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SIMPLE ACTS OF KINDNESS

Striking up a conversation with a total stranger in the doctor's office one stormy morning in May was the highlight of my day! I am known for not typically wearing a coat in the winter or carrying an umbrella when it rains. That day a lovely lady noticed I wasn't prepared for the weather and asked, "Where is your umbrella?" Of course, I didn't have one with me, upon which she said she had an umbrella big enough for two and would wait for me to finish my appointment and walk me to my car. Yes, she was waiting for me and not only did she walk me to my car, she offered to give me one of her extra umbrellas that she carried in her car! I sat pondering that awesome act of kindness while wondering if I would have helped someone in a similar situation. I hoped I would.

My drive home had me reliving that moment — but it also helped me realize that over the past 10 years Mission Magazine has written many stories about our businesses and residents who have gone the extra mile. Drs. Don and Bill Keith, (see Page 24) Mission dentists, not only donate their time to our residents, and Greater Kansas City, but they also travel to Kenya, where they spend their days pulling teeth for hundreds of people who do not have access to dental care.

This issue also features Mission Pawn, which is not your ordinary pawnshop! After reading their story (Page 6) you will discover they

takes a personal interest in each one, making certain they leave knowing they have a new friend.

Then there's 10-year-old Andrew Drill, who has already earned four President's Volunteer Service Awards for his kindness and volunteerism (Page 34). Andrew not only collects toiletries for our holiday families; we most recently watched him distribute flowers, toothpaste and toothbrushes at our Harvesters food truck event while wishing each recipient a Happy Mother's Day — which I am sure made their day.

In that vein of sharing and kindness, the City of Mission has begun hosting a Harvesters Food Truck for our residents who just might need a little TLC. (See Page 12) At our first event in May, we loaded food into 87 cars, distributed 7 tons of food and sent the participants on their way with our Countryside Christian Church volunteers offering the kind words "have a blessed day."

It is easy to commit an act of kindness or make someone's day by just saying "good morning" or offering them a friendly smile, an umbrella or an arm to assist them. If you have a story you would like to share, please give me a call at 913-671-8564 or email me at suziegibbs1@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you. Or begin your day today by making someone else's day. It is a win-win situation.

Enjoy!

Suzie Gibbs



truly care about their customers.
Robin

On the cover:

Robin and Jeff Tummons, owners of Mission Pawn and House of Stuart.
Photo by Denise Elam

Contents

- 6 Mission Pawn offers fair prices, compassionate treatment
- 12 Mobile food pantry event feeds families in northeast Johnson County
- 15 City Newsletter
- 22 Bulletin Board
- 24 Keith + Associates Dentistry on 35 years of success
- 28 Project Finish gives adults of any age the opportunity to earn a high school degree
- 30 Mother-son duo operate two popular Mission shops
- 34 Ten-year-old philanthropist Andrew Drill dedicates time to serving others

Mission

Your Hometown

JULY 2019

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

If you have a story idea, contact Suzie Gibbs at 913-671-8564 or Suziegibbs1@gmail.com.

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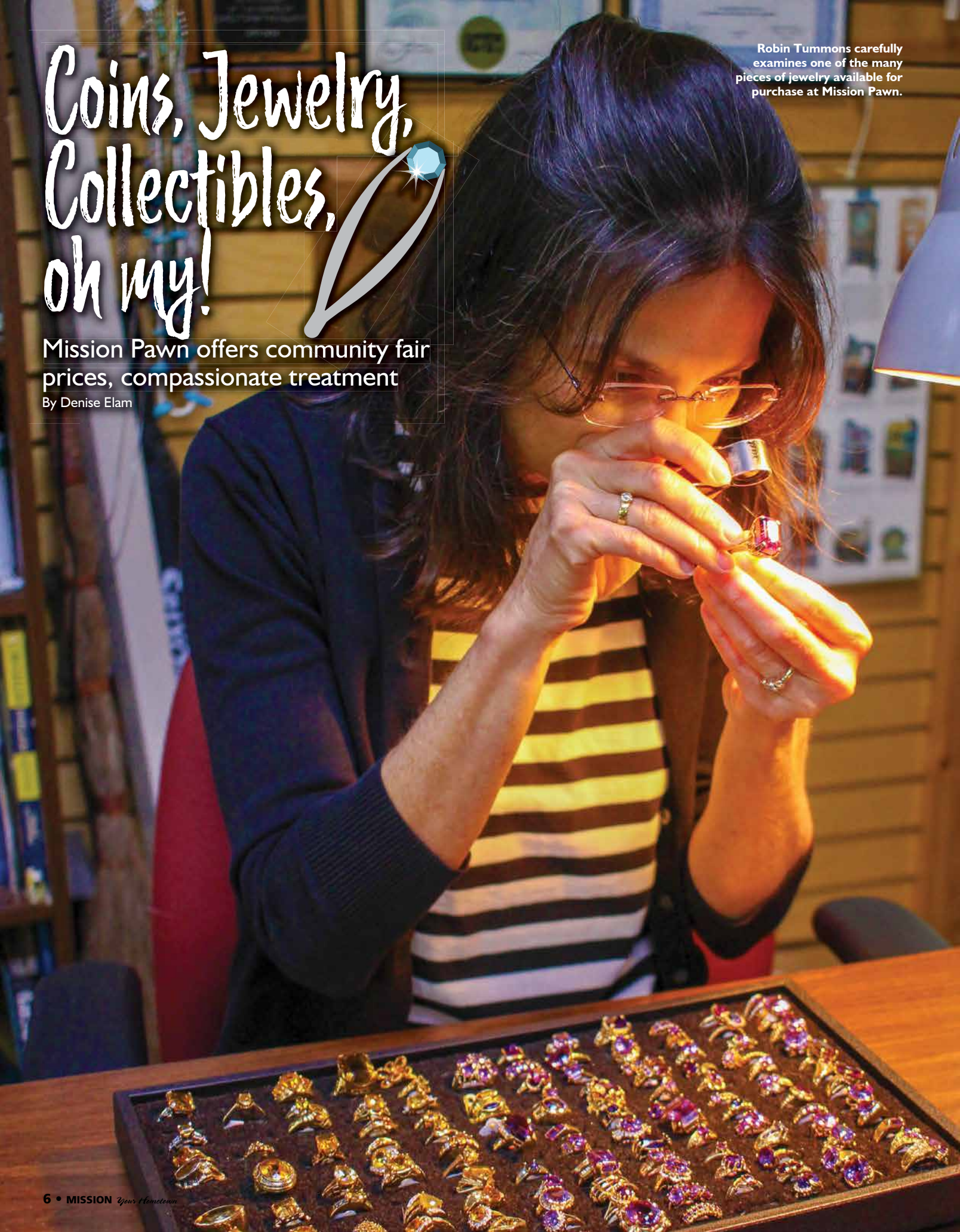
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Coins, Jewelry, Collectibles, oh my!

