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'LEAPING BOLDLY'

Kevin Fullerton on taking big chances, supporting Mission



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'LOOKING AHEAD, PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE PAST'

The July issue of the Mission Magazine comes together at a time when we are all working hard to understand and adapt to the ever-evolving landscape and our "new normal." So many things have changed, and we often find ourselves longing for traditional summer activities, like afternoons at the pool, picnics and family gatherings, fireworks celebrations and impromptu neighborhood get-togethers. It's easy to wonder if we'll ever return to those things that now seem just beyond our reach.

In this issue, we bring you a mix of nostalgia and current events; snapshots of the past and connections to the present which remind us of what is important, even in challenging times. We feature familiar faces and places that help keep us grounded along with new faces or experiences to encourage us to stay focused on the future.

Our cover story, featuring Kevin Fullerton of Springboard Creative, highlights the difference that one person can make when they are willing to take bold chances and commit to making an investment in a business and more importantly, a community. Never one to shy away from challenges or difficult circumstances, Kevin's "can do" spirit and willingness to put in the hard work is a great example for us all.

And when it comes to hard work and dedication, you'll find Anne Chestnut, her daughter and grandson serving up smiles and summertime memories alongside double and triple scoops of colorful, flavorful ice cream at the Baskin Robbins ice cream shop. Tucked away in the Mission Mart Shopping Center for nearly 50 years, the family connections extend beyond the

owners, as they have watched kids grow up return to the store with their



own children and even grandchildren to enjoy a sweet treat now and again.

Another long-time Mission tradition, the Dearborn 4th of July Parade, carried on this year despite the pandemic. Hosted by neighborhood residents, the parade has filled the streets with decorated bicycles and wagons, fire trucks, police cars and even a few ponies through the years. The 2020 version may have included masks and social distancing, but there's no doubt that same sense of community pride continues on no matter what!

The story on local artist Alexej Savreux reminds us that exploring our creativity, along with a willingness to take bold chances, can result in an awakening to new and different styles and ideas, expanding our horizons. Alexej's quest to become "unapologetically authentic" should move us all toward a celebration of our differences and a commitment to use those differences to build a stronger community.

Finally, we take a look back at the history of Mission Bowl as the City discusses the potential for new development on that site. Another family gathering place that supplied plenty of fun and memories, it's a chance to reflect on the past and turn a hopeful eye to the future.

More than anything, we hope you'll find something in this issue that brings back a favorite summertime memory. Something that triggers that sense of nostalgia. Something that reminds you that now, more than ever, we should be connecting with one another any way we can and celebrating this place we all call home.

Ron

-Ron Appletoft, Mayor



On the cover:

Kevin Fullerton, owner of Springboard Creative in Mission.
Photo by Denise Elam.

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Mission

Your Hometown

JULY 2020

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'LEAPING BOLDLY'

Kevin Fullerton on taking big chances, supporting Mission

Story and photos by Denise Elam



Springboard Creative's business motto is a bit different from typical marketing agencies. Owner Kevin Fullerton likes it that way.

"If you walk up the stairs to our studio, you'll see a neon sign that says 'Crap Your Pants,' because we believe people need to take big, bold chances with what they're doing," Kevin said. "I often tell my clients, 'If you're not crapping your pants, you're not taking a big enough chance.'"

Springboard Creative is a branding and graphic design firm focusing on communications design. Kevin, along with his 2-person creative team, helps plan and produce products such as magazines, annual reports and websites for clients.

The firm was created out of a big, bold chance on Kevin's part. Before creating Springboard Creative, he worked at three different startups (young companies founded by entrepreneurs to develop unique products).

"That's the best way to learn. When you go into a startup, you have to make the rules up as you go and be really responsive," he said. "I always wanted to start my own design firm. So as I took jobs, I always looked for 'What can I learn from this agency?'"

Those first few startups taught him a lot about how to run a successful business. Some showed him exactly what not to do.

"The problem is, startups fail, too, so of those three startups I was involved in before I created Springboard, only one lasted," he said. "You learn both good and bad things from stuff like that and it makes you much more responsive."

Those early experiences paved the way for Kevin to take a chance on his own business venture. He created Springboard Creative out of his house in 2006.

"When I started Springboard, people asked me, 'Aren't you taking a risk?' I would say, 'Yeah, but if it doesn't work, I'll just get another job,'" he said. "What's the big deal? I'll take a shot at it."

The company has seen a lot of growth throughout the years, now working for top clients, including a large federal agency and local organizations such as American Public Square, KCSOURCELINK and William Jewell College. Springboard Creative took home the "Small Business of the Year" award with the Northeast Johnson County Chamber in 2018.

"We do quite a range (of work), it really depends on who the people are and what they need to accomplish," he said. "The whole point of naming it 'Springboard' was to represent how we elevate businesses and brands."

Springboard's tagline is, "Leap Boldly." They look for clients who are willing to take big chances.

"If you're not taking big chances, you're probably not growing the way you want to. And those are the clients we can help," Kevin said. "Someone who comes in needing help with what they've always done, we're

usually not the right fit for them."

Springboard Creative moved into a downtown Mission studio in 2012. Part of what drew Kevin there was a desire to see business flourish on Johnson Drive.

"I would drive down Johnson Drive and see a lot of empty storefronts," he explained. "I moved because I wanted to help solve the problems we were having down here with occupancy."

Having already lived in Mission for 14 years with his wife, Kevin hoped the move would help him further engage with the City.

"We've always done the fun things in Mission but never felt like we helped build Mission, so we started doing that about 8 years ago when we first moved my studio here," he said. "We made a commitment to the City at that point."

Kevin took his commitment seriously.

