Time with Miss Diann." Diann makes reading to kids a participation sport and then wraps things together with a fun art activity that correlates to the books. She engages kids and parents in creative art projects using materials kids relate to. A recent story about Jack Frost was followed by the kids using plastic cups, plastic forks and paper cutouts to create a snowman and snowflakes scene.

"Diann has a magical way with kids," said Alicia Peterson, a parent whose 3-year-old daughter, Annelise, is a regular at both the tumbling and the storytelling classes. "She's loving, kind and has fun, but also knows how to be strict. She gets the kids





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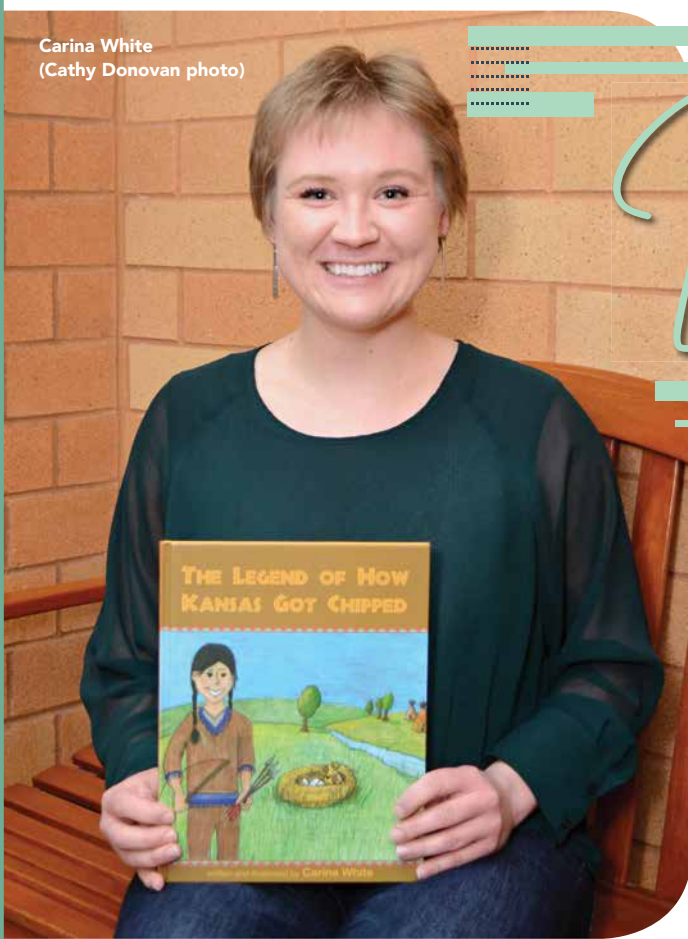
Sunday, April 21

8:30am & 10:30am



**CHRIST CHURCH
MISSION**

Carina White
(Cathy Donovan photo)

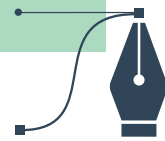


Mission Magazine Revisited

Lasting LEGACY

Award-winning book guided author to pursue career in design

By Steve Hale



the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center where she runs and exercises.

Carina struggles to remember the creative inspiration behind her book's story, a legend about a young Kansa Indian unable to restrain his skills as a hunter and thus angering the Four Winds. She along with classmates involved in a book club entered the national contest at the urging of Ms. Papineau, their art teacher at Rushton Elementary. She recalled her surprise at winning the competition and then being frustrated — as an author of any age might be — by the years it took for the book to be published.

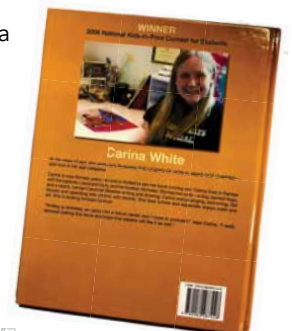
"At that time I was 14 and expected immediate turnaround only to learn that's not how it works," recalled Carina. "Now, I've learned that's exactly the process. Things take time."

Carina acknowledges now she thinks her book should have raised some concerns. While her story remains pertinent and teaches valuable lessons, since writing the book she has gained a heightened awareness of the world and respect for other peoples' cultures.

