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History Lesson #101

How well do you know your Mission history? The "Then and Now" story in our last issue was so popular we have learned it is being mailed all over the United States. It also inspired readers to send us several fun facts we will be sharing with you as well.

Did you know Mission used to have an iceman, a tin man, a ragman who collected items you wanted to dispose of, and two Italian brothers who sharpened knives and scissors frequenting our area? And in addition, we had the Jewel Tea salesman, the Fuller Brush man, a salesman for the blind selling brooms, a husker, bread wagon and milk man — just to mention a few who regularly knocked on our door.

Mission was a booming town with a Chevrolet dealer, a library, a funeral home and a cemetery. Not to mention a Velvet Freeze Ice Cream store where they scooped up the best green gauge ice cream — otherwise known today as lime sherbet!

As noted in our last magazine, Frank Bruce has been given the prestigious title of Mission Historian. Frank, along with his team of historians, Louis Morrow, Joan Barkley Wells, and Joseph and Gordon Cross are working to put together a traveling history tour of Mission. So, if any of you, our readers have any history facts or photos you would like to share with us, please give Frank a call at 913-432-4701 or Suzie, 913-671-8564.

Having garage sales is one of my favorite things to do once a year — you meet

such great people. However, when a prospective buyer walks up to you and says, I used to live in Mission — I am a Cross-, that garage sale just made my day! Wow! What a great find. And to think Gordon Cross was sitting in his car in my driveway. I quickly asked for his contact number and the rest is history!

Then Andy, a Mission resident, whose wife told him he needed to get out and do something besides play games on his computer, came into the picture! He is also researching Mission history! And he is amazing. So, in this issue you will read about one of Mission's springs. You can actually put your hand in the clear, cold water as you watch it run down along the side of the spring! A spring, which was used years ago by our early settlers and located in what was once Countryside and is now Mission.

I don't know about you, but I was not always interested in history — boring in high school, however, as I matured (?) discovering not only Mission history, but also my family's history has been very exciting. I hope you will enjoy rediscovering Mission as much as I have. We are open for questions, so please do not hesitate to give Frank Bruce or myself a call. If we don't know the answer, we will do some research.

Along with the spring story, you will be touched by the awesome attention our Mission police give to our residents and visitors. Want a relaxing day? How about art therapy or visiting the Brothers Music store where you can purchase a Perry Como album to just make your day!

Enjoy your day! Enjoy our Mission Magazine!

Suzie Gibbs

On the cover:

COLE MAGGART AND KYLE MAGGART,
CO-OWNERS OF BROTHERS MUSIC
PHOTO BY CATHY DONOVAN



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Mission

Your Hometown

JULY 2018

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Kyle Maggart, left, and Cole Maggart hit the right notes with Brothers Music

MUSIC TAKES A TURN

Brothers Music spins success with resurgence in vinyl records

By Steve Hale
Photos by Cathy Donovan

Step foot into the signature niche store at the southeast corner of Johnson Drive and Dearborn Street and it's obvious: Vinyl is back.

Welcome to aptly named Brothers Music. Owners Cole Maggart, 33, and Kyle Maggart, 28, have made the most of the digital-age-defying resurgence of new and used LPs and the equipment used to play these durable vinyl discs. Since its opening in October 2015, Brothers Music has become a desired destination for music enthusiasts and collectors.

First-time visitors to Brothers Music — especially those familiar with long-gone Mission-area stores such as Capers Corner, Penny Lane Records, Peaches, Seventh Heaven, etc. — will harken back to the pre-'90s, when music of the era was primarily purchased on 45- and 33-rpm records. The front retail section of the store is consumed by meticulously organized and categorized cases of new and used albums: Jazz. Classic rock. Soul/R&B. Reggae. Country. Blues. Virtually all albums deemed worthy of being in the cases are individually sleeved in clear plastic and tabbed for easy identification.

The Maggart brothers run a finely tuned (no pun intended) tag-team operation. Everyone working at the store is versed in handling the core business of buying, trading and selling new and "gently used" vinyl records, as well as CDs, turntables, guitars, amplifiers and accessories. There's also a robust online sales aspect of the business. Cole and Kyle

estimate 10-15 percent of revenue comes from Brothers Music's eBay platform.

Younger brother Kyle is the main man when it comes to seeking out, negotiating and purchasing vinyl records that enter into the ever-churning inventory of music that appeals to an eclectic customer base. His passion for and keen understanding of vinyl records began not quite a decade ago when his girlfriend introduced him to vinyl. Kyle spends as much as three days a week on the hunt for record collections. He makes regular out-of-town forays, checks out garage sales and willingly visits people's basements, attics and barns ... wherever a stash of records might be stored.

"We're always looking for good records," Kyle points out. "There's a lot of ways you can do it but I don't want to reveal all my secrets."

Cole, the musician of the family, takes the lead where the "back of the house" of Brothers Music is concerned. Having given guitar lessons since he was 16, Cole and a team of contracted instructors make good use of five soundproof lesson rooms equipped with instruments and recording equipment. They teach guitar, drums, keyboards and vocals to a clientele representing ages from 5 to 65.

"There's no wrong age to learn an instrument," Cole explains. "You can learn just as easily at age 65. We find a lot of times a customer will have picked up an instrument as a young person and maybe didn't have time for it. Now they have time."

The Maggarts have history with Mission. Even though they grew up attending Lee's Summit, Missouri, schools, for 15 years, their father had an insurance consulting business based in Mission. Their familiarity with the city helped them recognize the value of having a local business on busy Johnson Drive and in a community ideally suited to Brothers Music.

"As a record store, one of the main things we need is people seeing us and seeing our signs," Cole said.

According to Kyle, the business also benefits from Mission's diverse population.

"The younger and middle-age people are buying records, but older people are the ones selling their records to us. We need both."

Brothers Music has regular customers who drive from all parts of the region, but Mission represents the strongest customer base, Kyle said.

Case in point is Patrick McCune, a Mission resident who frequents the store a couple times a month.



"I'm usually in here when I have some dough to spend on records or equipment," said McCune, a collector of vinyl records since 1992. "Sometimes I'll come in to just look around. I enjoy this place. The guys in here know what they're doing."

Kyle explained that he and Cole "try to create a friendly enough atmosphere so people who need advice or are looking for suggestions will take the opportunity to ask."

"But like anywhere else, some people don't like to be followed around," Kyle said. "Some people really know what they're looking for and when they find it they buy it and head out. Like when I go into a record store I don't need any help."