Mission Pawn offers community fair
prices, compassionate treatment

By Denise Elam

Robin Tummons carefully
examines one of the many
pieces of jewelry available for
purchase at Mission Pawn.



A man from Wichita pulled into the parking lot of Mission Pawn early one Saturday morning and peered into the shop. The sign in the window said closed. He was an hour early to his appointment with Robin Tummons, the second-generation business owner of Mission Pawn and its subsidiary, House of Stuart. The man, biding time until his appointment, drove up Johnson Drive, where he spotted a sign for a yard sale two blocks north on Lamar. At the sale, he bought a little metal truck for \$20. He showed it to Robin during his appointment later that morning and her eyes lit up. She bought it from him for \$440.

Robin has seen many similar success stories in the 25 years since Mission Pawn first opened its doors at the intersection of Martway and Lamar. People from around the world stop in to buy, sell, trade and take out small collateral loans.

"Banks do not offer small loans, so there's a whole market out there with a need for cash flow of a small amount for a short term," she emphasized.

With collateral loans, people bring an item of value into the shop and receive a loan that compares with the object's value. That piece of collateral sits in storage for as long as the person needs throughout the length of the loan. Payments are due each month, with interest regulated at 10% in Kansas, the cheapest in the United States.

"The loan never becomes legally the pawnshop's until it's 90 days expired," Robin explained. "If you get three months behind, then legally it becomes the pawnshop's item and then they can clean it, price it, research it and put it out for sale to recuperate their investment."

There's no bad credit history when a person doesn't come back for their item.

"The customer's under no contract to come back for their item, so it's not like a car loan or a house mortgage," she added.

Robin lives and breathes precious metals and antique finds. She has been involved in coin shows and pawn dealings since she was 10. Her father, Gary Sturtridge, started the House of Stuart in 1964, dealing bullion and rare coins. He brought Robin with him to major conventions and coin shows, where she familiarized herself with more than 600 dealers across the country while selling inventory.

Attending college at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Robin studied respiratory therapy. After long days working 12-hour shifts in the neonatal intensive care unit at KU Med, and later, dedicating 24-hour shifts to Children's Mercy on the Transport Team, she'd drive to Mission to help her parents at the pawnshop.

"I worked both jobs for 11 years," she noted.

Now the owners of Mission Pawn and House of Stuart, Robin, her husband, Jeff, and their staff are authorized dealers for the Professional

Coin Grading Service. Jeff joined the team after a career in teaching and other areas of education. They are both active advocates at the state level for the coin and pawn industries.

The shop's selection is one of a kind, with dazzling gold and silver jewelry, rare coins, guns, leather coats and at one point, a pair of orange ostrich cowboy boots with a matching belt.

"They sold within two weeks," Robin laughed. "A man bought them, put them on and walked out of the store. That's how much he loved the boots."

The shop boasts a huge selection of diamond jewelry, including silver, gold, white gold and internally flawless diamonds (considered 'perfect') available for purchase.

"We have a lot of different (diamond) grades to meet whatever pocketbook you want," Robin noted.

To appraise items in an accurate, fair way, Robin and her staff research what the item is currently selling for in a "used" condition. With most jewelry, she needs only three minutes to determine the value, legitimacy and clarity.

Though Hollywood films have labeled pawnshops as

"We're about gaining relationships, getting to know people. We want to help customers out of whatever stress or issue they have."
-Robin Tummons



Mission Pawn has a large selection of musical equipment for sale, as well as coins, guns, and gold and silver jewelry.

easy places to sell stolen items, Robin assures this is not the case. All Mission Pawn transactions are downloaded to a database that any police department in the U.S. can use to cross-reference for stolen merchandise, which only accounts for less than 1/10 of 1% of all pawned items.

Robin emphasized the most important asset to Mission Pawn is the people it serves. She feels fortunate to have been in a family business centered around helping the community, witnessing many heartwarming moments throughout the years. Her favorite memory happened when her parents first opened the business.



"There was a young lady from Kansas City, Kansas, who was in high school," Robin recalled. "She became pregnant and her boyfriend left the scene. Her parents abandoned her and she had this baby early."

The baby was born premature at 26 weeks gestation, living on a ventilator for several months. The young mother came to Mission Pawn and was given a loan to help her through

the difficult road ahead.

"Long story short, she came back when her son was 9 years old," Robin explained. "She said, 'Do you remember me?' I said, 'Absolutely.'"

Since taking out the loan, the young mother had moved to St. Louis, earned a GED diploma and began working two jobs and was on her way to getting her first house. She gave Robin's parents a framed picture of her son playing baseball.

"Mom still has that picture and keeps it in her study," Robin smiled.

Compassionate, fair treatment is what Mission Pawn is known for.

"We're about gaining relationships, getting to know people," Robin emphasized. "We want to help customers out of whatever stress or issue they have. We try to meet your need."



A man bought this metal truck for \$20 at a yard sale. That same day, Mission Pawn bought it from him for \$440.



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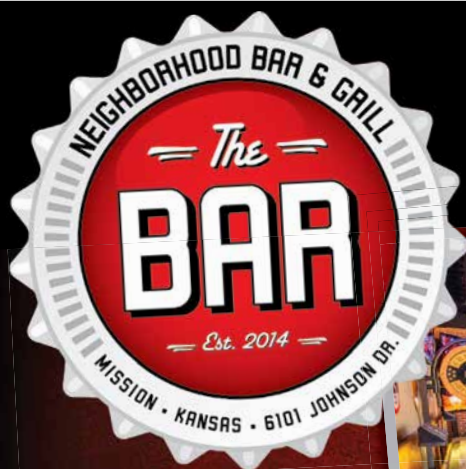
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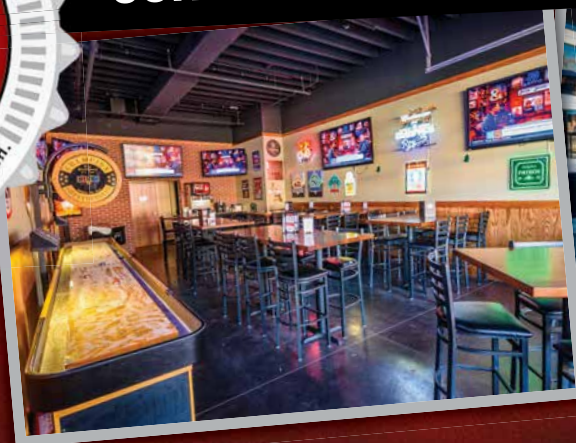
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THE BAR AT WEST PLAZA
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Mission's First Mobile Food Pantry Event A Success!