During the renovation of Johnson Drive in 2013 and 2014, many businesses voiced their frustrations with road closures, citing a drop in customer foot-traffic. Wanting to motivate customers into supporting business and coming downtown, Kevin appeared before Mission's City Council with an idea.

"I went up in front of the City Council and told them that we would donate two years of pro bono graphic design services to help businesses during the closings," he explained.

Shortly afterward, Springboard Creative created a project known as "Mission:Forward," a campaign to keep customer interest alive during construction and bring a positive energy to the area. Springboard took photos of the progress and highlighted business owners affected, providing an outlet to share their stories.

"We wanted everyone to know that the businesses being affected were not big businesses that can absorb things; they were all mom and pop stores," Kevin said. "We took photos of 20-25 business owners and told their stories over the course of construction."

Those stories were shared on the "Mission:Forward" Facebook page and website. Kevin saw business owners

come together during that time like they never had before.

"We were all in the same situation. They had to put new sidewalks in front of our shops, so you couldn't get in your front door,"

"IF YOU'RE NOT TAKING
BIG CHANCES, YOU'RE PROBABLY
NOT GROWING THE WAY YOU WANT
TO. AND THOSE ARE THE CLIENTS
WE'RE LOOKING FOR."

-Kevin Fullerton, owner of Springboard Creative

Kevin Fullerton and his 2-person creative team, designers Roya Rostampour and Miranda Byrd, come together frequently to discuss projects.





A collection of completed projects by Springboard Creative throughout the years.

he explained. "All the business owners were working together during that time."

In just one year, Springboard Creative donated \$40,000 worth of time to Mission.

"We had originally agreed to do two years, but we just kept doing it," Kevin said, calling the project his company's most proud achievement. Nine new businesses opened in Mission during that time, despite the construction.

"To see that kind of result is pretty amazing," he said.

Following Mission:Forward, Springboard Creative went on to help create Mission Market, providing the concept, design and communications.

Kevin cofounded and became president of the Mission Business Partnership, a group of business and property owners dedicated to promoting business in Mission and being a voice of advocacy.

"We represented the businesses at City Council meetings ... so if a business question came up during it, or if the Council wanted to know what business thought, I would get up there and report back to businesses as well on things that applied to them," he said.

The group created Mission's Sunflower Festival, a city-wide event, with food trucks, live music and a parade.

LEAP BOLDLY.

"Springboard Creative did all the creative and logos for that, all the details," Kevin said. "It was quite the undertaking."

More recently, Kevin has been working with the Mission Business Partnership to disseminate information about Covid-19 regulations, ensuring business owners are aware of new changes. The organization had just decided to disband before the pandemic struck.

"We shut it down and then six weeks later, Covid hit," he said. "I didn't want to leave my friends (other business owners), hanging. So I, working alone, quickly restarted it because I felt they needed someone to speak for them."

Kevin shared information mostly through emails, informing the business community about programs and grants available to help during the uncertainty.

"I restarted it because I wanted to help everybody," he said.

As the pandemic continues, several business owners have stepped up with intentions to take over the group.

"I think it's time for new blood; it needs a new perspective," Kevin said. "We're trying to get a little more retail focus on it as well."

In what little free time he has, Kevin volunteers with the American Advertising Federation (AAF), serving as chair of the Central Region, spanning 18 states. In 2019, he won the Advertising Professional of the Year award with AAF-Kansas City. He is also heavily involved in giving back to his alma mater, Northwest Missouri State University.

"I'm on a professional advisory committee (at NWMSU); I go and work with students, help them with their student publications. I was an adjunct for several years," he said. "In 2011, I won the Distinguished Alumni Award from NWMSU and that spring, 2012, I got to give the commencement speech."

Kevin and his wife Kathy have no plans to move out of Mission, ever. He calls the City "the best of both worlds" due to its small-town feel and proximity to downtown Kansas City.

"Our joke is that they will carry us out of our home in a box," he said. "It was always really important to us to find a community where we really felt at home and felt like we could make a difference. We got both of those in this City."



Kevin in his office on Johnson Drive.

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NEIGHBORHOOD CELEBRATION AT 54TH & DEARBORN STREET

Fourth of July parade a
treasured community tradition

Story and photos by Denise Elam

Per tradition, the parade is
led by a fire truck.



One Mission neighborhood has been celebrating the Fourth of July together for more than 60 years.

Since the early 1950s, friends and families line up on Dearborn Street to take part in a historic tradition: an Independence Day parade.

Sixty to 100 participants gather in front of hosts Judi and Steve Berg's house at 10 a.m. each year to kick off the event.

"People just come down on their bikes with their parents and pets. We all congregate at our corner, then the fire truck comes to lead the parade," Judi said. Some throw candy to spectators along the parade route.

The parade starts at the corner of 54th and Dearborn, covering about an eight-block loop around the neighborhood. Many kids decorate their bikes, trikes, scooters and wagons in red, white and blue décor. Someone drives a convertible, blasting patriotic music. One neighbor rides up on his unicycle. Another makes patriotic balloon creations on sticks for everyone to carry in the parade.

"Some of them go all out," Judi added.

The Bergs have been participating since they first moved into the neighborhood in 1974, taking over as hosts more than 25 years ago. They have enjoyed seeing new and former neighbors come to the parade each year, many bringing their own children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to participate.

"It's just been a lot of fun over the years and it's a good chance to see people who might not get over to the neighborhood except that one time during the year," Judi said.

Many families who have moved away still come back for the parade. Judi said all are welcome to attend, not just those who live in the immediate area.

"There are a lot of people who will come back for it because they were in the parade the whole time they were growing up and have fond memories," said Lenora, Judi and Steve's daughter. "So they'll come back or they'll bring their grandkids back."

Lenora has been in the parade her entire life and so has her 27-year old son.