Cole and Kyle estimate their inventory of records is about 12,000, which includes the dozens of on-the-floor boxes filled with randomly arranged discounted records. Virtually every record is hand cleaned, graded and priced according to quality, date of pressing, availability and market value.

"A lot of the better records come from older people who have been collecting their whole lives and for whatever reason decide it's time to get rid of a collection or to see what it's worth," according to Kyle. "If they have a box full of records, we might tell them to bring it in. I'll go through it, separate what's in good shape and is going to sell well. Then I'll make an offer depending on how much goes in the A pile or in the B pile."

"We're always looking for good records and for certain kinds of music more than others," he said. "We don't want to miss a good buy and (we) pay really good money, especially for jazz, blues R&B and soul."

Those particular genres fit nicely in the Brothers Music wheelhouse of inventory and inherent expertise. Kyle can look at a collection and instantly know what albums have value. Recently a collector used Facetime to show Kyle a sampling

Continued on next page





from a collection of jazz LPs. Kyle quickly recognized a series of rare albums and within two days drove across Missouri and bought the entire collection of 2,000 albums. The bulk of the collection was destined for the discount bins or the trash, but several hundred top-flight albums justified the purchase.

"You have to be obsessed, even a little crazy," Kyle said of keeping abreast of

what albums are of value and what price they'll fetch. "It's like people who collect coins. You have to enjoy it so it's not work learning about it."

Kyle is coy about saying how much rare soul and jazz may sell for, but said it's not uncommon for the original pressing of a sought-after album or "seven-inch record" (45 rpm) to sell for well over \$1,000. Primarily sales of these high-ticket collectables are online.

The resurgence of vinyl records is due to a variety of factors, according to Cole and Kyle. They strongly argue the sound quality of an album "is far superior" to a CD or digital download when good stereo equipment is used. From a collector's perspective, they point out an obvious advantage over coins, stamps or baseball cards. With records, the owners not only get to appreciate the value of the piece, but even better can actually

listen and enjoy the music.

Per the Maggart brothers, the burgeoning attraction to vinyl records has grown across generations and personal interests.

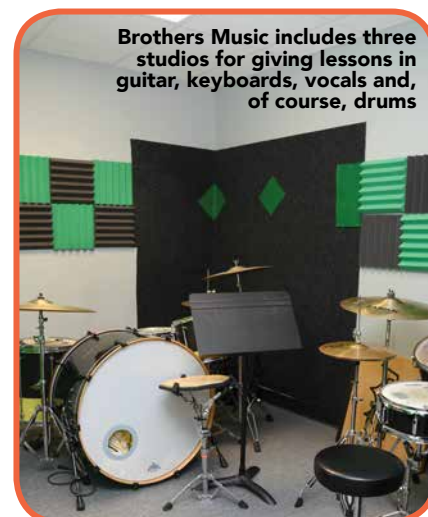
"Some of the younger kids are getting into records because it's kinda new to them; it's something they can rediscover," Cole said. "They're enjoying everything from the liner notes to the cover artwork, to be able to read about when a session was recorded and what musicians were involved."

"And not to mention there is still a lot of music that's on vinyl, and that's the only way you can get it," Cole continued. "You can't download it, (and) you're not going to find it on CD."

While admitting every vinyl record has a "certain life span," Kyle and Cole agree records handled correctly are more durable than CDs. It's not difficult to find 60- and 70-year-old records in the store still "in perfect condition."

Kyle advises the highest risks for vinyl records are heat, water and "a really low-quality turntable."

"It's amazing what a record can handle," Kyle observes. "I've gone into barns where it can get maybe 180 degrees, but when stored just right and no one has touched the records for 50 years or 40 years, they're fine."



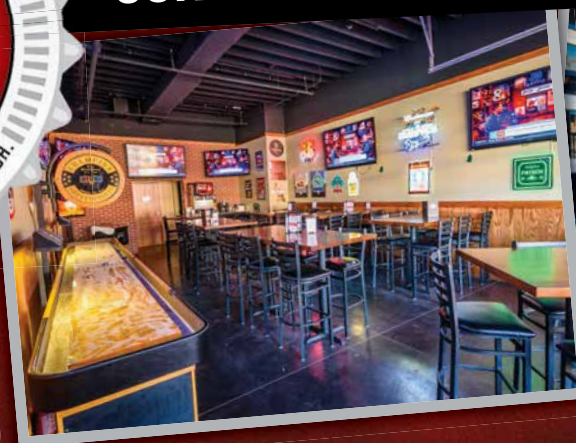
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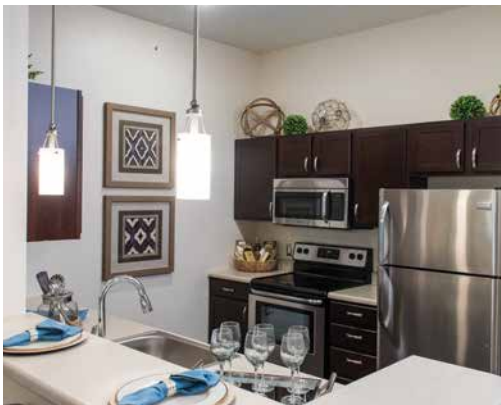
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Accidental Friendship

Officer steps up when Mission Project resident stumbles

By Steve Hale | Photo by Cathy Donovan



The Mission Police Department has issued an APB for a 1981 Toyota Corolla four-door sedan. No specifics were given regarding the color or the license number, but the vehicle should be equipped with a working AM/FM cassette player and be able to reach a top speed of 5 mph.

This is serious business. The vehicle being sought by Mission police officers is on behalf of one of their best buddies. Corey Graham, a resident with the Mission Project, is hoping to “have some fun” and cruise the Mission Police Department parking lot, riding shotgun with one of his best buddies, Officer Matt Breshears.

The request for the 37-year-old Toyota comes directly from Corey, who has a knack for knowing and recognizing the makes and models of just about every type of automobile. (Religiously watching the TV show “MotorWeek” no doubt influences that ability.) As far as Corey is concerned, the 5 mph speed limit is plenty fast. He’s more interested being behind the wheel while his good friend Matt Breshears enjoys the ride.

Corey and Officer Breshears were familiar with each other but truly met by accident a few years back. Corey was headed to Casey Brothers Sinclair to talk shop but a construction project required him to take a different route than usual. While walking along Martway Street, he tripped. The resulting fall was so unexpected and sudden Corey went down face first with no chance to catch himself.

