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Thanks for the memories

"How about we publish a Mission Magazine?"

Back in 2009, those seven little words sparked an interesting conversation about how The City of Mission could help our small businesses showcase their business. Sitting across the desk from our former City Administrator Mike Scanlon, we picked up a Kansas Magazine and began brainstorming ideas about how we could create something similarly wonderful in Mission. Fast forward to 2020 and, as you read this, you know we have succeeded in bringing you an outstanding product. As we've done since that first issue in February 2010, we continue to introduce you to Mission businesses and Mission residents who have allowed us to sit in their office or living rooms as they tell us stories about their passions and adventures.

That success story is linked to another story, even though this project actually originated first. Answering a phone call in early November 2006, a Mission senior citizen called asking if I knew of anyone in Mission who helped elderly families who could not or would not be having a happy holiday. My reply was, "I do not know of anyone, but let me check and I will get back with you!"

After making some calls and speaking with very caring residents/business owners, six very dedicated friends jumped on board to form the Mission Holiday Family Adoption Program, which made it possible for us to help these families!

So, in 2006, we collected canned goods and bought groceries for 10 Mission families; carefully placed them all in a wicker laundry basket, wrapped them up with cellophane and tied a beautiful red bow around the basket! As this need grew, we started adding gifts to the food baskets; gifts that were donated and wrapped by loving hands as



we all sat on the floor of Mission City Hall's Chambers. The fun we had and the smiles and hugs we received were beautiful.

Fast-forward to 2019, and by spreading the word about this wonderful program in the pages of the Mission Magazine, the Holiday Family Adoption Committee was able to adopt 107 families — families of children who attend our Northeast Johnson County schools. With the help of our entire community, we not only provided these families with food, we also wrapped gifts for the entire family and their pets! The givers — our residents and businesses — and the receivers all had a very memorable Thanksgiving and Christmas, sharing many tears and hugs. It was a win-win for everyone.

It has been my pleasure to work with both of these ventures! Memories resurface every year around the holidays as you watch so many volunteers "make it happen." To you, our readers, thank you! We wouldn't be successful without you reading our Mission Magazine, shopping our Mission businesses or donating your time, talent and monies to the adoption program. You make our job so much easier!

However, time marches on — and Father Time along with my family have asked me to slow down; nevertheless, both programs will continue under the guidance of their new leadership. I would just like to say a very big **thank you** for making these programs so heart-warming for so many — including me!

Enjoy.

On the cover:

SALLY AND KRIS MILLIGAN, OWNERS OF TOPPERS PIZZA IN MISSION. PHOTO BY DENISE ELAM.



Contents

- 6 Toppers Pizza is family-owned treasure in Mission
- 8 SMN student receives more than 1 million in scholarship offers
- 12 SuperKidz Club brings family fun experience to Mission
- 17 City Newsletter
- 22 Neighborhood Grant Program brings residents together
- 24 Bulletin Board
- 26 A look back on a historical courthouse in Mission
- 28 José Ramirez on 10 years at Moss Printing
- 32 City of Mission gifted poster signed by 11 Pearl Harbor survivors
- 34 Mission Magazine revisited: Quinn Appletoft

Mission

Your Hometown

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2020

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Kris and Sally Milligan own
Toppers Pizza in Mission.



PEOPLE, PIZZA AND PROMPT DELIVERY

Toppers Pizza is a family-owned treasure in Mission

By Denise Elam

An hour before Toppers Pizza officially opens for the day, Sally and Kris Milligan are hard at work rolling and tossing 75 balls of pizza dough into the air.

The pizzas are for students at Shawnee Mission East; the husband-and-wife team frequently make large orders for school

districts and businesses in the area.

"We give them a great offer because we want to work with them locally," Sally explained.

The couple opened Toppers nearly four years ago, bringing the Wisconsin-born franchise to the Kansas City area in July of 2016. They also



**Ring this bell at Toppers is one way team members
congratulate each other on a job well done.**



opened a location in Lawrence, Kansas.

Toppers is known for its made-from-scratch, never-frozen dough, which the Milligans and their staff make fresh each morning.

"Our prices are awesome, our pizzas and cheeses are fresh and never frozen; it makes a huge difference in taste."

Sally jokes that Toppers is "Jimmy John's but with pizza" because delivery times are so freaky fast.

"We like to have the pizzas to the customer within 30 minutes of ordering. We're really set apart by our delivery times."

Besides the classic pepperoni and cheese pizzas, Toppers features a few specialty items, including a "Loaded Tot-za" pizza, with a ranch sauce base, mozzarella cheese, tater tots, applewood smoked bacon and green onions drizzled with nacho cheese. The buffalo chicken pizza is a top seller, too, featuring a mild buffalo sauce, mozzarella cheese, bacon and diced buffalo chicken.

Toppers' menu changes frequently, with new items appearing every 3-4 months. A number of cream cheese base pizzas are the newest addition to the menu this year.

Pizza is a family affair for the Milligans; according to Sally, their 13-year-old son can often be seen behind the counter taking orders. "He can run a whole shift on his own."

Hard work and dedication run in the family; Sally was raised on a farm, castrating pigs and helping deliver baby calves. Kris, on the other hand, spent most of his life working behind the scenes in the restaurant business.

"Kris was the one that really dreamed about having his own place," Sally recalled. "I love pizza too — I literally eat pizza every day, not kidding!"

The Milligans are driven by their passion for making a difference in the community. They often donate pizzas or sell them at discounted rates for businesses and organizations near and dear to their hearts, including the Mission Family Holiday Adoption Program, the Mission Police Department, area school districts, charity galas and the Down Syndrome Guild.

"We partner with the Down Syndrome

Guild; they have a gentleman there who helps us stretch the dough three days a week," Sally emphasized. "I love donating because we can impact the community and help feed the hungry."

Giving back to the community has had a profound impact in the couples' lives, far beyond what they could have imagined.

"Of course you want to be involved in the community as a business owner, but I think it's taken on a life of its own," Kris explained. "It's more personal for us than it is business, because we get to be involved with different people in the community; developing those relationships is more rewarding than anything else."

He described the people in Mission as "inspiring."