"He's been in the parade every year of his life too, except the year he was away in the Marines," she said. "One of my sisters lives out of town and she comes back sometimes for the parade as well... my other sister lives in Shawnee and my brother lives in Stillwell, and they always come and bring their families."

Following the parade, neighbors mingle in front of the Bergs' house, eating brats and hot dogs and enjoying popsicles and refreshments.

Judi and Steve work together to make the event a success, contributing velvet cream popcorn, bottled water and juice boxes. Another neighbor has been bringing the popsicles for years.

"When the parade gets started, Steve stays at the house, along with several neighbors, to get all the refreshments going so when they get around the parade route, they can have food ready for them," Judi explained. "It's fun to listen to everyone talk about the old times and things they remember, like playing games in the neighborhood."

Although the Bergs are unclear as to when the parade first began, they have photos that date back to 1957. The pair have only missed the event a couple times in the past 40 years.

"One time we were out of town and the other time Steve was in the hospital, so our kids took over and ran the parade for us and videotaped a lot of it for us so that we could see it," Judi said. "In fact, somebody in the fire truck carried a picture of Steve's head on a stick so it was like he was still there."

Judi's favorite memory of the parade is a rainy one.

"One year it was pouring rain and we had it anyway," she laughed. "We carried umbrellas and the fire truck still came. We probably had about 25 people show up."

Despite the years of fun, the Bergs want to pass the hosting baton to someone new. They encourage others to step up and get involved in the parade in the years to come.

"We're just now at the point where, after 25 years plus, we're kind of ready to pass it on to somebody else," Judi explained. "It's a good way to meet new neighbors and remain a close community. It's something that we all share and look forward to."

Host duties include spreading the word about the parade with fliers or social media posts. Providing refreshments is optional and could be funded through the City's Neighborhood Grant Program.

With an influx of new residents in the neighborhood, Judi is hopeful someone will step up to take over the reins. She considers the parade a large family reunion that she wants to see carried on throughout the years.

"If nobody does (step up), we'll still do it because we're not going to let it stop," Judi emphasized.



The 2020 Dearborn Independence Day Parade looked a bit different than years prior, with face masks and social distancing. Marchers enjoyed live music, food and friendship.



DEARBORN PARADE THROUGHOUT THE YEARS:



Photos compiled from the 'I grew up in Mission, KS' Facebook group.



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CITY OF Mission NEWSLETTER

INCORPORATING THE FIVE R'S OF ZERO WASTE

Those of us interested in reducing our overall waste may have grown up hearing about three R's: reduce, reuse and recycle. The Mission Sustainability Commission believes all of us can do our part to address the global waste crisis by thinking about five R's in this order: refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, recycle.

One of the best ways to cut down on waste is to **REFUSE** to accept unnecessary items in the first place. Think about refusing plastic bags at the grocery store and other single-use disposable items.

It's still a great idea to **REDUCE** your overall consumption. Try to simplify your life and think about how you can use less. It helps not just the planet, but also your wallet.

Always look to **REUSE** or repair items you already have. Try shopping second-hand or reusing shipping boxes.

You can **REPURPOSE** many items for other uses. Think about food that can become fertile compost or turning that mesh bag for onions into a kitchen scrubber.

As a last resort, you can **RECYCLE** all the basics you can. But only after you've refused, reduced, reused and repurposed.



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MISSION MARKET ADJUSTS FOR COVID-19

We knew that plans for the Mission Market would have to adapt once physical gathering was not recommended. Thankfully, the Mission Market fans (affectionately known as "Crewcumbers") have stuck with us! Wearing masks, and with a bit more space between booths, the vendors have continued to bring you homegrown and homemade quality produce and products. And there's still time to show that your heart BEETS for the Mission Market open each Thursday, through the end of August, from 4:30-7:00 p.m. For more information and a listing of vendors, to sign up for text alerts or to order a 2020 market t-shirt, please visit the City's website at www.missionks.org/market.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND YOUR CITY...

It's been quiet on the City construction front for several months because of COVID-19 and the stay at home orders and shut downs, but things are starting to change! Here's an update on several of the significant projects underway throughout the city.



LAMAR RESURFACING AND REHABILITATION

Construction began on the Lamar (Foxridge Dr. to Shawnee Mission Parkway) rehabilitation and resurfacing project in May. The project included an Ultra-thin Bonded Asphalt Surface (UBAS) treatment and spot curb and gutter, pavement, joint, and sidewalk repair and replacement. This first phase of the project, originally scheduled to take 90 days, was finished more than a month ahead of schedule. Permanent bike lanes and pavement markings will now be installed as a separate project. The total project budget was approximately \$1.1 million dollars with about 50% funding from the City and the remaining funds coming from the county and federal government.

Before construction began, the City discovered failed stormwater pipe at the intersection of 51st and Lamar. The intersection was closed for 8 days while the repairs were completed before the road was paved. We appreciate everyone's patience throughout the project as we wrap up these important upgrades to Lamar!



ROCK CREEK CHANNEL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

The Rock Creek Channel Improvement project is a \$5.4 million dollar project that includes construction of retaining walls, channel modifications and parking lot improvements along Rock Creek, from east of Nall Avenue to Roeland Drive (behind the former Mission Bowl). This project was necessary to address erosion and flooding concerns, as well as subsidence of a residential parking lot.

Gunter Construction started work at the end of May and is anticipated to be substantially complete by the end of the year with site restoration (landscaping, seeding and sodding, etc.) to be completed next spring.

As part of this project, large trees along both sides of Rock Creek had to be removed in order to stabilize channel slopes and allow for installation of the retaining walls which range in height from 10 to 28 feet.