"There I was writing what I called an 'Indian' legend," reflected Carina. "I honestly don't think anyone is going to say a 10-year-old author upset them, but I think it's important to acknowledge it really wasn't my place. I've grown up a lot since then and while I think the book concept was creative and interesting, I now have a better grasp of the importance of respecting native cultures and traditions."

Carina admits her work on the book as a pre-teen likely played a setup role in her pursuing a career in graphic art and illustration. She's always enjoyed art due in no small part from encouragement from her grandmother, who was an art teacher, and from her mother, who at one time also aspired to be a graphic artist.

Perhaps there's another children's book or two in Carina's future. She has started a couple such books, including one written at the same time as her award winner and having already completed some of the illustrations and the writing. Carina even has a publisher in mind: herself. No doubt she as a self-publisher will see if she can speed up the process a bit and, better yet, she'll get to choose the color of the book's cover.



With the trained eye of a recently degreed designer and illustrator, 23-year-old Carina White has definite opinions about the design elements of a book she wrote and illustrated back when she was a fifth-grader at Rushton Elementary School.

She considers the copy font "atrocious," the brown cover not particularly appealing and the photo of the author on the back cover, well ... "I wouldn't have put that picture of a 10-year-old in a 'Mommy Says I'm Special' shirt on the back. I would have made that kid take a better picture."

Carina provides such critique with tongue in cheek and with the easy smile that connects the young professional of today to the beaming 10-year-old shown on the back of her book. There's no denying pride still lingers from 2006 when Carina won a nationwide competition in her age category for writing and illustrating a book and then, four years later, having the book published after her months-long work redrawing and refining the illustrations.

In 2010, Carina was featured in a story in the first-ever edition of Mission Magazine for having her achievement be recognized by the Mission City Council and then-Mayor Laura McConwell declaring a "Carina White Day" across the city. Carina's book, "The Legend of How Kansas Got Chipped," didn't make the best-seller lists, but remains impressive for both the quality of Carina's detailed and colorful illustrations and for a well-written and compelling story for such a young author.

Carina, who graduated from Shawnee Mission North in 2014, recently completed her college education at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg with degrees in graphic design and illustration. She's currently serving an internship with a company based in Downtown Kansas City and is exploring employment opportunities. At present Carina lives in the Mission home of her parents, Laura and Gary White, and is a regular at



Mission Magazine Revisited

Chacko's TO Kids

Longtime Mission baker uses skills to help young patients stay on diet

By Steve Hale

It's been nearly 10 years since Rachel Finn appeared on the cover of the first-ever issue of Mission Magazine. Her claim to fame, the amazingly popular Chacko's Bakery & Catering, has been closed nearly six years.

Yet today, just about every time Rachel frequents a Mission store or restaurant, she's recognized and hailed as if Chacko's is still in business.

"I can walk into Mission HyVee and people will ask if I can make them cinnamon rolls or a Turkey My Way (sandwich)," Rachel acknowledged. "I say, sure! You buy the ingredients and I'll teach you how to make it."

For more than a dozen years, from 2001 to 2013, Chacko's on Johnson Drive was, as the debut Mission Magazine headline proclaimed, "Our Hometown Bakery." The successful eatery was heralded not just for its menu and baked goods, but also because it was an "everyone-knows-your-name" gathering place where customers and employees considered each other as family.

Rachel and then-husband David Finn closed Chacko's in April 2013 due to changing family dynamics and, per Rachel, the timing was right.

"David and I wanted to close Chacko's on a high note," she recalled. "We made a good run of it and have incredible customers who are still loyal in our lives."

It didn't take Rachel long to discover a new career beyond Chacko's. Her cooking skills were well known at Children's Mercy Hospital where dietitians wanted a different approach to patients' compliance with complicated medically prescribed diets. They saw Rachel as a solution and recruited her to fill the position of Chef Educator.

"Children's Mercy hired me as a non-clinical person to be the liaison between the dietitians and the families," Rachel explained. "I find out what the barriers are with the families, such as their cooking skills, their tastes and their attitudes. I help them fit things together. I give them recipes and training and a lot of encouragement."