"We don't have family here, so the community is our family. It's a very warm feeling."

In 2019, the couple were honored to receive the Small Business of the Year Award from Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce.

In their four years of business so far, the Milligans have enjoyed getting to know their staff and forming lifelong bonds.

"We've seen kids from high school graduate, we've been to our employee's baptisms, graduations — it's fun to watch kids grow up," Kris noted. "It's fun to keep up with their stories and see what they're doing in their lives."

Looking ahead, they hope to continue giving back while also spreading the word about their business.

"I really feel like we are such a diamond that some people still don't know about," Sally emphasized.

Toppers Pizza is open from 10:30 a.m. to 1 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, remaining open until 3 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays. For giveaways and promotions, check out "Toppers Pizza Mission" on Facebook.

"I love donating because we can impact the community and help feed the hungry."

—Sally Milligan

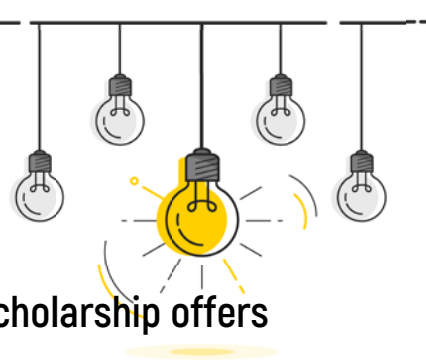


Owner Kris Milligan tosses fresh dough, forming the classic pizza shape.

A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD

SMN student receives more than 1 million in scholarship offers

By Denise Elam



Shawnee Mission North Senior "TJ" Tijesu Oni, center, was offered more than a million dollars' worth of scholarships at the annual Shawnee Mission Education Foundation breakfast last fall.



As the second semester of the school year dwindles down, many high school students are preparing for the next big step: college.

For one Shawnee Mission North student, that next step sure looks a lot more affordable.

Senior "TJ" Tijesu Oni was offered more than a million dollars' worth of scholarships at the annual Shawnee Mission Education Foundation breakfast last fall. To say it came as a surprise is an understatement. TJ had no idea he was receiving any scholarships at all.

"I talked to my parents the night before and said, 'We're just going to eat at a banquet, you don't have to come,'" TJ recalled. "When I realized what was happening, I definitely felt bad that they couldn't be there to witness it."

Kimberly Hinkle, Executive Director of the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation, presented TJ with the scholarship offer package, which added up to \$1,039,562 worth of funding from 27 different colleges and universities across the Midwest. The unique scholarship opportunities are part of a program within the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation called Scholarship Shawnee Mission.

"Parents opt into the program during online verification," Kimberly explained. "Basically, they give us permission to share their students' data with our partner colleges and universities."

Scholarships are offered largely based on students' grade point averages, test scores and demographics.

"The great thing about this program is all it takes is an opt in; it could be one click and that's all the work they have to do," Kimberly explained. "We are really about bringing these opportunities to students."

The program is modeled after the typical path of a student athlete who is being recruited.

"So, if you're a basketball player, you're not going to apply to those schools — they're going to come to you with scholarship offers," Kimberly explained, noting that students will pick and choose which university offer package to accept.

Scholarship Shawnee Mission helped 1,233 seniors receive \$737,413,126 in scholarship offers during its first year.

"It's a great opportunity for every student because student loan debt is skyrocketing as it is," TJ emphasized.

TJ plans to accept an offer of \$8,000 from the University of Kansas, where

he is on track to enroll as a biochemistry major in the fall of 2020. He wants to follow in the steps of his parents, who are both active in the medical field — his father is a doctor at Veterans Affairs Medical Center and his mother is a nurse at Research Medical Center.

"I was originally born in Nigeria; My dad was a doctor, my mom was a nurse, so it was just amazing to see them help other people in the community (there)," he explained. "I've been able to see the power of medicine and I want to be part of it, too."

TJ is enrolled in the Shawnee Mission School District's Medical Health Science Program, a signature program offered by the school district, providing students unique opportunities to explore different career fields. He enjoys shadowing doctors at KU Oncology and Neurology.

"UMKC Pathology is where I was recently ... I liked the doctors; they even invited me to do research during the summer and help them out," he emphasized.

TJ credits his supportive teachers and mentors at SMN for his success and is thankful they "educated me beyond their respective subjects," helping build his character.

"Shawnee Mission North just has a lot of great teachers — every single teacher I've ever had has taught me a lot," he emphasized. "The coordinator for the Medical Science Program, Mrs. Connie Gandy, has definitely been a great help to me with gaining more opportunities in the medical field. She definitely led me down the path that I'm going toward today."

Despite still being in high school, TJ is currently training to receive his Emergency Medical Responder certification.

"Knowing the amount of work my parents did to get us over here (to the United States), just to make sure that their effort wasn't done in vain is definitely a drive to me — I want to make sure that I live a future that helps other people," TJ emphasized. "I want to live a positive life overall."

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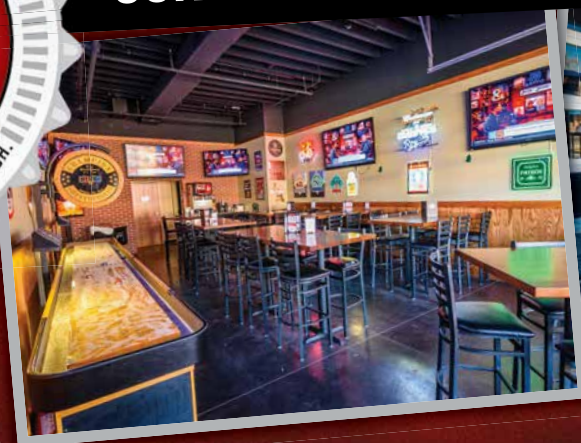
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All Day Play? Hooray!

SuperKidz Club brings family fun experience to Mission

By Denise Elam



Amanda Lam, owner of SuperKidz Club, encourages families to play together at the indoor playground for children.

Lee's Summit resident Lindsay Gorden was scrolling through Facebook one morning when she saw an advertisement for SuperKidz Club.