Once the project is complete, the majority of the properties adjacent to the creek will no longer be within the floodplain which reduces risk of flooding and increases property values.



ROCK CREEK EMERGENCY CHANNEL REPAIRS PROJECT

On May 28, 2020, the Kansas City metropolitan area received substantial rainfall with reports of up to eight inches of rainfall in a 14-hour period. During this storm, a segment of retaining wall that served as bank protection for the northern streambank of Rock Creek along the Rock Creek Trail collapsed. The City was concerned that if immediate repairs were not made, the failed concrete and fencing could wash down the creek and damage Reeds Road culvert or other structures/utilities. Kissick Construction Company mobilized on site the next day and removed the failed concrete and fencing, regraded and installed rip rap on the northern slope to protect the bank, and replaced portions of the Rock Creek trail and fencing. Many of the retaining walls along Rock Creek are of a similar age and the City plans to assess these walls to aid in preventing future failures.



RESIDENTIAL STREET PROGRAM

A comprehensive street program is currently being developed which will guide future maintenance projects for residential streets throughout the City. That program will work to maximize resources to improve and maintain the useful life of Mission's neighborhood streets. The City Council will begin discussing the program in August, and we encourage you to participate in the discussions and planning process.

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Water (WaterOne).....	913-895-1850
Jo Co Wastewater.....	913-432-3820

PUBLIC HEALTH/SAFETY

Consolidated Fire District #2	913-432-1105
Jo Co — Mission Offices	913-826-1800
Olathe Court House.....	913-782-5000
JoCo Health and Environment	913-826-1200
Sheriff Dispatch.....	913-782-0720
Animal Control.....	913-676-8345
Vehicle Tags and Registration.....	913-826-1800
Driver's License	913-432-2266
Marriage License	913-715-3428
Election Office	913-782-3441
Hazardous Waste	913-715-6900
KS Vital Statistics	785-296-1400
Post Office	913-831-5304

CITY OF MISSION

City Hall	913-676-8350
Community Development	913-676-8369
Municipal Court.....	913-676-8325
Police Department.....	913-676-8300
Parks & Recreation.....	913-722-8200
Public Works	913-676-8375

FEDERAL, STATE AND COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. Senator Pat Roberts	202-224-4774
	913-451-9343
U.S. Senator Jerry Moran.....	202-224-6521
	913-393-0711
U.S. Representative Sharice Davids.....	202-225-2865
Governor Laura Kelly	785-368-8500
KS Senator Barbara Bollier	785-296-7390
KS Representative Rui Xu	785-296-7686
County Commissioner Becky Fast	913-715-0725

3 options for voting



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Submit an application to have a ballot mailed to you 20 days before the election. Vote your ballot at home and then return it to our office.



Vote early in person
Choose one of our seven in-person advance voting locations and stop in to cast your vote. Locations will be open for two weeks before each election.



Vote on Election Day
More than 170 voting locations will be open on Election Day throughout the county. You must visit your assigned location to sign in and cast your vote.

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KANSAS
Election Office
www.jocoelection.org

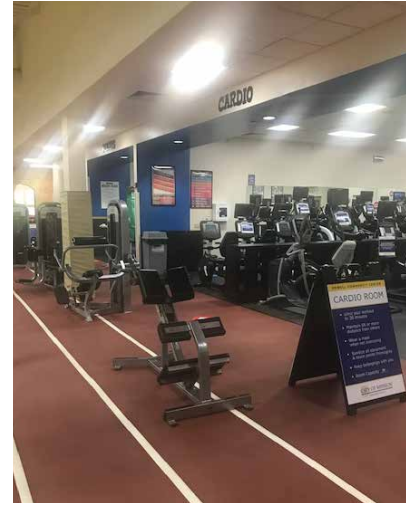
COME CHECK US OUT — WE ARE OPEN!



A few residents remarked that they haven't been this anxious to get into Mission's Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center since its grand opening twenty years ago. We think you'll be impressed by the changes when you come through our doors.

There are improvements in certain areas and some restrictions in others, but these restrictions are designed to safeguard your wellness as well as our internal team's health.

During the closure, we connected with a lot of you virtually and will continue to be a resource for your physical and emotional well-being. We created experiences that enable you to see the benefits and enjoy the outcomes at home and at the Community Center now that our doors have reopened.



We took advantage of the Community Center closure to finalize projects that would have taken place in August, and with the following projects complete, there will be no need for an August closure this year.

- Pool deck removal and resurface
- Track revitalization
- Tile flooring cleaned and resealed
- Boiler and roof repairs
- Cycle studio redesign
- Digital signage additions and upgrades
- Fire alarm panel upgrades
- Touchless member check-in

Throughout each phase of improvement, your well-being and enjoyment was considered. We upgraded our check-in process to limit touch points and add more convenience to your experience in the facility. Our team members will be masked and we ask that you also wear a mask throughout the facility.

Our patrons are the heart of Mission. We're here to keep you strong and resilient and we are dedicated to meeting your needs whenever you are ready to return.



A team member cleans spaced out weight machines, the resurfaced pool deck is a significant improvement, new glazing on the windows of the cycle room gives a lighter, brighter feel to the space.

"We were so excited when we could come back to exercise. We came the first day it opened and continue to come. We have felt so safe with masks and staff cleaning the machines as soon as someone is done. Thanks for opening! Someone even opens the door and welcomes everyone as they enter and leave."

- John Groot, PCC Member

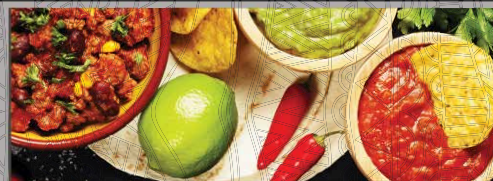
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Mission will once again be hosting a community diaper drive to support HappyBottoms.org. Check back on the City's website and social media for more information on how you can participate. Let's beat our 2019 contribution of 2,348 diapers and 272 wipes!