More than 500 people fed, 14,000 pounds of food delivered to community

By Denise Elam



Volunteer Shiela Ogden handed out fresh bananas, strawberries and apples at the food truck event.



One rainy morning in May, a team of more than 40 volunteers got up early to make a difference in Mission and surrounding areas by packaging and distributing food from a Harvesters mobile food pantry. In just three hours, volunteers delivered 14,000 pounds of food products such as tomatoes, cucumbers, salad mix, potatoes, coleslaw, fresh fruit, carrots and eggs to families in northeast Johnson County. With more than 500 people impacted, the distribution event was a huge success.

The mobile food pantry event, organized by Suzie Gibbs of the Mission Holiday Adoption program, with the help of Lynn Kring and representatives from Harvesters, took place in the Shawnee Mission North parking lot Saturday, May 11. Seven tons of food, stacked on pallets, were rolled off the

Harvesters truck and onto tables. Volunteers sorted through the boxes, filling bags to the brim with perishable food products. As they worked, 87 cars lined up in the lot, many arriving before 9 a.m.

Some volunteers had the rewarding role of speaking to families, determining how many bags of food each car needed to serve their households. Others helped direct traffic. Ten-year-old Andrew Drill, son of Mission Judge Keith Drill, handed flowers to each car for Mother's Day, along with toothbrushes and toothpaste. Countryside Christian Church assisted by providing packages of toilet paper for distribution.

Lynn Kring, a member of Mission's Holiday Adoption Committee, explained prospective recipients were notified



about the event through the social workers from seven area schools and two local churches. Families from the schools are among those who get a helping hand from the Holiday Adoption Project.

"We really wanted to do something to help families in our area in the spring and summer, not just for the holidays," emphasized volunteer Kathy Bauer, who also works with the Holiday Adoption Committee.

Logan Heley, a community engagement manager for Harvesters, said the mobile events are effective ways to get fresh vegetables and other perishables to the community.

"These fresh foods are essential to making people healthy," Logan emphasized.

He explained Harvesters is part of Feeding America, a nationwide network of more than 200 food banks, obtaining perishable food by a variety of means, including very generous individual and corporate donors and farmers. Harvesters assists 26 counties in the two-state region with a mission of feeding people and working to end hunger.

Volunteer Airianna Sallaz, an eighth-grader at Hocker Grove Middle School, was happy to lend a hand.

"I absolutely wanted to come out to help. It's a great way to know new people," she said, adding she'd love to collect more community service hours.

Mark Raduziner, a volunteer who helped register the cars, said the food recipients were "very friendly, respectful and appreciative."



Ten year-old Andrew Drill, son of Mission Judge Keith Drill, handed out toothbrushes, toothpaste and Mother's Day flowers to families at the Harvesters food truck event.

Toby Rush volunteered along with his wife and four children. "It's a great way of using someone's excess to bless others," Toby noted.

In an email to volunteers and organizers, Suzie Gibbs sincerely thanked all "the awesome volunteers" who helped make the event a success.

"On behalf of Mission's Family Adoption Committee, Lynn Kring and I send you all a very big heartfelt thank you," Suzie exclaimed. "To all of you — please know that the City of Mission can't thank you enough for making someone else's day!"

Many volunteers are looking forward to lending a helping hand at the next Harvesters food truck event.

"This is so fun, I'm hooked," volunteer Mary Schowengerdt smiled. "I absolutely would do another. I loved every minute."

The next food truck event will take place Saturday, Aug. 17, at Shawnee Mission North High School. For more information, contact Suzie Gibbs at 913-671-8564.

"We really wanted to do something to help families in our area in the spring and summer, not just for the holidays."

- Kathy Bauer



Volunteers packaged bags full of cucumbers, tomatoes, carrots and other perishable food items.

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CITY OF Mission NEWSLETTER

SYLVESTER POWELL, JR. COMMUNITY CENTER CELEBRATES 20 YEARS!

May 2019 marked 20 years of the Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center offering residents, members, and visitors a wide variety of fitness, cultural, community, and family and friends gathering events. Thank you to all who have helped to make the Community Center a success over the past 20 years.

If you haven't visited, stop by for a tour! The center is home to basketball and racquetball courts, weight and cardio rooms, spin studio, walking track, and a full indoor aquatic center



including a steam room, dry sauna and hot tub. Personal training, fitness, dance, summer camps, specialized recreation and senior trips are also available at the Community Center. For membership information, visit missionks.org or call 913-722-8200.

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY UPDATES

Dirt is moving and buildings are going up all over town. For the most current information on the Mission Trails apartment development (Johnson Drive) and the Gateway project, visit the City's website at missionks.org and follow the link to "Current Development Projects."



MISSION CITY HALL

6090 Woodson Road, Mission, Kansas 66202
Open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE & FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Third Wednesday every month, 7 p.m.

COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS

Fourth Wednesday every month, 7 p.m.

All meetings are open to the public.

GOVERNING BODY

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

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD I

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

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

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD II

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

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

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD III

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

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

COUNCILMEMBERS WARD IV

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

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

SLATE OF CANDIDATES SET FOR NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

Mission will elect four councilmembers during the Fall General Election on November 5, 2019. Below is a listing of candidates by Ward and a calendar of important dates for voters. For additional information or to check your registration visit jocoelection.org. Sample ballots and polling location information are available on the website 20 days before an election.

Ward I

Trent Boultinghouse

Burton Taylor

Ward II

Nick Schlossmacher

Ward III

Kristin Inman

Ward IV

Kenneth Davis

Dates to Remember for November General Election

October 15 – Last day to register to vote

October 16 – Advance voting by mail begins

October 28 – Advance voting in person begins

November 5 – General Election

THE MAYOR'S CORNER

Q: I'd like to stay more connected and learn about what's happening in the City. What options are available to me?

A: Keeping residents informed is one of our top priorities. There are many ways to learn about what's happening in the City. Take your pick of the options below or sign up for them all!

Social media

- Follow City news @CityofMissionKS on Facebook and Twitter
- Follow Parks and Recreation news with @Sylvester Powell Jr. Community Center on Facebook
- Follow the Mission Market @missionksmarket on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
- The City also posts periodic updates on NextDoor.com

Email updates

Sign up to receive a monthly recap of actions taken at each City Council meeting, upcoming events and City news. Sign up at missionks.org/notifications

Web updates

When new content you care about is added to missionks.org, you have the option of receiving an e-notification sent to your inbox. You can choose what you want to receive: Council agendas, upcoming events, job postings, and more. Sign up at missionks.org/notifications

NotifyJoCo

Notify JoCo is a mass notification system designed to keep Johnson County residents and businesses informed of emergencies and certain non-emergency events by text, phone or email. Sign up at notifyjoco.org.

All City Council, Committee, and Board and Commission meetings are open to the public. The Council Committee and Legislative meetings are broadcast on YouTube. Check out the meeting times and agendas online to attend or watch from wherever you are.