"The ad popped up and I said, 'Oh, this looks nice! Let's go here today,'" Lindsay emphasized. "There's nothing else like it on the Missouri side."

She and her husband, Steve, made the 25-minute drive across the state line to bring their kids to the amusement center located next door to Planet Fitness in Mission.

"We're very impressed; it's just exactly what we're needing right now for our kids," Steve noted. "The kids just love it. It's been a great experience."

More than 50,000 visitors have stopped by SuperKidz Club since it opened in February 2019. The children's indoor stomping



SuperKidz Club features a ball pit, several slides and padded areas for children to explore.



grounds boasts a wide array of playground equipment, an obstacle course, several slides, a ball pit and even a trampoline. The club also features massage chairs for parents and a cafeteria, serving up hot dogs or fresh pizza. Healthier options, like gluten-free pizzas and salads, are also available.

"We just want to create a place that everyone can enjoy," explained Co-owner Amanda Lam. She and her husband opened the business after noticing a lack of amusement centers in the area for their own kids. "We see quite a bit of these playgrounds on either the East or West Coast, but there's nothing like it here in Kansas City."

Amanda and her husband hope to foster a fun family environment at SuperKidz Club, keeping kids on the mats and off the smart devices.

"It really warms my heart when the kids are leaving with great big smiles ... I just feel like the community, hopefully as a whole, will be healthier, because they are more active, and the family will bond better because they spend more time together."

The playground area is split into different difficult levels based on age, with plenty of padding on the floors for kids who prefer crawling. Amanda and her staff of 14 work to keep kids safe and the playground equipment clean, sanitizing the 14,000 balls in the ball pit each week.

"We have a great staff here, it's always a blast to come to work," emphasized Tessa Perez, who has been working at SuperKidz Club since April 2019. "We get to play with kids sometimes. Hosting parties is pretty fun, too. All around it's just a good environment."

The club offers three different birthday party packages, complete with food, decorations, a party host and the use of a party room.

"The highest amount we can accommodate is 24 kids and that includes 90 minutes of the party room usage with one or two designated party hosts," Amanda explained. "We provide all the decorations depending on the theme; set up and clean up are free, food is provided."

SuperKidz Club costs \$15.99 per day for ages 4-15; children older than 15 are allowed free entry so long as they are accompanied by a child. Ages 1-3 can play for just \$12.99, with children younger than 1 receiving free entry.

"Parents are usually free as long as they have one kid with them. Additional adults cost \$5."

Tuesdays and Thursdays the club offers a "Thumbs-up Special," with \$10 entry per kid.

Unlike many amusement centers offering limited play time, SuperKidz Club offers all day play with the purchase of a ticket.

"They can stay as long as they want; there's a two-hour window

(to leave and return) if they don't want to eat here or if they need to go home and take a nap for the little ones."

All children at SuperKidz Club are required to be accompanied by an adult.

"I want to encourage parents to play with their kids, have family bonding time that we are lacking in this modern lifestyle," Amanda emphasized. "But if they feel like they need to relax and just sit back, or grandparents just want to read a book, they're welcome to as well."

In the future, the club plans to arrange drop off events, allowing parents some time away while their kids play. As of now, that option is currently unavailable. "At the beginning, we had that kind of concept, but it doesn't really incorporate well with our mission statement."

Amanda says her own children are fostering new friendships at SuperKidz Club.

"When they are here, they can play with different kids who are coming from different families and schools, widening up their perspectives. This helps with shaping their personalities early; they learn how to share, take turns, ask questions, follow rules — those are great qualities to learn in a play setting."

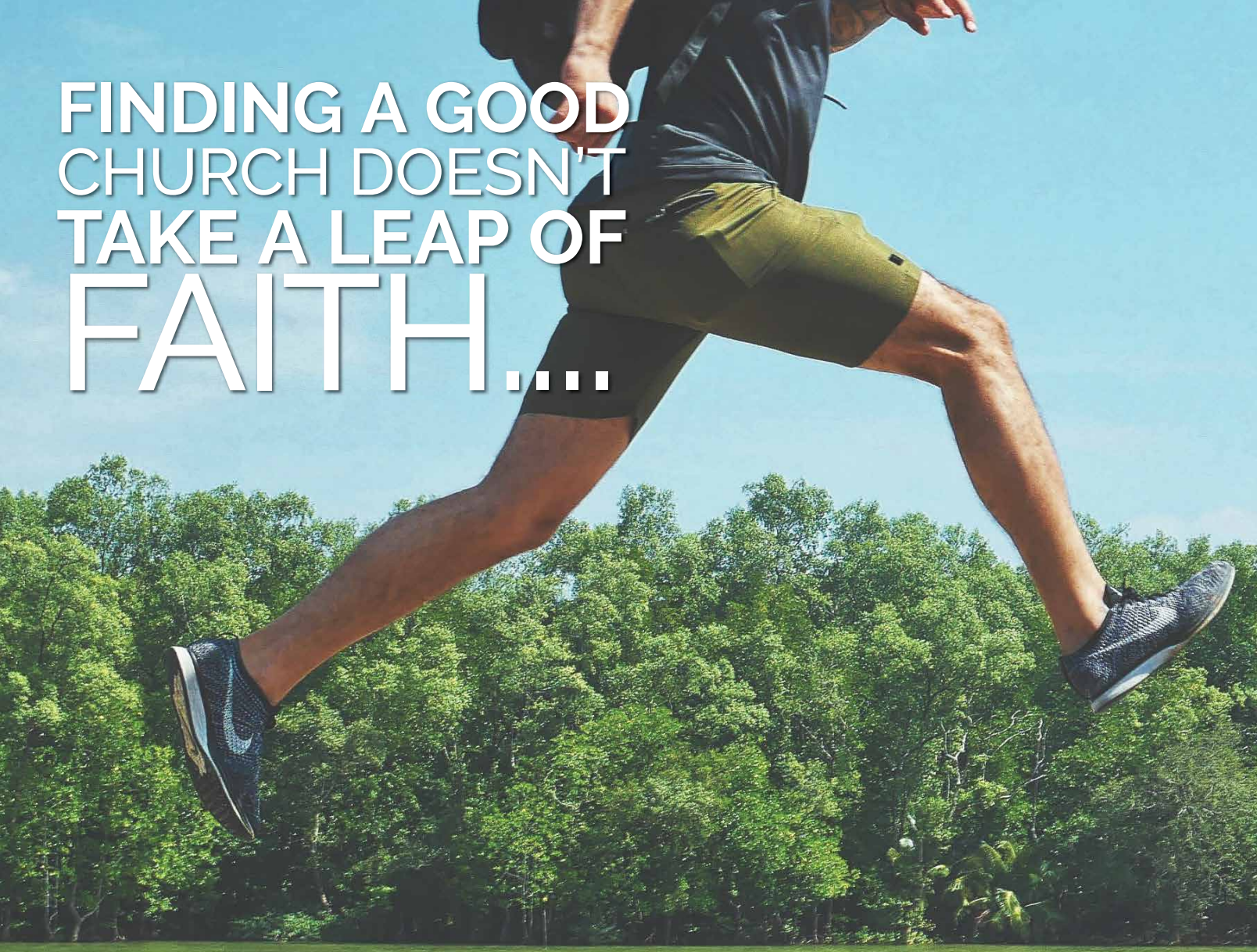
Amanda has a goal to open more SuperKidz Club locations in the future.