Celebrating our Local Heroes

Mission Hy-Vee delivery manager Kimberly McNulty was making a delivery to a regular customer earlier this spring when the resident didn't answer the door. After a phone call and a second delivery attempt, Kimberly was concerned enough to call 911. The resident had fallen and was unconscious; family members credit Kimberly's concern and follow-through with saving their mother's life. Thanks to all of the unsung heroes out there making a difference!



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With the Governor's statewide mask order now in effect, we challenge you to send us your mask photos and show us how you are staying safe and staying healthy! E-mail photos to publicinfo@missionks.org.

Enforcement of the mask order is handled through Johnson County and concerns or complaints may be reported to the Consumer Fraud Hotline at (913) 715-3003. Please do not call 911.



The City of Mission is pleased to partner once again with Harvesters for our third mobile food distribution event of 2020.

DATE & TIME:

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2020 | 7:00 A.M.

LOCATION:

SM NORTH HIGH SCHOOL, EAST PARKING LOT

For other mobile events throughout the metro, please visit harvesters.org

CHAMPIONSHIP TREE UPDATE

The April/May issue included a story on the 2019 Championship Tree located in the Milhaven subdivision. Staff and members of Mission's PRT Commission recently honored the homeowners with a plaque and a gift certificate. Do you know of a Championship Tree contender for 2020? If so, download the application from the City's website at www.missionks.org





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From left, Rowan, Rudy, Kelly and Anne, three generations, work at Baskin Robbins in Mission.

20 years of *sweet treats*



**Three generations
work at Baskin
Robbins in Mission**

by Denise Elam

A photo collage of smiling customers with ice cream, cakes and shakes hangs on the wall at Baskin Robbins in Mission.

One photo in particular stands out among the rest to Rudy Jackson.

In it, owner Anne Chestnut stands with her daughter, Kelly, and Rudy, her daughter's then-boyfriend.

"This was the first time I met Kelly's mom," Rudy said, smiling. "On the plane ride home (later that day), I first told Kelly I loved her."

The pair eventually married. They now work at the Baskin Robbins on Johnson Drive, along with their teenage son.

Rudy's story is one of many special moments to take place inside the beloved ice cream shop his mother-in-law Anne has owned since 1997 (the shop first opened under different ownership in 1955).

Anne has a huge collection of photos throughout the last 20 years, enough to fill four photo frames – each displaying a happy moment made even sweeter with ice cream.

"This was a wedding," Anne said, pointing at a photo of men in suits. In the center of the image, a bride holds an ice cream cake, smiling. "They just came in (dressed) like that."

Anne purchased the franchise in Mission after successfully owning another Baskin Robbins location in Kansas City, Missouri – near Bannister Mall. She loves the social aspect of being a business owner, meeting new people each day and making new friends.

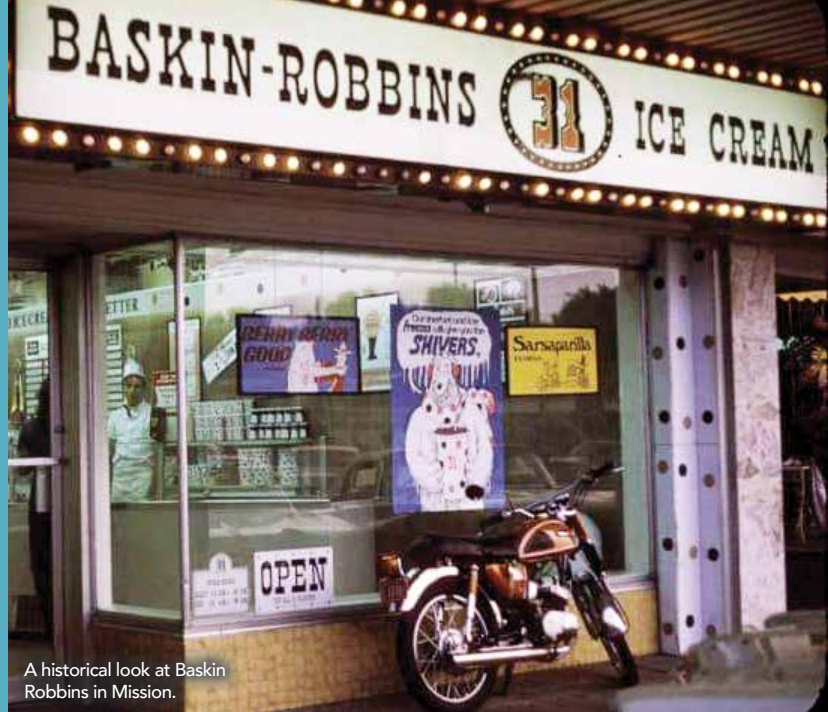
"When you work here a long time, a lot of your customers are your friends," she said.

Shortly after opening the Mission location, Anne fell in love with the city. She sold her shop in Missouri and moved closer to the area. Her daughter, Kelly, began working there when she was just 16 years old. She said Baskin Robbins is the perfect "first job" for many.

"I've worked off and on since the beginning," Kelly said. "My son is 14; he started working there in January. My daughter's 12 and looks forward to working there when she turns 14."



Rudy and his son, Rowan, work together to scoop ice cream for customers at Baskin Robbins in Mission.



A historical look at Baskin Robbins in Mission.

Baskin Robbins in Mission offers more than 40 flavors of ice cream, along with ice cream cakes, shakes, sundaes and warm desserts. According to Kelly, the most popular menu item is "Pralines 'N Cream," a vanilla ice cream mixed with sweet praline-coated pecan pieces and caramel.