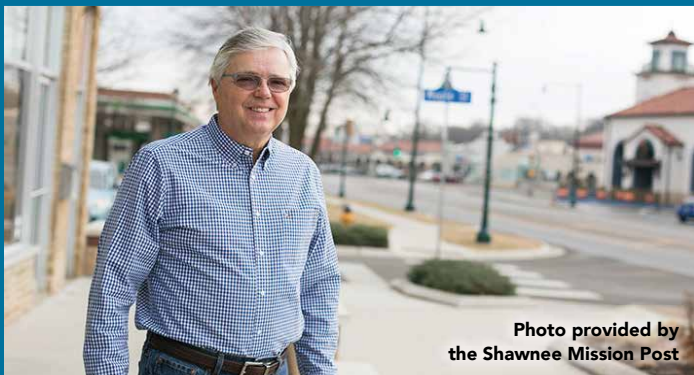


Photo provided by
the Shawnee Mission Post

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.

HOW CAN MY NEIGHBORHOOD HOST A CLEAN-UP EVENT?

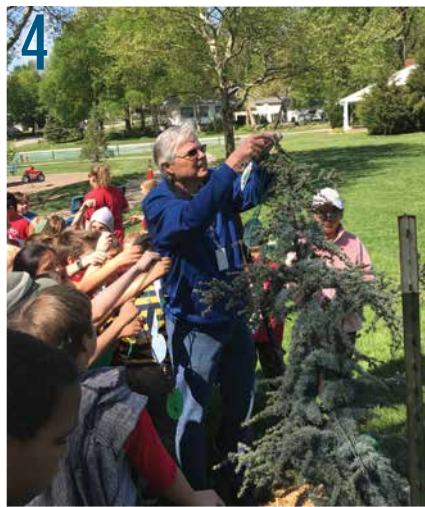
Mission is committed to the preservation and renewal of neighborhoods, and can help resident-based groups, blocks, and subdivisions host Neighborhood Clean-up Events in their neighborhood. These events are an opportunity to remove unwanted household items, trash, yard waste, and bulky items that can't typically be put out with your weekly trash collection, and the City will assist with organizing volunteers to help on the day of the event. Many neighborhoods combine their clean-up event with a picnic or cookout as another opportunity to bring residents together.

Funds are still available in 2019 for the Neighborhood Clean-up events and are awarded on a first come first served basis. For more information contact Neighborhood Services at 913-676-8360.



Mission Councilmembers participated in the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference in March, participating in educational and advocacy meetings, and visiting with Kansas Congressional members. Pictured L-R: Debbie Kring, Ken Davis, Senator Pat Roberts, Nick Schlossmacher, and Sollie Flora.

YOUR CITY AT WORK



1. POLICE OFFICERS CONNECT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE DURING MISSION'S ANNUAL BUNNY EGGSTRAVAGANZA EVENT.
2. PUBLIC WORKS STAFF WORK ON STREET IMPROVEMENTS AT 51ST AND RUSSELL.
3. RUSHTON ELEMENTARY STUDENTS WORK TO KEEP ROADWAYS CLEAN THROUGH THE ADOPT-A-STREET PROGRAM.
4. MAYOR APPLETOFT AND RUSHTON ELEMENTARY STUDENTS CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY AT WATERWORKS PARK.

DO I NEED A BUSINESS LICENSE?

All businesses in Mission are required to have a business license. Licenses run from July 1 to June 30 each year and for those located in a commercial area, they are based on the type of business and square footage. If your business does not yet have a license, contact the City Clerk who can assist you with calculating your fee and ensuring you are up to date with your license.

Home businesses also need a license. If you work for a company that is located outside of Mission, and you are simply "working from home," then you would not be required to get a license.

For those residents who do own a business that is located at their home, there are a number of criteria that must be met. Most commonly, residents ask about where their business can be located in their home, can they have employees and how many, are signs permitted, parking and traffic issues, what hours can the business operate, and what is the fee for a license.

- The business must be conducted entirely within the main dwelling - not in an accessory building, garage or structure, whether attached or detached.
- The home occupation may have no more than two employees who do not reside in the home.
- Homes must retain their residential character and no signs are permitted.
- The business may not generate, result in or contribute to traffic (vehicular or pedestrian), parking, sewage or water use in excess of what is usual and normal in a residential neighborhood.
- Home occupations may only attract business-related vehicular and pedestrian visits between the hours of 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 pm.
- Home Occupation Licenses are \$35 annually.

License applications for businesses located in commercial areas and home occupations can be found on Mission's website or by contacting the City Clerk. You may reach the City Clerk at 913-676-8355 / msumrall@missionks.org if you have questions.





Safe Driving, Safe Crossing

Tips for Pedestrians and Motorists

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- » Always cross at marked crosswalks.
- » Use pedestrian beacons when they are available.
- » Look left-right-left before crossing.
- » Make eye contact with the driver before crossing.
- » Look before walking past stopped vehicles.

Drivers

- » Yield to pedestrians at intersections.
- » Stay alert and be prepared to stop at all intersections.
- » Watch for bicyclists and skateboarders.
- » Never pass another vehicle that has stopped or is slowing down at a crosswalk.

To learn more about laws, rights and responsibilities, refer to the State of Kansas Standard Traffic Ordinance.



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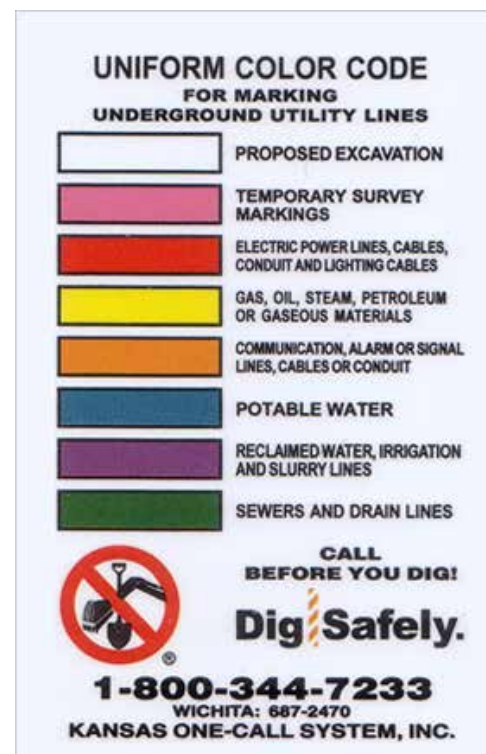
With warm weather, many residents are tackling landscaping and renovation projects at their homes. One easy phone call to 811 gets your underground utility lines marked for free.