"Hopefully in a year or two," she added.

"The business has been growing steadily, so hopefully it will continue doing so and then we can bring more business here in Mission."



The ball pit has more than 14,000 balls for children to toss and play with.



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CITY OF Mission NEWSLETTER

COUNCILMEMBERS SWORN INTO OFFICE

Four Mission Councilmembers were sworn into office at the December City Council Meeting. Councilmembers Nick Schlossmacher (Ward II), Kristin Inman (Ward III), and Ken Davis (Ward IV) were all reelected for another four year term. Councilmember Trent Boultinghouse won his bid to represent Ward I and will serve for four years.



(L-R) Councilmembers Trent Boultinghouse, Nick Schlossmacher, Kristin Inman, and Ken Davis



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First Wednesday every month, 6:30 p.m.
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of the month as necessary, 6:30 p.m.)

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS

Fourth Wednesday every month, 7 p.m.

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Pat Quinn receives a round of applause for his service as Councilmember, Ward I serving from April 2012 to December 2019. Mr. Quinn did not seek reelection during the November election.



MISSION WELCOMES COUNCILMEMBER TRENT BOULTINGHOUSE

Trent Boultinghouse was elected in November to represent Ward I. Councilmember Boultinghouse grew up in Girard, Kansas and attended the University of Kansas and the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil where he graduated with a masters in International Relations. He worked previously at the Pentagon in Washington, DC and is currently a manager for data analysis and reporting with a legal services firm in Kansas City, KS.

Councilmember Boultinghouse enjoys reading, visiting local Mission businesses, and spending time with his wife Helen and their friends and family. He is always looking to engage with Ward I's diverse population, especially its Spanish speakers, and welcomes your ideas. Councilmember Boultinghouse may be reached at tboultinghouse@missionks.org or 620-238-0394.



THE MAYOR'S CORNER

Q: I know that Mission is going to be updating their Comprehensive Plan in 2020. What does that really mean?

A: Kansas statutes require that cities adopt and maintain a Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan). The Comprehensive Plan, also known as a master plan or land-use plan, is a document designed to guide the future actions of a community. It presents a vision for the future, with long-range goals and objectives for all activities that affect the local government. The Comp Plan serves a number of functions including:

- Providing continuity across time/governing bodies
- Offers a means by which a community can balance competing private interests
- A way for the community to protect public investments
- Allowing the City to manage development in a way that protects valued resources
- Providing guidance for shaping the appearance of the community
- Promoting economic development
- Providing support/rationale for decisions

The City's new plan will merge land use planning policy with issues related to the natural environment, transportation infrastructure, housing and economic development. The end result will be a plan that reflects the changing dynamics and priorities within the community. It is intended to be an engaging, action oriented and dynamic document.

Perhaps the most important component of the entire update is that it will give residents and other stakeholders an opportunity to brainstorm, debate and discuss the future of their community. A chance to craft a unifying vision for the future through collaboration.

Over the next 6-9 months the City's consultant team will use a variety of interactive and creative exercises to engage all in Mission so that they are able to connect the relevant issues to plan recommendations. A project specific website will be developed to centralize information and keep participants updated. Watch for more information in the next few weeks about upcoming meetings and opportunities to provide input.

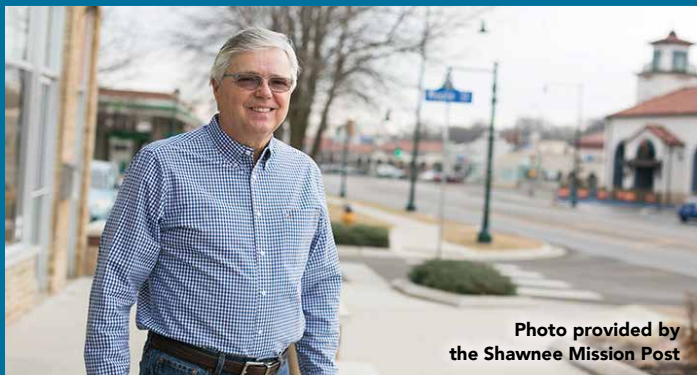


Photo provided by
the Shawnee Mission Post

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.

AARP OFFERS FREE TAX ASSISTANCE

Preparing your tax return can be challenging. The city is pleased to partner with AARP to offer free tax assistance at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center. Registration for one-on-one tax help is available at www.kstaxaide.com

Appointments are scheduled every Tuesday through April 14 between 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- No AARP or Community Center membership needed.
- Bring all necessary forms (outlined on the website at www.kstaxaid.com).
- Scheduled appointments only.
- Free to Kansas residents



Beginning in April 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau will launch a nationwide head count of all people living in the country. The census is required by the U.S. Constitution every 10 years, and counts every resident, whether adult or child, citizen or noncitizen. It's important that everyone be counted because the count determines federal funding for local programs, the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives, and states use census data to confirm legislative and school districts. For every person not counted in the census, Kansas stands to lose \$1,539 in federal funds per year for 10 years.