"The kids love 'Wild N'Reckless,' which is a real sweet, tart Sherbet; it has raspberry, green apple and fruit punch," she said. "Usually a kid has a whole blue face after eating it."

Cakes are another popular choice, with custom cakes for birthdays, anniversaries and other celebrations made entirely at the shop.

"We have a fully-stocked cooler of cakes that people can grab right then and there or they can order a customized cake," she said. "They can choose any design. We can even print a picture of the person that you want on the cake, paired with any ice cream you want (in the shop), with a 24-hour turnaround."

The menu includes options for those with dietary restrictions, like dairy free ice cream.

Anne and her family love working together at Baskin Robbins, bearing witness to a lot of change, growth and development in Mission over the years. They've seen many employees grow up, graduate, get married and continue their lives as adults.

"It's been a wonderful community business where we have watched many kids grow up eating ice cream in the store, now bringing in their own children and even grandchildren," Kelly said. "We've celebrated numerous graduations, birthdays and family celebrations through cakes and even parties in the store."

Kelly stepped in last year to help her mom following a hip surgery and has since taken on a greater role in the store's operations. She was amazed to see how many customers stopped by to show their support during that time.

"All the people she works with — the vendors and customers, were so supportive while she was in recovery," she said. "It's not uncommon for my mom to know the person that's walking through the door — she knows people by name."

Even Covid-19 couldn't stop the shop's loyal fanbase.

"In the beginning, business was a little slim but really we have not skipped a beat," Kelly said. "I think a lot of people came because they needed comfort. They needed something

familiar, like their favorite ice cream flavor or favorite milkshake, in a really unfamiliar time... I think it helped (them) just a little bit."

With each year better than the last, Anne and her family look forward to being a part of Mission's future.

"I know there's a lot of development that's on the horizon (in Mission) and it's exciting to think about," Kelly said. "It feels like the City of Mission is a huge part of what we do and who we are. Even though we focus in making deserts, we feel like a large part of the community. We love Mission."



The photo of Rudy meeting his mother-in-law for the first time is in the top left corner of this collage featuring Baskin Robbins customers throughout the years.

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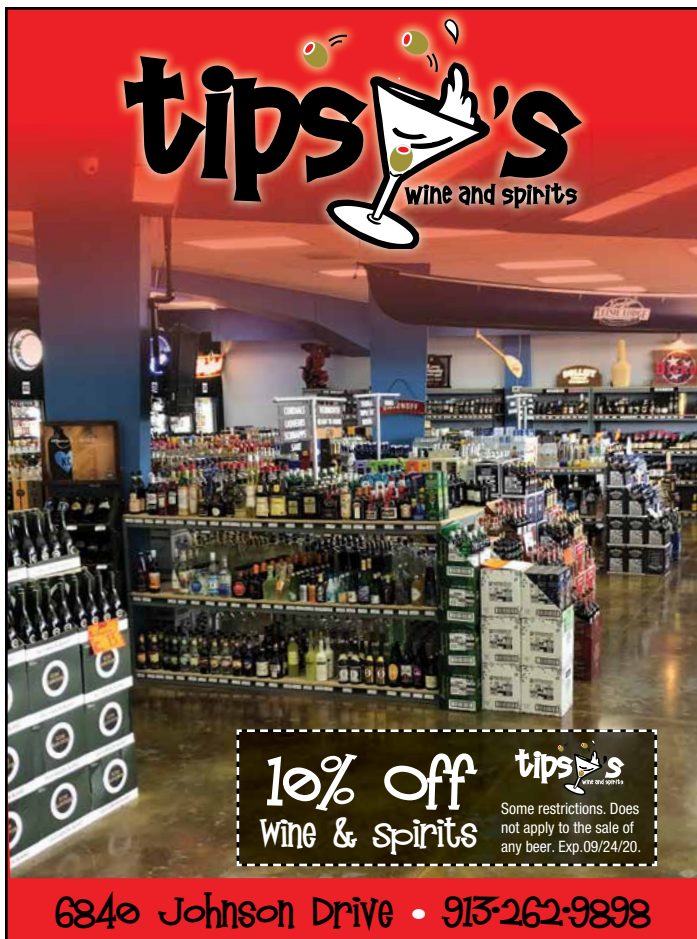
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'A Family Legacy'

Looking back on Mission Bowl

by Denise Elam

One of Mission's most beloved landmarks was originally born out of tragedy.

Joe Dasta, the original owner of Mission Bowl on Martway Street, never intended to own a bowling alley until a tragic accident altered the course of his life forever.

"My grandfather used to be a brick layer," explained Cynthia Thomas, general manager of Mission Bowl in Olathe. "His family owned Dasta construction here in Kansas City. He had a brick laying accident back in the day and became paralyzed from the waist down."

Cynthia's mother was just 4 years old at the time of Joe's accident in 1950. In need of a way to continue providing for his growing family, Joe's brother offered to build the property that would later become Mission Bowl, a 24-lane bowling alley.

"For Joe to have some kind of income, his brother built him that property," Cynthia recalled. "So out of tragedy became a family legacy."

In 1956, Joe and Mary Dasta opened the bowling alley on Martway Street. Mission Bowl soon became a popular spot in Mission, with families and bowling enthusiasts stopping by to bowl, catch up with old friends and grab food from the snack bar. The property also boasted an arcade room, with games and fun for all.