"Kansas One-Call" is the underground utility notification center for the state of Kansas. Buried utilities could exist just about anywhere you dig. Homeowners and contractors can prevent injury, damage to underground utilities, and prevent service interruptions by calling KOC at least two working days prior to excavating. It's free, easy, and it's the law!

Kansas One-Call accepts locate requests 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; start dates for requests remain Monday through Friday.

Four important steps to keep in mind before starting any excavation project:

- Make the call to 811
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- Respect the markings
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Hananeel Morinville with Rep. Sharice Davids.

AREA STUDENT RECEIVES PRINCETON PRIZE

Shawnee Mission North sophomore Hananeel Morinville was selected as the 2019 winner of the Princeton Prize in Race Relations for the Greater Kansas City area, receiving a \$1,000 cash prize for her work in improving the environment between race and cultures at her school. Hananeel, Glory Obi and Mystika Allison-Barnes, along with sponsor Natalie Johnson-Berry founded the Black Student Union at SMN. Hananeel was honored at a ceremony April 23 and will be provided an all-expense paid trip to Princeton University for a symposium on race with other prize winners from across the nation.



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Vicky Cummings
Member of Coventrydale Christian Church



Another Great Year for SMN NJROTC

Shawnee Mission North NJROTC secured another national title at the 2019 Navy JROTC National Academic, Athletic and Drill Championship, taking home first place in the Armed Regulation Drill category. Thirty-five SMN students competed in the National Championship in Pensacola, Florida, earning trophies in several events and finishing the year with a 72-5 record.



MISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

7 p.m. on July 17,
Aug. 21 and Sept. 18
at City Hall



HELP END HUNGER WITH HARVESTERS

Want to brighten someone's day with an act of kindness? Volunteer at the next Harvesters Food Truck event! Organized by Mission's Holiday Adoption program, a mobile food pantry will provide families from northeast Johnson County with perishable food items Saturday, Aug. 17, at Shawnee Mission North High School. For more information, contact Suzie Gibbs at 913-671-8564.



NEW LOCATION. SAME DEVOTED DENTISTS

Keith + Associates Dentistry on 35 years of success
By Denise Elam



This brightly-colored ambulance is used as a community events vehicle, spreading the word about the dental practice and making dentistry fun. Blue, the mascot of Sporting KC, often tags along at parades, handing out candy.
Photo courtesy of Keith + Associates Dental

The year was 1983. In a small room of no more than 500 square feet, the kind, determined Don Keith began his dental practice, Keith + Associates Dentistry. Back then, Dr. Don didn't have a lot of room to grow, or a lot of associates, but he did what he could to get the word out about his practice by mailing flyers and coupons that read "We cater to cowards!" He even went door to door at surrounding businesses introducing himself. Little did he know that, some 35 years later, he would work in an iconic building with spectacular views and more than 8,000 square feet of room,

doing what he loves most: helping people.

He now works alongside his son, Dr. Bill, on the third floor of the historic former NCAA headquarters in Mission, located off Nall and Shawnee Mission Parkway.

Dr. Don got his start in dentistry after realizing he didn't like working as a pharmacist.

"I wanted to do something medical and I liked working with my hands, so I went back to school at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, this time to study dentistry, graduating in 1983," he explained.

His former partners, Mike Jurkovich and Barry Wilson, were instrumental in the growth of his practice.

Like his father, Dr. Bill didn't originally set out to become a dentist.

"I was an accountant at first, trying to avoid following in Daddy's footsteps," Dr. Bill explained. "I didn't want to be that kid, but then I realized I really loved it. It's nice to see a lot of people every day, getting to do something that's, hopefully, positively contributing in their lives."

Now the tables are turned and the father works for his son — Dr. Bill bought the business from his father in January of 2018.

Keith + Associates Dentistry has seen a lot of change in the 35 years it's been operating. What will never change is the love and care the team has for the community they serve. In a rapidly changing dental landscape, the Keiths hope to continue to make people feel like more than just numbers.

"Yes, we're growing. Yes, we're big. But we're trying to keep that family feel," Dr. Bill emphasized.

Many staff members have been working at Keith + Associates for more than 20 years.

"We have patients who have joined the team and work with us daily in the office," Dr. Don smiled.

For some patients, such as Mission resident Cathy Hare, the Keiths are like family. For more than 25 years, four generations of her family have chosen Keith + Associates as their dental provider.

Cathy recently took her 6-year-old granddaughter, Kinley, to her first-ever cleaning appointment.

"She was kind of timid about it, but smiled the whole way through, and was so excited when she got a princess toothbrush," Cathy explained. "That was a really fun experience, seeing her not be afraid."

Cathy continues to see the Keiths because she trusts them and knows they treat their patients with care. They were especially kind to her mother, who was embarrassed about her teeth. After help from the Keiths, Cathy's mother "loved to smile because she loved her new look."

"Whenever you go there, you feel so welcome," Cathy emphasized. She described the new office as a relaxing, "very modern" establishment.

The new office features state-of-the-art technology, including an advanced machine called X-Guide, which helps provide accurate dental implants; Invisalign, a clear alternative to metal braces; and machines capable of creating crowns in-house, plus incredibly comfortable massage chairs for patients. When all is said and done, the staff will have grown to 30 knowledgeable, compassionate team members. That's quite the change from the tiny, one-man office Dr. Don started with.

"His old office was smaller than the size of a meeting room in the new office," Dr. Bill noted.