The lion's share of Rachel's work at CMH is with children

Rachel Finn - Mission Magazine's first "cover girl" is still baking away. (Cathy Donovan photo)



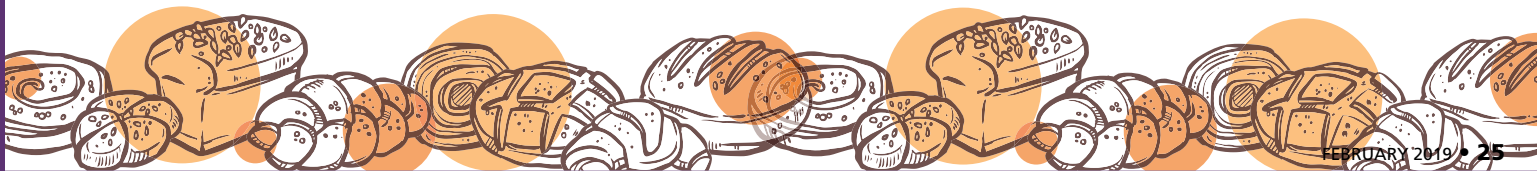
suffering from hard-to-control epilepsy. Doctors place these young patients on a ketogenic diet, a special high-fat, low-carbohydrate and controlled-protein diet that helps control seizures. Rachel gives group cooking demonstrations and works directly with approximately 60 young patients and their families.

Rachel's task is to help make kid-friendly, easy and quick meals. She uses the kitchen in her Mission home to research and experiment with recipes. Rachel's customer engagement skills as honed from her years at Chacko's Bakery come into play when helping patients follow ketogenic diets where ratios of fat, carbs and protein must be carefully measured and weighed. It's a daunting and often frustrating process for any cook.

"A kid sitting with family may be eating bacon and eggs with lots of fat in it and his family is eating cinnamon rolls," explained Rachel. "The mom calls and says she would love for this kiddo to wake up and have cinnamon rolls or something that at least looks similar to what the family is eating. That's where I come in. Oftentimes it's an education for the whole family."

Now five years in with CMH, Rachel loves her job and considers the initial overture from the hospital a "godsend." She is headed back to school to earn a culinary degree and become an executive chef. "I have the title of Chef Educator," Rachel said. "I need to back that up."

Rachel admittedly still misses the world of Chacko's but is happy to still live in Mission and thus close to the closed bakery's extended family of employees and customers. No doubt Rachel Finn will continue to be called out at the local market about the possibility of her cooking up a batch of cinnamon rolls.



Celebrating Mission Magazine

Mission Magazine hosted a party in November honoring its past successes and toasting its future. Partygoers included city officials and people you've read about while flipping through the pages of Your Hometown Magazine over the years.

Photos by Cathy Donovan



Mission Councilmember Archie Rothrock and Mayor Ron Appletoft took part in the celebration.



From its inception, Mission Magazine has been published under the watchful eye of former councilmember and Magazine Committee Chair Suzie Gibbs (left). It debuted during the tenure of former Mayor Laura McConwell (from left), Councilmember Debbie Kring and former Councilmember Sue Grosdidier.



Enjoying the party are Village Inn owners Bob and Melanie McDaniel (from left) who were featured in the magazine, former Mayor Steve Schowengerdt and his wife Mary.



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of Tuition!**



*Free week may only be used on
or after the 5th week of enrollment.
Offer valid through 4/26/19.

Mission Bulletin Board

THANK YOU.

VERY MUCH

• THANKS FOR THE HOLIDAYS •

Give yourselves a pat on the back, people of Mission. Once again you demonstrated caring and compassion toward your fellow neighbors.

Organizers of the 2018 Mission Family Holiday Adoption program report yet another exceptional season with residents, businesses and organizations making the holidays better for all with generous contributions of food, gifts, money and volunteer time.

In Mission, people truly care. A very heartfelt thanks to all!

YEARNING FOR YARN...

Now's a good time to be thinking about helping your neighbors stay warm for next winter. A volunteer for the Mission Holiday Family Adoption Program knits scarves for the city's holiday families and needs yarn. Yarn donations may be dropped off at the SPJCC, attention Kathy Lockard.