By chance and while on duty, Officer Breshears was nearby in his patrol car and witnessed Cory tumble.

“I saw him fall to the ground and immediately pulled over and turned my lights on,” Officer Breshears remembered. “I knew it was Corey, but he couldn’t see who I was because there was so much blood coming down his face.”

Officer Breshears immediately identified himself to Corey and called an ambulance.

“I asked Corey if there was anything he needed, and he said ‘Can you just stay with me and hold my hand until the ambulance gets here?’ I said yes, I will.”

“I was really scared and I didn’t want to be alone,” Corey said. “Had I been alone, I would have been even more scared.”

Corey was treated and released at the scene while Officer Breshears remained at his side. By the time Corey was driven home by his aunt, the bond of friendship was sealed.

This friendship brought together lots of good people. As the impromptu friendship between the police officer and the Mission resident continued to blossom, so did a kindred relationship between Officer Breshears and his fellow police officers with Corey’s friends at the Mission Project.

THE MISSION PROJECT

Since 2004, this resourceful program has enabled capable adults with developmental disabilities to live independently and safely with individualized support. Participants have their own



Best buds!
Corey Graham and
Mission Police Officer
Matt Breshears

apartments in Mission. Like others their age, they hold jobs, pay bills, cook meals and socialize with friends. Mission is ideal for the program because of the availability of jobs, services, entertainment and a community center within walking distance of apartment complexes.

Members of the Mission Police Department have come to know and better understand the citizens associated with the Mission Project. They know who lives at the Mission Project, their personalities and often their routines. Mission Project participants, in turn, have trusting and personal relationships with caring public servants who happen to wear badges.

“Corey and his friends have unique needs and communication skills,” explained Sarah Mai, executive director of the Mission

Project. "When things happen that are scary, a lot of times they're not able to communicate what they need.

"Matt, as do others at the police department, just knows," Mai said. "He knows everybody by name, what they need and how to contact me. It leads to a very compassionate way of serving them instead of jumping to conclusions or handling things in a way that's uncomfortable for them. It's hard for someone to know how to support some of our friends in difficult situations unless they have that relationship. It's a compassion that comes naturally."

Officer Breshears' friendships resulting from the Mission Project make him feel even better about being in a profession he enjoys. He appreciates how Corey and his friends at Mission Project have given the police department an opportunity to demonstrate an element of service the public doesn't always recognize.

"Most of our general public only sees us at some of the worst times in their lives," Officer Breshears explained. "They don't often get to see us in this kind of casual interactions with people. It's a good thing. It's why I like being part of this organization."

For Corey, his friendship with Officer Breshears and other members of the police department is another reason to give high praise to Mission. "He likes his job at Security Bank as well as enjoying the independence of having his own apartment and having lots of friends."

"I'm happy," the always-smiling Corey said. "I like Mission."

Now, if someone could just locate that '81 Toyota.

SIGN OF SAFETY



Having friends in the neighborhood is a comforting feeling. Residents involved with The Mission Project, an organization for adults with developmental disabilities, will soon have no problem identifying some of those friends in Mission.

The Mission Police Department and The Mission Project are in the process of connecting with restaurants and businesses in downtown Mission. The objective is to mark safe and welcoming places for Mission Project residents with window signs featuring the blue and yellow logo of The Mission Project.

Sarah Mai, executive director, said the organization's residents often walk to work, shop and dine at businesses around Johnson Drive.

"It's just good for businesses to know who these residents are and are welcoming in case one loses a wallet, needs to use a restroom or seeks shelter from a storm," explained Sarah. "The idea behind this is to involve businesses within walking distance of the residents' apartments."

Current Mission Project safe places include CVS, Dips n Sips, Mac True Value Hardware, Mission Fresh Fashion, Painting with a Twist and Smoothie King.

Call or text 913-777-6722 to get a Mission Project safe place sticker.

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MISSION CITY OF MISSION NEWSLETTER

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Behind the scenes tours of the Johnson County Adult Detention Center, Emergency Communications Center, and Criminalistics Laboratory are also scheduled. Participants will graduate on October 4 and will have future opportunities to assist the Police Department at volunteer events throughout the year.

There is no cost to participate in the Academy, but applicants must reside or work in Mission, be at least 18 years of age, and pass a background check. Applications are available by contacting Captain Kevin Self at 913-676-8330 or kself@missionks.org.

THE MAYOR'S CORNER

Q: I see the Mission Market is now on Thursday evenings through September. Why the switch from Saturday mornings?

From its start in 2015, the Mission Market has had great community support. People have loved the small, friendly feel, the great items for sale, and having a unique place to gather with friends and neighbors. However, as staff began planning for the 2018 season, it became clear that many of the existing vendors were not planning to return to the market. This was for a variety of reasons, but it prompted the City Council to explore possible changes.

Since 2015, a weeknight market had been considered. Mission has a large daytime population due to the many office buildings and larger businesses in town and in the surrounding area. For those who work in Mission, but aren't lucky enough to also live here, stopping by the market at the end of a work day may seem more convenient and inviting than returning on a Saturday morning. Market surveys also reported that there are people who are interested in supporting the market, but who can't attend due to travel or other weekend activities and commitments.

Another important consideration in making the change to Thursday evenings was the fact that many vendors in the metro area already have commitments with one of the larger Saturday markets. Hosting a Thursday market means a whole new set of vendors can be invited to participate. The Council also decided to try and capitalize on the great success of the market's food truck nights by celebrating "Third Thursdays at the Market" on June 21, July 19, and September 20 with more food trucks, a beer garden, and dancing music!

I hope you have already visited the market at its new day and time. As we hoped, new vendors have joined our ranks, and several of our favorites have returned. In addition to the quality produce and farm fresh eggs, meats, jams, and honey, we have an array of specialty baked goods, wildflower bouquets, specialty ready-to-eat items, art vendors and the live music and great community energy that you've come to expect.

Don't miss an opportunity to experience the revamped Mission Market. As we like to say, "Thursday is the new Saturday" in downtown Mission! For more information, please don't hesitate to contact us at market@missionks.org or 913-676-8368.