Please make sure you are counted! The census is strictly confidential. You can complete the survey online, by phone, or on paper through the mail. Starting in March 2020, the Census Bureau will send postcards to households with instructions. Call 2-1-1 or go to Census2020KS.org to learn more.

GATEWAY PROJECT BY THE NUMBERS

With construction now underway at the Mission Gateway Project, the City gets a lot of questions about the various project elements. The graphic shown below provides an overview of the project with details, including anticipated completion dates, for each of the major components of the project. The building that has been constructed over the past few months is the Cinergy entertainment complex. The next component that will “go vertical” is the parking structure. For more information and periodic project updates, please visit the “Current Developments” section of the website at www.missionks.org



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE UNDERWAY

Mission has long maintained an active, professional planning and zoning program, which includes regular updates to the City's Comprehensive Plan. Mission's Comprehensive Plan looks at land use, population, building intensity, public facilities, transportation and transportation facilities, economic conditions, and natural resources to chart a course for the City going forward. In December, the City Council approved a contract with Confluence to assist with the update of our current Comprehensive

Plan – reviewing emerging trends in a variety of areas, and engaging the community in educational and idea gathering sessions. This project will take approximately 12 months. Upcoming public meetings will be shared through social media, highlighted on Mission's website at www.missionks.org and in future newsletters, so please look for these. We welcome your input as we shape Mission's community vision in the coming months.

COUNTY SEEKS INPUT ON FLOODING CONCERNS

Johnson County is seeking citizen input regarding flooding concerns as they work to complete Watershed Master Plans. A website has been established that allows citizens to log stormwater concerns.

Spring weather often means increased rain events. Keep your eyes open and share any areas of concern regarding

stormwater and flooding in your neighborhood. You can create a map sharing locations of building flooding, street flooding, erosion or other stormwater related concerns at the link below. Please include as much detail as possible.

[Map.social/johnsoncountysfloodingsurvey](https://map.social/johnsoncountysfloodingsurvey)

SPRING IS A GREAT TIME TO ADOPT-A-PARK



Spring is a wonderful time to get outside and enjoy nature with family and friends. What better way than by partnering with the City of Mission through Adopt-A-Park? The program promotes volunteer opportunities to assist in beautifying our valuable park and trail system. By adopting a park, your efforts create community engagement and promotes a clean, safe, well-maintained environment for our citizens and neighbors to enjoy. The program is designed for groups, families or individuals to volunteer a couple hours every other month at your favorite park or the park just down the street. For more information, contact Penn Almoney, Director of Parks and Recreation at palmoney@missionks.org or 913-722-8210.

Effective January 1, 2020 the City of Mission transitioned to a new solid waste hauler for residential trash, recycling, yard waste and bulky item collection. The biggest change for households in the move to WCA was the timing of the monthly curbside bulky item collection, and in response to a number of questions the City has received, collection dates for 2020 along with helpful information on what qualifies as "bulky items" is included for reference. If you have questions regarding WCA or their services, please see their customer service contact information below. For more general questions or assistance, you may contact the Neighborhood Services Department at 913-676-8358.

BULKY ITEM COLLECTION DATES 2020

JANUARY 27-31	JULY 27-31
FEBRUARY 24-28	AUGUST 24-28
MARCH 23-27	SEPT. 28-OCT. 2
APRIL 27-MAY 1	OCTOBER 26-30
MAY 25-29	NOVEMBER 23-27
JUNE 22-26	DEC. 28-JAN. 2

BULKY ITEM GUIDELINES

- Bulky items include couches, chairs, dressers, mattresses, etc.
- Bulky item collection excludes electronics waste items such as TVs and monitors, auto parts, tires, construction debris and any items containing Freon.
- Residents who wish to set out appliances or have extra bulky items to be collected should contact WCA customer service at least 24 hours in advance at 816-380-5595 or wcawaste.com/mission-Kansas.

To recycle outdated electronic equipment and other hard to recycle items, visit recyclespot.org



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Fun, Food and Firetrucks!



Neighborhood Grant Program brings residents together



One warm summer evening, a large group of people from various walks of life came together for three very good reasons: food, fun and firetrucks.

Members of the Milhaven neighborhood enjoyed free hamburgers, fries, ice cream and pleasant company during a neighborhood block party Aug. 18, 2019.

"They're always fun, it's a good time to meet neighbors," emphasized Jeanne Linnane, who has attended the party for the past three years in a row with her kids.

"The fire department always brings a fire truck and sprays water for the kids," she explained.

The neighborhood party was made possible in part by the City of Mission's Neighborhood Grant Program, which provides up to \$500 to help resident-based groups build and preserve community through programming and activities. Grant money is available on a first-come, first-served basis, and has been a great proponent of community building in past years.

"It's a great way for people to meet new neighbors and touch base with ones they haven't seen since the last get together," explained Holly Grohmann, President of the Milhaven Homes Association. "The grant helps us with it; the housing association also sponsors a good portion of it as well."

More information regarding the grant money is available on the City of Mission's website, under the "neighborhood services" section. The City, due to its commitment to preserving and renewing neighborhoods, encourages the grants be used for neighborhood newsletters, email lists, block parties, informational workshops and other community-building activities. Visit www.missionks.org for more information.

"We're going to be doing more and more of events like this," Holly assured. "We just love it."



1&2 Children enjoy fun, food, ice cream and a spritz of water from the fire truck at Milhaven's annual neighborhood block party in August of 2019.

3 Milhaven resident Louise enjoys free ice cream at the block party.

4 Residents from the Milhaven neighborhood receive a complimentary meal from a food truck.

5 A child explores the playground at Mohawk Park.

6 Tamie Crutchfield, HOA board member, hands out tickets for a complimentary meal from a food truck during the block party.



Mission Bulletin Board

Honoring our Veterans

Help Build A Veteran's Corner at The Welstone

The Welstone is currently accepting donations of military uniforms along with jackets and caps from each branch of the military for their new Veteran's Corner display. The corner will pay respect to veterans who have so graciously served our country. For more information about donating, contact Amber Cardona, 913-671-2627.