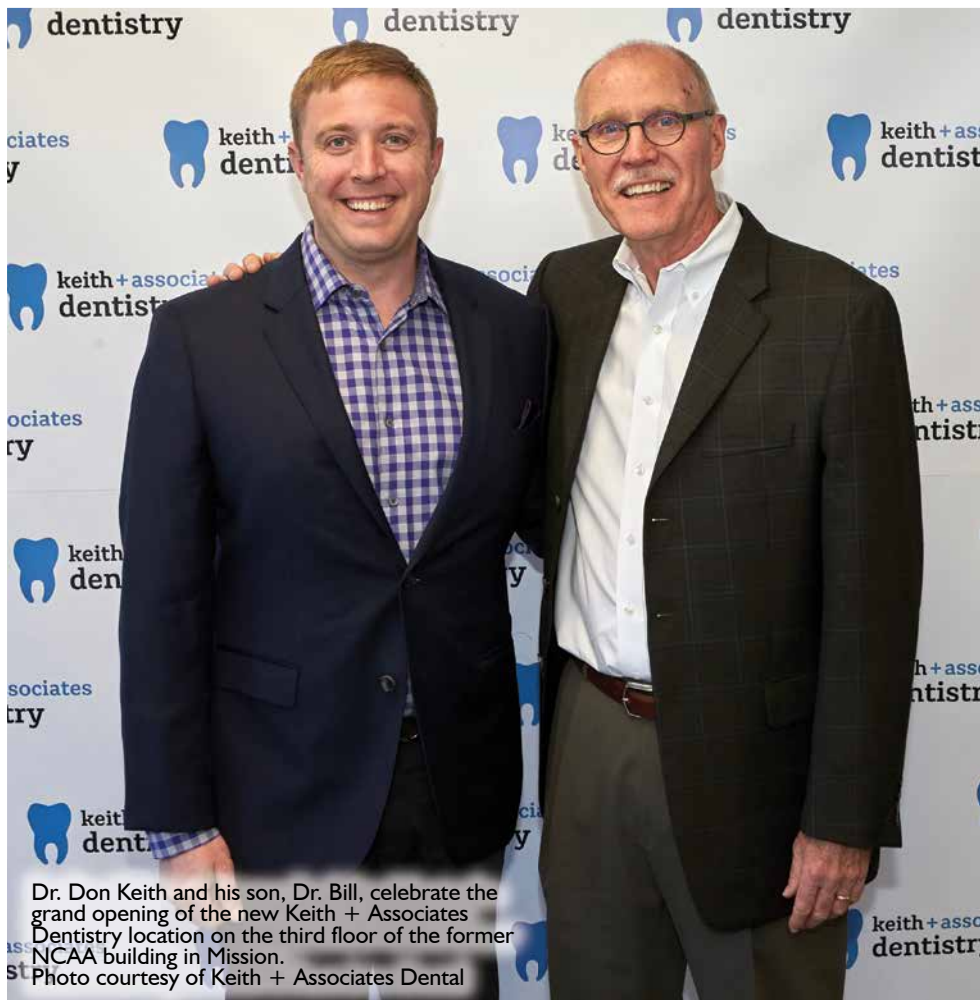
The Keiths are proud supporters of Sporting KC. The sports franchise's mascot, a dog named Blue, wears a jersey bearing Keith + Associates Dentistry's logo.

"We are the preferred dentist of Sporting KC," Dr. Bill noted. "If you go to a game, you see a fun little video with our ambulance in it."

The ambulance he is referring to is the dental practice's community events vehicle. They don't do any dental work out of the back of it, but instead attend events to spread the word about the practice. Blue often comes along, handing out candy to kids during parades.

"We're trying to make dentistry fun as opposed to scary," he emphasized.

The father-son pair serve the local community by working with several different volunteer organizations, such as Donated Dental Services and The Grooming Project, as well as being a proud donor of Mission's Holiday Adoption Program. The two have even traveled to Africa, providing much-needed dental care to a community in Kenya.



Dr. Don Keith and his son, Dr. Bill, celebrate the grand opening of the new Keith + Associates Dentistry location on the third floor of the former NCAA building in Mission. Photo courtesy of Keith + Associates Dental

"We went three years in a row," Dr. Don smiled. "It was awesome. I'd go again."

The program, called "Kansas2Kenya," sends teams of skilled dentists, physicians and even pharmacists to give free aid to people in Kenya who may not always have access to proper medical care. Teams pack two suitcases full of necessary tools, traveling to areas where average wages are only a dollar per day.

Their clinic in Kenya was open for a week at a time, with upwards of 300 people a day stopping in to see a physician or have teeth pulled. The conditions there left Dr. Don speechless.

"I get real emotional about that," he emphasized.

Three-year-old Scout Hare was happy to have dental hygienist Brandy "count" her teeth during her grandmother's appointment. Photo courtesy of Cathy Hare



"IT'S NICE TO SEE A LOT OF PEOPLE EVERY DAY, GETTING TO DO SOMETHING THAT'S, HOPEFULLY, POSITIVELY CONTRIBUTING

IN THEIR LIVES."
-DR. BILL KEITH

"The people are so stoic. I would see people and they'd ask 'How much is it going to cost? And I'd say, 'No cost, it's free.'"

Each of them would pull around 75-100 teeth a day. Once, in the last 36 minutes of

clinic, Dr. Bill pulled 36 teeth.

"You'd come back exhausted," Dr. Don emphasized.

Many people there had been suffering with tooth pain for far too long.

"When you'd ask them 'How long has this hurt?' they'd say three to four years," Dr. Bill noted, shaking his head.

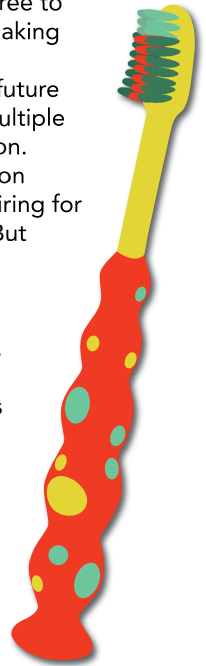
When looking ahead to the future of the practice, Dr. Bill said multiple locations may be on the horizon.

"I'll be retired by then," Dr. Don laughed. He doesn't plan on retiring for at least two or three more years. But

Dr. Bill's heard that before.

"He said the same thing two or three years ago," Dr. Bill chuckled.

The Keiths' dedication to top-notch service, along with their joy in helping those who walk through the doors of Keith + Associates Dentistry will continue to make them a beloved staple of the Mission community for many years to come. Their newest location opened April 15 and is located at 6299 Nall Ave., Suite 300. For more information regarding appointments, call 913-384-0044.



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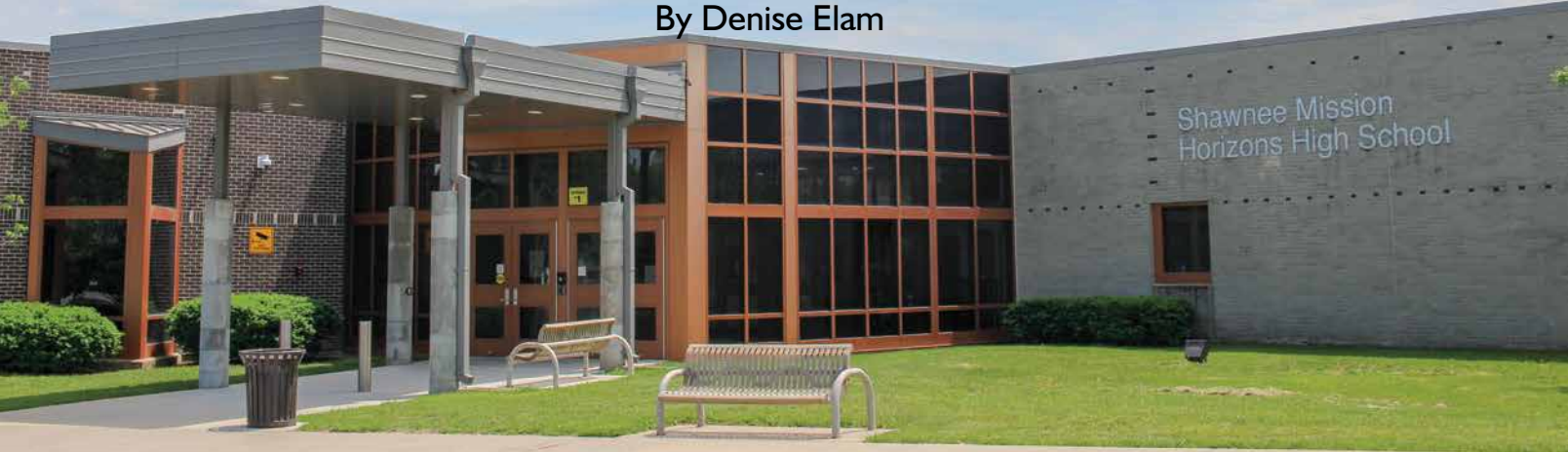


*Free week may only be used on
or after the 5th week of enrollment.
Offer valid through 8/30/19.