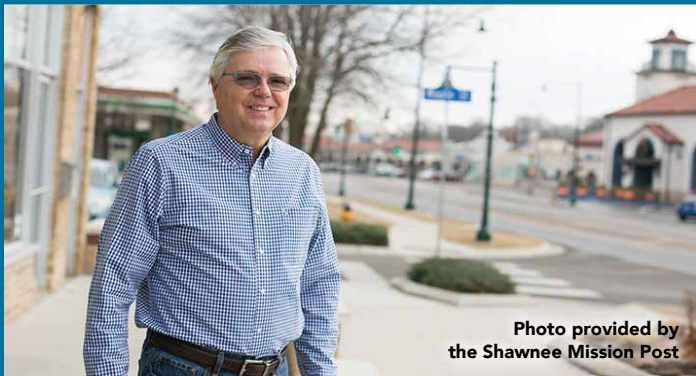


Photo provided by
the Shawnee Mission Post

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The City is looking for volunteers for various neighborhood and community events throughout the year. If you are interested in donating some of your time to help others, please visit missionks.org/volunteer for information and to register.



LET'S GET TOGETHER AT THE PARK!

If you are planning a get together, why not consider renting a Mission park shelter? Shelters are available on a first-come first-served basis, but you can rent/reserve one for your event. Andersen, Broadmoor, Legacy, Streamway, and Waterworks Parks all have shelters or shade structures.

Shelters can be rented for a maximum of four hours at a rate of \$5 per hour for Mission residents, and \$10 per hour for non-Mission residents. Each rental is subject to a \$50 security damage deposit. You will receive a permit for your reservation, and a copy of your permit will be hung in the display box at the park so that others know the shelter has been reserved.

To make a shelter reservation contact Natalie Lucas with the Mission Parks and Recreation Department at 913-722-8215 or nlucas@missionks.org.



THE GATEWAY AND MISSION TRAILS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SET TO BEGIN

It promises to be an exciting summer and fall in the City of Mission. Plans are currently being finalized and preparations made for two significant development projects as construction is gearing up for both the Mission Trails (6201 Johnson Drive) and The Gateway (Johnson Drive and Roe) projects.



Mission Trails brings a new, mixed-use apartment development to Johnson Drive just east of Lamar. The project includes a five-story apartment building with 200 luxury, market rate, one- and two-bedroom apartments. The ground floor, along Johnson Drive, will offer tenant amenities including a leasing office, gathering space, salon, and a bike repair station. Apartment residents will also enjoy a pool and various patio amenities interior to the site. For the public, a 5,000 square foot restaurant and outdoor courtyard have also been incorporated into the development along Johnson Drive. Site work and demolition for the Mission Trails project will occur in July and August, with actual construction scheduled for late summer / early fall.

The Gateway is a 550,000 square foot, mixed-use development to be built on the site of the former Mission Mall. The development will be built in sequential phases beginning later this year with site preparations for Phase I, which includes three apartment buildings that wrap the corner at Johnson Drive and

Roeland Drive. Each building will be four stories tall with retail at ground level, and one- and two-bedroom apartments on the three upper floors.

Phase II, anticipated to begin in the spring of 2019, includes a 200 room hotel located at the corner of Shawnee Mission Parkway and Roeland Drive. There will actually be two hotels in one – an Aloft hotel and an Element hotel for extended stays, both operated by Marriott. The hotels will share an open lobby space with a bar, occasional live entertainment, pool and workout facilities, and a large, sit-down restaurant. Phase II will also include the construction of 1,500 parking spaces in a four level parking garage interior to the site.

Phase III of The Gateway development is anticipated to include a 75,000 square foot office building east of the hotels, along Shawnee Mission Parkway. At the Johnson Drive and Roe Boulevard corner, the project includes an approximately 40,000 square foot food hall. The developer recently announced that the food hall is to be curated by the James Beard Award winning chef, Tom Colicchio, head judge of the popular cooking show on the Bravo channel - Top Chef. The food hall will have large, open glass doors and an outdoor space for socializing. A yet to be announced entertainment venue will be adjacent to the food hall.

Both of these development projects are the next steps in a renaissance for Mission's Downtown district, which began with the City's \$10 million investment in reconstructing Johnson Drive in 2014. It is anticipated that both The Gateway and Mission Trails will serve as a catalyst for future development along this important commercial corridor for northeast Johnson County. More information about these projects and others can be found on the City's webpage at www.missionks.org.





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April's Give-A-Bike, Take-A-Bike Event was a great success. Held at The Bar, neighbors donated their used bikes, or browsed for one to take home. BikeWalkKC staff and volunteers were on hand to help with basic bike maintenance. Donations were also collected for the purchase of new children's bikes for the Holiday Adoption Program. If you would like to make a donation for a children's bike, please contact Emily Randel at 913-676-8368 or erandel@missionks.org

YEARLY MAINTENANCE AND RENOVATIONS SCHEDULED FOR COMMUNITY CENTER

The Community Center will be closed on the following dates for annual maintenance and renovations. For additional details visit www.missionks.org or call the Center at 913-722-8200.

- **Natatorium/Swimming Pool Closed**
August 6-September 3
(includes steam room, sauna, hot tub)
- **2nd Floor Closed August 20-31**
(includes weight & cardio rooms, walking track)
- **Entire Facility Closed**
August 27-31

We'll be holding an open house in September to showcase the facility and our improvements!

CODE ENFORCEMENT SUMMER TIPS



Well-maintained homes and yards improve our quality of life and preserve property values. Summer is a great time to look around your home to see what changes and improvements are needed. Below are a few reminders of City Code requirements:

- All exterior building surfaces must be maintained in good condition. Chipping, peeling, and scaling paint must be repaired.
- Street addresses must be displayed in an area easily readable from the street.
- Driveways, walkways, and all paved surfaces must be free of hazardous conditions and in good repair. Gravel parking areas must be free from vegetation and have a defined border.
- Fencing must be free of damaged areas and should be sturdy, secure, and kept upright.
- Grass must be kept below 8 inches in height.
- Tools, containers, construction materials, auto parts, scrap metals and other miscellaneous items may not be stored outside.
- Trash carts should be stored behind the building line or in a garage.

Remember, if you plan to use a temporary storage container (such as "PODS") or a dumpster, permits are required prior to delivery and may be obtained at City Hall.

Citizens play an important role in keeping our community attractive, clean, and safe so please do your part in helping to keep Mission beautiful.