...CRAVING FOR CRAFTS

A highlight for preschoolers who enjoy Monday mornings at the SPJCC's "Story Time with Miss Diann" is the fun and creative art activity that correlates to the books as read by master storyteller Diann Vickers. Diann would welcome donations of miscellaneous crafts items such as basic arts materials, supplies, paper, disposable household items, small buttons and cotton swabs. Donations accepted at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center (SPJCC), attention Diann Vickers or Kathy Lockard.

Moving from Mission to Mission

After 18 years in the former NCAA headquarters building on Shawnee Mission Parkway, Walz Tetrick Advertising has moved to a 14,000-square-foot space in the Security Bank Building, 5201 Johnson Drive, to accommodate more employees and business growth. The new offices feature a central open café and bar area, multiple collaboration rooms, photo/video production studio, private phone booth and wellness room. The most dramatic feature of the new offices is a 32-foot-wide, hand-painted mural in the lobby as pictured here. The "Ignite an Evolution" illustration reflects Walz Tetrick's vigorous approach to marketing. "With our ongoing growth, we were bursting at the seams in our old space," said Charlie Tetrick, president of the 51-year-old agency. "So we set out to create an environment that maximizes collaboration and creativity."



Walz Tetrick

**WE HAVE
MOVED**



GUIDE TO ACTIVITY!

The latest edition of the Mission

Parks & Recreation Department's Activity Guide is yours for the asking. Pick one up at the SPJCC or view it online via the city's website, www.missionks.org. You can register online for programs and classes.



Summer Swim

2019 Mission Family Aquatic Center Memberships go on sale April 1 at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center.

SM North Career Fair

WE'RE HIRING

The Shawnee Mission North High School PTSA invites area businesses to its 2019 Career Fair. The event is from 7:30-9:30 a.m. (set up starts at 7 a.m.) on Thursday, April 25, at the school. The Career Fair is an opportunity for representatives of businesses and organizations to meet face-to-face with talented and energetic students — including graduating seniors seeking full-time employment and students of all grade levels interested in part-time, summer and internship positions. There is no cost to participate in the Career Fair but space is limited. Registration closes on April 19. For more information contact Pam Watson, SM North PTSA, pamelawatson@smsd.org.



Pauline and Dave Calwell (left) joined Mission's Mike and Laura Calwell for a chauffeur-driven ride to dinner on the Country Club Plaza.

READY TO ROLLS

Mission residents Mike and Laura Calwell stepped up big time during the most recent holiday season to help the Mission Family Holiday Adoption Program. The Calwells submitted the winning silent auction bid for a chauffeur-driven ride to dinner at McCormick & Schmick's Seafood & Steaks on the Country Club Plaza in a 1933 Rolls Royce limousine. Mike and Laura said they were looking forward to the excursion but were equally as happy the contribution went to a worthy cause. The Rolls Royce ride was donated by Martha and Jerry Sabin of Christ Church at the Mission Theater.

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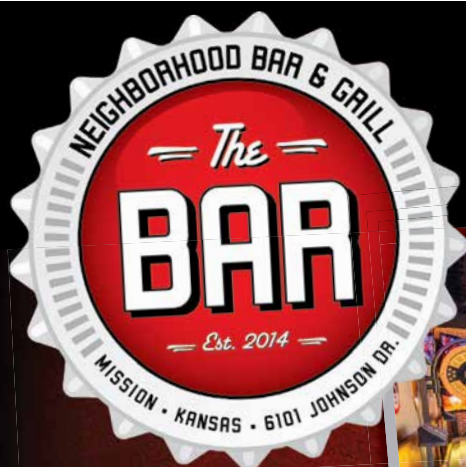
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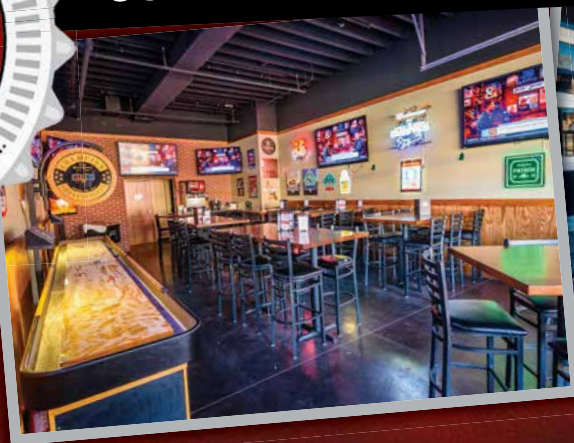
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‘Vin’ is the Solution