Adults of any age can earn a high school degree with Project Finish

By Denise Elam



Horizons High School Principal Paul Colwell just got off the phone with a 69-year-old woman interested in earning her high school degree. The woman said she always promised her mother she'd go back and get her diploma. With a big smile, Paul told her about an opportunity available for her with Project Finish, the community diploma completion program for current Shawnee Mission School District residents.

"It's online," Paul advised her. "I want you to understand it's not in person."

"If I can log on and check my grandkids on Facebook, then I can work on my diploma," the 69-year old assured Paul.

Project Finish, a new online program tentatively set to begin in September of 2019, is organized by the Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) and housed at Horizons Alternative High School at 5900 Lamar Ave. in Mission.

Unlike obtaining a GED, which is a graduate equivalency diploma, Project Finish students will complete a curriculum to earn a high school diploma. Those enrolled, in compliance with the Kansas State Department of Education's 21 credit requirements, will take courses in language arts, history, government, science, math, fine arts, physical education as well as several general electives. If a student averages around 10 hours a week dedicated to coursework, they will most likely complete one credit per month.

Once students have completed all requirements, they will have earned a diploma from the high school of their choice in the SMSD.

Project Finish is expected to have little or no cost to enroll students but is still currently in a developmental stage. A small fee may be necessary to conduct background checks, Paul explained.

The target audience for the program is 20 to 30-year-olds who now realize how important a high school diploma is as the next step needed in obtaining additional work, training or educational

opportunities.

"Or it's a personal goal, they just never went back, and their peers or parents still remind them that they didn't get it done," Paul noted.

Those interested in Project Finish will need to be at least one year removed from high school past their original graduation date (for instance, a class of 2019 student will not be eligible to enroll until the fall of 2020). There's no cut-off; people aged 19 and above can enroll.

"I affectionately call it the 19 to 99 program," Paul emphasized.

To enroll, students will need to provide proof of identity, proof of residency, plus official transcripts of any and all previous high school coursework.

The computer lab at Horizons High School will be available for Project Finish students to utilize from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Friday. The Project Finish teacher will be on-site during those hours, providing support and tutoring.

Though the coursework is online, final exams will be taken at Horizons under the supervision of the Project Finish teacher.

Paul sincerely believes Project Finish will have a positive impact on the community, helping many achieve a goal they never thought was possible. The program may even be expanded to allow participation from any Kansas resident in the future.

"I hope it takes off, but I also hope the work we're doing in kindergarten through 12th grade slows that down, so maybe in 10 years we don't need this program," he explained.

Enrollment sessions will take place 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 14, 20, 22, 26 and 29 at Horizons High School. For more information about the online degree completion program, contact Principal Paul Colwell at 913-993-9505.



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PUT DOWN THE DEVICES AND CONNECT OVER COFFEE, GAMES

Mother-son duo operate two popular Mission shops

By Denise Elam



Julie Hans serves her son, Mason Hans, a hot cup of Messenger coffee.



In this fast-paced digital age, setting aside time to disengage from smart devices and reconnect with loved ones can be difficult. Two Mission shop owners are working to change that; encouraging the community to put down their phones, pick up a cup of coffee and play board games instead.

Julie Hans and her son, Mason Hans, co-own Mission: Board Games and Urban Prairie Coffee; both located on Johnson Drive.

Mason, a board game enthusiast, opened Mission: Board Games in 2016 to provide a welcoming, interactive environment for game lovers.

"I loved the community of people getting together and actually playing a game together instead of playing online or playing a video game by yourself at home ... just sitting in the dark alone," Mason explained. "Here, you interact with other people and

share an experience."

The shop is jam-packed with classic games like Monopoly, Risk, Scrabble and Sorry!, as well as more recent inventions like Codenames, similar in gameplay to the classic TV show "Password," and Photosynthesis, a game of tree-planting strategy.

Those who want to try before they buy can rent dozens of games at the shop for 10% of the full price of the game, per day. Mason hosts gaming events six nights out of the week, with Modern Magic and RPG Mondays; girls only gaming on Tuesdays; community game night Wednesdays; Thursday "Game On" night; Friday Star Wars and FNM night; and Sunday Pokémon League.

"We just want people to come in and have fun," he

emphasized, noting that some people are nervous because they might not know the rules of the games being played. "We're all learning rules together. ... We encourage everyone to come try it at least once and see what they think."

The shop is open Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., with extended hours on Friday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Weekend hours are Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Mason hosts Interactive summer day camps for youths ages 8 and up, offering hours of fun board game play — what he described as "sneaky learning."

"They have to use their brain to come up with strategies, whether it's math or linguistic skills," he explained.

"They don't know they're learning, but they're playing a game that's making them think ... it's getting them off devices and encouraging them to interact with other kids."

Summer 2019 camps will take place between July 8-10 and July 15-17 from 1 to 3 p.m. Participation includes a snack with drinks and costs \$20 per day.

Mission: Board Games shares an interior archway with Urban Prairie Coffee, allowing customers easy access to coffee, pastries and tea. Julie opened the popular coffee shop (in the space previously known as Twister Sisters) in September of 2018, after owning a successful catering business for about five years.

In addition to an extensive breakfast and lunch menu, including breakfast burritos, quiche, avocado toast, steel cut oats, sandwiches and locally sourced baked goods from KC Baking Co., Julie emphasized their specialty "is definitely really good coffee and tea."

The shop sells Messenger coffee, which comes from a local

coffee roaster, as well as tea from Hugo, a local tea purveyor. Both companies pride themselves on socially responsible business practices, which Julie admires.

She and her team of friendly and knowledgeable baristas serve lattes, cappuccinos, mochas, Americanos as well as espressos and cold brew. Other drinks include smoothies, hot or cold tea and Italian sodas.

"The avocado toast, which has been mostly associated with the millennial crowd, has turned out to be a big hit with everyone," Julie laughed.