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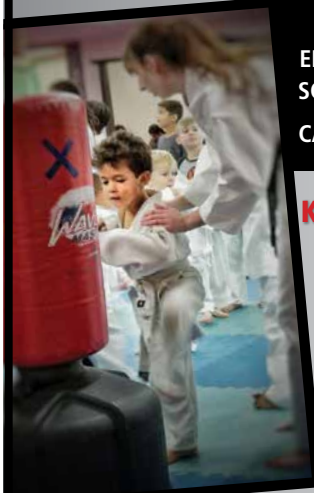
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Spring BEGINNINGS

Mission's history starts with a still-flowing spring
on the Santa Fe Trail

By Steve Hale | Photos by Scott Fishman



Jill Schultze is accustomed to occasionally seeing strangers poking around her property. Truth be told, she appreciates their curiosity in the nondescript historical site neatly tucked in the landscaped terrace at the end of the Schultze driveway.

Jill and her 8-year-old son, Gibson, live less than a block east of Lamar Avenue at 6201 W. 61st Terrace. This is no ordinary address. In the annals of Mission, Kansas, this location represents the beginning of the city. This is the site of the Santa Fe Trail Spring House.

The Spring House is a well-kept structure atop a solid, century-old stone foundation containing a natural spring of ever-flowing cool, clear water. The below-ground spring does not typically gush water as in the past, but a steady trickle seeps through the damp and moldy stones at the southeast corner of the building's

foundation, flows over a rock channel along a side wall and then disappears under the north wall and into a nearby creek.

Native Americans of various tribes certainly knew about and frequented this spring. It is believed to have served as a clear-water source for settlers and nearby religion-based missions.

In the 1820s, when the Santa Fe Trail became the primary trade and travel route connecting Independence, Missouri, with Santa Fe, New Mexico, the spring became a key stopping point. It was one of two known springs in what is now Mission and within a day's travel from the busy trading outpost in Westport, Missouri. (The second spring is believed to have been near what is now the BP car wash at 59th and Maple.) Travelers embarking on the Santa Fe Trail would camp near these springs and begin their journey with a supply of fresh water from a non-muddy source.

"This spring was very well known on the trails and helped to establish Mission as a city," explained Andy Akright, a 10-year resident of Mission who recently acquired a passion for local history. "The crazy thing is it's here in a regular neighborhood. But right here, 150 years ago, is where the Native Americans and the settlers came to get water."

Andy is undoubtedly one of those curiosity seekers Jill and Gibson have seen checking out the Spring House. A self-described "amateur historian," Andy has immersed himself in learning about the area's history and has been particularly captivated by the Spring House. He estimates having visited the site on the Schultze property at least a dozen times the past couple years, often bringing friends and family so they could

literally dip their fingers into historical waters.

"I ask friends if they want to see something they'll never see anywhere else," Andy shared. "Admittedly they don't act very enthused at first, but once they see this place they have lots of questions."

Andy's theory is the original construction of the stone foundation of the Spring House was commissioned more than 150 years ago by either Isaac McCoy, who established a



The Spring House captured the attention of novice historian Andy Akright

Baptist mission near what is now 55th and Walmer, or his son, John Calvin McCoy, a prominent Westport merchant widely considered the founder of Kansas City. Andy marvels at how the original stone of the Spring House is still in place and how over the years "someone cared enough to keep this place up."

A bit of symmetry is in play with Jill Schultze now owning the property. Jill is a native of Mission, growing up in a house on 61st Street less than a block away from the Spring House. She remembers playing in the woods and creek bed between the Spring House and Lamar Avenue.

Jill purchased the house and property six years ago from the family of the late Bevin and Eileen McAnany, who had lived there the previous 50 years. Members of the McAnany family contacted by Mission Magazine are unclear about the history behind the Spring House but certainly remember how Bevin McAnany maintained the building as needed.



Cool, clear spring water trickles through the foundation stones of the Spring House

Jill and Andy both attribute the lingering notoriety of the Spring House to historical records and accounts. Mostly, however, they said the Spring House remained in the public eye thanks to interested persons maintaining historical signs and markers at the entrance to what is Jill's driveway off 61st Terrace. They mentioned one specific marker — "Shawnee Mission Historical Trail, Site #3, Spring House" — placed in the 1990s by a young man working on his Eagle Scout project. (Andy would love to know the identity of the Eagle Scout.) Jill was compelled to take the sign down due to its deterioration, but her plan is to have the "Site #3" sign restored and returned to its rightful place.

Jill is pleased the Spring House is getting attention and has no problem with interested persons checking it out.

"I have people pull up all the time and I don't care at all," Jill assured. "I'm not sure how people find out about it, but I love the Spring House getting the attention."



Jill and Gibson Schultze appreciate having a piece of history on their residential property

Wanted: Photos from the Past

A favorite feature of Mission Magazine is "Then and Now," where past and present photographs of scenes and places in the city are shown side by side.

Mission Magazine is accepting—on loan, of course—photos of days gone by from in and around the community. Pictures will be selected for publication based on uniqueness and quality. Preference will go to scenes not previously used in the magazine.

Contact Suzie Gibbs at 913-671-8564 or suziegibbs1@gmail.com

Winning Water

Turn on your tap to taste the finest water in Kansas.

Judges at a regional water conference named WaterOne, provider of water to Mission, as "Best Tasting Water in Kansas—2018." Glasses of unlabeled water samples were served at room temperature for the most accurate comparison. Judges then sniffed, sipped, slurped, swished and swallowed to get a sense of each samples flavor, aroma and "mouth feel."

"This award confirms our extensive, multi-tiered treatment process water that is clean, safe and tastes delicious," said Michelle Wirth, WaterOne's director of production.

Cheers!

New look at Lulu's

Jennifer Bricker-Pugh is the new owner of Lulu's Boutique, the popular consignment clothing shop at 6017 Johnson Drive. The trendy store features "pre-loved" clothing, handbags and accessories.

A longtime customer of Lulu's before becoming owner and an artist by trade, Jennifer has brightened up the boutique and is expanding the inventory to include larger sizes. Lulu's now also carries jewelry and décor by local artists.

Lulu's will buy clothing Monday through Saturday. A good place to learn more is on Facebook: [lulusboutiquekc](https://www.facebook.com/lulusboutiquekc).



Lulu's Boutique

TEENS ON BOARD

WANTED:

High school students with a desire to get involved with City of Mission government.

The city has several openings for youth members on the Parks, Recreation & Tree Commission and the Sustainability Commission. Interested high school students can contact Emily Randel at erandel@missionks.org or 913-676-8368 for more information or an application.



SUNFLOWER FESTIVAL

Encore!

Mark your calendar for the return of the Mission Sunflower Festival.

The second edition of this annual event will take place in downtown Mission on Friday and Saturday, August 24 and 25.