DONATIONS REWARD SHAWNEE MISSION NORTH STUDENTS!

Nothing says congrats on the high test score like a brand new pair of air pods! Or a nice Bluetooth speaker! Shawnee Mission North is planning a new incentive program for students who exceed state testing standards. The program involves a raffle of several high-ticket items; students will be entered based on their high-performing test scores.

Businesses and individuals can donate quality items for the raffle, like Bluetooth speakers or restaurant gift cards. Donations may be dropped off at Shawnee Mission North, 7401 Johnson Dr, Overland Park. For more information, contact Jeremy Higgins, 913-993-6900.



WAY TO GO!

Natalie Lucas awarded Mission Project's Community Partner Award

Due to her bright smile, hard work and warm personality, The Mission Project Board of Directors awarded Natalie Lucas with their Community Partner Award at the 2020 Annual Report Meeting Jan. 15.

As an employee with the Sylvester Powell Jr. Community Center and Rental Coordinator for the City of Mission, Natalie has been a huge advocate for the participants at the Mission Project for

several years, volunteering her time and talents at multiple fundraising events for Mission Project. Participants say they love spending time with her at Club MP, a monthly club available to the community that includes fun outings around Kansas City!

Thank you, Natalie! You are an amazing member of the Mission Project family!



Mission Magazine's Executive Editor Retires

"I'm going to be the devil's advocate for a moment."

All who have had the pleasure of working with Barb Bayer know this phrase well. When the Mission Magazine was created some 10 years ago, Barb stepped up to be the magazine's first editor, working to keep its content relevant, accurate and clear of any grammatical errors. Throughout the years, she wrote many well-researched and thought-out stories, including our most recent article on CBD. Barb loves to play "devil's advocate" during our Mission Magazine committee meetings, often forcing us to think about the topic at hand in a more

compelling way. This helped us produce the best material for our readers.

In 2020, after many dedicated years on the editorial board and working as editor of Mission Magazine, Barb has decided to retire and put down the pen for a while. She will be missed, as she was not only a valued member of our editorial board, but also a treasured friend to us all.

Barb, we wish you a happy retirement. Thank you for all you have done to make Mission Magazine the success it is.

-The Mission Magazine Editorial Board

Rushton Elementary Kindergarten Roundup



Do you have a child who will be 5 by August 31, 2020 and ready for kindergarten?

Rushton Elementary School's roundup is on Tuesday, April 21st! Contact the school at 913-993-4900 for more information!

IN SEARCH OF: Budding Artist

Do you have a knack for painting? The Welstone at Mission Crossing is looking for an artist capable of donating their time to paint a mural of the American Flag on a wall at The Welstone. Serious inquiries should contact Amber Cardona, 913-671-2627.



THEN AND NOW: Northeast County Offices

A look back on a historical courthouse in Mission



By Denise Elam

A little more than 70 years ago, back when Johnson Drive was a narrow two-lane brick road, a courthouse was built on the corner of Johnson and Broadmoor, in what was known then as the Mission Township.

The courthouse, called the Northeast County Offices, was originally constructed by the Barkley family, opening the last week of December 1946. The property belonged to Minnie Walmer Mullen, who left it to her daughter, Marguerite Mullen Barkley. The property was later inherited by Joan Barkley Wells.

"The county commissioners contacted my grandmother and said they needed offices in this area and wondered if she would build a building," Joan recalled. Her grandmother went on to build the offices, renting them out to several commissioners.

Several offices took up residence in the building in the early 1950s, including: the department of motor vehicles, the sheriff's office and the fire dispatch office. The building was also used as a courthouse, housing a small jail cell for those who found themselves on the other side of the law.

Longtime Mission resident Frank Bruce remembers the courthouse well. He and a close friend thought they might end up there one day when they were just little kids.

"We were walking home from kindergarten ... and a car was going west on 56 Highway; Dean and I decided we were going to hit them with a snowball," Frank recalled.

The driver stopped, jumping out of his car quickly.

"He says, 'You two wait right here, I'm going to go up to the courthouse, get a cop and they're going to arrest you,'" Frank recalled. "Once he disappeared over that hill, we were gone."

Frank ran back home, hiding under the back porch, waiting for the police to show up. Fortunately, the only car to pull into the driveway was his mother's.

"I fessed up," Frank laughed.

The Northeast County Offices remained for several years, most likely until the department of motor vehicles moved to its current location at 6000 Lamar Ave in 1972.

Throughout the decades, the building has been home to many unique businesses, including a jewelry store, a Mexican restaurant, a coffee shop and even a ham store. Currently, the building houses Headless Hands Custom Tattoo shop, a body art and piercing shop, and Planet Sub, a restaurant serving up fresh bread bowls with sandwiches.

More information regarding the history of Johnson Drive and the Northeast County Offices can be found at the Johnson County Heritage Museum.

Then



According to an unattributed newspaper clipping dated Jan. 1, 1947, this building opened the last week of Dec. 1946 "on the curve of 50 Highway West of Mission."

Photo from Johnson County Library Archives, courtesy of Johnson County Archives & Records Management Department.

Now



Planet Sub and Headless Hands Custom Tattoo Shop are now located in what used to be the Northeast County Offices.

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FOCUSING ON PEOPLE AND PAPER

José Ramirez on 10 years at Moss Printing

By Denise Elam

Some chances are worth taking. For José Ramirez, owner of Moss Printing in Mission, some chances turn into lifelong careers.

In 1984, José packed up everything he owned, moving from California to Kansas to work as an apprentice at his father-in-law's print shop. He had little previous printing experience, but that did not deter him from trying.

"I said, 'What am I going to be doing?'" José recalled asking. His father-in-law explained that after a year of learning how to run a printing press, he would move into a sales position.

José soon learned the ins and outs of a printing press, working with negatives, metal plates, collating, drilling and binding books. When the one-year mark finally approached, his father-in-law told him to buy a couple of suits and prepare to be a salesman. That following Monday, he sat down at the desk in his new office with no idea of what to do next.

"I've never sold anything," he said to his father-in-law. "I've

always been a manager of production; I've always been on the other side."