Mission-based tech company serves car dealerships nationwide

By Steve Hale



Lori Wittman has the lead role in Mission company's dynamic growth.
(Cathy Donovan photo)

Not quite seven years ago, Mission resident Brian Schmid landed an interview with VinSolutions. He'd heard good things about the company and was attracted to the dynamics of a marketing position aligned with his skill sets. On the day of the interview, Brian took a closer look at exactly where VinSolutions was located.

"I thought, 'Oh, my! I have to do well on this interview,'" Brian recalled. "I would really like to work two minutes away from where I live."

As was the case when Brian's successful interview secured him employment within walking distance of his home, skilled

professionals continue to submit applications for openings as routinely posted at VinSolutions. The burgeoning tech company based in the 10-story Mission Tower at 5700 Broadmoor has sprinted into position as one of the biggest employers in Mission and is riding an aggressive growth trajectory. With 600 total employees — about 470 of them housed in the Mission headquarters — VinSolutions has a reputation for successfully recruiting highly sought-after technical engineers, software technicians as well as marketing and sales professionals.

VinSolutions may not be widely recognized by John Q. Public, but "Vin" (a play on "Vehicle Identification Number") is well



Mission resident Brian Schmid appreciates being given time to serve his community. (Cathy Donovan photo)

known in the auto industry. The company is the provider of Connect CRM, a leading car dealership customer relation management (CRM) system. More than 5,000 dealerships representing virtually every brand rely on VinSolutions software to integrate systems and processes. With technology dramatically changing the vehicle purchase and ownership experience for consumers,

VinSolutions' Connect

CRM products and services enable dealerships to proactively and more efficiently track and connect with prospective buyers while better serving the needs of existing customers.

Adding muscle to VinSolutions software products is its being a subsidiary of Cox Automotive, the huge Atlanta-based conglomerate owning the likes of Kelley Blue Book, AutoTrader and Manheim. VinSolutions' already-robust CRM system is all the more powerful because of integration with the technology, market intelligence and resources of its parent company.

VinSolutions Connect CRM is uniquely robust. Consider, as one example, the company's understanding that today's car buyers spend on average 14 hours conducting research, nine hours of that online. When a dealership sales representative uses the Connect CRM smartphone app to scan a customer's driver's license, it attaches a digital copy of the driver's license to the existing customer record in the CRM. When it's time to complete paperwork, basic information from the scanned driver's license automatically uploads to printed documents, saving time for all involved.

Lori Wittman, General Manager of VinSolutions, maintains her primary office in Mission. Lori also serves as Senior Vice President of Cox Automotive Dealer Software Solutions, and she leads two other significant Cox Automotive brands: Xtime, with headquarter offices in Redwood City, California, and Dealer.com, based in Burlington, Vermont. As would be expected, she enthusiastically talks of how seemingly head-spinning advances in technology help car dealerships succeed. But what Lori steadfastly credits for the company's exponential growth and increased market share is the quality, expertise and creativity of VinSolutions' people.

"One of the most important jobs I have is making sure we have the right team in place and are picking the leaders who are going to take us in the right direction," Lori emphasized. "We find experts in every area. Our job is to pull all of that together as a cohesive team and figure out what we want to build to make our dealers' lives easier."

VinSolutions has made itself an attractive employer in the technology marketplace. The organization emphasizes diversity and offers a robust package of health care and retirement benefits, tuition reimbursements and even gym memberships to the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center. The company has been recognized as one of "Kansas City's Best Places to Work."

Lori said VinSolutions "loves Mission" from both the standpoint of conducting business and the community's intrinsic assets.