The Sunflower Festival includes a Friday evening kick-off with live music, a beer garden and food trucks. Saturday the fun starts early and lasts the day. Festivities include a morning parade, carnival-style games, bingo, food, drinks and much more.

Visit the event website for details:
MissionSunflowerFestival.com

SWEPT TO SCHOOL

Who needs a school bus when a street sweeper is available? Eight-year-old Olivia Morstorf showed up for one of the final school days at Santa Fe Elementary riding shotgun in a City of Mission street sweeper. She had the privilege having won an auction at a school fundraiser. "Most expensive street sweeper ride ever!" laughed Olivia's mom, Bethany Luther. Yet to be seen is if Olivia will expect another ride when she returns to Santa Fe Elementary next fall as a third grader. Her chauffeur for this clean sweep trip to school was Brent Morton with the city's Public Works Department.



Artist JoEl Vogt is known for her impressionistic paintings, but her creative talents also extend to quilting, as demonstrated by this piece on display in her Mission home.



By Steve Hale
Photos by
Scott Fishman

Artist
inspired by
nature,
influenced by
career as
therapist

Monet of Mission

JoEl Vogt spent her professional career as an art therapist helping others express themselves through art. Now in retirement, the Mission resident has turned the tables on herself. JoEl's artistic talents with paint, fabrics — and recently as an author — are most assuredly her preferred form of self-expression.

Even those who proclaim to lack an artistic eye will recognize JoEl's talents. Her impressionistic and "expressionist" paintings have been displayed at galleries and shows across the Midwest, often catching the attention of private and corporate buyers. In recent years, JoEl stepped away from actively selling her paintings, shifting attention to fiber art and quilts. Regardless

of the "canvas," JoEl's ability to blend colors with captivating images and patterns is evident.

The obvious comparison of JoEl's work is to Claude Monet, the famous 19th-century painter whose mastery of capturing light and natural forms gave birth to the Impressionism movement. Like Monet, JoEl's painting style evolved from "painting what I saw" to her own unique way of interpreting her surroundings.

"I mostly was focusing on views," JoEl remembered of when, after retirement, painting for herself became a passion. "I began to realize it wasn't just what I was seeing but what I would assimilate.

"I was getting a sensory experience of the wind, the light, the

air, the smells and the sounds," she said. "I began to get more Monet-like. The impression was what I was experiencing more than what I was seeing. Focusing on color became an important way to express my feelings."

If that comment sounds like JoEl's art therapist background coming to the forefront, it's for good reason. Art therapy is a mental health profession in which art media and the creative process help clients explore their feelings and ultimately reconcile emotional conflicts and better manage behavior. JoEl was at the forefront of bringing art therapy to the Midwest after it first gained prominence on the East and West coasts. She has a bachelor's degree in studio art and a master's degree in counseling education from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She taught the Art Therapy B.A. Program at Avila College in Kansas City and graduate-level classes at UMKC in addition to being in private practice in Kansas City.

JoEl now finds inspiration at "The Farm," a natural wooded preserve near the Lake of the Ozarks, personally restored and maintained by JoEl and her husband, Ethan Hirsh. She speaks of the property with near reverence for its bounty of wildlife, streams, ponds and meadows. "The Farm" provides the sensory elements that guide her creative direction. Above all, the natural surroundings inspire her.

"I was so excited and enchanted by the experiences and the changes all around me," JoEl said of the Ozarks property. "It was just invigorating. When I'm out there, I'm a more enlivened version of myself."

Earlier this year, JoEl's talents manifested in yet another creative medium. She published a book, a memoir titled "A Flower Blooms: My Journey in a Landscape of Art." JoEl admits she's not a natural writer and putting the book together "was probably the hardest thing I've done in my life."

"Honestly, it took me 10 years to write this book," JoEl confessed. Her book writing started unwittingly with journal entries "when I didn't have the concept of a book in mind."

But the idea of doing a book continued to take hold. JoEl started by simply coming up with chapter headings and then started the actual writing. With assistance and encouragement from her husband, "A Flower Blooms" was published in March of this year. Many of JoEl's paintings are featured within.

Writing the book fulfilled an intrinsic calling within JoEl. She considers it an "ethical will," a means of passing along to family, friends and loved ones the values and insights from her assimilated perspective on life.

"The concept of ethical will is as ancient as the Talmud," JoEl



I
was getting
a sensory
experience of the
wind, the light, the air,
the smells and the
sounds.

-JoEl Vogt

explained. "It's how to express to your descendants what you've learned by your very being ... about the life you've lived and what it is you want them to carry on from what you've experienced."

Certainly, JoEl's artwork will be a legacy in its own right. And there's more to come. She has become intimately involved in fiber art and quilt making, a creative outlet she enjoys in no small part because of the camaraderie and mutual talents of others in a local quilting group.

"They want to share, they want to help each other," JoEl said of her quilting companions. "I can go to my quilting group and say 'I've started this and don't know what to do with it.' They'll give you ideas and support."

Sounds like retired therapist JoEl Vogt, in her current phase of creative expression, has discovered art therapy can be administered in group form.



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Our Neighborhood Bar!

Assistant Coach Alex Morris, who's been with the Mission Marlins for 21 years, keeps lines of young swimmers moving at a recent practice.



FAMILY OF MARLINS



55-year legacy of excellence personifies Mission swim team

By Steve Hale | Photos by Cathy Donovan

Several dozen young swimmers between the ages of 5 and 7 eagerly gather around their coach, Alissa Ruffin, to soak in her instructions and encouragement.

It's mid-morning at the Mission Family Aquatic Center and the kids are about to jump into their designated lanes to swim the length of the pool doing the back crawl. High schoolers are in the water, ready to assist and instruct as needed.

"You guys are already doing what a lot of adults can't do," Alissa praises. "Now turn to three people, give 'em a high five and say 'You're a rock star!' "

Such a scene is standard fare when it comes to the bona fide phenomenon known as the City of Mission Swim Club (CMSC) or the Mission Marlins. This summer marks the 55th year for this recreational competitive swim team involving swimmers ages 5 to 18. The organization has thrived and grown thanks to an ideal blend of top-flight coaching, strong parental engagement, ongoing community support and, of course, enthusiastic participants.

Don't doubt for a second the Mission Marlins being a "phenomenon." Consider this year's program will involve 300 families primarily from Mission but also from surrounding communities. Over the years other area recreational swim clubs succumbed to economic difficulties or turnover in coaches or organizers. CMSC absorbed those teams as able and continued

its legacy without skipping a beat.