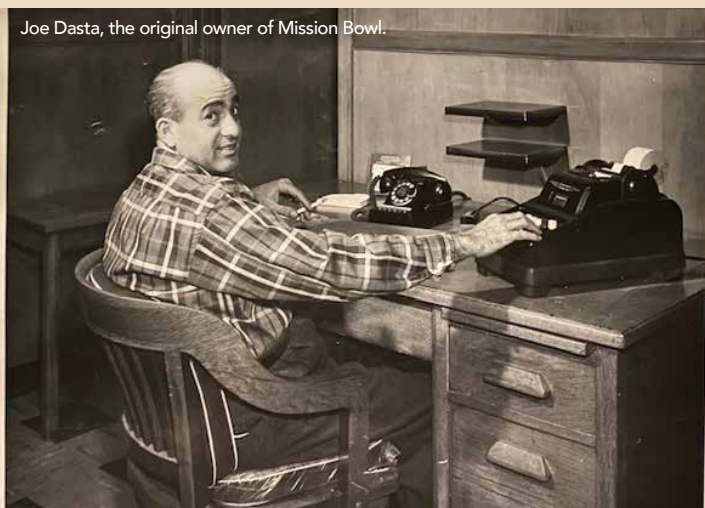
Joe didn't let his injury hold him back.

"At one end of the bowling center we had a ramp ... he would pull up and wheel himself in," Cynthia said. "He did everything."

For Cynthia, Mission Bowl was more than just a bowling alley; it was a family affair. She began working there when she was just 19.

"My grandfather had four kids and they all worked at Mission Bowl," she said. "I never had a desire or love for bowling, but

Joe Dasta, the original owner of Mission Bowl.



A more recent photo of a bowling group at Mission Bowl.



Historical photos of bowling teams throughout the years at Mission Bowl. Photos by The Johnson County Archives & Records Management Department.

I've grown to love it and now I wouldn't know it any other way."

Although she doesn't recall many childhood memories of the bowling alley, there is one historic day in 1998 that Cynthia will never forget.

"We had a flood in the City of Mission," she recalled. "Cars were literally floating down Martway into the mall's parking garage. I remember it was on a Sunday night because my Sunday league was bowling and their cars were floating out of the parking lot going toward the mall. It was the craziest thing ever."

Miraculously, Mission Bowl remained untouched by the flood waters.

"My grandfather's brother made sure they built (the property) up so the creek that runs behind it didn't flood them," she said. "They thought about that years ago, back in the day, because of flooding at the Plaza; they didn't want that to happen at the bowling alley."

In 1989, Cynthia's parents, Mike and Beverly O'Donnell, purchased the property from their siblings. In 2004, they added an 18-hole miniature golf course expansion and opened a second location in Olathe.

The beloved property in Mission suffered a catastrophic kitchen fire on April 3, 2015, rendering it unsafe for future use.

"When we had the fire, the letters, history and memories people shared with us were very heartfelt," Cynthia recalled. "It meant a lot."

Cynthia and her family continue to operate Mission Bowl in Olathe. The bowling alley is now on its fourth generation of involvement; Cynthia's children, ages 16 and 18, have recently begun working there. She said the Olathe location features the "same values, same beliefs, same family traits," as the original bowling alley.

"People from Mission are now coming to our Olathe facility and bringing the next generation there with them," she said. "We still have some of our seniors who live in Mission who drive out here to bowl on a weekly basis."

Cynthia and her family are thankful for the people of Mission's continued support over the years.

"Everybody's been so good to us," she said. "They still keep thinking about us; people drive here (to Olathe) from Mission and that's important to our family, especially now with this Covid-19 stuff going on. We have loyal followers and if it wasn't for them, Mission Bowl wouldn't be the success it is today."

ARTIST PROFILE

'UNAPOLOGETIC AUTHENTICITY'

Mission artist explores complexities of human mind

By Denise Elam



Where does the human mind begin and end?

Artist Alexej Savreux attempts to answer this very question by using poetry, mixed media and other visual arts to highlight the intricacies and complexity of the human mind.

Alexej, pronounced "Alexi," is a mixed media artist and humorist. Inspired by his lifelong journey with schizophrenia and mental illness, he prefers to derive his work from academic and intellectual ideas more so than traditional fine arts. His art is largely informed by psychology, religion and mathematics, combining academia and creativity.

"My art is probably most aptly described beyond the margins of genre, movement, or style," he said. "It's very mixed and tangential and kind of omnivorous, which is totally cool with me because I'm very much interested in filling in the margins of the undefined."

Focused on content, line, tone, concept, attitude and expanded areas in the digital realm, he pays little attention to color, symmetry, proportion and spatial elements.

"They are not as much of a concern for me, almost to the point where I never even bothered learning about them because I felt they wouldn't be of use to what I wanted to create," Alexej said, noting that he instead focuses on blending satire, abstract painting, graphics, computer generated images, improv, theatre and many other elements.

Alexej is a full-time artist, working out of his studio in Mission since 2017. He chose Mission as his creative home because of its central location and walkability.

"The City has a younger, youthful feel to it; everything you need is within walking distance," he said. "For me it

just makes sense."

Recently named one of the top five artists living in the Kansas City area by The Pitch readers, Alexej runs and operates Illogical Conceits Publishing & Multimedia, a DIY literary and magazine press. His current focus is on poetry, specifically spoken word.

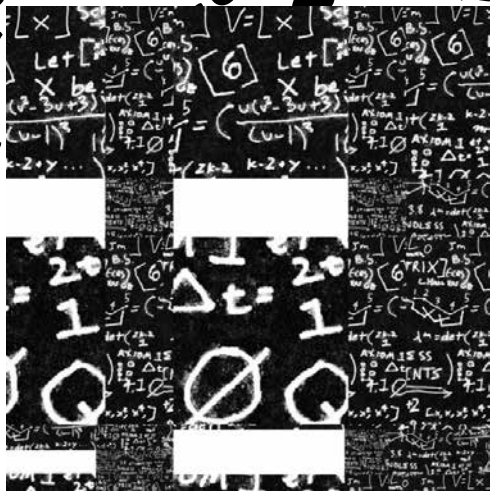
"I have published four books of poetry, a radio play, two novels, and am the host of a podcast," he said.