The shop can be rented out to accommodate birthday parties, office get-togethers or other special occasions. The talented team of baristas also provide appetizers like spinach dip and sausage cracker platters to Sandhills Brewing, a neighboring business, during its taproom hours.

"They put an order in over there and it comes out to a printer in our kitchen," Julie explained. "We run it over when it's ready."

The mother-son duo offer the community what they describe as a "third space" to escape to when they walk through the doors of each shop.

"Like when you get off work, but you don't want to go home and do the laundry or dishes," Mason explained. "You're like, 'Oh, I can just go get coffee or play board games — or both.'"

At the shops, community members can find a comforting place to kick back, enjoying pastries and playing games while conversing with friends. The Mission Police Department coordinates with Urban Prairie Coffee to host its Coffee with a

*"We just want
people to come in
and have fun."
-Mason Hans*



Mason Hans and his mother, Julie Hans, enjoy a cup of coffee while playing Photosynthesis, a tree-growing strategy board game.



Cop event.

"We've had Coffee with a Cop (here) three times now," Julie explained.

"I just want the coffee shop to be a of community hub."

Julie was inspired by the atmosphere at Twisted Sisters, a popular business in Mission owned

by Sandi Russell, which closed in 2018. Julie vowed to keep its charm when she moved into the shop.

"I wanted to keep that going," Julie explained. "Make it a community place where people could come hang out."

The coffee shop is open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday and 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

The two have no current plans to open any other shops. Instead, Mason said they just "want to be a part of Mission and see Mission grow" as many new people and businesses are flocking here.

"It's an awesome city," he emphasized. "We just want to be at the heart of this Mission renaissance."

Fun Fact

Mission: Board Games is housed in what used to be Gunsmithing Only, a popular firearms repair and restoration shop. To this day, people stop by with their guns that need repairing, only to find a vast selection of board games instead!



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10-year-old Philanthropist EXTRAORDINAIRE

Andrew Drill is dedicated to giving back

By Denise Elam

An elf with pointy ears and a red pointy hat to match sits perched on a shelf, a small mischievous smile playing at his lips. He waits, unmoving, until an eager trick or treaters walks by carrying a basket full of candy. Then, as quick as a mouse, he moves his head and the unsuspecting person jumps in surprise.

The elf is 10-year-old Andrew Drill, son of Alexandra and Mission Judge Keith Drill. He volunteers his time uplifting residents, guests and others at the Ronald McDonald House's annual Trunk or Treat event in Kansas City each Halloween. He dons a red elf costume, climbs onto a shelf his dad built and acts like the "Elf on the Shelf" doll, entertaining all who walk by.

"The kids go crazy," explained his mother.

Volunteering is one of Andrew's favorite hobbies. Although he enjoys playing ice hockey, playing with LEGOs, traveling and modeling for local and national clients, nothing compares to his passion for giving back.

The fourth-grade student at Pembroke Hill School was giving back before he could even talk. Between the ages of 2 and 8, instead of asking for birthday gifts, he started an annual Diaper Drive, collecting more than 4,000 diapers each year for donation to Happy Bottoms Diaper Bank and Operation Breakthrough of Kansas City.

When asked why he volunteers, Andrew smiled and stated "you're doing a really good thing for the community."

As early as preschool, Andrew dedicated countless hours volunteering for local organizations and charities. When he was just 3 years old, Andrew bagged fresh bagels from Einstein Bros. Bagels with the help of his mother. Einstein Bros. gave them their daily fresh leftover bagels, which Andrew sorted into bags and delivered to the Ronald McDonald House and Operation Breakthrough.

For the last three years, he has volunteered monthly at the Harvesters food bank, helping sort food into distributable bags, and making homemade cards (960 a year) to include in meals delivered to senior citizens.

"I write 'Have a nice day!' on every card, and on the front I draw a smiley face," Andrew noted.

His other volunteer work includes a yearly holiday tradition for the Mission Holiday Adoption Program, donating and packing 100 stockings full of toothbrushes, toothpaste and other toiletries, as well as sorting through hundreds of LEGOs for the Giving Brick, a charity that creates LEGO sets for children, and collecting Halloween candy to be sent to our troops serving overseas.

Andrew has received four President's Volunteer Service



Andrew Drill, 10, dresses as the 'Elf on the Shelf' doll, amusing residents and guests at the Ronald McDonald House's annual Trunk or Treat event.

"WE CAN'T CHANGE
THE WORLD FOR
EVERYONE, BUT THE ONE
PERSON WE HELP MAY
FEEL LIKE HIS WORLD HAS
BEEN CHANGED."

-ALEXANDRA DRILL

Awards since first grade, earning three golds (awarded after volunteering at least 75 hours per year) and a silver (for over 50 hours). His goal is to volunteer more hours each year. In 2019, he hopes to make a difference in the community by working 150 or more volunteer hours.

Alexandra said she taught both of her boys the importance of volunteering because she knows what it's like to be without. She and her family came to America in 1976 from Russia.

"We had literally nothing but the clothes on our backs, plus suitcases full of towels and sheets," she emphasized.

She recalls being the only girl in her Girl Scout troop without a uniform.

"As an adult, I always wanted to give back," she noted. Alexandra has encouraged her son to do exactly that.

Now he's inspiring other students at his school to also make an impact in this world. Hudson Boyle, one of his schoolmates, recently received a silver Presidential Volunteer Service Award.

"He's inspired several kids," Alexandra added. "We can't change the world for everyone, but the one person we help may feel like his world has changed!"



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Valid for vehicle on receipt only. Not valid with any other offer. Weather Permitting.

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CITY OF MISSION

KANSAS

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To learn more or to register, please visit www.missionks.org or call 913-722-8200

Mission Family Aquatic Center

Summer Fun!

Find all the details at
www.missionks.org

- Season Passes
- Tan & Float
- Kiddie Pool Playtime
- Father's Day Free Swim
- 4th of July Swim
- Mother's Day Free Swim
- Free Fun Fridays
- Pool Party for Pooches!
- Dive in Theater
- Birthday Parties

POOL



Backyard Campout

June 21-22, 2019 at Andersen Park
5:00pm Friday - 8:00am Saturday

*Grab Your Tents and Lawn
Chairs and ENJOY!*

- Swimming at Mission Family Aquatic Center (5:00-8:00pm)
- Roasted Hot Dog Dinner (Served 6:00-7:00pm)
- Campfire & S'mores
- Outdoor Cinema (9:10pm)
- Saturday Breakfast

**\$25 for a family of 4; each
additional person \$3**



SUMMER FAMILY PICNIC

July 6, 6:00pm
Broadmoor Park

Admission is FREE

- Inflatables, games and activities
- Hot dog dinner, chips and drinks
- Consolidated Fire District#2 will cool off the crowd – don't forget your swimsuits!
- Fireworks display
- Bring your lawn chairs or blankets
- Bring your water bottle for the water hydration station



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