His father-in-law left the office and came back with a phone book.

"Here's your client list," he told José. "Start with the A's."

José couldn't believe what he was hearing.

"I said, 'This is my client list? That's the yellow pages!'" he recalled, laughing.

As daunting as it seemed, José did as he was told, going down the list of names in the yellow pages, making cold calls and acquiring new clients. He became a top seller, moving on to work as a sales representative for Personal Marketing. José soon stepped out on his own, brokering and handling his own clients' printing needs.

In 2010, he purchased Moss Printing in Mission, a printing shop founded by Oscar Moss in 1969. In his now 10 years of ownership, he has worked to honor the shop's original integrity while making the switch to digital printing and

adding additional services for his customers. Oscar Moss's own daughter even stopped by once to thank José for keeping the family name and upholding her father's business practices.

"It was a great reunion that day," José recalled.

Moss Printing offers a variety of services, including offset printing, brochures, letterhead, mailing cards, presentation folders, banners, signs, wedding invitations and more. José's staff are expert printers, using state of the art machinery to deliver premiere products. Delivery is also available.

For José, a focus on people is the key to success. He enjoys helping customers with projects as small as resumes, to larger printing jobs, like banded books and calendars.

"The most important thing is just providing people a service," he noted.

José is a big believer in paying it forward, offering free resume printing services to those who are in-between jobs.

"My philosophy is, if you lost your job and you're laid off, that's one less thing you have to deal with," he explained.

The most memorable moment in José's 10 years of business happened when he was able to help a customer with a project that meant more to her than he would ever know.

"This lady wanted a book printed, like a coffee table book, for her mom," José recalled. "It was for Mother's Day, and she had all these photos. We put it together, did all the



José Ramirez, owner of Moss Printing in Mission.

typesetting ... got it all done ... she opened it up and started bawling. She loved it so much. That got me."

The woman's mother was in hospice care.

"She always wanted to do something for her mother," he explained. "It was probably going to be her last Mother's Day."

Moments like that make the hard work, proofing, editing and revising worthwhile for José. He loves having a shop in Mission, describing the residents as warm and welcoming.

"Everybody's nice, it seems like," he said. "I do business in a lot of cities, like Overland Park, Grandview ... and they're all okay. But there's this loyalty, this trust, this warmth that I feel here in Mission and that's something I truly appreciate."

In 2014, he was awarded Small Business of the Year by the Northeast Johnson County Chamber and was named Volunteer of the Year in 2016.

José's biggest piece of advice for future business leaders? Be nice and empathetic.

"Anybody can be professional," he said. "Being nice, I think, is the most important thing."

Moss Printing in Mission is open Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 8:30 to 5 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, or to start a new printing project, visit mossprinting.com.

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Journalist Charles Schollenberger, left, presents the signed poster to Laura Smith, Mission's City Administrator.

Remember Pearl Harbor

City of Mission gifted poster signed by 11 Pearl Harbor survivors



In December 2001, just three months following the attacks of 9/11, the City of Mission held its first meeting of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Group at the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center. Although the nation was suffering in the aftermath of the attacks, there was also a great wave of patriotism sweeping over the country, similar to what happened following the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

That first remembrance event gave not only survivors, but others, a chance to hear the stories of great heroes, helping keep an important part of our nation's history alive and well. The events, which transpired in 2001, were covered by journalist Charles Schollenberger as the Johnson County Editor for the Sun Newspapers.

Nearly 19 years ago, Schollenberger presented a commemorative WWII poster to the Pearl Harbor Survivors Group, which the 11 Pearl Harbor survivors signed.

Now a retired journalist, Schollenberger approached the City of Mission seeking to gift the signed poster as a permanent reminder of local survivors for years to come.

The framed poster was unveiled during the December 2019 Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony; the City plans to keep it on display at the Community Center.

Mission's Council was pleased to accept such a generous and thoughtful gift, and Schollenberger's wide interest in history and desire to help preserve it for generations to come will long be appreciated by visitors to the Center.



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Mission Magazine Revisited

QUINN APPLETOFT KEEPS THE MEMORY OF PEARL HARBOR DAY VETERANS ALIVE IN HIS CLASSROOM

By Denise Elam



Quinn Appletoft poses at his wedding Dec. 7, 2019.

When Quinn Appletoft was in middle school, he looked over a crowd of veterans at the City of Mission's Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day program and stepped up to the microphone.

"Please join me in a moment of silence, in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the attack on Pearl Harbor," he said.

At just 12 years old, Quinn served as master of ceremonies for the program. He would go on to serve in that same capacity for the next seven years, driven by his passion for history and zeal for keeping the stories of veterans alive in the hearts of everyone.

"It's one of the last chances to hear their stories," Quinn told Mission Magazine in 2010. "The textbooks are the tip of the iceberg. These survivors go so much deeper with it."

Now a middle school teacher in Hurley, Missouri, Quinn is standing in front of a much different crowd each day, continuing to tell the stories of the veterans he met so many years before. Quinn teaches social studies, works as the assistant baseball coach, assistant basketball coach and is head of cross country at the school.

"I'm wearing a lot of hats as a new teacher, but I'm loving every minute of it," he explained.

Quinn credits his time as master of ceremonies in the program for his ability to speak confidently in front of his fifth, sixth and seventh grade classes each day.

"Working with the veterans and being able to get a more in-depth look at their history influenced me to not only love history, but to also share it with others, steering me toward teaching history," Quinn noted.

Because of the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Program, Quinn was able to form lasting friendships with many veterans, including Dorwin Lamkin, who passed away in 2019 at the age of 96.

Dorwin served as a corpsman in the U.S. Navy during his six-year career that began before the United States was forced to enter World War II. For decades afterward, he spoke to schools, civic clubs and union meetings, sharing his memories of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, which occurred when he was just 18 years old.

Quinn received several artifacts and memorabilia from Dorwin and other veterans which he plans

to use in his classroom to promote hands-on learning.

"I think one of the biggest lessons I learned is to not let people forget," Quinn noted. "Teaching makes me feel good because I know Dorwin would love to know I'm using all the things he taught me to share with future generations ... to see kids learning about the story of Pearl Harbor and not forgetting what's happened."