Success is not just about numbers. CMSC is unique due to the spirit and vitality of the organization. "Fun" is always the primary element of the team's agenda, but so too is teaching a lifetime activity in an environment built around personal accomplishment, team involvement and gaining friendships across age groups and communities.

"A lot of times our swimmers start with the parents doing the pushing," explained Alissa, now starting her 14th year as coach of the Mission Marlins. "Parents realize swimming is a life skill and a valuable part of a child's life. But the experience turns itself into an opportunity for the kids to meet friends outside school while building their confidence. As they get older they come back because they want to, not because they're expected to."

Alissa joined the Mission Marlins as a youth swimmer in 1988, swam with the club through high school and, after being an assistant coach, became head coach in 2004. Alissa teaches math at Chisholm Trail Middle School in Olathe and coaches the men's swim team at De Soto High School and the women swimmers at Olathe Northwest.

Oh, yes — Alissa's 11- and 13-year-old daughters are veteran Marlins. It's common to see generations of families involved with a club that's been in operation for more than five decades.

"We have a family here in the Mission Marlins," explained



Marlins give their undivided attention to the club's coach, Alissa Ruffin, center. Helping are assistants Gino Dodd, left, and Katie Dearing.

Billie Campbell, a Mission resident actively involved with the organization as a parent in the 1990s when her two sons were on the team. Now she's back watching her 7-year-old grandson, Jackson, in his first year as a Mission Marlin.

"It's incredible seeing how this team has grown exponentially," Billie said. "A lot of it has to do with the quality of the coaches who have been here for years."

Billie's son, Bruce Campbell, a former Marlin and Jackson's dad, is quick to agree.

"These kids are doing things outside their comfort zone," Bruce pointed out. "Look at these little kids doing the backstroke, getting water splashed up their nose and working hard on technique. It takes incredible coaches to keep them motivated while having a good time so they look forward to coming back."

John Comstock is one of those coaches. Indeed, he has legendary status with several generations of CMSC swimmers and their families. John joined the Mission Marlins in 1975 as an assistant coach becoming head coach in 1981. He served as head coach for 23 years before turning the reins over to Alissa. Even now, the Marlins adhere to teaching techniques and team traditions from John's years as coach. Certainly John's competitive spirit has continued.

"If looking at traditions, competition-wise the MoKan (Swim) League was very competitive and appears to still be very competitive," said John, a substitute teacher in the Shawnee Mission School District who still judges at high school swim meets. "What's great is the league is not just set up for the top elite swimmers. It's set up for swimmers to seek improvement at all levels."

The appeal of the Marlins extends beyond Mission's city boundaries. Heather Brasel of Kansas City, Kansas, and whose daughters are Marlins, said a "really good recommendation" resulted in the family signing up for the CMSC. She's pleased with the decision.

"We love this team having a very good non-competitive option," said Heather. "I'm not sure my kids will want to swim on a competitive level but regardless everyone is taught the same."

Amy Williams, a nearby Prairie Village parent with three swimmers on the team, said the Marlins' legacy made the decision to join a "no brainer."

"People come from all over because these coaches have been here for years," said Amy. "It's the

most well-organized team. We have texting groups. We have a directory. We have lots of parent volunteers. The Marlins function like a community with everyone having a supportive attitude."

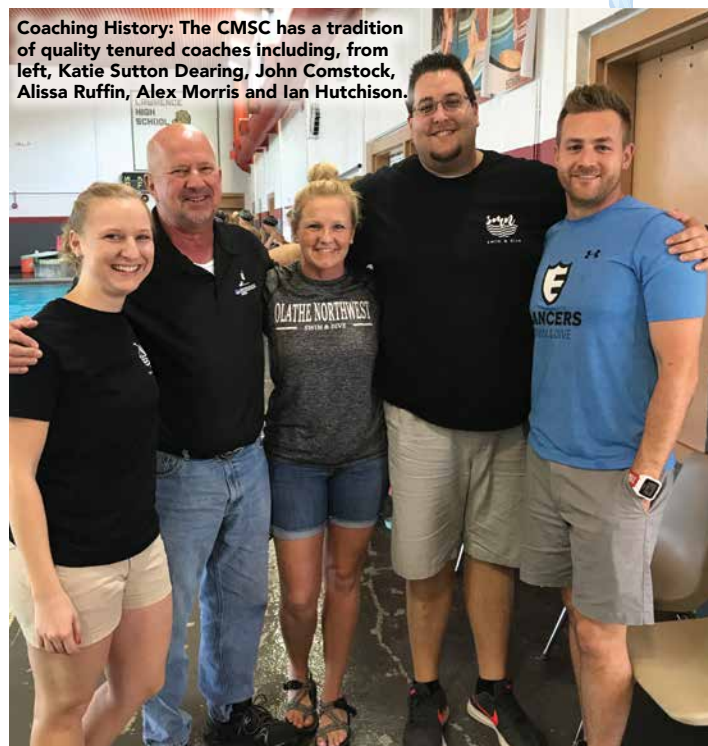
The Marlins' seven-week season begins in early June with weekday practice sessions starting at 7 a.m. and running to noon. The club runs six overlapping practice sessions, each catered to the abilities — not the ages — of swimmers. It's common to have as many as 75 swimmers in the pool at one time as Alissa, her four assistant coaches and a corps of helpers orchestrate instruction of swimmers in

and out of the water.

The MoKan Swim League, of which the CMSC is a member, holds swim meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, conveniently leaving weekends free for everyone involved. All swimmers can compete in sprint and distance events in order to develop skills. Competition generally intensifies at the more advanced levels.

The CMSC is by design a parent-run organization, which former coach John and current coach Alissa acknowledge is directly responsible for the club's long-term success. They also give much credit to current and past administrators and elected officials at the City of Mission, whose financial support and commitment to facility upgrades has been "exceptional."

"I've told council members and mayors they could not have better ambassadors to represent their city than these swimmers," John noted. "Their sportsmanship, their competitiveness, their always congratulating other swimmers and telling them they've done a good job — it's something that carries through with everyone involved with the team."



Coaching History: The CMSC has a tradition of quality tenured coaches including, from left, Katie Sutton Dearing, John Comstock, Alissa Ruffin, Alex Morris and Ian Hutchison.



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Chiefs cheerleaders welcomed Alex Goodwin to a tour of Arrowhead Stadium. Joining were Mission Police Chief Ben Hadley, Jeff Goodwin (Alex's father) and Officer Matt Breshears.