His book, "Graffiti on the Window," is available on Amazon, among several others. The publication features 100 poems that were created before, during and after a schizophrenic episode.

"The title of that book of poetry actually came from



Alexej is a full-time artist living in Mission.



From left, "Is God a Number?," "Stop crying" and "PTSD," by Alexej Savreux.



when I was 23, back in 2012 I think," he said. "I went without medication (for schizophrenia) for about three and a half to four months because of some side effects."

Without the medication, Alexej began emailing the President of the United States, making Youtube videos where he thought he was talking to Stephen Hawking and writing all over his parents' dining room windows.

"I called Princeton, left voicemails at MIT, the whole bit — even drafting up new ideas in circular and mathematical economics and cryptanalysis, which of all places wound up in Noam Chomsky's ("the father of modern linguistics") mailbox — we were briefly pen pals but that's a separate story," he said. "A lot of poetry and great artwork came out of it ... This book refers to that, all of the writing on the window, but it also references controlled insanity and controlled chaos."

He considers "Graffiti on the Window" his best work.

"It's kind of a psychological snapshot into my eclectic and busy mind and the landscape I live in, so to speak," he said.

Born with childhood paranoid schizophrenia, Alexej said mental illness has been his reality.

"It hasn't so much as played a role in my life — it has been my life," he said. "It started to get noticeable around the time most kids were entering third grade, I think. By the time I was ten, I had basically stopped eating and would shake with paranoia; every time an adult left the room I was terrified they had disappeared

into another dimension and wouldn't return or that my parents would abandon me."

At that time, there was little knowledge of something as rare as childhood schizophrenia, Alexej said. The

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-Artist Alexej Savreux

prognosis was dim.

"Just absolutely dire. Basically incurable," he said. "Suspensions, expulsions, ridicule, bullying — none of these things were uncommon."

His eccentricities were initially attributed to being overly gifted; his school permitted him to skip several grades. Eventually, he left high school to work as a journalist. He has since attended the Kansas City Art Institute, the University of Kansas, Ottawa University and Johnson County Community College.

Alexej credits art for saving his life. Growing up, he relied on art to help him with self-expression, beginning with literature and later developing into screenwriting and the visual arts.

"Art is how I survived schizophrenia," he said. My schizophrenia informs my entire life, it doesn't inspire it. So it would make sense to inform my artwork. And I don't apologize for it."

Alexej is a member of The Kansas City Artist Coalition, The Troost Market Collective, the InterUrban ArtHouse in downtown Overland Park and Buttonwood Artspace. Previously, he was a cyber artist in residence at the Jones Gallery in the Crossroads Arts District of Kansas City.

As he looks to start an MFA program in Sound Design at the University of Missouri-Kansas City's conservatory and theatre program this fall, he encourages others to pursue authenticity in all they do, as he attempts to do the same.

"Ultimately I'm just being myself and for an artist, I think that's truly the highest thing anyone can aspire to — unapologetic authenticity," he said. "To paraphrase Mark Twain: 'You have to be yourself; everyone else is taken.'"



"Ash," by Alexej Savreux.



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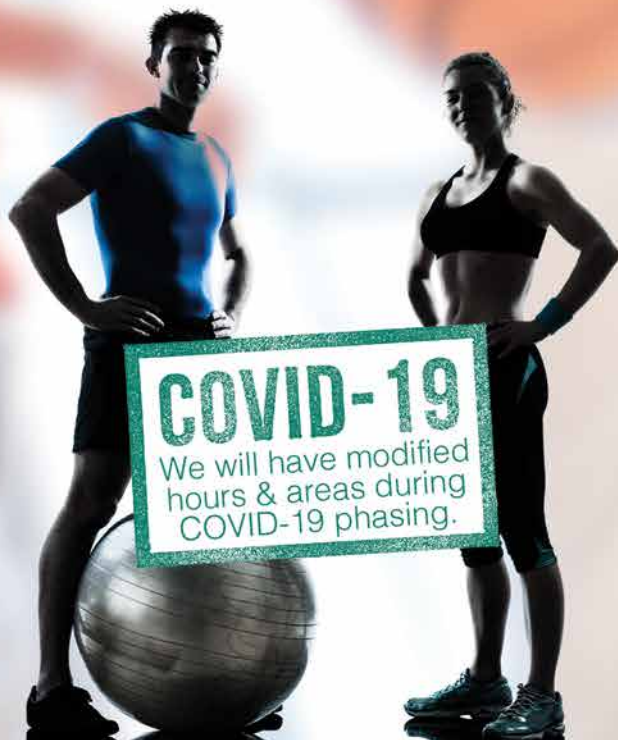
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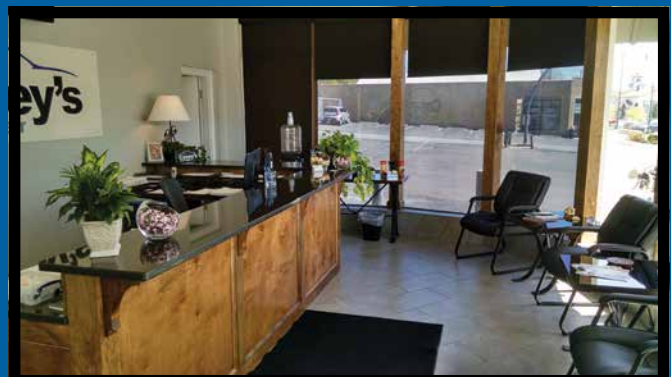
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