"To be able to get the type of talent we want, we have to

attract people from all over the city," said Lori. "Mission's location is perfect. We get people coming from Lee's Summit, Independence and Parkville. It's such a great and easy place to get to that I've had team members say, as we grow, let's make sure we don't move our building because we love being here."

When VinSolutions moved to Mission in 2013 having outgrown space in the Cloverleaf office complex at Shawnee Mission Parkway and Metcalf, it took up not quite two floors of Mission Towers. Now Vin occupies seven of the building's 10 floors.

"The nice thing about this space is we were able to put our own fingerprints on it," Lori noted. "Our workforce is really heavily slanted toward tech folks, like our engineers and our tech support team, people who build and support our software every day. What we know about tech people is they want spaces conducive to the type of work they do."

Lori grew up on a farm outside the small, north-central community of Clyde, Kansas. No doubt those small-town roots are part of the reason for her appreciation of Mission's neighborly persona.

"We have great restaurants that are super close if you just need to run out and do different things," Lori emphasized. "Mission is like a small town and that's really cool. You don't get that feeling in a lot of places in Kansas City, but Mission is for sure one of those places."

Brian Schmid, who since being hired six-and-a-half years ago, has settled into his current role with VinSolutions as "Senior Manager, Marketing Technology & Lead Generation." He said the company's internal culture and community outreach is not taken for granted. He acknowledges his Mission neighbors and friends don't generally understand what it is VinSolutions does, but they certainly know it's a growing company willing to give back to the local community.

"Most of my Mission friends are at least familiar with where VinSolutions is located and that it's part of the auto industry," said Brian. "Certainly they notice the job postings. For anybody looking for employment, it's hard not to see 10 or 12 VinSolutions job postings at any given time."

Brian said what is not generally known by the Mission community is VinSolutions provides every employee with four paid hours every quarter to serve civic endeavors of their choosing. Brian, who typically devotes his paid volunteer time at the Mission Farmers Market, said his peers often devote their volunteer time to Mission-area nonprofits and community activities.

"March is 'No Excuses Month' here at Vin," Brian explained. "The company tells us there's no excuse to not volunteer. It's very effective and people here enjoy it. We've got some who are particularly active and have specific causes they're really interested in."

So what will it take, Brian, for the citizens of Mission to better understand what VinSolutions is all about and what it does for the community? After a brief pause: "We should put a VinSolutions sign on this building."

VinSolutions is headquartered in Mission Tower, 5700 Broadmoor.



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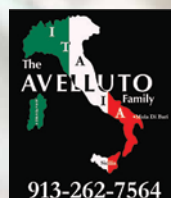
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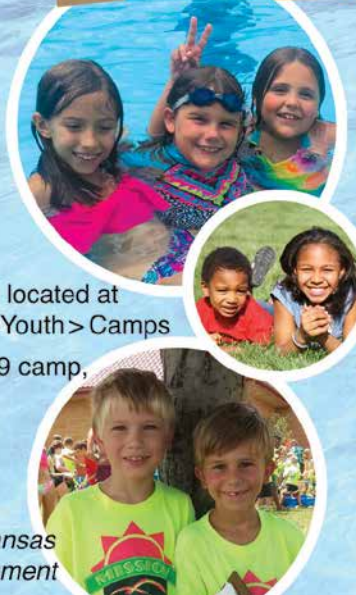
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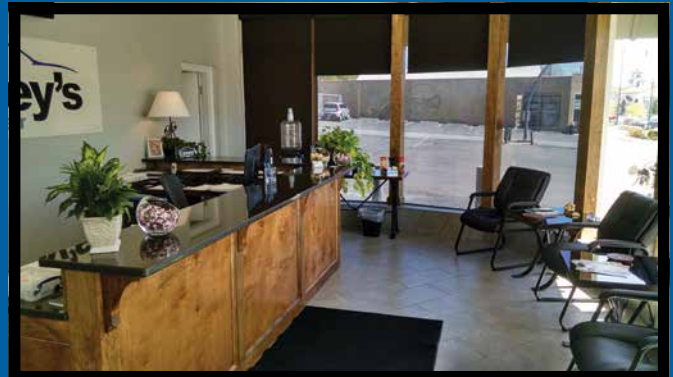
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