Photo by:
Steve Sanders/Kansas City Chiefs



ALEX ON A MISSION

Community embraces young cancer survivor from the U.K.

By Steve Hale

The overflow crowd at Twisted Sisters Coffee Shop on Johnson Drive was in fine spirits on a Friday morning in May. This was the monthly "Coffee With A Cop" gathering. The group included members of the Mission Police Department and several dozen individuals from the Mission community.

But this crowd seemed larger than normal, the atmosphere particularly festive for a mid-morning social. Canopies along the sidewalk fended off the sun, and gentle tunes from a guitarist settled over the scene. First one, then two and eventually three television news vans pulled to the curb. Something was up.

But of course! Alex is in town!

Mission has an adopted son and his name is Alex Goodwin. This 11-year-old from the United Kingdom has captured the heart of the city — indeed, of the entire Kansas City metro area — by defying long odds in a battle with a rare form of cancer and then facing a physically, mentally and financially challenging recovery with an indomitable spirit that routinely invokes the term "hero."

The ongoing story of "Alexander's Journey" has been well chronicled by the Kansas City news media and across social media channels. (Alex has 28,400 followers on Twitter.) Doctors in the U.K. determined Alex had Ewing's sarcoma, a rare bone cancer. Alex had just turned 9. His family was told he would not live to age 10.

Jeff Goodwin, Alex's father and a police constable, began a desperate effort on social media to locate medical treatment otherwise unavailable in England. His online outreach caught the attention of Kansas City, Kansas, Police Chief Terry Ziegler. The KCK Police Department had recently lost two officers killed in the line of duty. Chief Ziegler was looking for a source, a connection of some sort, to help motivate and inspire a corps of officers struggling with the deaths of their peers.

Chief Ziegler put Alex's family in touch with doctors at the University of Kansas Health System, one of the only medical facilities in the world with resources to save Alex's life.

Suddenly Alex and family had hope, and the local law enforcement community dedicated itself to helping a 9-year-old fighter.

The ensuing story started with a trans-Atlantic trip against time as Alex's body deteriorated from the cancer. Alex underwent aggressive chemotherapy and two complicated surgeries, one in which his femur was completely removed and a telescopic metal prosthesis put in its place. Then more surgeries. Physical therapy. Radiation treatments. Alex seemingly spent as much time in Kansas City as in his home country. High-profile fundraising efforts across Kansas City kept Alex in the limelight. People began cheering for the personable and spirited lad from across the pond. Many took it upon themselves to help. As Alex himself tells of the phenomenon, "My story is about how when bad things happen such as this, good people come together to help."

Ben Hadley, chief of the Mission Police Department, is high on Alex's good-people list. While Alex was suffering "bad things" due to cancer, so, too, was Chief Hadley. A tumor "the size of a hacky sack" had been surgically removed from inside Chief Hadley's skull. Mission's police chief underwent chemotherapy and had 33 rounds of radiation. Indeed, Alex and Chief Hadley both rang the same ceremonial bell at KU Med signifying their radiation therapy was complete.

The ensuing bond that formed between Chief Hadley and Alex provided an added level of motivation for the close-knit community of Mission to help the Goodwin family. Last summer, the Mission City Council declared Alex an honorary police chief. Businesses across the city routinely donate a percentage of proceeds and make contributions to help Alex. Events like the coffee at Twisted Sisters Coffee happen regularly. On May 25, Alex's 11th birthday, Anderson Park was the site for a fundraising celebration with inflatables, donated food and live radio broadcasts.

Such contributions are critical to Alex's well-being. Until age 18, Alex will require quarterly visits to KU Med and Children's Mercy Hospital for scans and physical therapy. Without these treatments, the chance of recurrence increases and physical recovery is hampered. Each trip costs \$16,000. Every time Alex and members of his family visit the community, there's a coordinated effort to raise funds for the next visit only three months out.

"Mission is a small community and when there are efforts like this, it happens as a family," said Deb Settle, president of the Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce. She said the outpouring of support from businesses in Mission was representative of a communitywide spirit of caring for a family in need.

Alex's father said his son would not be alive today if not for the people of Kansas City and Mission.

"Mission has just embraced us, to be honest," Jeff Goodwin said. "My friends in England who had visited the United States before said the genuine people are in the middle. It's ironic our journey has brought us to Kansas in the heart of the Midwest."

Jeff credits Alex's personality for drawing goodness out of others. It's literally been a life-saving quality.

"Alex is naturally charismatic, but what's amazing is he



Thumbs up! Cancer survivors 11-year-old Alex Goodwin and Mission Police Chief Ben Hadley

genuinely cares more about other people than he does about himself," Jeff reflected. "He's strong but yet he's so gentle. People warm to him straight away."

Alex said the attention he has received serves a purpose beyond his own situation.

"I think there's a reason for me to be open with others, and perhaps getting a little bit of (TV) footage I can inspire others," Alex said and then briefly paused. "Thinking about it makes me cry a little bit."

As for the community of Mission, Alex speaks without hesitation.

"People in Mission are amazing," gushed Alex as he gave a thumbs up sign. "Absolutely amazing."

HELP FOR ALEX

Alex Goodwin will be returning to Mission many times in the months and years ahead as he continues his medical treatment and physical therapy. Contributions to help fund these visits are greatly appreciated by Alex, his family and his extended Mission family.

- **FACEBOOK:**
facebook.com/alexgjourney
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- **AMAZON:**
Proceeds from sales of Jeff Goodwin's book help fund Alex's medical expenses. Go to Amazon.com and search for "Alexander's Journey"
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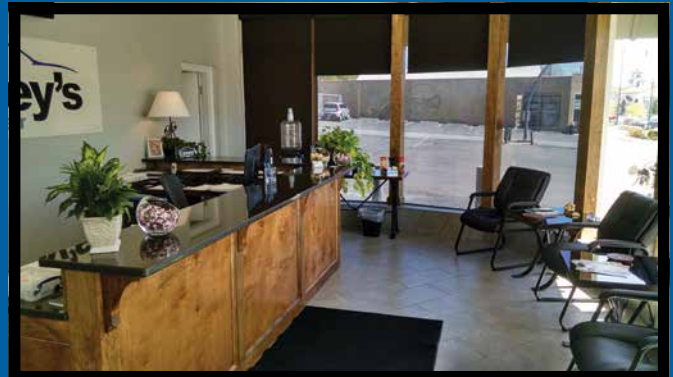
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