Keeping the memories alive is what teaching is all about for Quinn.

"I think that's the main driving force that's carrying me through — the sacrifices these men made when they were just 17 or 18 years old, to be able to pass down their legacy and keep it going to the younger kids," Quinn explained.

Now Pearl Harbor day is forever imprinted in Quinn's mind for two different reasons. He and his wife tied the knot Dec. 7, 2019.

"We were looking at dates in December," Quinn explained. "It's already a meaningful day for me, and it just kind of makes it even more meaningful to the rest of the family."

Quinn said his wife is not a "history buff" but has a great understanding of how important Dec. 7 is to him.



Quinn meets with Pearl Harbor survivors during the City of Mission's Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day program in December of 2006.

"I really think she sees how much it means to me and she makes the effort to make it meaningful to her as well," he noted. "She's very supportive, even if history's not her thing, she always supports me in it."

As he prepares to go into his second year of teaching, Quinn hopes to pass on a love of history to his students.

"You have to know your history, or you're doomed to repeat it," he noted.

"I want to show kids how cool

our history is ... being able to inspire them to want to learn more, to come up to me outside of class to ask questions ... just inspiring that curiosity in history and giving them that same passion that I have."

Quinn has one message for residents of Mission:

"Never forget Dorwin," Quinn asserted.

"It wasn't always all me (leading the remembrance program). Or my dad. Dorwin played the biggest role. Never forget the things he did for the community."





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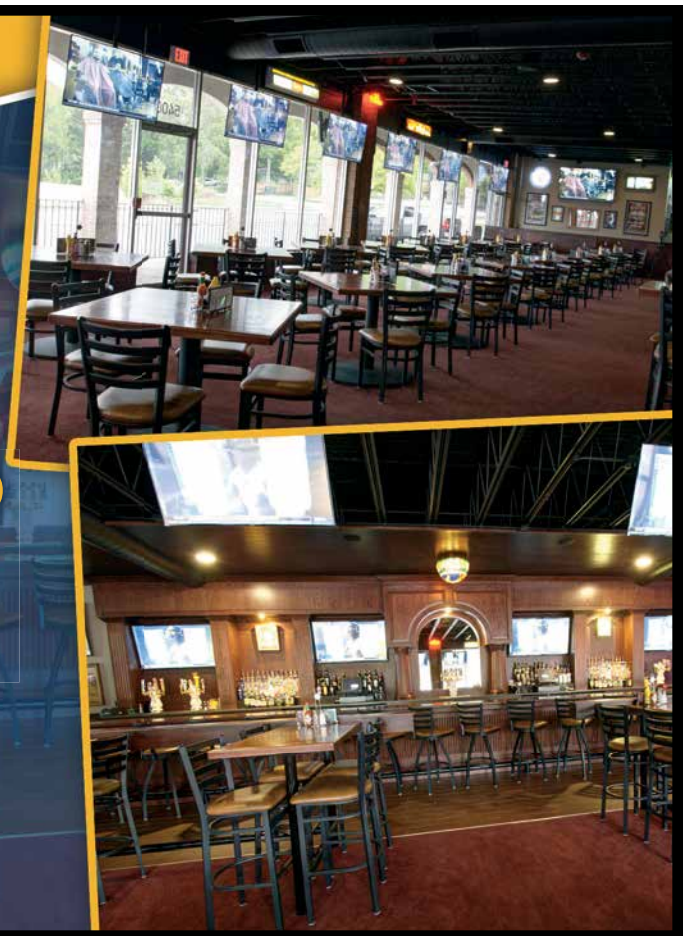
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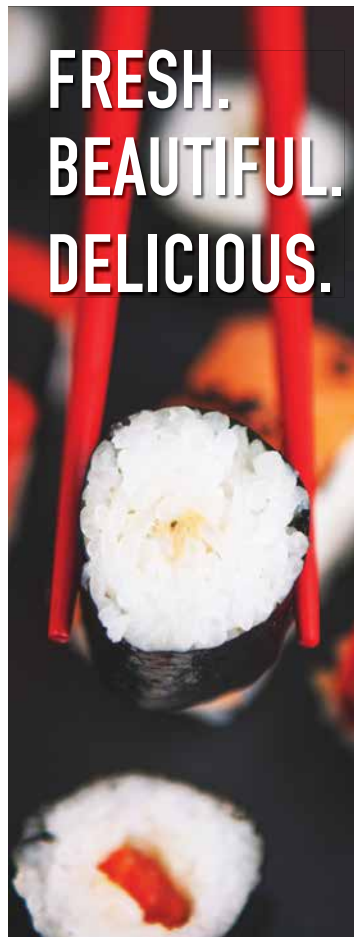
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10AM-12PM

Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center
 6200 Martway St, Mission, KS 66202
www.missionks.org



Free Admission

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Egg Hunt Times

10 & Older Scavenger Hunt	10:15 a.m.
8 Months-1 ½ Yrs. (with parent)	10:20 a.m.
1 ½- 3 Yrs. (no parents)	10:40 a.m.
1 ½- 3 Yrs. (with parent)	10:40 a.m.
4-5 Yrs.	11:00 a.m.
6-7 Yrs.	11:20 a.m.
8-9 Yrs.	11:40 a.m.

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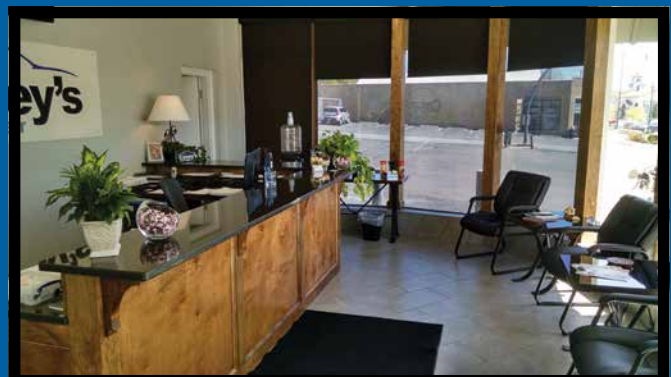
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